

1st Florida Gay Divorce Granted by Judge

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FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) -- The first formal divorce for a gay couple in Florida has been granted by a county judge who also declared the state's ban on same-sex marriage unconstitutional.

Circuit Judge Dale Cohen on Wednesday dissolved the marriage of Heather Brassner and Megan Lade. They were united in a 2002 civil union in Vermont. Cohen had ruled in August that Florida's gay marriage ban is unconstitutional and that out-of-state gay marriages should be recognized.

Brassner attorney Nancy Brodzki said it was Florida's first gay divorce.

Brodzki says she expects Attorney General Pam Bondi to appeal the decision, just as she has several other rulings against the gay marriage ban. There was no immediate reaction from Bondi's office.

Voters approved the ban in 2008.



MGN Online

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FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) -- A Broward County judge who found Florida's ban on same-sex marriage unconstitutional has set a hearing to finalize the divorce of a gay couple.

Circuit Judge Dale Cohen in August agreed with other judges in declaring the gay marriage ban unconstitutional. But he delayed granting a divorce for Heather Brassner and Megan Lade because of a legal technicality.

A hearing is set Wednesday afternoon on making the divorce final. Brassner and Lade were united in a 2002 civil union in Vermont, but Florida has not previously recognized out-of-state gay marriage.

Brassner's attorney Nancy Brodzki says she expects Attorney General Pam Bondi to appeal the decision, just as she has several other rulings against the gay marriage ban. It was enshrined in the state constitution by voters in 2008.

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