



How can you create Marriage Equality?

Help **POFEV** celebrate Valentine's Day as a

Witness for LOVE!

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

No, we have a part, a big part, to play. If you want marriage equality to be the law in the Virginia, then it's time to step up and make it happen. Here's why we need to act and what we can do . . . together.

Why We Must Act

In *Harris v. McDonnell*,¹ Virginia argues same-sex couples have not suffered under Virginia's marriage ban and do not want to marry.

- Virginia argues that lesbian and gay Virginians who "wish to marry a person of the same sex in the Commonwealth but have not attempted to apply for a marriage license" should not be allowed to sue because they have not suffered any injuries that are "actual" or "concrete."²
- Virginia also argues the couples who brought the suit should not be allowed to represent all Virginia gay couples because "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

Such arguments, rooted in the same demeaning prejudice that led the General Assembly to enact the marriage ban in the first place, demand a response from all Virginians – a response that unequivocally states, ALL Virginians deserve the freedom to marry the person they love.

What Can We Do?

- ❖ Never miss an opportunity to share your story—as a couple, or as a person wanting to be married, or as a straight ally. The groundswell we need is created person by person, voter by voter.
- ❖ Become part of the great public witness next Valentine's Day:
 - Mark February 14, Valentine's Day, your day to **Witness for LOVE!**
 - Sign up to stay informed about local celebrations.
 - Share info about the Valentine's **Witness for LOVE** with friends.
 - Join us on Valentine's Day, February 14, 2014, at a courthouse to support others asking for the freedom to marry.
 - Help us organize a **Witness for LOVE** celebration at your courthouse.
 - Ask for a marriage license and let us support you!
- ❖ If you are a person of faith, pray, in your own way, for full justice and equality. And spread the word in your spiritual community, join with others to create an Equality Group.
- ❖ Join POFEV, contribute funds, friend us on FB, 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.



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