

Gay Rights Advocate Terry Mutchler to Speak at Stockton University on Oct. 29

Journalist's Hidden Relationship with Politician Illustrates Impact
of Gay Marriage Movement

For Immediate Release; Mutchler photo; Coverage invited

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Galloway, NJ - Attorney and journalist Terry Mutchler will discuss her memoir, "Under This Beautiful Dome: A Senator, A Journalist and the Politics of Gay Love in America," on **Thursday, Oct. 29**, part of Stockton University's Constitution Day series of events.

The book tells the story of Mutchler's secret five-year relationship with Penny Severns, an Illinois state senator who mentored Barack Obama. The two hid their relationship in the 1990s, fearing the reaction of their conservative hometown of Decatur, Ill., and the impact on their careers.

Denied legal access to marry, they faced even greater hardships when Severns was diagnosed with cancer and began undergoing treatment. She eventually died, and her family shut Mutchler out of the home they had shared, and out of the funeral-planning process.

The book shows the vast impact gay marriage has on couples and families on America today.

Mutchler will speak at 6 p.m. on the 29th in Room L-112 on the university's Galloway campus, 101 Vera King Farris Drive.

The event is open to the public and sponsored by Stockton's [Political Engagement Project](#), part of the national, multi-campus [American Democracy Project](#) (ADP), the Office of Service-Learning and the Office of the Provost.

Constitution Day is the umbrella term for a series of events at Stockton designed to foster life-long engaged citizenship, a crucial component of a thriving democracy. The series includes voter registration efforts and a trip to the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia on Oct. 24.

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