

Case Nos. 14-14061-AA and 14-14066-AA

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**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT**

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JAMES BRENNER, *et al.*,

*Plaintiffs-Appellees,*

v.

JOHN ARMSTRONG, *et al.*,

*Defendants-Appellants.*

SLOAN GRIMSLEY, *et al.*,

*Plaintiffs-Appellees,*

v.

JOHN ARMSTRONG, *et al.*,

*Defendants-Appellants.*

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On Appeal from the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida

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**BRIEF OF *AMICI CURIAE* ALACHUA COUNTY, BROWARD COUNTY,  
ORANGE COUNTY, PALM BEACH COUNTY, CITY OF TAMPA, CITY  
OF ORLANDO, CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG, CITY OF GAINESVILLE,  
CITY OF WEST PALM BEACH, CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, CITY OF  
COCONUT CREEK, CITY OF HALLANDALE BEACH, CITY OF KEY  
WEST, CITY OF WILTON MANORS, CITY OF SOUTH MIAMI, AND  
VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK  
IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS-APPELLEES AND AFFIRMANCE**

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**Brenner v. Armstrong**  
**Docket Nos. 14-14061-AA and 14-14066-AA**

**CERTIFICATE OF INTERESTED PERSONS**  
**AND CORPORATE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

16 Scholars of Federalism and Judicial Restraint

ACLU Foundation of Florida, Inc.

Affirmation

Aguila, Raul

Alachua County, Florida

Albu, Joyce

Alliance Defending Freedom

Alvare, Helen M.

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

American College of Pediatricians

American Military Partner Association

American Psychiatric Association

American Psychological Association

American Sociological Association

Anderson, Ryan T.

Andrade, Carlos

**Brenner v. Armstrong**  
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Armstrong, John H.

Ausley & McMullen, P.A.

Babione, Byron Jeffords

Ball, Carlos A.

Bartel, Sara

Bazzell, Harold

Boccuzzi, Carmine D.

Boyle, David C.

Boyle Law Office

Bradley, Gerard Vincent

Brenner, James Domer

Broward County, Florida

Citro, Anthony

City of Coconut Creek, Florida

City of Gainesville, Florida

City of Hallandale Beach, Florida

City of Key West, Florida

City of Miami Beach, Florida

City of Orlando, Florida

**Brenner v. Armstrong**  
**Docket Nos. 14-14061-AA and 14-14066-AA**

City of South Miami, Florida

City of St. Petersburg, Florida

City of Tampa, Florida

City of West Palm Beach, Florida

City of Wilton Manors, Florida

Clark & Sauer, LLC

Clerk of Court and Comptroller for Washington County, Florida

Cohen & Grisby, PC

COLAGE

Collier, Bob

Columbia Law School Sexuality and Gender Law Clinic

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Concerned Women for America

Cooper, Leslie

Covenant Network of Presbyterians

Davis, Andrew J.

Del Hierro, Juan

DeMaggio, Bryan E.

Dewart, Deborah Jane

**Brenner v. Armstrong**  
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Duncan, William

Emmanuel, Stephen C.

Episcopal Diocese of Southeast Florida

Family Equality Council

Fitschen, Steven W.

Fitzgerald, John

Florida Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops, Inc.

Florida Department of Management Services

Florida Family Action, Inc.

Florida Office of the Attorney General

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns

Gantt, Jr., Thomas

Gates, Gary J.

Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders

General Synod of the United Church of Christ

George, Robert P.

Gibbs, III, David C.

**Brenner v. Armstrong**  
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Goldberg, Suzanne B.

Goldwasser, Carol

Goodman, Jr., James J.

Grimsley, Sloan

Hamid, Jyotin

Hankin, Eric

Hinkle, Hon. Robert L.

Historians of Anti-Gay Discrimination

Hollberg & Weaver, LLP

Hollinger, Joan Heifetz

Howard University School of Law Civil Rights Clinic

Hueso, Denise

Humlie, Sarah

Hunziker, Chuck

Jacobson, Samuel S.

Jeff Goodman, PA

Jones, Charles Dean

Joslin, Courtney

**Brenner v. Armstrong**  
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Kallergis, Nicholas

Kayanan, Maria

Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP

Law Offices of Gene Schaerr

Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

Liberty Counsel, Inc.

Lopez, Robert Oscar

Loukonen, Rachel Spring

Loupo, Robert

Lutherans for Full Participation

Man, Christopher Dowden

Manatt Phelps & Phelps, LLP

Marriage Law Foundation

Martin, Emily

McAlister, Mary Elizabeth

McHugh, Paul

Methodist Federation for Social Action

Mihet, Horatio G.

Milstein, Richard

**Brenner v. Armstrong**  
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Minter, Shannon Price

More Light Presbyterians

Mormons for Equality

Muslims for Progressive Values

Myers, Lindsay

National Association of Social Workers

National Association of Social Workers Florida Chapter

National Legal Foundation

National Women's Law Center

New York Civil Liberties Union

Newson, Sandra

Nichols, Craig J.

