

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

KAREN GOLINSKI,

Plaintiff,

No. C 10-00257 JSW

v.

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL
MANAGEMENT and JOHN BERRY, Director
of the United States Office of Personnel
Management, in his official capacity,

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS FOR
HEARING**

Defendant.

TO ALL PARTIES AND THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD, PLEASE TAKE
NOTICE OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS FOR THE HEARING SCHEDULED ON
DECEMBER 16, 2011 AT 9:00 A.M.:

The Court has reviewed the parties' papers and, thus, does not wish to hear the parties
reargue matters addressed in those pleadings. If the parties intend to rely on authorities not
cited in their briefs, they are ORDERED to notify the Court and opposing counsel of these
authorities reasonably in advance of the hearing and to make copies available at the hearing. If
the parties submit such additional authorities, they are ORDERED to submit the citations to the
authorities only, with reference to pin cites and without argument or additional briefing. *Cf.*
N.D. Civil Local Rule 7-3(d). The parties will be given the opportunity at oral argument to
explain their reliance on such authority. The Court suggests that associates or of counsel
attorneys who are working on this case be permitted to address some or all of the Court's
questions contained herein.

1 The parties shall each have 45 minutes to address the following questions:

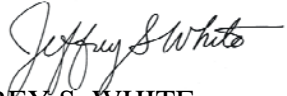
- 2 1. The passage of Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (“DOMA”) marks a unique
3 departure from the recognition the federal government historically has afforded to State
4 marital status determinations. *See, e.g., Elk Grove Unified School District v. Newdow*,
5 542 U.S. 1, 12 (2004) (holding that “[t]he whole subject of the domestic relations of
6 husband and wife, parent and child, belongs to the laws of the States and not to the laws
7 of the United States.”); *see also Boggs v. Boggs*, 520 U.S. 833, 848 (1997) (holding that
8 family law, including “declarations of status, e.g., marriage, annulment, divorce, custody
9 and paternity,” is the archetypal area of local concern).
- 10 a. As DOMA represents a stark departure from the federalist tradition and
11 implicates a core State power to govern domestic relations, is there any
12 authority for the Court to subject the statute to a more rigorous
13 constitutional scrutiny?
- 14 b. The few unique examples cited by BLAG when Congress legislated in
15 the area of domestic relations occurred when Congress was explicitly
16 acting in the role of state government. Are there any historical examples
17 in which Congress legislated on behalf of the federal government in the
18 area of domestic relations?
- 19 2. Why should the Court not subject DOMA to heightened scrutiny for impacting
20 marriage, as a basic fundamental freedom and an exercise of personal decision-making
21 protected by the right of privacy? *See, e.g., Loving v. Commonwealth of Virginia*, 388
22 U.S. 1, 12 (1967); *In re Levenson*, 587 F.3d 925, 931 n.5 (9th Cir. 2009).
- 23 3. In *Lawrence v. Texas*, 539 U.S. 558, 567 (2003), the Supreme Court, in overruling
24 *Bowers v. Hardwick*, 478 U.S. 186, 190 (1986), noted that the *Bowers* Court had
25 “misapprehended the claim of liberty presented to it” and had failed “to appreciate the
26 extent of the liberty at stake.” Here, BLAG advocates defining the right at issue as the
27 right to same-sex marriage. Is that too narrowly defining the right at issue? What is the
28 authority for the position that only the right to opposite-sex marriage is fundamental as
opposed to the right to marriage generally?
4. Are classifications based on religious affiliation treated as suspect class and subject to
heightened scrutiny under an Equal Protection analysis? How does BLAG distinguish
the line of authority treating classifications based on religious affiliation as a suspect
class from classifications based on sexual orientation?
5. What is the statutory authority for and evidence of compliance with the role that the
Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group has assumed in this matter? Is this group actually
bipartisan? Does BLAG have the support – and funding for the increasing cost of
defending DOMA – from a majority of Congress or just from the House of
Representatives? *See Immigration and Naturalization Service v. Chadha*, 462 U.S. 919,
940 (holding that Congress is the proper party to defend the validity of a statute when an
agency of government charged with enforcing the statute agrees that the statute is
unconstitutional).
6. How does BLAG distinguish the ruling in *Gill v. Office of Personnel Management*, 699
F. Supp. 2d 374 (D. Mass. 2010), which found that DOMA does not pass constitutional
muster under even rational basis scrutiny?

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7. What are BLAG’s proffered bases for upholding the constitutionality of DOMA?
- a. BLAG argues that DOMA provides consistency in the definition of marriage. However, traditionally, marriage has been defined by the states. Under DOMA, for the first time, federal officials are now tasked with determining the validity of particular marriages that have been sanctioned under state law. How does treating some state sanctioned marriages different from others promote consistency or maintain the status quo?
 - b. The fact that marriage traditionally has been defined as between a man and a woman merely describes what has been. How does codifying this description constitute a justification, reason, or basis for restricting marriage? *See Heller v. Doe*, 509 U.S. 312, 326 (1993) (holding that “[a]ncient lineage of a legal concept does not give it immunity from attack for lacking a rational basis”); *Lawrence* concurrence. Does BLAG have any authority for the proposition that codification of a long-standing tradition independently constitutes a rational basis?
 - c. In support of miscegenation laws, proponents argued that the long-standing tradition of the separation of the races provided justification for prohibiting inter-racial marriage. How does BLAG’s argument about the tradition of heterosexual marriage differ from the miscegenation context?
 - d. How does the withholding of federal benefits to children of families with same-sex parents encourage responsible parenting and child rearing?
8. How does the sharing of benefits with another group of lawfully married persons denigrate the importance of the benefits already conferred upon the original group? In other words, how are heterosexual lawfully married persons affected by the sharing of benefits with lawfully married homosexual persons?
9. To the extent the Court decides the issues presented on the motion for summary judgment, does BLAG contend the motion to strike evidentiary materials is applicable?
10. Do the parties have anything further they wish to address?

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: December 14, 2011


 JEFFREY S. WHITE
 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE