



straight, male, female, yin, yang, it doesn't matter to us," she said. "As long as the art is of merit and it is selected by our jurors, the art will be displayed."

The exhibit's opening night reception falls on the monthly First Friday Art Tour in Sedona.

The event is organized by the Sedona Arts Center and Sedona Gay Pride volunteers. Julie Hardesty is committee chair.

Art displayed is not for sale, except through the artist.

— Megan Wadding

June 27: Marriage equality and the courts in Flagstaff

An organization that works for fairness and diversity in the court system will host a community conversation on lawsuits that challenge Arizona's definition of marriage.

The Fight for Marriage Equality in Arizona: Taking it to the Courts will be June 27 at The Inn at 410 in Flagstaff.

The event will give folks who aren't attorneys an idea of the importance of a fair and impartial court system as it relates to the marriage equality cases, according to Sam Wercinski, executive director of Arizona Advocacy Network.

Keynote speaker will be Donna Red Wing, executive director of Iowa One. The organization fought for fair courts when state Supreme Court justices who supported the successful lawsuit for marriage equality in Iowa lost their retention races.

Special guests at the meeting will be Meagan and Natalie Metz, of Flagstaff, who are plaintiffs in one of the cases in U.S. District Court in Arizona challenging the state's ban on same-sex marriage.

The couple has been together for seven years and were married in Washington state last year. When they attempted to apply for a marriage license in Coconino County in February they were denied.

Shawn Aiken, the Phoenix attorney for the plaintiffs in the case, will also attend the meeting.

In an effort to reach the general community, Wercinski said the timing of the event coincides with Flagstaff's Pride in the Pines. He said some elected officials and candidates are expected to attend.

The meeting is also sponsored by Justice at Stake, a national organization that along with Arizona Advocacy Network seeks to strengthen Arizona's judicial merit selection system and protect courts from partisan and special interest attacks.

Wercinski said the effort includes helping the LGBT community establish a pipeline of more diverse candidates seeking positions as judges.

He said Arizona's LGBT community has a larger percentage of judges compared to other minority groups in the state.

— Glenn Gullickson



Plaintiffs Meagan and Natalie Metz will be on hand.

► VITAL STATISTICS

The Fight for Marriage Equality in Arizona:

Taking it to the Courts

5:30-7 p.m. June 27

The Inn at 410

410 N. Leroux St., Flagstaff

Free to the public,

but RSVP requested

www.azadvocacy.org

will be at the Parsons Center for Health and Wellness, 1101 N. Central Ave., Phoenix. swhiv.org.

- June 28-29: **Pride in the Pines** will be at Thorpe Park in Flagstaff. (see story, page 34)
- June 30: **Men's Discussion Group** will be at 7 p.m. at 1 Voice Community Center, 4442 N. Seventh Ave., Phoenix. 1vcc.org.

LOOKING AHEAD

- July 7: **First Monday**, a networking event presented by One Community, will be 5:30-7 p.m. at Renaissance Glendale Hotel and Spa, 9495 W. Coyotes Blvd., Glendale. www.onecommunity.co.
- July 11: **Diamond Crystal Awards** will be at the Wyndam Garden Phoenix Midtown, 3600 N. Second Ave., Phoenix. arizonadrag.com
- July 12: **Dragalicious** will

be at the Wyndam Garden Phoenix Midtown, 3600 N. Second Ave., Phoenix. arizonadrag.com.

- July 12: **Biz Bowl**, sponsored by the Greater Phoenix Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, will be 6-9 p.m. at AMF Christown Lanes, 1919 W. Bethany Home Road, Phoenix. Cost: \$25 per person. phoenixgaychamber.com.



- July 17: **Equality Walk**, sponsored by Human and Equal Rights Organizers (HERO), will walk its first mile with supporters starting at 6 p.m. at Harley's Italian Bistro, 4221 N. Seventh Ave., Phoenix. The walk continues around Arizona through July 26. www.equalitywalk.org.