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Saturday in the Park
July 12, 2008

12 NOON TO 6 PM ***** ESTHER SHORT PARK

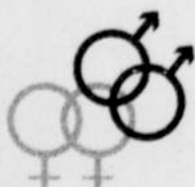
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CALIFORNIA

Study Predicts California Will Profit from Marriages

The Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law released a research study June 9 analyzing the economic gains that same-sex couples' weddings will bring to California. The California Supreme Court's decision to extend marriage to same-sex couples will have a positive net impact on the state budget and the state economy.



A new study predicts that revenue generated from California's same-sex marriages will help Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger balance the state budget.

The California wedding industry will receive a substantial \$683.8 million boost in direct spending by same-sex couples during the next three years. The study predicts that, based on the experience of Massachusetts, half of California's 102,000 same-sex couples will want to marry, leading to 51,000 weddings. Another 68,000 out-of-state couples are likely to travel to California to marry. This economic lift will also likely generate almost 2,200 new jobs in the state.

Weddings by same-sex couples in California will have a positive impact on the state budget of approximately \$64 million during the next three years. Sales and occupancy tax revenues from wedding-related expenses by both in-state and out-of-state couples will total more than \$55.1 million. In addition, same-sex weddings will generate \$8.8 million in marriage license fees for California counties.

"The fiscal effects of same-sex marriage will reverberate well beyond city hall, helping to balance the state budget," noted study co-author Brad Sears, executive director of the Williams Institute.



Janice Langbehn (left, with lawyer Beth Littrell) is suing Jackson Memorial Hospital for mistreatment during and after her partner's treatment and death.

FLORIDA

Lesbian Sues Hospital for Mistreatment

A lawsuit was filed June 25 against Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami for claims of negligent and outrageous treatment toward the family of Lisa Pond, a lesbian whose partner of 18 years, Janice Langbehn, and their three children were not allowed to see her as she slipped into a coma and died.

"The treatment that Janice and her children received was outrageous, unethical and discriminatory," said Beth Littrell, staff attorney for Lambda Legal.

Pond, a healthy 39-year-old, suddenly collapsed while on a family cruise leaving from Miami. She was rushed to Jackson Memorial Hospital with her partner and three children following close behind. There, the hospital refused to accept information from Langbehn about her partner's medical history. Langbehn was informed that she was in an anti-gay city and state and that she could expect to receive no information or acknowledgment as family. A doctor spoke with Langbehn, telling her that there was no chance of recovery. Other than one five-minute visit, orchestrated by a Catholic priest at Langbehn's request to perform last rites, and despite the doctor's acknowledgment that no medical reason existed to prevent visitation, neither Langbehn nor her children were allowed to see Pond until nearly eight hours after their arrival.

Soon after Pond's death, Langbehn tried to get her death certificate to get life insurance and Social Security benefits for their children. She was denied both by the state of Florida and the Dade County medical examiner.

"There is nothing that can make up for what my children and I endured that day," said Langbehn. "We only want the hospital to take responsibility for how they treated us and ensure that it doesn't happen to another family."

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