



RBAO Recognizes PA Same-Sex Marriage Ruling

On May 20, 2014, The United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania ruled that Pennsylvania's prohibition on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional. In *Whitewood v. Corbett*, the Court determined that the statutory ban contained in Pennsylvania's Marriage Laws (23 P.S. 1102 and 1104), enacted in 1996, violates the Due Process and Equal Protection clauses of the United States Constitution. One day later, Governor Corbett announced that his legal team would not appeal the decision. Consequently, the recognition of same-sex marriage in the employment and pension context has moved quickly from discussion to fact. The direct impact for the Retirement System is that the option of electing a spousal survivorship benefit is available to all married members.

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