North Carolina Voters Coalition

Notre Dame Law School

Oh, Helen

Orange County, Florida

Outserve-SLDN

Pacific Justice Institute

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Inc.

**Brenner v. Armstrong**  
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Palm Beach County, Florida

Parity

Picarello, Jr., Anthony R.

Podhurst Orseck, P.A.

Reconciling Ministries Network

Reconciling Works

Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association

Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and Jewish Reconstructionist Communities

Reetz, C. Ryan

Religious Institute, Inc.

Rome, Joseph B.

Rosenthal, Stephen F.

Rosenwald, Robert F.

Russ, Ozzie

Sauer, Dean John

Schaerr, Gene C.

Schlairet, Stephen

Schoenfeld, Alan E.

Scholars of the Institution of Marriage

**Brenner v. Armstrong**  
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Shatz, Benjamin Gross

Sheppard, William J.

Smith, Hannah C.

Smith, Michael Francis

Smith, Paul M.

Snider, Kevin Trent

Stampelos, Charles A.

State of Florida

Stephan, John M.

Stetson, Catherine Emily

Stoll, Christopher F.

Tanenbaum, Adam Scott

The Beckett Fund for Religious Liberty

The Lighted Candle Society

The Smith Appellate Law Firm

Tilley, Daniel Boaz

Trachtman, Jeffrey

Trent, Edward Howard

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

**Brenner v. Armstrong**  
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Ulvert, Christian

Union for Reform Judaism

Unitarian Universalist Association

Village of Biscayne Park, Florida

Watts, Gordon Wayne

Weaver, George Marvin

White, Elizabeth Louise

Wimberly Lawson Wright Daves & Jones, PLLC

Winsor, Allen C.

Wolfson, Paul R. Q.

Pursuant to Fed. R. App. P. 26.1 and Eleventh Circuit Rules 26.1-1 through 26.1-3, *Amici Curiae* state that they are political subdivisions and municipal corporations organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida. As governmental entities, we do not have any parent corporation.

s/Robert F. Rosenwald, Jr.  
ROBERT F. ROSENWALD, JR.

Dated December 23, 2014

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**IDENTITY AND INTEREST OF AMICI CURIAE**

*Amici* are a broad cross-section of Florida county and city governments that have individually resolved that marriage discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (“LGBT”) people is inimical to our citizens’ health and welfare, is detrimental to our efficiency and effectiveness as employers, and denies our taxpayers hard-earned tourism revenue at a time when we can least afford it. We write to aid the Court by setting forth the very real harm wrought by marriage inequality upon our citizens and upon our very legitimacy as governing bodies. We have thoughtfully and deliberately arrived at this position. We have prohibited discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations against lesbians and gay men within our jurisdictions. We have created boards and committees to hear complaints of unlawful discrimination, including discrimination against LGBT people, so that the promise of nondiscrimination is made real for our residents and visitors. We have established domestic partnership registries in an attempt to provide whatever substitute we can to our same-sex couples who are denied the stability and recognition that come automatically with civil marriage in Florida. We provide benefits to the domestic partners of our employees so that these families can rely upon health insurance and leave policies that otherwise would be denied them. Some of us require that our contractors provide equal benefits to domestic partner couples and some of us pay the extra

federal income tax levied upon unmarried same-sex couples that married straight couples do not have to pay when purchasing group health insurance. We take these steps because it is the right thing to do. But we also recognize that the continuing viability of our democracy and our society depends upon a well-justified belief by our people that we govern based upon the transparent and fair application of laws that apply to all equally.

*Amici* are comprised of the following Florida governmental entities:

**Alachua County** prohibits discrimination based on a number of factors, including sexual orientation and gender identity. Alachua County defines sexual orientation and gender identity as protected statuses and prohibits discrimination based on a protected status against an individual in employment, housing, or public accommodations.<sup>1</sup> The County also prohibits displays or written communications designed to designate a person as unwelcome, objectionable, or unacceptable due to that person's protected status.<sup>2</sup> In 2013, Alachua County established a Human Rights Board to review individual complaints of discrimination and to assist in preventing discrimination throughout the County.<sup>3</sup> Though Alachua County does not maintain its own domestic partner registry, it recognizes domestic partnerships and state or municipal domestic partner registries. The Alachua County Board of

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<sup>1</sup> Alachua County Code § 111.25 (employment); § 111.40 (housing); § 111.60 (public accommodations).

<sup>2</sup> Alachua County Code § 111.06.

<sup>3</sup> Alachua County Code §§ 111.10-13.

County Commissioners voted on November 18, 2014, to submit this *amicus curiae* brief.

