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MEDIA RELEASE

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ACLU of Wisconsin responds to Wisconsin Supreme Court's narrow decision on marriage amendment referendum.

Milwaukee – Today, Christopher Ahmuty, Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin issued the following statement in response to the Wisconsin Supreme Court's decision affirming the lower court's ruling that the marriage amendment adopted by Wisconsin's voters in 2006 did not violate the separate amendment rule of the Wisconsin Constitution. This constitutional rule requires that voters must be able to vote separately on separate constitutional amendments. Ahmuty's statement may be quoted as follows:

The Court wisely limited its analysis of the marriage amendment's two clauses, without trying to decide "what legal statuses identical or substantially similar to marriage are prohibited by this [the second] clause..." The ACLU maintains that the marriage amendment's second clause only prohibits "marriage by another name" which confers all the benefits, protections, and responsibilities of civil marriages. The Court's decision means the fight for recognition of same sex domestic relationships will continue to advance, a fight in which the ACLU will continue to participate vigorously.

The ACLU of Wisconsin joined Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund and Fair Wisconsin in filing an amicus brief in *McConkey v. Van Hollen*.

The ACLU of Wisconsin has approximately 8,500 members who support its efforts to defend the civil liberties and civil rights of all Wisconsin residents. For more on the work of the ACLU of Wisconsin, visit our [webpage](#). You can also get news and opinion on civil liberties in Wisconsin on our [Cap City Liberty blog](#). Find us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter at ACLUMadison and ACLUofWisconsin](#).