

## **BASF Joins Eleven Bar Associations in Filing Amicus Brief Regarding *Golinski v. United States Office of Personnel Management***

**August 6, 2012 – San Francisco** -- The Bar Association of San Francisco joined with eleven other bar associations in filing an amicus brief to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in *Golinski v. United States Office of Personnel Management*. The argument for the brief concluded:

“From the abolitionist movement of the nineteenth century to the LGBT rights movement of today, lawyers and legal organizations have played a central role in ensuring that all Americans are treated equally under law, regardless of their race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation. The legal profession’s cornerstone principles of justice and non-discrimination are reflected in the oaths each lawyer takes upon becoming a member of the bar, in the ethical rules of various states, in statements by the American Bar Association and other representative groups, and in the actions of individual lawyers every day.

Federal government lawyers were at the vanguard of the civil rights movement, fighting to uphold this nation’s commitment to equal treatment under law. Today, these lawyers, if they are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender, cannot even obtain employer-sponsored health insurance for their spouses. This is absurd, and it serves no legitimate government interest. DOMA—by singling out same-sex couples and purposefully denying their marriages federal recognition—is abhorrent to the long-held values of both the legal profession and this nation. The Court should affirm the district court’s order of February 22, 2012.”

The brief was filed on behalf of the following bar associations:

Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom

Alameda County Bar Association

Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area

The Bar Association of San Francisco

Lesbian and Gay Lawyers Association of Los Angeles

Pride Law Fund

Sacramento Lawyers for the Equality of Gays and Lesbians

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San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association

Santa Clara County Bar Association

South Asian Bar Association of Northern California

Tom Homann LGBT Law Association

Women Lawyers of Alameda County

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The Bar Association of San Francisco (BASF) is a nonprofit voluntary membership organization of over 8,000 attorneys, law students and legal professionals in the Bay Area. Founded in 1872, BASF is one of the largest and most dynamic metropolitan bar associations in the U.S., with a long and distinguished record of community action, public service and service to the legal profession.