

STANDARD INTRODUCTION

The ongoing debate over civil unions and same-sex marriage often generates more heat than light. Yet the debate cannot be ignored, as legislators and voters around the country grapple with whether and how to recognize same-sex relationships.

[Tonight/today] we are pleased to welcome John Corvino and Maggie Gallagher, two leading and opposing voices on this important subject.

Dr. Corvino is a philosophy professor at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan and a nationally known speaker on LGBT issues. For years he was also known as “The Gay Moralist,” a regular columnist for 365gay.com and other venues. His writing has appeared in dozens of scholarly journals and books, including *Do We Need Minority Rights? Ethics in Practice*, and *The Philosophy of Sex*.

Ms. Gallagher is Chairman and co-founder of the National Organization for Marriage, the pre-eminent national organization fighting to protect marriage as the union of husband and wife. She is a nationally syndicated columnist and the author of three books on marriage, including (with Linda J. Waite) *The Case for Marriage: Why Married People are Happier, Healthier and Better-Off Financially*.

Currently Corvino and Gallagher are collaborating on a book, *Debating Same-Sex Marriage*, forthcoming from Oxford University Press.

While Corvino and Gallagher disagree on many issues, they share a commitment to reasoned, civil dialogue. To that end, we ask all audience members to join them in setting a tone of mutual respect throughout the discussion.

We will begin with opening remarks from Corvino. Please join me in welcoming them both.