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Religious Organizations File Briefs In Same-Sex Marriage Act Case

Several religious organizations joined the legal fight to keep the 2004 Michigan Marriage Amendment intact when they filed amicus briefs in the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals arguing against the decision by U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman that the amendment violates the U.S. equal protection clause.

In their arguments, the different groups, including the Michigan Catholic Conference and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (the bishops were joined in their brief by the National Association of Evangelicals, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod) touched on some of the same points made by [Attorney General Bill Schuette](#) in his defense of the amendment, which defines marriage as between one man and one woman.

Mr. Schuette based much of his argument on the ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court last month when it upheld the 2006 amendment outlawing the use of affirmative action in university admissions. Off that decision, Mr. Schuette said it was rational for the public to vote to limit marriage to heterosexual couples.

In its brief, the Catholic Conference said its advocacy is not based on ill-will or animus towards same-sex couples and is not an attempt to force its religious views on anyone. Its support of marriage is based on its historic and strong belief that marriage physically and spiritually should be between a man and a woman.

It also said the state has the right to define marriage and Mr. Friedman's ruling in March was a usurpation of power unauthorized by any article or amendment in the U.S. Constitution.

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