**Broward County** has been at the forefront of promoting equality for LGBT individuals and has a long history of support for the rights of same-sex couples. As early as 1999, Broward provided domestic partner employment benefits to its employees<sup>4</sup> and required that County contractors provide benefits to domestic partners,<sup>5</sup> both on the same basis as they provide benefits to employees' spouses. More broadly, Broward prohibits discrimination based upon sexual orientation in employment, public accommodations, and real estate transactions, including lending,<sup>6</sup> and has created a Human Rights Board to enforce these provisions.<sup>7</sup> The Broward County Board of County Commissioners passed a resolution in support of marriage equality on August 12, 2014.

**Orange County** prohibits discrimination against LGBT individuals in employment, housing, and public accommodations.<sup>8</sup> Orange County maintains a comprehensive Health, Education, and Life Protections (“HELP”) Ordinance and

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<sup>4</sup> See Broward County Code, ch. 16½, art. VIII.

<sup>5</sup> Broward County Code § 16½-157.

<sup>6</sup> See Broward County Code §§ 16½-33 to -33.1 (employment); §§ 16½-34 to -34.1 (public accommodations); §§ 16½-35 to -35.6 (real estate).

<sup>7</sup> Broward County Code §§ 16½-21 to -23.

<sup>8</sup> Orange County Code § 22-28 (employment); § 22-42 (public accommodations); § 22-52 (housing).

Domestic Partnership Registry.<sup>9</sup> The Orange County Board of County Commissioners voted to submit this brief on October 14, 2014.

**Palm Beach County** maintains a domestic partnership registry, provides employment benefits to the domestic partners of its employees, and maintains a tax equity policy for employees who obtain such benefits for their domestic partners.<sup>10</sup> Palm Beach County prohibits discrimination against LGBT individuals in employment, housing, and public accommodations.<sup>11</sup> Palm Beach County charges its Equal Employment Board with hearing and investigating complaints of discrimination.<sup>12</sup> The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners voted on December 2, 2014, to submit this *amicus curiae* brief.

**The City of Coconut Creek** (“Coconut Creek”) prohibits discrimination and harassment in the workplace based on sexual orientation.<sup>13</sup> Coconut Creek provides equal benefits for and extends medical, wellness-related, and educational opportunities to the domestic partners of its employees.<sup>14</sup> The Coconut Creek City

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<sup>9</sup> Orange County Code §§ 22-71 to -79.

<sup>10</sup> Palm Beach County Code § 2-6; Palm Beach County, *Domestic Partner Tax Equity Policy*, PPM No. CW-P-082.

<sup>11</sup> Palm Beach County Code § 2-312 (employment); § 15-57 (public accommodations); § 15-58 (housing).

<sup>12</sup> Palm Beach County Code §§ 2-281 to -288.

<sup>13</sup> City of Coconut Creek, *Respectful Workplace Policy* (Administrative Order No. HR-02).

<sup>14</sup> E-mail from Terrill Pyburn, City Attorney, City of Coconut Creek, to Robert F. Rosenwald, Jr., First Asst. City Att’y, Miami Beach, Fla., and Nick Kallergis, Asst.

Code includes “partner registered under the Broward County Domestic Partnership Ordinance” in its definition of “immediate family,” which allows employees to take leave to care for a domestic partner.<sup>15</sup> The Coconut Creek City Commission voted on January 23, 2014, to support legislation that provides for marriage equality.

**The City of Gainesville** (“Gainesville”) prohibits discrimination against LGBT individuals in employment, housing, and public accommodations.<sup>16</sup> Gainesville maintains a domestic partner registry.<sup>17</sup> The Gainesville City Commission voted on October 20, 2014, to submit this *amicus curiae* brief.

**The City of Hallandale Beach** (“Hallandale Beach”) boasts policies that “[set] forth its intolerance for discrimination relating to same-sex partnerships.”<sup>18</sup> Hallandale Beach maintains a tax equity policy for its employees in domestic partnerships.<sup>19</sup> Certain Hallandale Beach city contractors must provide equal benefits to the domestic partners of their employees.<sup>20</sup> The Hallandale Beach City Commission voted on November 19, 2014, to submit this *amicus curiae* brief.

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City Att’y, Miami Beach, Fla., (Dec. 4, 2014, 19:11:00 EST) (on file with recipient).

<sup>15</sup> Coconut Creek City Code §§ 21-1.1, -10.6, and -25.6.

<sup>16</sup> Gainesville City Code § 8-48 (employment); §§ 8-88 to -93 (housing); § 8-67 (public accommodations).

<sup>17</sup> Gainesville City Code §§ 2-610 to -613.

<sup>18</sup> City of Hallandale Beach Resolution No. 2014-140.

<sup>19</sup> *Id.*

<sup>20</sup> Hallandale Beach City Code § 23-3.

**The City of Key West** (“Key West”) maintains a domestic partnership registry, and provides equal benefits to the domestic partners of its employees.<sup>21</sup> Key West city contractors must provide the domestic partners of their employees with equal benefits.<sup>22</sup> The Key West City Commission voted on November 5, 2014, to submit this *amicus curiae* brief.

