



K.D. Parman (left) and Jeana Frazzini won a judgment for same-sex parents.

One of those families is led by K.D. Parman and Jeana Frazzini, who challenged two of Oregon's laws that deny Frazzini parental rights of their sons, Emmett, 4, and Griffin, 1.

Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Eric Bloch ruled that the two Oregon statutes that give parental rights to married couples and their children unconstitutionally discriminate against Parman and Frazzini. However, the ruling might not benefit their family. Bloch ruled that a new domestic partnership law signed in May will remedy the situation. However, House Bill 2007 may not be retroactive and will only go into effect as soon as January 2008. The bill will be delayed longer if an effort to refer the bill to the November 2008 ballot is successful.

"I want to ask Oregon parents how it would feel to know that you were not legally equipped to deal with your children in a crisis," Frazzini said during a press conference at Lownsdale Square Park.

Still, Basic Rights Oregon executive director John Hummel called the ruling "a tremendous win for children, for families and for our shared Oregon value of basic fairness."

The decision brought all three branches of state government—the Legislature, Gov. Ted Kulongoski and now the judiciary—on record supporting equal rights for sexual minorities.

Queer activists continue to fight for the rights

gained by HB 2007 and Senate Bill 2, which bans anti-gay discrimination. A group called Defense of Marriage and Family, AGAIN! is engaged in a signature-gathering effort to repeal the laws. They must meet a Sept. 26 deadline to turn in 55,179 valid signatures to the secretary of state.

Portland Pride Breaks Records

Pride Northwest released a statement July 5 stating that the 2007 festival and parade topped a 32-year-old record.

According to board president Stef-Anie Wells, festival attendance was estimated at more than 50,000. Pride organizers estimated attendance for the entire week of Pride festivities, including the parade, to be 75,000.

Some statistics that shed light on Portland Pride's success include 18 bands on two stages; more than 158 vendors, with space sold out 30 days prior to the event; 117 parade entries, making 2007 the largest yet; and a revenue of more than \$62,000, also a new record.

"We attribute this to Portland's broad acceptance and tolerance of all kinds of people and the fact that we had more ways for people to participate than ever before. 2007 was a record-breaking year!" said Wells.

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