



# NEWS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 23, 2013**

## **Shapiro and Richards Support Marriage Equality**

**Norristown, PA (July 23, 2013)** – Commissioners Josh Shapiro and Leslie Richards today hailed the decision of Montgomery County Register of Wills D. Bruce Hanes to issue a marriage license to same sex couples.

Shapiro said Hanes is “on the right side of history,” and Richards said Hanes “showed true courage and vision.”

Acting on the advice of his solicitor, Hanes, in his role as Clerk of the Orphans’ Court, expected to issue a marriage license early Tuesday afternoon to a same sex couple. However, for reasons of their own, the women decided not to pursue a license at this time.

Shapiro and Richards have long been supporters of same sex marriage, and they praised Hanes for taking the time to study the legal issues and for his courage in deciding to issue the license.

“Equality took a step forward in Montgomery County with the decision to issue marriage licenses to same sex couples,” said Shapiro. “I enthusiastically support the Register of Wills’ decision that he made in consultation with his solicitor. I firmly believe in marriage equality. While this is certainly not the end of the debate, an important step was taken today with Montgomery County leading the way.”

Richards said she was “totally for marriage equality and I believe Bruce Hanes showed excellent judgment and courage in his decision today. The Register of Wills, with his solicitor, carefully considered all the legal issues before making his decision. People who love each other should be able to marry and I am thrilled that Montgomery County is at the forefront of this issue.”