



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PHOENIX PRIDE STATEMENT REGARDING
CASE OF BRUSH & NIB, ET AL. v. CITY OF PHOENIX
BEFORE THE ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

**Phoenix Pride Condemns Frivolous and Hate-Driven Action,
Urges Arizona Supreme Court to Uphold City of Phoenix Equal Rights Ordinance**

PHOENIX — **Phoenix Pride** has issued the following statement ahead of oral arguments before the **Arizona Supreme Court** on **January 22, 2019**, in the case of **Brush & Nib, et al. v. City of Phoenix** (CV-18-0176-PR), which seeks to curtail the City's ordinance prohibiting discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression:

"Today, the Arizona Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in a facial challenge case brought against the City of Phoenix ordinance adopted in 2013, to protect the rights of all individuals who live in, work in and visit the city, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

"At the time that the ordinance was passed, opponents argued a string of misguided and unfounded prognostications, none of which have come true in the six years that the law has been on the books. Instead, we have seen the city continue to grow and thrive, as it has achieved five consecutive years of 100

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percent scores on the Human Rights Campaign’s Municipal Equality Index, installed rainbow crosswalks in solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community at two public intersections, and continued to benefit from the estimated \$900 billion in buying power that is estimated to dwell within the U.S. LGBTQ+ population.

“The plaintiffs in this case, under the misguided and hateful direction of an organization well known for its bigotry and hatred toward the LGBTQ+ community, not only lack standing in this matter, but are seeking to return the law to an outmoded, outdated model that is reflective of fear and ignorance no longer present in the majority of the population. While there are clearly still those who would seek to curtail the rights of some – including through acts of overt and extreme violence – our society, as a whole has evolved past this issue. We have seen the legal sanction of same-sex marriage, the proliferation of same-sex couples having (or adopting) and raising children, the open service of LGBTQ+ individuals in the U.S. Armed Forces, and the acceptance of openly LGBTQ+ professionals across the full spectrums of commerce, industry and government.

“These institutions have continued to exist and, in fact, have grown and thrived as a result of the open acceptance of LGBTQ+ participation, not in spite of it. We should be focused on continuing to extend equal rights protections, not on repealing existing rights that have done no actual harm to anyone.

“Phoenix Pride joins with the scores of businesses, community organizations, civic leaders, clergy, faith groups and others who have urged the Court to uphold this law and the vital protections it provides to the LGBTQ+ men, women and children living under its jurisdiction.

“Our country has a long tradition of moving toward the embrace of every individual’s right to live freely, and a history of rejecting and shaming the withholding of rights from individuals on the basis of inherent traits or personal beliefs. The City of Phoenix has shown its dedication to protecting the rights of all who dwell within its boundaries, and it is incumbent upon the Supreme Court to uphold the lower courts’ rejections of this challenge and its efforts to marginalize, demonize and debase a specific subset of our community, in objection to a policy that, in six years, has produced not a single incident worthy of standing.”