



End Marriage Discrimination in Virginia Witness for LOVE!

Join **POFEV** February 14, 2014, at your local courthouse 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 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.²

- Virginia also argues “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.”³

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?

- ≡ Share your story as a family, person wanting to marry, or ally. The groundswell we need is created person by person.
- ≡ Be part of **Witness for LOVE!**
 - Sign up at www.POFEV.org for updates on local events.
 - Share **Witness for LOVE!** events with family and friends.
 - Join us on **Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, 2014**, at a courthouse.
 - Help us organize a **Witness for LOVE!** event.
 - Ask for a marriage license on Valentine's Day 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.



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

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

³ *Id.*, at p. 3.