

News Muse

MELANY PETROSKY

Happy New Year Dear Readers! Now that the holidays are over and winter is finally asserting her slushy dominance over all that is Rhode Island, it is once again time to bring you the news....

No Same Sex Divorce In RI

(the summation of the summation of Wm. Henderson and Eric Tucker, InNewsWeekly)

The “verdict” is finally in regarding the divorce of a same sex couple who were legally married in Massachusetts, but who currently both reside in Rhode Island. The Family Court stated that it didn’t have the jurisdiction to hear this type of case. In other words, Family Court lacks street cred to deal with divorce...wait...um...ok...what? Anyway, the court literally just shrugged and declined to resolve the matter. Family Court made possible by new funding procured by Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition head Gunnar Scott. It will offer free services and advice on a variety of issues. Regarding issues like name change procedures and other common topics, volunteers will answer client questions and explain the law. In a few instances the clinic will represent clients in court. The first session starts Jan. 17 at 17 Sellers St., Cambridge, from 6-8 p.m. For more information call (617)450-1353 or e-mail TransgenderLegalAdvocates@gmail.com.

Trans Legal Advocacy Clinic in Cambridge, Massachusetts

(gleaned from Ethan Jacobs of Bay Windows)

A new legal advocacy clinic is opening at the offices of Cambridge Cares About AIDS in Cambridge. The Massachusetts Transgender Legal Advocates will provide services by law students on the first and third Thursday evening of every month. This clinic was made possible by new funding procured by Massachusetts Transgender Political coalition head Gunnar Scott. It will offer free services and advice on a variety of issues. Regarding issues like name change procedures and other common topics, volunteers will answer client questions and explain the law. In a few instances the clinic will represent clients in court. The first session starts Jan. 17 at 17 Sellers St., Cambridge, from 6-8 p.m.. For more information call (617) 450-1353 or e-mail TransgenderLegalAdvocates@gmail.com

Civil Unions in New Hampshire

*(inspired by William Henderson
InNewsWeekly)*

At midnight on Jan. 1, New Hampshire joined Vermont, Connecticut and New Jersey as the only states that have enacted civil unions by legislative acts. Many New Hampshire couples participated in a group ceremony after the clock struck midnight. These civilly united couples will now enjoy the same benefits, protections and responsibilities under New Hampshire law as are granted spouses in marriage, but not the 1,138 federal rights afforded married couples. Wow, that’s a lot of words to say “you now get the same rights from the state as the heteros, but we just don’t want to call it the “m” word. Oh and by the way, the feds still don’t like you.” Way to save face NH! Now, Rhode Island and Maine are the only New England states where same sex couples can’t get some form of hitched. God, I love New England! But since currently I’m a resident of Providence, RI, I’m going to have to become some sort of hybrid Masshole commuter in order to get married there, work here, live there and still reap some sort of benefit from that legal piece of paper that says the state has decided to recognize that my pursuit of happiness actually does exist. This all proves my theory, all gays should live in New England.

ACLU Condemns Carcieri

*(Lovingly inferred from Joe Siegel
of InNewsWeekly)*

The Rhode Island Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union issued a 52-page report that critiques the reign of our Governor Don Carcieri. The report details Carcieri’s stances and actions towards “GLBT civil rights, in addition to the rights of immigrants, the rights of women, the rights of blacks and Latinos, and the rights of juveniles.” Apparently, Carcieri has managed not to discriminate in the doling out of his discrimination.

The Governor’s office dismissed the release as a public relations maneuver and cited the ACLU’s “pro-government, pro-welfare and anti-family agenda.” Carcieri’s people chalk the report up to the ACLU’s latest publicity stunt (and politicians abhor PR stunts). Ah, how quickly we forget the \$15,000 of taxpayer money that was used to pay for an anti-gay brief in the recent same sex divorce case in family court. Anti-family? We are trying to marry, thus creating a family, or at least legally sanctioning one that already exists. Try some pro-family action Mr. Carcieri and spend that \$15,000 on a state employee’s salary that you just cut. Make sure they are an upstanding heterosexual family man.

Go ACLU. ▼