

DAVID STRAS AND LGBTQ RIGHTS

Highlights:

- David Stras wrote an opinion allowing videographers to discriminate against same-sex couples.

Stras Wrote An Opinion Allowing Videographers To Discriminate Against Same-Sex Couples

STRAS WROTE AN OPINION ALLOWING WEDDING VIDEOGRAPHERS TO REFUSE TO FILM SAME-SEX WEDDINGS

Filmmakers Sued Minnesota's Human Rights Commissioner Because They Refused To Film Same-Sex Weddings

Filmmakers Sued Minnesota's Human Rights Commissioner Because They Refused To Film Same-Sex Weddings, Which Was A Violation Of Minnesota's Public Accommodation Law. According to the Associated Press, "A federal appeals court on Friday reinstated a lawsuit filed by two Minnesota filmmakers who want the right to refuse to film same-sex weddings, saying that videos are a form of speech with constitutional protections under the First Amendment. Carl and Angel Larsen, who run a Christian business called Telescope Media Group in St. Cloud, sued the state's human rights commissioner in 2016, saying Minnesota's public accommodation law would result in steep fines and jail time if they offered services promoting only their vision of marriage." [Associated Press, [8/23/19](#)]

Stras Wrote An Opinion Overturning A Lower Court Decision Dismissing The Case

After A Lower Court Dismissed The Case, Stras Wrote An Opinion Overturning The Decision, Saying The Videographers Had First Amendment Rights, Which Included Refusing To Film Same-Sex Weddings. According to the Associated Press, "A federal judge dismissed the case two years ago. But a three-judge panel of the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed that decision Friday. The panel sent the case back to the lower court with instructions to consider a preliminary injunction that would allow the Larsens to operate their business without fear of being found in violation of Minnesota's Human Rights Act, the Star Tribune reported. Judge David Stras, a former Minnesota Supreme Court justice, wrote in Friday's opinion that wedding videos involve editorial judgment and control and 'constituted a media for the communication of ideas.' He said the Constitution's First Amendment allows the Larsens to choose when to speak and what to say." [Associated Press, [8/23/19](#)]