**The City of Miami Beach** (“Miami Beach”) is a hub of tourism and diversity for people from the United States and around the world. Miami Beach prohibits discrimination against LGBT people and has established a Human Rights Committee to hear charges of discrimination.<sup>23</sup> Miami Beach has established a domestic partner registry and provides employment benefits to domestic partners of employees and their children, mandates that Miami Beach’s contractors provide these benefits to their employees, and Miami Beach reimburses (or “grosses up”) our employees who pay extra federal income tax for domestic partner health

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<sup>21</sup> Key West City Code §§ 38-291 to -296 (domestic partner registry); § 38-295 (domestic partner benefits).

<sup>22</sup> Key West City Code § 2-799.

<sup>23</sup> See Miami Beach City Code § 62-33 (declaring the City’s policy against discrimination); §§ 62-34 to -37 (creating the Miami Beach Human Rights Committee); §§ 62-86 to -91 (prohibiting discrimination in employment, public accommodations, housing, and public services, as well as prohibiting retaliatory discrimination, coercion of discriminatory practices, and interference, obstruction, or prevention of compliance with the Miami Beach Human Rights Ordinance).

insurance benefits.<sup>24</sup> Miami Beach's Mayor and Commission voted unanimously on June 11, 2014, to submit this *amicus curiae* brief.

**The City of Orlando** ("Orlando") broadly prohibits discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and lending, in its City Code.<sup>25</sup> Orlando's Chapter 57 Review Board is charged, among other things, with protecting the civil rights of its LGBT citizens and hearing complaints of discrimination.<sup>26</sup> Orlando prohibits discrimination against city employees, and includes sexual orientation and gender identity as protected classes in its anti-harassment policy.<sup>27</sup> Orlando also maintains a domestic partner registry and protects the rights of domestic partners with regard to healthcare visitation and decisions, funeral and burial decisions, correctional facility visitation, mandatory notification of family members, preneed guardian designation, and education.<sup>28</sup> Orlando has offered health benefits to its employees' same-sex domestic partners

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<sup>24</sup> Miami Beach City Code §§ 62-161 to -164 (domestic partnership registry); § 62-128(c) (equal benefits for domestic partners); § 2-373 (equal benefits for domestic partners of city contractors); § 62-128(d) (grossing up ordinance).

<sup>25</sup> Orlando City Code § 57.14 (employment); §§ 57.48-78 (housing); § 57.08 (public accommodations); § 57.09 (lending).

<sup>26</sup> Orlando City Code §§ 57.01-14.5.

<sup>27</sup> City of Orlando, *Employment & Recruitment, in Policies and Procedures* § 808.2; *Harassment, in Policies and Procedures* § 808.26.

<sup>28</sup> Orlando City Code §§ 57.80-86.

since 2009.<sup>29</sup> Orlando's Mayor and Council voted on June 23, 2014, to submit this *amicus curiae* brief.

**The City of South Miami** ("South Miami") expressly recognizes domestic partnerships registered in Miami-Dade County, and guarantees health care facility visitation rights to domestic partners of patients.<sup>30</sup> Discrimination based on sexual orientation is prohibited in city employment.<sup>31</sup> South Miami provides equal benefits to the domestic partners of its employees.<sup>32</sup> South Miami created a Community Relations Board to, among other things, "foster mutual understanding, tolerance, and respect among . . . [people of different] sexual orientations . . . ." <sup>33</sup> The South Miami City Commission voted unanimously on December 2, 2014, to submit this *amicus curiae* brief.

**The City of St. Petersburg** ("St. Petersburg") enacted a Domestic Partnership Registry Ordinance in 2012.<sup>34</sup> In its Equal Employment Opportunity & Affirmative Action Plan, St. Petersburg prohibits discrimination in "recruitment, examination, training, promotion, retention, or any other personnel action because

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<sup>29</sup> Email from Amy Iennaco, Chief Asst. City Att'y, Orlando, Fla., to Robert F. Rosenwald, Jr., Senior Asst. City Att'y, Miami Beach, Fla. (June 20, 2014, 13:03:00 EST) (on file with recipient).

<sup>30</sup> South Miami City Code §§ 19-2, -6.

<sup>31</sup> South Miami City Code § 16A-34.

<sup>32</sup> South Miami City Code § 19-5.

<sup>33</sup> South Miami City Code § 16A-34.

<sup>34</sup> St. Petersburg City Code §§ 15-31 to -37.

of . . . sexual orientation.”<sup>35</sup> St. Petersburg provides a comprehensive procedure for filing complaints of discrimination with the city’s Human Resources Department.<sup>36</sup> St. Petersburg prohibits discrimination in the city’s housing assistance program.<sup>37</sup> St. Petersburg has a Mayoral LGBT Liaison and Police LGBT Liaison.<sup>38</sup> Lastly, St. Petersburg encourages vendors and contractors to adopt anti-discrimination policies and to provide workplaces free of sexual orientation discrimination in terms and conditions of employment, including benefits.<sup>39</sup> St. Petersburg’s Mayor and City Council voted on September 4, 2014, to submit this *amicus curiae* brief.

