State v. Morales

Citizens sought an injunction against prosecutions under an anti-sodomy ordinance. The plaintiffs did not attempt to have the ordinance itself declared unconstitutional; they only sought to enjoin any attempt to enforce it. The court explained that while a civil injunction might be brought to preclude enforcement of a criminal ordinance where property rights are being infringed by an unconstitutional statute, the plaintiffs had not demonstrated any such vested interest at stake in the case. Holding that determination of the constitutionality of a criminal statute was beyond its jurisdiction, the Texas Supreme Court refused to issue a declaratory judgment on the ordinance.