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Contact: Maxine Doogan

415-265-3302, info@esplerp.org



ACLU, Lambda Legal, Woodhull Freedom Foundation And More Than Thirty Other Organizations File Amicus Briefs Supporting Decriminalization Of Sex Work

Wide Range Of Civil Rights And LGBTQ Organizations File Amicus Briefs In Ninth Circuit In Support Of ESPLERP's Appeal Challenging California's Anti-Prostitution Statute

San Francisco, CA - On October 7 a wide range of civil rights and LGBTQ organizations filed a series of amicus (friend-of-the-court) briefs in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals supporting the Erotic Service Providers Legal Education Research Project's (ESPLERP) appeal against the District Court's dismissal of [ESPLERP v Gascon](#), which challenges California's anti-prostitution law Penal Code 647(b) on the grounds that it is unconstitutional - seeking to decriminalize sex work.

Participating organizations include the American Civil Liberties Union Foundations of Southern California and Northern California, AIDS United, API Equality-LA, APLA Health, Bienestar, Black Women for Wellness, California Rural Legal Assistance Inc., California Women's Law Center, the Center for HIV Law and Policy (CHLP), Children of the Night, Equality California, Familia: Trans Queer Liberation Movement, the First Amendment Lawyers Association, the Free Speech Coalition, Genders and Sexualities Alliance Network ("GSA Network"), Gender Justice Los Angeles, GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), the HIV Prevention Justice Alliance (HIV PJA), Justice Now, Lambda Legal, the Los Angeles LGBT Center, the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD), the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR), the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE), Positively Trans (T+), Positive Women's Network-USA (PWN-USA), San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF), Sero Project, Sex Workers Project at the Urban Justice Center, the Transgender Gender-Variant Intersex Justice Project, TransLatin@ Coalition, the Transgender Law Center, Brad Sears Executive Director of the Williams Institute, and the Woodhull Freedom Foundation.

"The 2003 Lawrence v Texas Supreme Court ruling made it clear that Americans have a constitutional right to privacy regarding their sexual behavior," said Maxine Doogan, President of ESPLERP. "We are so grateful that all these organizations are supporting us in the Ninth Circuit, making arguments that the criminalization of sex work is fundamentally unconstitutional, is discriminatorily enforced against LGBT people, and creates barriers to HIV prevention and treatment efforts for vulnerable populations."

"These organizations join a long list of reputable international organizations, including [Amnesty International](#), the [World Health Organization](#), the Lancet, Human Rights Watch, and the UN Global

Commission on HIV and the Law, that have called for the decriminalization of sex work,” said Claire Alwyne of ESPLERP. “They recognize that laws like California’s 647(b) criminalize the private lives of consenting adults, impact the human rights of sex workers and their clients, and have very adverse effects on public health and safety.”

ESPLERP v Gascon is mostly funded by individuals making small contributions, but our opponents (the State of California and various District Attorneys) have very deep pockets - essentially using our taxpayer dollars to deny us our rights. Contributions to support the court case can be submitted through our crowd fundraiser - www.litigatetoemancipate.com.

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.

Erotic Service Providers Legal, Education and Research Project (ESPLERP)

2261 Market St. #548 San Francisco, CA 94114

esplerp.org, decriminalizesexwork.com

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