

# Arizona pays \$200K in same-sex marriage lawsuit, could face more

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Alia Beard Rau (<http://www.azcentral.com/staff/17047/alia-beard-rau/>), The Republic | azcentral.com 12:41 p.m. MST October 2, 2015



Terry Pochert (left) and his husband, Joe Connolly, sued for the right to marry in Arizona. (Photo: Pat Shannahan/The Republic)

U.S. District Court Judge **John Sedwick** has ordered Arizona to pay \$200,000 in legal fees in one of the two cases that challenged the state's ban on same-sex couples marrying.

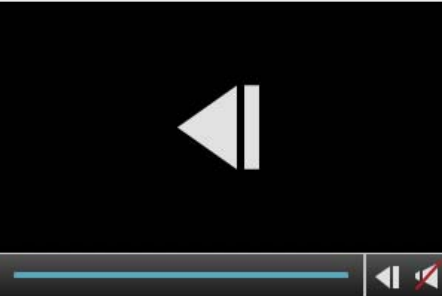

And the costs for Arizona to defend its law defining marriage as between only a man and a woman could get much, much higher.

The order came in the *Connolly vs. Roche* case, which attorney **Shawn Aiken** filed in January 2014 on behalf of several individuals and couples, including **Joe Connolly** and his husband **Terry Pochert**.

Weeks later, a different group of attorneys filed a second lawsuit. That case included attorney **Dan Barr** and the national gay-rights legal organization Lambda Legal. There were more lawyers and more legal maneuvers involved in this case, including a successful emergency court hearing to have one marriage recognized after the husband of one of the plaintiffs died.

The lawyers in the second case haven't filed their request for legal fees with the court yet. But their costs could run significantly higher than \$200,000. In some states, legal fees in similar cases have topped \$1 million.

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