



Catholic Civil Rights League

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League to intervene in SCC appeal of prostitution case

OTTAWA, ON April 30, 2013 - The Catholic Civil Rights League is pleased to announce that its application to intervene in the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) appeal of the Ontario court decision legalizing keeping a common bawdy house and communicating for the purpose of engaging in prostitution has been accepted. The League will fill a factum jointly with our colleague organizations Christian Legal Fellowship (CLF) and REAL Women of Canada, with which we intervened in the first two levels of the case.

The SCC will consider whether sections 210 (keeping a common bawdy house), 212(1)(j) (living on the avails of prostitution) and 213(1)(c) (communicating for the purpose of engaging in prostitution) of the Criminal Code infringe the Charter in a manner that cannot be justified in a free and democratic society, and are therefore unconstitutional. (The [Ontario Court of Appeal](#) upheld the restriction on soliciting in public for purposes of prostitution.)

Our application to intervene stated that we intend to focus on issues of morality and human dignity. We will argue that the impugned laws are constitutional given their purpose of protecting public morality. The application judge at the original trial in Ontario Superior Court agreed that morality is a constitutionally valid legislative objective.

In the Ontario Court of Appeal, our coalition was the only intervenor supporting the constitutionality of the impugned provisions. We will argue that that prostitution is an act that offends the consciences of ordinary Canadian citizens and, as a result, that the impugned laws reflect Canadian society's moral convictions.

Together with CLF and REAL Women, the League believes morality is a cornerstone of the impugned laws. In addition, the impugned laws relate to the type of conduct

that the community, through Parliament, can determine to be appropriate or inappropriate in public—as opposed to private—places. Finally, it is our view that Parliament designed the impugned laws to protect the dignity of prostitution's victims, and it is the coalition's common goal to protect human dignity.

In all of these issues, we argued that we have an important perspective that is distinct from the parties and other interveners. Our coalition will advance the position that morality was one of the original objectives of the impugned laws.

League supports March for Life

OTTAWA, ON April 12, 2013 – The Catholic Civil Rights League is proud to announce its continued support for the national March for Life, to take place in Ottawa May 9 with representation from across the country. As in previous years, the League is encouraging its members to attend, and is also providing a financial donation and advertising support.

“The Right to life is fundamental to all the civil rights issues that the League addresses through its work,” said League Executive Director Joanne McGarry. “This year’s theme – ‘It’s a girl’ should not be a death sentence – is very much in keeping with the support we provided for Motion 408 and all previous efforts to end the practice of sex-selective abortions.”

Last year, almost 20,000 pro-lifers assembled on Parliament Hill and marched through downtown Ottawa to remind Canadians that we are the only western nation with no protection for the unborn. Provincial Marches for Life also take place simultaneously across Canada, drawing thousands more. Events in Ottawa include a Mass, candlelight vigil, youth workshops, Rose Dinner and youth banquet as well as the march itself.

The League encourages everyone who can to take part in the march

In light of ongoing news about euthanasia and assisted suicide, our colleague organization Euthanasia Prevention Coalition invites you to sign its [Declaration of Hope](#) to help resist any liberalization to Canada's laws in this regard. You can access the declaration at www.alexschadenberg.blogspot.ca.

SCC refuses to revisit Whatcott case

OTTAWA, Ontario, April 22, 2013 (LifeSiteNews.com) – The Supreme Court of Canada has declined to reconsider its February 27 ruling against Christian activist Bill Whatcott that found him guilty of “hate speech” against homosexuals.

“The Supreme Court remains determined to uphold the fantasy that my so-called ‘hate speech’ has the potential of preventing homosexuals from expressing themselves or leading to genocide,” wrote Whatcott on his blog after the decision was released on Thursday.

The court dismissed the application for a re-hearing “without costs.”

Whatcott’s lawyer Tom Schuck said in a press release in March that a re-hearing was requested based on the Court’s conclusion that Whatcott had labeled homosexuals as “pedophiles” in the pamphlets which were the basis of the case, and which the court found to be hateful. However, Whatcott has said that he made no such claim or statement.

“We submitted the Supreme Court of Canada erred when they ruled my factually honest speech [titled] ‘homosexuals at higher risk of AIDS, at higher risk of sexually molesting children, etc.’ was hate speech,” wrote Whatcott on his blog.

“We are also arguing they erred when they claimed I called all homosexuals pedophiles. Nowhere in my flyers did I ever make this claim,” he said.

In the February ruling, Judge Rothstein stated: “Whether or not Mr. Whatcott intended his expression to incite hatred against homosexuals, in my view it was reasonable for the Tribunal to hold that, by equating homosexuals with carriers of disease, sex addicts, pedophiles and predators who would proselytize vulnerable children and cause their premature death, Flyers D and E would objectively be seen as exposing homosexuals to detestation and vilification.”

The League was an intervenor in the Whatcott appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada.

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League annual dinner May 30

The Catholic Civil Rights League is pleased to announce that its annual dinner will take place May 30 at Spirale Banquet and Conference Centre in Toronto. The evening will include a keynote address by Stephen Woodworth, MP Kitchener-Centre, and the presentation of the Archbishop Exner Award for Catholic Excellence in Public Life. Mr. Woodworth was the author of Motion 312, which sought a parliamentary inquiry into updating Criminal Code provisions regarding when life begins. Invitations have been mailed to active League members residing in the M and L postal codes. Others wishing to attend can order their tickets by contacting us at ccrl@ccrl.ca or 416-466-8244.

The League established the Archbishop Exner Award for Catholic Excellence in Public Life in 2004 to honour Archbishop Adam Exner, OMI, Archbishop Emeritus of Vancouver, upon his retirement and to recognize outstanding achievement in advocacy, education, life issues, media and culture and philanthropy. Previous recipients include:

- *Michael O’Brien, internationally renowned artist and author of many best-selling novels, including *Father Elijah: An Apocalypse*. Mr. O’Brien received the award in 1912.
- * Michael Coren, author and broadcaster, for his outspoken defense of Catholicism in media (2011)
- * Suzanne LaVallee of Quebec for leadership in education (2010)
- * Frank Chauvin of Windsor, Ontario, founder of Haiti’s first orphanage for girls and initiator of an application for review of the process by which Henry Morgentaler was awarded the Order of Canada (2009)
- * Dr. and Mrs. Andrew and Joan Simone of Toronto, co-founders of Canadian Food for Children, for services to philanthropy and international aid (2008)
- *Campaign Life Coalition President Jim Hughes of Toronto for service to the pro-life movement (2007)

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