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Attorneys for Plaintiffs

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF UTAH CENTRAL DIVISION

JONELL EVANS, et al. Plaintiffs v.	DECLARATION OF DONALD K. JOHNSON
STATE OF UTAH, et al., Defendants.	Case No. 2:14-cv-55 DAK

DONALD K. JOHNSON declares, deposes and states:

I am an adult resident of Salt Lake County and the State of Utah. I make this declaration based upon personal knowledge except for those matters set forth herein based on information and belief. If called to testify in this matter, I would testify as follows:

- 1. Karl Fritz Schultz, "Fritz", and I met in 1992. We have been best friends and partners for over 21 years.
- 2. I was born and raised in Utah and attended the University of Utah. I've taught special education high school juniors and seniors in the same school district for 37 years.
- Fritz and I started dating around Labor Day in 1992. After having to spend
 Thanksgiving apart that year, we both realized that we wanted to spend our lives together. When
 Fritz returned from his family trip, I proposed to him. We have celebrated the Sunday after
 Thanksgiving as our anniversary ever since.
- 4. Fritz and I have been a vital and important part of our close-knit neighborhood for many years. We are the neighbors who lend a hand when it is needed. We love taking care of our neighbors' dogs, and keeping an eye on neighbors' houses when they go on vacation. We are always pitching in to shovel neighbors' walks and mow lawns.
- 5. On the Saturday morning after the *Kitchen* decision Fritz and I were sitting at breakfast when Fritz reached over the table, took my hand, and suggested we get married.
- 6. We had been considering going to California to marry but we were elated to be able to marry in our home state.
- 7. On December 22, 2013, I got up at midnight, put on a suit, and went to stand in line at the Salt Lake County building at 2 a.m. Fritz joined me at 6 a.m. We finally got our marriage license at around 10 a.m. on December 23, 2013, and solemnized our marriage

immediately.

- 8. After images of me marrying Fritz were broadcast in the national media, I decided it was time to "come out" to my students. Being able to stand in front of my classroom of high school juniors and seniors and tell them that I had married my partner of 21 years over the holidays and that "yes, indeed, I was a gay man" meant I no longer had to hide who I am and made me immensely proud and happy. When I told them, my students burst into applause for me.
- 9. Now that the State of Utah has refused to continue to recognize same-sex marriages, Fritz and I feel that we have again been relegated to second-class citizenship in our own state.
- 10. I am 61 years old, and Fritz is 58 years old. I researched insurance coverage for us and discovered that we could have access to savings of approximately \$8,000 per year on health insurance that we will lose without State recognition of our marriage.

DATED this / day of February 2014.

DONALD K. JOHNSON

DECLARATION

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I, DONALD K. JOHNSON, hereby declare that the contents of the foregoing statement/affidavit/declaration are correct and true under the pains and penalties of perjury.

Autual K. Johnson

Description

Autual K. Johnson

Description

DONALD JOHNSON