**The City of Tampa** (“Tampa”), through its Mayor Bob Buckhorn and with the concurrence of the Tampa City Council, has authorized the Tampa City Attorney to join in the submission of this brief and describe the efforts by Tampa to assure equality among its citizens. Tampa’s Human Rights Ordinance prohibits discrimination in employment, public accommodations, and housing.<sup>40</sup> Tampa maintains a domestic partnership registry and provides health benefits to the

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<sup>35</sup> City of St. Petersburg, *Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action Plan, in City of St. Petersburg Administrative Policy* No. 010501.

<sup>36</sup> City of St. Petersburg, *Internal Complaints Related to Discrimination, Harassment, or Other Inappropriate Behavior, in Rules and Regulations of the Personnel Management System* §§ 10-1 to -4.

<sup>37</sup> St. Petersburg City Code § 17.5-23.

<sup>38</sup> City of St. Petersburg, Proclamation of Mayor Rick Kriseman (June 12, 2014).

<sup>39</sup> *Id.*

<sup>40</sup> Tampa City Code § 12-26 (employment); § 12-64 (public accommodations); and §§ 12-81 to -85 (housing).

domestic partners of its employees.<sup>41</sup> Tampa created a Human Rights Board to hear and initiate complaints of discrimination under Tampa's Human Rights Ordinance, and granted the board the power to review determinations of reasonable cause by the city's administration.<sup>42</sup> Tampa also boasts comprehensive protections for LGBT individuals in its personnel rules: Tampa's Equal Opportunity Policy requires equal treatment of all persons and equal opportunity in employment, and prohibits discrimination, inappropriate behavior, or harassment based on sexual orientation.<sup>43</sup> Lastly, Tampa requires its employees to provide services to the public without regard to the person's sexual orientation.<sup>44</sup>

**The City of West Palm Beach** ("West Palm Beach") prohibits discrimination against LGBT individuals in employment, housing, and public accommodations.<sup>45</sup> West Palm Beach prohibits sexual orientation discrimination in its procurement.<sup>46</sup> West Palm Beach maintains a domestic partnership registry,<sup>47</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> Tampa City Code §§ 12-120 to -127 (domestic partnership registry); City of Tampa, *Group Health Insurance*, in *City of Tampa Personnel Manual* § B22.1 (equal benefits for domestic partners of city employees).

<sup>42</sup> Tampa City Code § 12-5.

<sup>43</sup> City of Tampa, *Equal Opportunity*, in *City of Tampa Personnel Manual* § B1.1A; City of Tampa, *Discriminatory Conduct*, in *City of Tampa Personnel Manual* § B1.2.

<sup>44</sup> *Id.*

<sup>45</sup> West Palm Beach City Code § 42-35 (employment); § 42-37 (public accommodations); § 42-39 (housing).

<sup>46</sup> West Palm Beach City Code § 66-9.

<sup>47</sup> West Palm Beach City Code §§ 42-47 to -50.

provides benefits to the domestic partners of its employees,<sup>48</sup> and requires that its contractors provide equal benefits to the domestic partners of their employees.<sup>49</sup> West Palm Beach passed a tax equity policy for domestic partner health insurance benefits.<sup>50</sup> The West Palm Beach City Commission voted on November 24, 2014, to submit this *amicus curiae* brief.

**The City of Wilton Manors** (“Wilton Manors”) maintains a domestic partnership registry, provides equal benefits to the domestic partners of its city employees, and maintains a tax equity policy for employees who obtain City benefits for their domestic partners.<sup>51</sup> Likewise, covered city contractors in Wilton Manors must provide equal benefits to the domestic partners of their employees.<sup>52</sup> City vendors and contractors are prohibited from discriminating against any person based on sexual orientation or marital status. Wilton Manors allows city employees to take military caregiver leave if a domestic partner of an employee requires care due to an injury or illness suffered while on active military duty.<sup>53</sup> Health insurance continuation coverage is guaranteed to the children and domestic partners of city employees if they lose coverage because of the death of the

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<sup>48</sup> West Palm Beach City Code § 62-81.

<sup>49</sup> West Palm Beach Ordinance No. 4526-14.

<sup>50</sup> West Palm Beach City Code § 62-66.

<sup>51</sup> Wilton Manors City Code §§ 13.5-41 to -46; City of Wilton Manors Resolution No. 2013-0069.

<sup>52</sup> Wilton Manors City Code § 2-268(v).

<sup>53</sup> City of Wilton Manors, *The Federal Family and Medical Leave Act – FMLA Policy, in Personnel and Safety Rules and Regulations, Civil Service Rules* § 10-9.

employee, the employee's termination, divorce, or legal separation of the employee, the employee's entitlement to Medicare benefits, or a dependent's loss of designation as a "dependent child" under the city's health plan.<sup>54</sup> The Mayor and City Commission of Wilton Manors voted on August 12, 2014, to submit this *amicus curiae* brief.

