

## **RECOGNITION OF LESBIAN & GAY COUPLES WORLDWIDE**

### **Countries allowing same-sex couples to marry:**

2000 – The Netherlands  
2003 – Belgium  
2005 – Canada, Spain  
2006 – South Africa  
2009 – Norway, Sweden  
2010 – Portugal, Iceland, Argentina (also Mexico City)

### **Countries recognizing same-sex couples through non-marital partnership registration, case law or other official policies include at least the following:**

Andorra, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greenland, Hungary, Ireland, Israel (which also respects marriages from other countries), New Zealand, Slovenia, Switzerland, Uruguay

## **RECOGNITION OF SAME-SEX COUPLES IN THE UNITED STATES**

### **States/jurisdictions allowing same-sex couples to marry:**

2004 – Massachusetts  
2008 – Connecticut  
\* 18,000 couples married in California between mid-June and Prop 8's passage on 11/4/08 remain validly married under California law  
2009 – Iowa, New Hampshire, Vermont  
2010 – District of Columbia

### **States respecting same-sex couples' out-of-state marriages include:**

Maryland, New York, Rhode Island (for some purposes). California and New Jersey respect out-of-state marriages as registered domestic partnerships and civil unions, respectively.

### **States granting marriage-like legal protections to gay and lesbian couples:**

California – Broad domestic partnership  
Nevada – Broad domestic partnership  
New Jersey – Civil unions  
Oregon – Broad domestic partnership  
Washington State – Broad domestic partnership

### **States offering limited recognition to same-sex couples:**

Colorado, Hawaii, Maryland, Maine, Wisconsin

(Rev. 07/27/2010)

#### **Western Regional Office**

3325 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1300 • Los Angeles, CA 90010-1729  
t 213/382-7600 • f 213/351-6050 • [www.lambdalegal.org](http://www.lambdalegal.org)