After Rejection at Supreme Court, Bakersfield Bakery Backs Down on Blanket Cake Ban for Same-Sex Weddings

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For Immediate Release

publicaffairs@calcivilrights.ca.gov

916-938-4113

Owner agrees to sell non-customized products to all customers, regardless of sexual orientation

SACRAMENTO – The California Civil Rights Department (CRD) today announced reaching a settlement with Tastries, a bakery in Bakersfield, to resolve a lawsuit challenging the owner's refusal to sell a cake to a lesbian couple for their wedding. As part of the settlement, the bakery has agreed to a range of steps to protect against future discrimination, including updating its sales policy, training, and publicly posting CRD notices on state civil rights protections.

"In California, we don't turn people away because of who they love or where they come from," **said CRD Director Kevin Kish.** "Whether it's a bakery, restaurant, coffee shop, or grocery store, we are all entitled to full and equal services at businesses in our state. When people like Eileen and Mireya Rodriguez-Del Rio are brave enough to speak out for their rights, it can often help strengthen those protections for everyone. This settlement shows that California is open to business for all."

Case Background

In 2017, Tastries refused to sell a generic, multi-purpose white cake to a lesbian couple who wanted to buy it to celebrate their wedding. The bakery refused to sell the couple the cake based on its policy not to sell cakes for celebrations of same-sex unions. The couple then filed a complaint with CRD, alleging that Tastries refused to provide them service based on their sexual orientation.

After investigating the complaint, CRD found cause to believe that Tastries had violated state civil rights law and sued the bakery in 2018. After the trial court ruled in favor of the bakery in late 2022, CRD appealed and the appellate court ruled in favor of the state in 2025. The California Supreme Court subsequently denied review of the appellate decision and the U.S. Supreme Court likewise denied review the same year.

Under the California Unruh Civil Rights Act, businesses — like bakeries, restaurants, hospitals, and retail stores — are required to offer full and equal access to goods and services without discriminating against people based on protected characteristics, including sexual orientation. The settlement announced today once again affirms California's robust civil rights protections at businesses operating in the state.

Settlement Terms

As a result of the settlement, Tastries will:

- Provide non-customized products, including cakes, to all customers, regardless of sexual orientation or other protected characteristics.
- Attend trainings provided by CRD on civil rights protections annually.
- Post CRD notices regarding civil rights protections at businesses.
- Notify CRD of any discrimination complaints.
- Report annually on compliance with the settlement to CRD.
- Pay $12,000 in damages and fees.

If you or someone you know has experienced discrimination at a business, CRD may be able to assist you through its complaint process. The department also provides general information and factsheets online about civil rights protections, including on protections for customers at businesses.

The settlement announced today was secured by Associate Chief Counsel Soyeon Oum and Assistant Chief Counsel James Zahradka. The department's work was also supported by numerous other current and former CRD personnel over the course of the case, including Senior Attorney Mediator Gregory Mann, Associate Chief Counsel Nelson Chan, and Legal Secretary Val Martinez. CRD was represented in the appellate proceedings by the Office of the Attorney General.

You can learn more by reading the proposed consent decree, as submitted to the court. You can also learn more by reading the state appellate court decision and CRD's underlying lawsuit.

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The California Civil Rights Department (CRD) is the state agency charged with enforcing California's civil rights laws. CRD's mission is to protect the people of California from unlawful discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and state-funded programs and activities, and from hate violence and human trafficking. For more information, visit calcivilrights.ca.gov.

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