

National/International News

State Judge Overturns Dallas Ban on Lesbian and Gay Police

Dallas, TX - Ruling in the case of a lesbian who has been trying for five years to get on the Dallas police force, Judge Larry Fuller said the state anti-sodomy law on which the police department policy barring the hiring of lesbians and gays violated the right to privacy guaranteed by the Texas Constitution. Dallas is the only city in Texas, and the only large city in the U.S. to specifically bar lesbians and gays from serving as officers. The week before Judge Fuller's decision, the Dallas City Council voted to uphold the ban, despite a statement by the police chief of less than a year, Bill Rathburn, saying he was unconcerned about the sexual orientation of his officers. The City Council has not yet decided whether to appeal the decision. *(The New York Times)*

Judge Rejects Gay Marriage

Washington, D.C. - Judge Shellie Bowers rejected a lawsuit filed by a gay couple who claimed that refusal to give them a marriage license was discriminatory. While the D.C. marriage law is gender-neutral in wording, Judge Bowers cited Genesis, saying that since the couple are not a man and a woman, what they wanted could not be called a marriage. *(Equal Times)*

World Health Organization Reclassifies Homosexuality

New York, NY. - In late December the World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed that, beginning in 1993, homosexuality will no longer be classified as a mental disorder. The WHO had listed homosexuality as a mental disorder since 1948, listing it under "abnormal sexual inclinations or behavior... (not serving) approved social and biological purposes." The change is expected to affect lesbians and gays around the world. Many countries base their disease classification on the WHO's manual. The WHO follows the American Psychiatric Association's reclassification in 1973 and 1982. *(Washington Blade)*

Boy Scout Troop Threatened With Expulsion

San Jose, CA - Boy Scout Troop 260 of San Jose has been told it will lose its charter as an official troop unless rescinds a resolution made last December not to discriminate against homosexuals. Scoutmaster, Michael Cahn said the troop would not back down. "If you see something that's wrong and you ignore it, then you're part of the problem... We feel that the national scouting organization is wrong for their anti-gay stand." *(The New York Times)* ▼

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