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Silicon Valley's LGBT Center Hails Court Decision Legalizing Marriage Equality

San Jose, CA — In a historic decision today, the California Supreme Court struck down laws restricting same-sex couples from marrying and made the nation's largest state only the second after Massachusetts to elevate and extend equal access to gay people.

"The landmark decision today marks a significant step for all Californians who support equality and fairness," said Aejaie Sellers, CEO & Executive Director of the Silicon Valley's LGBT Center, The DeFrank Center. "A state that represents one in five Americans is providing the opportunity for two people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, who are in a committed, trusting and loving relationship to achieve the dignity and support that come with marriage."

The Supreme Court ruling stated "Our state now recognizes that an individual's capacity to establish a loving and long-term relationship with another person and responsibly to care for and raise children does not depend upon the individual's sexual orientation, and, more generally, that an individual's sexual orientation – like a person's race or gender – does not constitute a legitimate bases upon which to deny or withhold legal right."

"The court today affirmed that separate-but-equal is inherently unequal, that keeping LGBT people from marrying while offering only domestic partnerships is inadequate, unjust and unfair," said Ms. Sellers. "Now California is a place where every person who hopes and dreams to marry the person they love is treated equally under the law."

About the Billy DeFrank Center

Founded in 1981, the Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center addresses the needs and rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people of all ages and backgrounds in Silicon Valley. The DeFrank Center provides a broad range of wellness, social and recreational activities and emotional support services to approximately 400 visitors each week. The DeFrank Center is a 501(c)3, federally registered, tax-exempt organization, and receives over 21,000 contacts and requests for service each year (either in person, via phone or online).

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