

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
OAKLAND DIVISION

9 JOHN COLIN PARTRIDGE, et al., Case No: C 12-6373 SBA
10 Plaintiffs,
11 vs.
12 JANET NAPOLITANO, Secretary of the U.S.
13 Department of Homeland Security, et al.,
Defendants.
ORDER
Docket 9, 20

16 The parties are presently before the Court on Defendants' motion to stay the instant
17 action pending the United States Supreme Court's decision in United States v. Windsor, No.
18 12-307. Dkt. 9. Defendants contend that a stay is warranted because the Supreme Court
19 "will likely decide . . . the primary question presented in the present litigation, whether
20 Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act, 1 U.S.C. § 7 ("DOMA") is consistent with the
21 equal protection component of the Fifth Amendment." Id. Plaintiffs have filed a statement
22 of non-opposition. Dkt. 21. Having read and considered the papers filed in connection
23 with this matter and being fully informed, the Court hereby GRANTS Defendants' motion.
24 The Court, in its discretion, finds this matter suitable for resolution without oral argument.
25 See Fed.R.Civ.P. 78(b); Civ. L.R. 7-1(b).

26 Federal district courts have the power to stay ongoing proceedings "incidental to the
27 power inherent in every court to control the disposition of the causes on its docket with
28 economy of time and effort for itself, for counsel, and for litigants." Landis v. N. Am. Co.,

1 299 U.S. 248, 254, 57 (1936). Where there is an independent proceeding related to a matter
2 before the trial court, the Court may "find it is efficient for its own docket and the fairest
3 course for the parties to enter a stay of an action before it, pending resolution of
4 independent proceedings which may bear upon the case." Mediterranean Enters., Inc. v.
5 Ssanyong Corp., 708 F.2d 1458, 1465 (9th Cir. 1983).

6 In determining whether a stay is appropriate, the Court is to consider "the possible
7 damage which may result from the granting of a stay, the hardship or inequity which a
8 party may suffer in being required to go forward, and the orderly course of justice measured
9 in terms of the simplifying or complicating of issues, proof, and questions of law which
10 could be expected to result from a stay." Landis, 299 U.S. at 254. A district court's
11 decision to grant or deny a stay is a matter of discretion. See Dependable Highway Exp.
12 Inc. v. Navigators Ins. Co., 498 F.3d 1059, 1066 (9th Cir. 2007). The party seeking a
13 discretionary stay bears the burden of proving that a stay is warranted. See Clinton v.
14 Jones, 520 U.S. 681, 708 (1997).

15 Here, it is undisputed that the Supreme Court's ruling on the constitutionality of
16 Section 3 of DOMA will resolve the "primary question presented in the present litigation."
17 See Compl. ¶ 36. Thus, the Court finds that a stay pending resolution of Windsor is
18 appropriate. A stay will aid in the speedy resolution of this action by simplifying the issues
19 before the Court. A stay will also promote judicial economy and conserve the resources of
20 the parties, and will not impose an inequity on any party. Accordingly,

21 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT

22 1. Defendants' unopposed motion to stay is GRANTED. All proceedings in this
23 action are STAYED and all current deadlines are VACATED until the Supreme Court
24 decides Windsor. The Clerk shall close the instant action during the pendency of the stay.
25 Within seven (7) days of the Supreme Court's decision in Windsor, the parties shall file a
26 joint request to reopen the case.

27
28

1 2. The Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group of the U.S. House of Representatives'
2 pending motion to intervene is DENIED without prejudice to renewal upon the reopening
3 of this action.

4 3. This Order terminates Docket 9 and Docket 20.

5 IT IS SO ORDERED.

6 Dated: 5/8/13

7 
8 SAUNDRA BROWN ARMSTRONG
9 United States District Judge

10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28