



American Family Association of Pennsylvania Weekly Update



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Check Our Recent Interview

Roger Gannam, Liberty Counsel -religious freedom
<http://afaofpa.org/listen/>

News From Around PA **Attorney General Kathleen**

Kane charged with perjury, obstruction and leaking confidential material to the *Philadelphia Daily News* to embarrass a political foe.

Bucks County Judge C. Theodore Fritsch Jr. found that two lesbians retroactively qualify as common-law spouses because of their 2001 church union. One "spouse" died a year before Judge John Jones threw out PA's DOMA. If judges across the state concur, courts would have to decide on a case-by-case basis whether a common-law marriage applied, and whether petitioners should be granted alimony, marital assets, inheritance-tax refunds or even backdated marriage licenses. To succeed, they would have to

show they considered themselves married before PA's common-law marriage law ended on Jan. 1, 2005.

Katie McGinty, former PA environmental secretary, former gubernatorial candidate, former chief of staff to Gov. Wolf, has announced her bid to unseat Senator Pat Toomey in November 2016.

News from National Scene

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia upheld the **Cross-State Air Pollution Rule**, meant to stop upwind states from producing pollution that drifts into neighboring states and pushes them out of compliance with federal standards. However, the judges said limits on 13 states, mostly in the South and Midwest, were far too strict and must be redone.

The **Equality Act** has been submitted to both the House and Senate. They would amend several federal laws to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in public accommodations, public education, employment, housing, federal funding, jury

service, legal protections and credit. It would add sexual orientation and gender identity as protected classes to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Philly-based Dow Chemical endorsed the bills.

Also introduced: Restore Honor to Service Members Act which would allow those who were discharged from the military because of their sexual orientation to request a review of their discharge. LGBT Elder Americans Act would designate LGBT older adults as a population with "greatest social need" for service and program allocations, establish the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging and require data collection on the aging LGBT population.

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