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News From Around PA

U.S. District Judge Christopher Conner ruled the case by **nonbelievers** who want to be allowed to give invocations at the start of state House sessions will continue on the claim that the practice violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment.

In a 4-3 decision, the state Supreme Court said the **Southeast PA's Transit Authority (SEPTA)**, as a state agency, isn't under the authority of the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations, which enforces the city's LGBT-inclusive Fair Practices Ordinance.

According to the **Philadelphia Department of Public Health**, cases of syphilis among local men who have sex with men are on the rise. The study noted

that syphilis diagnoses have more than quadrupled since 2005 and also noted men diagnosed in that population had a mean between five and nine sexual partners during the 12 months before their diagnosis.

Senators Pat Browne (R) and Larry Farnese (D) reintroduced a bill - **SB 613** - to add "sexual orientation and gender identity or expression" to the PA Human Relations Act.

A homosexual man was granted "**widower**" status by the State Superior Court. The man's partner was killed in an accident in 2013, but the Court instructed Beaver County Common Pleas President Judge John D. McBride to enter an order declaring the existence of a common-law marriage between Michael Hunter and Stephen Carter as of Feb. 18, 1997, when Carter gave Hunter a wedding ring.

News from National Scene

Suspended Alabama **Chief Justice Roy Moore** announced that he is resigning from the state Supreme Court to run for the United States Senate.

The federal judge who ruled against President Trump's effort to withhold money from so-called **sanctuary cities** had no business presiding over the case. Conflicts of interest include: he was a bundler for Barack Obama, raising over \$200,000 and personally donating over \$30,000. Additionally, he worked on key immigration cases for Obama's Justice Dept., overseeing the Office of Immigration Litigation.

Thirty-one House Democrats are urging the Senate to oppose President Trump's choice for Army secretary, TN State Senator **Mark Green**, saying that his LGBT record shows he "cannot be trusted" to ensure soldiers are able to serve without discrimination/ harassment.

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