**The Village of Biscayne Park** ("Biscayne Park") prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation in its Village Charter.<sup>55</sup> Biscayne Park maintains a domestic partnership registry<sup>56</sup> and provides equal benefits to the domestic partners of its employees.<sup>57</sup> The Mayor and Village Council voted unanimously on July 1, 2014, to "support equal access to legal marriage for same-sex couples" and to oppose "laws and constitutional amendments that deny equal access to legal marriage for same-sex couples."<sup>58</sup>

**STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH RULE 29(c)(5)**

No party's counsel authored this Brief in whole or in part; no party or party's counsel contributed money that was intended to fund preparing or submitting the Brief; and no person – other than counsel for *Amici Curiae* – contributed money that was intended to fund preparing or submitting this brief.

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<sup>54</sup> *Id.*

<sup>55</sup> Biscayne Park Village Charter § 7.07.

<sup>56</sup> Biscayne Park Village Code § 2-47.

<sup>57</sup> Biscayne Park Village Code § 2-48.

<sup>58</sup> Village of Biscayne Park Resolution No. 2014-45.

**STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE**

The issue in this case is whether there is any constitutionally cognizable interest advanced by Florida's denial of civil marriage to its gay and lesbian citizens. We write to refute the State of Florida's assertion that there is any such interest, and to advise the Court that our legitimate governmental interests are advanced by marriage equality.

**SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT**

*Amici* have prepared this brief at the request of our elected City and County Boards, Commissions, and Councils. Unable to obtain the legal recognition of the State, our citizens have looked to us, as local governments, to advocate on their behalf and to request that the Court strike down Florida's ban on same-sex marriage as unconstitutional under the U.S. Constitution.

We reject the state's contention that any legitimate governmental interest is served by denying marriage equality to Florida's gay and lesbian couples. To the contrary, the ban impedes and interferes with many of our real governmental interests. Florida's prohibition on marriage for gay and lesbian couples impedes our ability to fulfill our core mission of providing for the health and welfare of our residents, thereby eroding the very legitimacy of our governments. The marriage ban interferes with the administration of our business as employers. Lastly, the marriage ban denies our taxpayers tourism revenue.

## ARGUMENT

### **I. Marriage Inequality Harms Our Residents, Impedes Our Effectiveness, and Erodes Our Legitimacy.**

We are resolved that there is no greater threat to our sacred mission to protect the health and welfare of our citizens than the existence of invidious discrimination. As the Miami Beach City Code makes clear,

In the city, with its cosmopolitan population consisting of people of every race, color, national origin, religion, sex, intersexuality, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital and familial status, and age, some of them who are disabled as defined under section 62-31 hereof, there is no greater danger to the health, morals, safety and welfare of the city and its inhabitants than the existence of prejudice against one another and antagonistic to each other because of differences of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, intersexuality, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital and familial status, age, or disability. The city finds and declares that prejudice, intolerance, bigotry and discrimination and disorder occasioned thereby threaten the rights and proper privileges of its inhabitants and menace the very institutions, foundations and bedrock of a free, democratic society.<sup>59</sup>

The societal harm that comes from discrimination reaches its apex when institutionalized as laws that serve no purpose other than to harm one segment of the population; discrimination is never more harmful than when the government itself discriminates. Attorney General Eric Holder recounted his own experience with state-sponsored racial discrimination as he announced that the federal government would no longer treat gay couples as less than equal to straight couples: “[A]lthough the vestiges of state-sanctioned discrimination affected many

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<sup>59</sup> Miami Beach City Code § 62-33.

aspects of our lives – and continue to reverberate across the country even today – thanks to *Brown* and those who made it possible, your generation will never know a world in which ‘separate but equal’ was the law of the land.”<sup>60</sup>

Florida’s state-sanctioned discrimination compromises the health and welfare of our society and of our gay and lesbian citizens.

**A. Marriage Inequality Needlessly Brings Legal and Financial Hardship to Families.**

In the country’s seminal decision on same-sex marriage, Massachusetts’ highest court recognized that the denial of marriage rights to gays and lesbians is the purest form of institutionalized discrimination:

The marriage ban works a deep and scarring hardship on a very real segment of the community for no rational reason . . . . The absence of any reasonable relationship between, on the one hand, an absolute disqualification of same-sex couples who wish to enter into civil marriage and, on the other, protection of public health, safety, or general welfare, suggests that the marriage restriction is rooted in persistent prejudices against persons who are (or who are believed to be) homosexual.<sup>61</sup>

The United States Supreme Court recently reaffirmed this rationale. In *United States v. Windsor*, 133 S. Ct. 2675, 2693 (2013), the Court stated, “The avowed purpose and practical effect of the law here in question [the Defense of

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<sup>60</sup> Eric Holder, U.S. Attorney General, Attorney General Holder’s Remarks at the Morgan State University Commencement Ceremony (May 19, 2014) (citing *Brown v. Bd. of Educ.*, 347 U.S. 483, 74 S. Ct. 686 (1954)).

