

EMPIRE STATE

FAMILY NEWS WATCH



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FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Rev. Bill Banuchi

Who would have thought we would find ourselves in 2010 fighting for our liberty, for our very way of life? Who would have thought that our adversary would be our own government? But here we are, waiting to see how the Massachusetts special election turns out in the next battle for the future of our nation. Will we continue to be "One Nation Under God" governed by men and women who are committed to preserving the principles put forward by our Constitution, or will we become a nation ruled by men and women who are driven by special interests, who govern by deal-making, people who see government as an instrument to dispense justice according to their own standard. Only God knows. But we do know that God works all things together for good for those who love Him and are called to His purposes. (Romans 8:28) God can even work the current situation for our good. If our present situation serves to wake up a sleeping population, and provokes Americans to engage in the process of governing, then this could be a good thing. That's why I'm encouraged. I'm finally seeing people interested in learning about the Constitution and the men who founded this great nation. The Tea Party movement is growing because Americans are no longer taking for granted the liberties we have become so accustomed to. And so we are committed this year to do all we can to inform, and inspire God-fearing Americans to "possess the gates." Instead of complaining about incompetent and corrupt leadership we must engage in the political process and elect good people to office, people who understand that our liberties are a gift from God, and they are not to be violated but by his wrath, as we have been warned by Thomas Jefferson. We are committed to the battle, and appreciate your continued support in prayers and finances. Duty is ours; results is God's.

CHRISTIAN MOM DEFIES COURT ORDER to Give Child Back to Ex-Partner

MONTPELIER--- Lisa Miller, who was ordered by a court in Vermont to turn over her child to her former partner, has missed the 1pm EST January 1st deadline. A Vermont judge had ordered Lisa Miller to turn over daughter Isabella to Janet Jenkins at 1 p.m. Friday at the Falls Church, Va., home of Jenkins' parents. This case has drawn worldwide attention as Miller and Janet Jenkins were lesbian partners. After a civil union ceremony in 2000, Miller was artificially inseminated and gave birth to a daughter. In 2003, the couple separated and Miller (the birth mother) renounced her homosexuality and became an evangelical Christian. Years of court battles ensued with U.S. Supreme Court opting not to hear the case. The Virginia Supreme Court ruled in favor of Jenkins who argued that Miller had not allowed her to visit with their daughter and ignored the custody rules set down by the Vermont Family Court. On November 20th, the Vermont court reversed a prior custody arranged ordering full custody to Jenkins. The court also ruled that on January 1st, Lisa Miller, the birth mother, must return the child over to Janet Jenkins.

NOTE: *This report just goes to show how crazy things will get as the good is called evil and evil is called good.*

AMERICANS SUBJECTS OF WORLD COURTS?

Barack Obama is at it again. This time he wants to impose his socialistic views on the United States by subjecting our citizens to the International Criminal Court (ICC). He recently dispatched a delegation to The Hague to explore issues involving United States' involvement in the ICC, an organization that USJF believes could be used to prosecute American soldiers and political leaders on trumped up criminal charges brought by left wing, or terrorist supporting, governments, like Iran.

Barack Obama believes that the United States should be subject to global laws, instead of the United States Constitution.

We here at the United States Justice foundation (USJF) are very concerned about this shift in United States policy, as the ICC does not recognize many of the U.S. Constitution's provisions protecting defendants in criminal trials, such as the right to trial by jury, and protections against double-jeopardy, which are the cornerstones of the Bill of Rights.

OBAMA'S 2010 BUDGET CREATES POVERTY TRAPS'

During the 2008 presidential campaign, Barack Obama told "Joe the Plumber" that he wanted to "spread the wealth around." A leading conservative think tank says President Obama fulfilled that promise with his fiscal year 2010 budget by greatly expanding the welfare state.

The Heritage Foundation estimates that President Obama's budget includes a 30-percent increase in programs for the poor, including Medicaid, food stamps, S-CHIP, daycare, and energy assistance. Kiki Bradley, a research fellow at Heritage who analyzed the president's budget, says the increased welfare spending "traps people in a lifetime of poverty."

"A lot of people ask, 'Well, what's the problem with that? We're having some economic downturn,'" says Bradley. "Well, out of all these programs for the poor -- and we looked at 70 in particular; that's 70 different programs across 15 different agencies -- ...we found that out of all those 70 programs only one was instituted with reforms to put people into jobs and self-sufficiency. That was the TANF program -- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families." Bradley -- who before joining The Heritage Foundation was the associate director of the TANF Bureau at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services -- says unfortunately, all the other 69 programs for the poor "keep them poor" and "do nothing to help them become self-sufficient."

NEW JERSEY REJECTS GAY MARRIAGE

TRENTON — The New Jersey State Senate rejected a proposal that would have made New Jersey the sixth state in the nation to allow marriages involving same-sex couples. The vote was the latest in a succession of setbacks for advocates of gay marriage across the country. After months of intense lobbying and hours of emotional debate, lawmakers voted 20 to 14 against the bill, bringing tears from some advocates who packed the Senate chambers and rousing applause from opponents of the measure, who also came out in force. The vote ends the effort to win legislative approval of the measure, and sets the stage for a new battle before the New Jersey Supreme Court.

"We applaud the senators for upholding a time-tested institution: marriage," said Len Deo, president of the [New Jersey Family Policy Council](#), which has argued that gay marriage would weaken the social fabric by redefining one of society's bedrock institutions. Supporters of gay marriage had hoped to win approval for the measure before Jan. 19, when Gov. Jon S. Corzine, who promised to sign it, will be replaced by Gov.-elect Christopher J. Christie, who opposes it.

With the effort to win legislative approval now dead, supporters of same-sex marriage vowed to focus their efforts on the state's highest court, which in 2006 ordered lawmakers to give same-sex couples the same rights as others whether or not they called such unions marriages.

OBAMACARE VS. MARRIAGE

Marriage is a revered institution in America but not apparently under the Congressional health care legislation, which contains steep "marriage penalty" taxes, i.e. tax burdens that only get heavier when a couple says, "I do." Under the Senate bill, if family income rises above a certain level, couples lose benefits or have to pay higher taxes. Take two low-wage workers who are considering marriage. In 2016, if each has an income \$11,800, they would each have to pay \$248 for health insurance. Married, their joint income climbs to \$23,600 and they would have to pay \$1,109 -- a ding of more than \$600 annually. Middle-class workers could get hit even harder. According to the Congressional Budget Office, a single individual earning \$35,400 -- three times the poverty rate -- would be obligated to pay \$3,611 for insurance. But two such individuals, if married, would lose their eligibility for government subsidies and their mandatory health insurance payments would rise to \$13,100 -- a whopping \$5,878 annual marriage penalty. An analysis done by Senator Charles Grassley of Iowa, finds that the Senate health bill "will cause the 7% of Americans who are eligible to receive the subsidy to pay more for health insurance just by getting married." "I've always argued," fumes former House Majority Leader Dick Armey, "that our tax code rewards vice and punishes virtue," with the marriage penalty being a typically perverse example. And ObamaCare would only make it worse. *Wall Street Journal* -Stephen Moore - January 14, 2010