



Media Advisory

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ACLU Presents Montana Supreme Court Appeal Friday For Same-Sex Domestic Partnerships

MISSOULA, MT — The American Civil Liberties Union will appear before the Montana Supreme Court Friday for oral arguments on behalf of six committed same-sex couples seeking domestic partnership recognition.

The case, *Donaldson and Guggenheim v. State of Montana*, was filed in July 2010 and seeks protection for same-sex Montana couples and their families under the Montana Constitution's rights of privacy, dignity and equal protection under the law. The goal of the lawsuit is to ensure that same-sex couples have access to the legal protections and obligations they need to take care of each other and their families.

In 2011, District Court Judge Jeffrey Sherlock dismissed the case. Friday's oral arguments are part of the appeal of that decision.

WHAT: Oral arguments in the appeal of *Donaldson and Guggenheim v. State of Montana*.

WHO: Arguments will be heard by the Montana Supreme Court.

Plaintiffs available for comment will be Jan Donaldson and Mary Anne Guggenheim, Mike Long and Rich Parker, Rick Wagner and Gary Stallings, Denise Boettcher and Kellie Gibson, and Stacey Haugland and Mary Leslie.

Cooperating Attorney James Goetz, ACLU and ACLU of Montana attorneys will be available for comment.

WHEN: Friday, April 13, 2012
9:30 a.m. MST

WHERE: University Theater
University of Montana
Missoula, Montana

More information is available at www.aclumontana.org and www.fairisfairmontana.org.