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## Forum on Gay Marriage, Families and Adoption Set

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For Immediate Release  
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## Forum on Gay Marriage, Families and Adoption Set

SAN FRANCISCO — Gay marriages and adoptions are the focus of three discussions the afternoon and evening of Tuesday, March 1 at Golden Gate University, 536 Mission St. "Families We Choose: Legitimizing Same-Sex Unions and Adoptions" is being sponsored by the Lesbian and Gay Law Students (LEGALS) at the Golden Gate University School of Law. Events are free and open to the public.

A panel of law students will provide practical advice for same-sex couples during the brown-bag luncheon seminar, "Contractual Protections for Same-Sex Relationships." The seminar will address the ways in which same-sex couples can protect their relationships, as well as focus on the current controversy involving gay marriage in Hawaii. The session is scheduled from noon to 1 p.m. in room 380.

A gay couple and a lesbian couple, who are among the state's first same-sex couples to successfully adopt children, will share their views on "Gay Adoptions: A View From the Frontlines" in a round-table discussion beginning at 5 p.m. in Auditorium B. Maria Cousineau and Pamela Dunn, who are both attorneys, and Dusty Aravjo and Jason Anderson will share personal anecdotes, and discuss the many legal issues they faced in the adoption process. Cousineau and Dunn were featured in the September 1992 edition of *California Lawyer* and will be featured in an upcoming issue of *Life*. A catered reception, from 6:30 to 7 p.m. follows on the second-floor balcony.

The keynote address, "Gay Marriages, A Civil Right," delivered by Craig R. Dean and Patrick G. Gill, is scheduled from 7 to 9 p.m., also in Auditorium B. Dean and Gill are a gay, Washington, D.C., couple who attained national prominence when in 1990 they filed a lawsuit against the District of Columbia for denying them a marriage license. The couple's case is currently on appeal in the District of

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Columbia Court of Appeals. Dean, an attorney and a graduate of the Georgetown University Law Center, said he believes the case has an excellent chance of winning on appeal because the District of Columbia Human Rights Act prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Dean and Gill have been featured on national television shows, including Oprah Winfrey, Phil Donahue, CBS Morning News, CBS Nightwatch, CNN news and Sonya Live. Dean, the executive director of the Equal Marriage Rights Fund, the foundation the couple founded, is also the author of several articles on same-sex marriage, which have been published in various newspapers, including the New York Times.

Advance reservations are not necessary, but for more information, call 415/442-6636.

The Golden Gate University School of Law is approved by the American Bar Association and is located on the San Francisco Campus. Golden Gate University, one of the largest private universities in the state, is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.