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News From Around PA

A federal district court ruled that the City of Philadelphia can require any foster agencies with city contracts to abide by the city’s nondiscrimination policies which include sexual orientation and gender identity, in a case brought against it by Catholic Social Services which will not license same-sex couples to be foster parents citing its First Amendment right.

Seventeen Democratic attorneys general, including PA’s Josh Shapiro and six cities (including Philadelphia) initiated a lawsuit to remove the citizenship question from the 2020 census. They argued it will be used to scare immigrants away from participating in the census, thereby skewing the count which would alter the distribution of roughly $700 billion in federal funding.

A drag-king performer is assembling an LGBTQ-themed yearbook dubbed “The Queerbook” to celebrate performers and entertainers in Philadelphia and other major cities.

Governor Wolf and AG Josh Shapiro penned an op ed for the Philadelphia Inquirer stating if Brett Kavanaugh is confirmed to the Supreme Court they will continue standing to defend women’s and LGBTQ “rights.”

News from National Scene

The Christian owners of Brush & Nib Studio in Phoenix, which makes wedding invitations, sued the city arguing the law was unconstitutional. Recently an Arizona Court of Appeals ruled against the owners. An appeal of that ruling will be filed.

A Christian bed-and-breakfast owner in Hawaii, who was found by a lower court to have violated anti-discrimination laws by denying a lesbian couple a shared bedroom, has seen her petition for review to the state Supreme Court rejected.

The Episcopal Church is debating about overhauling its Book of Common Prayer. They want to make sure that prayers in the book are clear that God is not male.

All North Carolina public schools would have to display the U.S. motto of “In God We Trust” and the state motto in a prominent area in legislation that has just been voted out of the House Education Committee.

Colin Kaepernick was given the National Education Association’s President’s Award to recognize his work “to fight racial oppression through education and social justice activism” through the Know Your Rights Camp.

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