<sup>61</sup> *Goodridge v. Dep’t of Pub. Health*, 798 N.E.2d 941, 968 (Mass. 2003).

Marriage Act] are to impose a disadvantage, a separate status, and so a stigma upon all who enter into same-sex marriages . . . .”

Florida’s ban on same-sex marriage, the plainest form of discrimination,<sup>62</sup> has a tremendous negative impact on the health and well-being of gay and lesbian couples and their children.<sup>63</sup> Florida denies these families the “aggregate of moral and social support [that] enables married people to more effectively negotiate the ordinary and extraordinary challenges that occur in social life, through the provision of a set of recurring advantages.”<sup>64</sup>

The benefits of civil marriage include “spousal benefits, such as social security and public pensions; income tax benefits; inheritance, insurance, and

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<sup>62</sup> *In re Marriage Cases*, 183 P.3d 384, 402 (Cal. 2008) (“Retaining the designation of marriage exclusively for opposite-sex couples and providing only a separate and distinct designation for same-sex couples may well have the effect of perpetuating a more general premise – now emphatically rejected by this state – that gay individuals and same-sex couples are in some respects ‘second-class citizens’ who may, under the law, be treated differently from, and less favorably than, heterosexual individuals or opposite-sex couples.”).

<sup>63</sup> Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, *Same-Sex Marriage and Health 3* (2008). A survey of 34,000 lesbian, gay, and bisexual individuals conducted in 2001 and 2002, and again in 2004 and 2005 after 14 states adopted constitutional bans on same-sex marriage, found “empirical evidence of the negative health effects of discriminatory policies relative to marriage equality.” In the second study, “participants reported significantly higher rates of psychiatric disorders, with increases of 36% for any mood disorder, 248% for generalized anxiety disorder, 42% for alcohol use disorder, and 36% for psychiatric comorbidity.” William C. Buffie, *Public Health Implications of Same-Sex Marriage*, 101 Am. J. Pub. Health 986, 987 (2011).

<sup>64</sup> Gilbert Herdt & Robert Kertzner, *I do, but I can’t: The impact of marriage denial on the mental health and sexual citizenship of lesbians and gay men in the United States*, 3 Sexuality Res. & Soc. Pol’y J. NSRC 33, 38 (2006).

survivorship rights including estate tax benefits, health insurance in spouses' group plans; the right to sue for wrongful death of a spouse; and power to make medical decisions on behalf of a spouse."<sup>65</sup> "More than 60 percent of insured Americans received health care through their own employer or that of their spouse or other family member."<sup>66</sup> Currently, same-sex couples are barred from "the full range of legal, economic, social, and mental health benefits provided by marriage. Legal recognition short of marriage is not transportable across state lines and subjects lesbians and gay men to the vicissitudes of local law and law enforcement."<sup>67</sup>

A stark illustration of this devastating harm can be found right here at home: In February 2007, Janice Langbehn, her long term partner Lisa Pond, and their three adopted children were in Miami to take a cruise. Pond suffered a brain aneurysm and was admitted to Jackson Memorial Hospital. The hospital, after telling Langbehn that she was "in an anti-gay city and state," refused to allow Langbehn and the couples' children to be with Pond, despite having received a

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<sup>65</sup> *Id.* (citing Virginia Rutter & Pepper Schwartz, *The Gender of Sexuality: Exploring Sexual Possibilities* (2006)).

<sup>66</sup> Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, *supra* note 63, at 6 (citing Herdt & Kertzner, *supra* note 64; M.V. Lee Badgett, *Will Providing Marriage Rights to Same-Sex Couples Undermine Heterosexual Marriage?*, 1 *Sexuality Res. & Soc. Pol'y* 1, 8 (2004)).

<sup>67</sup> *Id.*

durable power of attorney and advance directive. Pond died alone without her family present.<sup>68</sup>

While the dignity of marriage would empower couples like Janice Langbehn and Lisa Pond to make end-of-life decisions, the protective power of marriage might have served their children even more. Marriage equality would concretely promote the health and well-being of the many Florida children currently raised by gay and lesbian couples.<sup>69</sup> Marriage inequality undermines the stability of families raised by gay or lesbian couples, and “perpetua[tes] false claims about [their] parental fitness.”<sup>70</sup> On the other hand, the legal recognition of a same-sex relationship “can increase the ability of adult couples to provide and care for one another and fosters a nurturing and secure environment for their children.”<sup>71</sup>

Children of Florida’s same-sex couples are currently denied rights and privileges enjoyed by children of legally married couples, like “survivorship rights and protections, recognition of parental rights and responsibilities, tax and other

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<sup>68</sup> *Id.* at 10 (citing Janice Langbehn, Address at Family Equality Council Media Awards (October 13, 2007), available at <http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:-H3ot9UnNykJ:thelpkids.wordpress.com/keynote-speeches/+&cd=3&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us>).

