

The American Civil Rights Union

www.theACRU.org

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Arlington, VA -- On Friday, March 31, 2007, the American Civil Rights Union (ACRU) filed a brief of Amicus Curiae in the California Supreme Court on behalf of the the North Coast Women's Care Medical Group. The brief was filed by ACRU Policy Board member (former) Attorney General Edwin Meese III and ACRU Legal Director Peter Ferrara after a decision by the Court of Appeal by the Fourth Appellate District, Division One, Court of Appeal Case No. DO 45438. The brief may be found here:

http://www.theacru.org/acru/amicus_briefs/

The issue at the heart of the case is whether a physician has a constitutional right to refuse on religious grounds to perform a medical procedure for a patient because of the patient's sexual orientation. It is the position of the ACRU that the North Coast Women's Care Medical Group conduct is clearly protected under the Freedom of Religion Clause of the California Constitution. It is the position of the plaintiff, Ms. Guadalupe T. Benitez, that the refusal to perform the service requested was discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in violation of the Unruh Act, among other claims. Ms. Benitez received fertility treatment from the Defendants for almost a year when she requested in vitro fertilization, a service the Defendants do not provide and are not certified to provide. She was referred to another fertility specialist and claimed that the indignity of a referral was, in itself, harmful.

Peter Ferrara, attorney for Amicus Curiae is available for interviews on this case.

The ACRU is a non-partisan 501c(3) legal policy organization dedicated to defending all of the rights enumerated in the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment, not just those that might be politically correct or fit a particular ideology.