

## **BASF joined amicus curiae brief arguing DOMA was unconstitutional**

**June 26, 2013 – San Francisco, California** –The Bar Association of San Francisco (BASF) applauds the Supreme Court’s ruling today in *United States v. Windsor*, which jettisoned the so-called Defense of Marriage Act’s (DOMA) definition of “marriage” as between only heterosexual couples. The ruling means that married same-sex couples will now be treated as married in the eyes of the federal government, no matter where they are in the United States, granting them the long-overdue federal rights and privileges of marriage they deserve.

BASF joined an amicus curiae brief in the U.S. Supreme Court in the Windsor matter arguing that the Defense of Marriage Act’s restrictive definition of marriage was unconstitutional and that the Constitution subjects classifications based on sexual orientation to the highest level of scrutiny available.

In reaction to the ruling, BASF President Christopher C. Kearney, Kecker & Van Nest LLP, said, “Although the Court did not find that sexual orientation classifications necessarily give rise to strict scrutiny, its ruling marks a significant achievement in the struggle for LGBT equality, and will aid that struggle in other areas of the law as well. BASF is proud to have been a part of this important case, and will continue aid the fight for LGBT equality in California and the United States.”

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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.