

MABL opposes Minnesota marriage amendment

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On Tuesday, November 6, 2012, the citizens of Minnesota will be asked to vote on whether the state Constitution should be amended to limit the right to marry to one man and one woman only. The membership of Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers (MABL) does not believe that the supreme body of law of this state, intended to confer and protect the rights of all, should be used as the vehicle for limiting the rights of some.

The late Mildred Loving, a plaintiff in the seminal U.S. Supreme Court case *Loving vs. Virginia*, stated on June 12, 2007:

"I believe all Americans, no matter their race, no matter their sex, no matter their sexual orientation, should have that same freedom to marry. Government has no business imposing some people's religious beliefs over others. Especially if it denies people's civil rights."

MABL publicly opposes this amendment and encourages fellow Minnesotans to vote "no." We are all neighbors and should support one another. As was said by Phil Duran, Legal Director for OutFront Minnesota:

"As a lawyer, I am thrilled that MABL has taken a position against this amendment. We live in an era when our opponents admit that their strategy for winning is to divide the LGBT community and communities of color, as if there were not an overlap between them. And we know that voting on one another's equality under the law sets the stage for further division in which nobody wins. We applaud MABL's stand against this harmful amendment."

MABL is a leading minority bar association whose mission is to promote and support the professional development of Black lawyers, judges, and law students in Minnesota. To this end, MABL is committed to the overall goal of representing the interests of Black citizens and their community in the legal profession and in the judicial system throughout the state.