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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 MARINA GOMBERG
STATE OF UTAH, et al., Defendants.	Case No. 2:14-cv-55 DAK

MARINA GOMBERG 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. I was born and raised in Ogden, Utah.
- 2. I met Elenor nine years ago through mutual friends. We have been in a committed relationship ever since.
 - 3. I work in communications.
- 4. Elenor and I had a commitment ceremony in May 2009. The State did not recognize our union or afford us any of the rights of married couples.
- 5. For the last couple of years, Elenor and I have been contemplating having a baby, but we are worried about protecting our family because the State will only allow one of us to be a legal parent to any children we have together. We knew being legally married would resolve this concern.
- 6. Within an hour of learning of the *Kitchen* decision, Elenor and I rushed to the Salt Lake County building to obtain a marriage license and we solemnized our marriage that same day. We were thrilled that our State was finally going to sanction our union and recognize our marriage.
- 7. Although we have supportive and loving family and friends, once we were legally married Elenor and I realized how anxious we had been in what the State considered a second-class relationship. The disadvantageous tax status, lack of guaranteed hospital visitation, and inability to both be legal guardians of our future children had created an enormous emotional weight, which was lifted by our legal marriage.
- 8. The State's refusal to continue to recognize our marriage raises again all or our concerns and anxiety.

9. Despite the fact that I feel disregarded and insulted by the State, it rankles Elenor and I when people suggest that we move elsewhere. We are committed to our community in Utah – we have jobs, family, and friends here. We are hoping to raise a family in the State that we grew up in and continue to love.

DATED this ___ day of <u>February</u> 2014.

MARINA GOMBERG

DECLARATION

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I, MARINA COMBERG, hereby declare that the contents of the foregoing Declaration are correct and true under the pains and penalties of perjury.

MARINA GOMBERG