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NATIONAL NEWS, NEWS

Arizona gay marriage ban challenged

January 8, 2014 | [Leave a comment](#)

By Staff reports on January 8, 2014

PHOENIX—Four gay couples on Jan. 6 filed a federal class-action lawsuit that seeks to overturn Arizona's same-sex marriage ban.



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"We are asking for relief on behalf of all married and unmarried same-sex couples in Arizona," attorney Shawn Aiken told the *Arizona Republic*. "Now is the time to take up this issue."

The lawsuit names Gov. Jan Brewer and Attorney General Tom Horne as defendants.



Gov. Jan Brewer (R-Ariz.) (Photo by Gage Skidmore; courtesy Wikimedia Commons)

Arizona voters in 2008 approved a state constitutional amendment that defines marriage as between a man and a woman. The U.S. Supreme Court in June declined to hear Brewer's appeal that asked the justices to allow her to ban state employees from receiving benefits for same-sex partners.

Neighboring New Mexico is among the 18 states and D.C. that have extended marriage rights to same-sex couples.

The U.S. Supreme Court on Jan. 6 issued a stay on same-sex marriages in Utah pending the outcome of an appeal of U.S. District Judge Robert Shelby's decision last month that struck down the Beehive State's constitutional amendment that bans gay nuptials.

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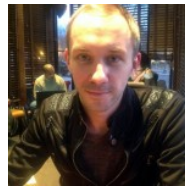
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