



## ***FACT SHEET*** ***Golden v. Paterson***

### ***ABOUT Golden v. Paterson***

New York Gov. David Paterson issued a directive on May 14 ordering state agencies to recognize “marriages” of same-sex couples “wed” outside the state. Attorneys with the Alliance Defense Fund filed a lawsuit against the governor on behalf of state lawmakers and taxpayers who argue that the directive places the marriage laws of foreign jurisdictions over those of the state of New York. Furthermore, the governor had no authority to issue the directive.

### ***CURRENT STATUS OF Golden v. Paterson AS OF 8/6/08***

Alliance Defense Fund attorneys filed suit against Gov. Paterson on June 3 in New York state court on behalf of lawmakers and taxpayers. A hearing in the suit is scheduled for Aug. 7 at the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Bronx.

### ***FOCUS OF HEARING – WHAT IS AT STAKE?***

If allowed, Paterson’s directive will undermine the democratic process and force taxpayer dollars to fund benefits for same-sex couples in a state where same-sex “marriage” is not legal. Allowing the directive will send the message that it’s acceptable for a governor to usurp the democratic process to allow foreign laws to supersede those of the state.

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### ***ABOUT ADF***

ADF is a legal alliance of Christian attorneys and like-minded organizations defending the right of people to freely live out their faith. Launched in 1994, ADF employs a unique combination of [strategy, training, funding, and litigation](#) to protect and preserve religious liberty, the sanctity of life, marriage, and the family.

### ***ABOUT Brian Raum***

Brian Raum is senior legal counsel with the Alliance Defense Fund and heads its Marriage Litigation Center. Before joining ADF in 2006, he engaged in constitutional and civil litigation for 11 years in New York and Virginia.