

## **Lawless administration**

U.S. Atty. Gen. Eric Holder has informed Congress that the Defense of Marriage Act is "indefensible" and will no longer be defended in court by the Obama administration, and that President Obama has concluded that discrimination against gays can no longer be accepted.

What is really indefensible is the Obama administration's cavalier attitude toward the rule of law.

Under American law, the attorney general's job is to enforce laws passed by the Congress and signed by the president. There are only two scenarios under which the administration can properly disavow the Defense of Marriage Act: If it is ruled unconstitutional in court or repealed by Congress.

Even if it doesn't care about following the law, the Obama administration would be wise to follow a rule much older than the U.S. Constitution: "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you." I know (because I am one) that Democrats would be outraged if a Republican attorney general declared that he or she no longer would defend a federal law passed by a Democratic Congress, such as last year's Affordable Health Care Act.

Therefore Democrats and Republicans who really care about the rule of law should be similarly outraged.

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