



## The testimony they're trying to hide

# David Blankenhorn

The Proponents' "star witness," he was called as an expert on gay and lesbian families.

But under cross-examination, it was instantly clear that he lacked any credentials on the topic.

### Blankenhorn was clearly unqualified to testify at trial.

- His Master's thesis was "Cabinetmakers in Victorian England," and he's **never published an article** in a peer-reviewed journal.
- The Court ruled, "Blankenhorn **lacks the qualifications** to offer opinion testimony," and "Blankenhorn's testimony constitutes **inadmissible opinion testimony that should be given essentially no weight.**"
- "What would be the effect [of marriage equality]? **Mr. Blankenhorn was ready to say that he really didn't know.**" -- NY Times, June 21, 2003

### His work has afforded him both wealth and fame.

- Though Proponents claim that he fears retribution for his testimony, Blankenhorn has gladly pursued publicity, with fifteen books, six articles, thirty-one conference talks, and frequent media appearances -- in other words, **only when there is no risk of cross-examination**, and when he has no fear of appearing **under oath and penalty of perjury.**
- Blankenhorn founded the Institute for American Values and has used it as a source of revenue since 1997, taking out personal loans in amounts ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000
- His books on marriage netted him advances of \$25,000 and \$40,000
- Anti-gay foundations contribute millions to Blankenhorn's institute -- and his salary.

### Under cross-examination, he conceded much of the Plaintiffs' case.

- Blankenhorn's anti-gay rhetoric **crumbles the moment he faces legal scrutiny.** Here are some of his reluctant admissions during the trial:
  - "Extending the right to marry to same-sex couples would probably mean that a higher proportion of gays and lesbians would choose to enter into committed relationships."
  - "**Same-sex marriage would likely contribute to more stability and to longer-lasting relationships** for committed same-sex couples."
  - "Same-sex marriage would signify greater social acceptance of homosexual love and the worth and validity of same-sex intimate relationships."
  - "Gay marriage would be **a victory for the worthy ideas of tolerance and inclusion.**"
  - "Gay marriage might contribute over time to a decline in anti-gay prejudice as well as, more specifically, **a reduction in anti-gay hate crimes.**"
  - "Extending marriage rights to same-sex couples would probably reduce the proportion of homosexuals who marry persons of the opposite sex, and thus would likely reduce instances of marital unhappiness and divorce."
  - "By increasing the number of married couples who might be interested in adoption and foster care, same-sex marriage might well lead to **fewer children growing up in state institutions and more growing up in loving adoptive and foster families.**"
  - "Gay marriage would extend a wide range of the natural and practical benefits of marriage to many lesbian and gay couples and their children."
  - "I believe homophobia is a real presence in our society."
  - Q: You say:  
"I believe that today the principle of **equal human dignity must apply to gay and lesbian persons.** ... In that sense insofar as we are a nation founded on this principle, **we would be more, emphasize more, American on the day we permitted same-sex marriage than we were on the day before.**"  
And you wrote those words, did you not, sir?  
A. I wrote those words.  
Q. And you believed them then, correct?  
A. That's correct.  
Q. And you believe them now, correct?  
A. That's correct.