

NEWS ADVISORY
Luther Strange
Alabama Attorney General



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**CITING UNNECESSARY CHAOS CAUSED BY ORIGINAL *SEARCY v. STRANGE*
RULING, AG STRANGE OPPOSES STRAWSER MOTION TO FORCE STATE'S
PROBATE JUDGES TO GRANT SAME-SEX MARRIAGE LICENSES**

(Montgomery) Attorney General Luther Strange today asked the Mobile federal court to reject efforts to suddenly change a same-sex marriage lawsuit that already has been ruled upon, urging the Court not to allow the case to be certified as a class action that would force all of Alabama's 68 probate judges to grant same-sex marriage licenses.

Attorney General Strange called upon U.S. District Judge Callie Granade to deny a motion filed by plaintiffs in the case of *Strawser and Humphrey v. Strange*. The Attorney General said the Court should take no further action as the U.S. Supreme Court will resolve the issue of same-sex marriage in June.

The Attorney General's motion noted that the original federal court decision has predictably created unnecessary chaos in courthouses across the state.

"When this court enjoined Attorney General Strange from enforcing Alabama's marriage laws to the extent those laws prohibited 'same-sex marriage,' Attorney General Strange immediately moved for a stay...Among other grounds, Attorney General Strange argued that a fundamental redefinition of marriage in Alabama without the benefit of full appellate review would lead to chaos, confusion, and additional litigation that could be avoided if the Court's orders were simply stayed a few months until the United States Supreme Court resolved the issue."

"Since then, the number and rate of developments has been dizzying as officials came to different conclusions about their legal obligations and as parties tried to intervene in the initial cases and bring other officials under the Court's injunction," the Attorney General's motion added.

"The Court should not further undermine the relationship between the state and federal courts by granting Plaintiffs leave to drastically change the nature of this case at this late date. Granting the relief the Plaintiffs seek will only add to all the chaos and confusion in Alabama, and will only increase the tension between the state and federal courts."

"The only wise and judicious course of action is to deny the motion to amend and wait until June when the United States Supreme Court will resolve the constitutionality of same sex marriage in a way that will be binding on all federal judges and all state officials."

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