



## End Marriage Discrimination in Virginia

### Witness for LOVE!

Join us on **Monday, May 12 at 2 PM** at the Montgomery County Courthouse in Christiansburg to give all Virginians the right to marry.

Wait a minute, you say. Isn't the issue of marriage equality in Virginia in federal court now in *Harris v. McDonnell* and *Bostic v. Rainey*? What can we do? Don't we just have to wait until the court *rules*?

*No, we have a part, a big part, to play.* Virginia has reversed its position in the courts, but others have intervened to defend Virginia's marriage discrimination statutes and constitutional provisions. What the courts ultimately say is still being shaped by public witness.

The court may end legal discrimination on marriage, but many other policies will need to be addressed, and even success in the courts and legislature will not change the hearts and minds of all. Much work remains to move Virginians from intolerance, misunderstanding, and prejudice to love, understanding, and openness. For equality to be both law and practice in Virginia, we must make it happen.

### Why We Must Act ... Together

Virginia laws deny legal recognition to families of same-sex couples and are defended in court, by legislators, and by many Virginians.

- Defendants argue that those who “wish to marry a person of the same sex in the Commonwealth but have not attempted to apply for a marriage license” do not have “actual” or “concrete” injuries.”<sup>2</sup>

- Defendants also argue “so far as the public record makes out, there are possibly four people known” who “have applied for marriage licenses in the Commonwealth with a person of the same sex, and have been denied a license.”<sup>3</sup>

We know these statements made in our names as Virginians are untrue. These statements demand a response from us – a response that unequivocally states, ALL Virginians deserve the freedom to marry and ALL Virginia families must be recognized.

### What Can We Do?

- ≡ Never miss an opportunity to share your story — as a family, as a person wanting to marry, or as a straight ally. The groundswell we need is created person by person, voter by voter.
- ≡ Be part of **Witness for LOVE!**
  - Sign up at [www.POFEV.org](http://www.POFEV.org) to stay informed about local events.
  - Share **Witness for LOVE!** events with family and friends.
  - Join us at a courthouse near you.
  - Help us organize a **Witness for LOVE!** event.
  - Ask for a marriage license with the person you love and **let us support you!**
- ≡ If you are a person of faith, pray in your own way for full justice and equality. Share your journey with others in your spiritual community, and join with others to create an Equality Group.
- ≡ Join **POFEV**, contribute funds, friend us on Facebook, share our emails with your friends and neighbors.

<sup>1</sup>*Harris v. McDonnell*, W. D. Va., Civil Action No. 5:13-cv-00077, filed Aug. 1, 2013.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*, Def. Brief in Opp. to Pl. Motion for Class Cert., at p. 7.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*, at p. 3.

