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The perspective of "intergenerational justice," which requires that our relationship with past and future generations should influence public policy decisions, ought to be applied to family law. Intergenerational justice compels that we recognize that extended families are an indispensable part of and a key to the success or failure of efforts to achieve intergenerational justice, and that appropriate legal recognition of extended families can enhance intergenerational justice. On the other hand, attempts to redefine marriage and parenting to legalize same-sex marriage or treat same-sex partners as legal parents endangers intergenerational justice. Behind the policy debates over recognition of extended families and of same-sex marriage/parenting is a serious jurisprudential conflict between two competing conceptions of human nature—statism and familism-- and two competing power-center institutions for the regulation of humans relations and behaviors – the natural society of the family and the artificial society of the state. Statism impedes recognition of and respect for extended (natural) families, and promotes artificial, state-engineered alternative relations that are detrimental to natural extended families, and impede intergenerational justice. Both state regulation and extended families' recognition are needed and both can work together beneficially for both and for intergenerational justice if they stay within their proper bounds. However, both the state and extended families are subject to the corrupting human tendency to extend and abuse power. Ironically, the proposal to “get the government out of the business of marriage” would exacerbate the problem of statism and weaken families. There is a need to balance family and state roles in protecting families, not to eliminate either, and a need to respect the boundaries of marriage, parenting, extended families and the state.