Struck down, again

By Bill Nussey | The Virginian-Pilot

A FEDERAL APPEALS COURT declared Monday that Virginia’s prohibition on same-sex marriage violates the U.S. Constitution. It’s the third such ruling at the federal appeals level following a string of similar decisions by district and state judges around the country and helps set the stage for a potential landmark ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that would settle the gay-marriage issue for the entire nation.

The 2-1 ruling by a three-judge panel of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upholds a February decision by U.S. District Judge Arenda Wright Allen that Virginia’s same-sex marriage ban impermissibly infringes on its citizens’ constitutional rights to due process and equal protection under the law.

The decision will not take effect for at least 21 days, pending an appeal. The Virginia’s Supreme Court or the U.S. Supreme Court could seek a rehearing by the full appeals court or appeal directly to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Virginia’s same-sex marriage bans impermissibly infringe on its citizens’ fundamental right to marry.”

Judge Henry Floyd, in the majority opinion

The ruling

A jury was seated Monday in the federal corruption trial of former Gov. Bob McDonnell and his wife, Maureen. McDonnell and his wife, Maureen, face multiple charges in the corruption case.

Former Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell walks into U.S. District Court on Monday in Richmond for the start of his trial. He and his wife, Maureen, face multiple charges in the corruption case.

Jury picked, McDonnells prepare to face charges

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