



PRESS ADVISORY

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Date for Oral Arguments Set Before the US Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on Constitutional Challenge to California's Prostitution Law

Sex workers argue prostitution laws infringe on adults' constitutional right to private consensual activity

Over two years ago, in March 2015, the Erotic Service Providers Legal, Education and Research Project (ESPLERP) filed a complaint in US District Court claiming that California's outdated anti-prostitution statute known as 647(b) of the California Penal Code, unfairly deprives adults the right to private consensual activity, criminalizes the discussion of such activity, and unconstitutionally places prohibitions on individuals' right to freely associate.

The court case known as *ESPLERP v Gascon* is now on appeal at the US Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and Oral Arguments have been set for Thursday October 19th at 9am. The case is supported by amicus briefs from over thirty civil rights and LGBTQ organizations, including the ACLU, the First Amendment Lawyers Association, the Free Speech Coalition, Transgender Law Center, and the Woodhull Freedom Foundation. Each side will be allotted 20 minutes to make its case.

The named defendants are San Francisco District Attorney George Gascon, Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley, Marin County District Attorney Edward S. Berberian, Jr. and Sonoma County District Attorney Jill Ravitch, together with Kamala Harris, then Attorney General of the State of California, all in their official capacities. Kamala Harris is now a US Senator, and it is unknown if the new Attorney General, Xavier Becerra, will continue to act in the same official capacity.

The court case has been primarily funded by small individual donations from supporters and allies through crowdfunding sites such as Crowdrise - for example <https://www.crowdrise.com/litigate-to-emancipate/fundraiser/>.

WHAT: Oral Arguments before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals challenge to California prostitution laws.

WHO: Sex workers, allies and supporters - including the Erotic Service Providers Legal, Education and Research Project (ESPLERP).

WHEN Thursday, October 19th, 2017 9 AM

WHERE: United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Room 307, James R. Browning Courthouse, 95 7th St, San Francisco, CA 94103.

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