



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **ESPLERP thanks SWOP Bay for their support in calling for decriminalization of sex work**

The Erotic Service Providers Legal, Education and Research Project (ESPLERP) today thanked SWOP Bay (the San Francisco Bay Area chapter of the Sex Workers Outreach Project) for its support in the fight for the decriminalization of sex work.

SWOP Bay provided a donation of \$362 to support ESPLERP's historic lawsuit *ESPLERP v Gascon*, filed in US District Court in Oakland, which challenges California's prostitution statute, Statute 647(b) of the California Penal Code, arguing that it violates fundamental constitutional privacy rights - and that sex work should be decriminalized.

The decriminalization of sex work is long overdue. Thank you for your financial contribution; it demonstrates true solidarity toward achieving our shared goals.

SWOP Bay members will also be at the Press Conference and Rally at the Ronald V. Dellums Federal Building and US Courthouse, 1303 Clay Street Oakland, CA, Noon to 1pm on Thursday December 17, to commemorate the International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers (IDEVASW) - and to call on Judge Jeffrey White to rule on the Motion To Dismiss filed back in May by the California State Attorney General's Office.

Six months is far too long - while all the while sex workers are denied their human rights and dignity, are subject to violence and abuse, and denied access to justice.

ESPLERP also thanks members of SWOP Bay for hosting an informational booth at the Castro Street Fair 2015. We are grateful for the time and efforts given by a large group of sex workers, former sex workers, allies and friends who volunteered and shared. Thank you for organizing this booth and telling the public about sex workers' rights and the current lawsuit to decriminalize sex work.

*Sex Workers Outreach Project-USA ([swopbay.org](http://swopbay.org)) is a national social justice network dedicated to the fundamental human rights of sex workers and their communities, focusing on ending violence and stigma through education and advocacy.*

*The Erotic Service Providers Legal, Education and Research Project (ESPLERP) is a diverse community-based coalition advancing sexual privacy rights through litigation, education, and research.*

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