<sup>69</sup> *Id.* at 7 (citing C.J. Patterson & L.V. Friel, *Sexual Orientation and Fertility, in Infertility in the modern world: Biosocial perspectives* 238 (G. Bentley and N. Mascie-Taylor, eds., 2000)).

<sup>70</sup> *Id.* (citing Herdt & Kertzner, *supra* note 64).

<sup>71</sup> *Id.* (citing James Pawelski, et al., Special Article, *The Effects of Marriage, Civil Union, and Domestic Partnership Laws on the Health and Well-Being of Children*, 118 *Pediatrics* 349 (2006), available at <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/118/1/349.full.pdf+html>).

financial advantages, and legal protections to partners and children during the dissolution of relationships.”<sup>72</sup> These rights are basic benefits of civil marriage, and should be extended to same-sex couples who wish to marry. Instead, children of same-sex parents suffer economic, legal, and familial insecurity.<sup>73</sup> Without the legal protections of civil marriage, “same gender couples’ death, disability, and divorce disputes are relegated to civil courts, which apply contract or business law, but not family law, such that children’s concerns are ignored.”<sup>74</sup>

Society’s ability to care for another group of its most vulnerable citizens is compromised by Florida’s same-sex marriage ban: the elderly. The American Psychiatric Association recognizes the effect of marriage discrimination on aging:

As the population ages, the denial of legal recognition of civil marriage has consequences for increasing numbers of older adults in same-sex relationships who face age-related health and financial concerns. Excluding these adults from civil marriage protections of survivorship and inheritance rights, financial benefits, and legal recognition as a couple in healthcare settings increases the psychological burden associated with aging.<sup>75</sup>

Marriage provides a socially and legally recognized “context for individuals

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<sup>72</sup> *Id.*

<sup>73</sup> *Id.*

<sup>74</sup> *Id.* (citing Katherine A. O’Hanlan, *Health Policy Considerations for Our Sexual Minority Patients*, 107 *Obstetrics & Gynecology* 709 (2006)).

<sup>75</sup> *Id.* at 9 (citing Position Statement, American Psychiatric Association, *Support of Legal Recognition of Same-Sex Civil Marriage* (2005)).

to realize their capacities for love, care, and self-transcendence.”<sup>76</sup> Marriage also “provides social legitimacy to the intimate bonds of adults and is required for the recognition of full adulthood across many cultures.”<sup>77</sup> The denial of marriage equality reverberates from cradle to grave.

**B. Marriage Inequality Wreaks Psychological Harm Upon Families and Children.**

In addition to legal and financial disadvantages, marriage discrimination wreaks psychological harm on family members of gay and lesbian couples. Gay and lesbian couples “face unusual and specific stressors due to the absence of social and legal rights and duties that define same-sex couplehood.”<sup>78</sup> The American Psychiatric Association has recognized that “same-sex couples . . . experience several kinds of state-sanctioned discrimination that can adversely affect the stability of their relationships and their mental health.”<sup>79</sup>

Hundreds of studies of straight couples have established that “married individuals have better mental health, more emotional support, less psychological

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<sup>76</sup> *Id.* at 5 (citing Herdt & Kertzner, *supra* note 64; Erik H. Erikson, *Identity and the Life Cycle* (1959)).

<sup>77</sup> *Id.* (citing Linda Waite & Maggie Gallagher, *The Case for Marriage: Why Married People are Happier, Healthier, and Better Off Financially* (2000); Margaret Mead, *What is Happening to the American Family?*, 1 *Pastoral Psychology* 40 (1950)).

<sup>78</sup> Herdt & Kertzner, *supra* note 64, at 40.

<sup>79</sup> Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, *supra* note 63, at 3 (citing American Psychiatric Association, *supra* note 75).

distress, and lower rates of psychiatric disorders than unmarried individuals.”<sup>80</sup> Marriage equality “may confer additional benefits because of the protective effects of relationships in countering discrimination and sexual prejudice.”<sup>81</sup>

Married individuals report more emotional support and are more likely to have a close confidant than the unmarried.<sup>82</sup> Emotional support is directly associated with health and well-being and provides protection against the negative health consequences of stress.<sup>83</sup>

Many Americans relate their well-being to marriage,<sup>84</sup> which is widely perceived to bestow a variety of resources and benefits.<sup>85</sup> Married individuals report less economic strain and higher incomes than the unmarried.<sup>86</sup> For Americans who enjoy legal access to it, “marriage is uniquely associated with tangible and intangible benefits that are linked to and support psychological

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<sup>80</sup> Herdt & Kertzner, *supra* note 64, at 35.

<sup>81</sup> Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, *supra* note 63, at 6.

<sup>82</sup> *Id.*

<sup>83</sup> *Id.* (citing Herdt & Kertzner, *supra* note 64; Peggy Thoits, *Stress, Coping, and Social Support Processes: Where Are We? What Next?*, J. Health & Soc. Behav. (Special Issue) 53 (1995)).

<sup>84</sup> *Id.* (citing Richard Kim & Lisa Duggin, *Beyond Gay Marriage*, The Nation, June 29, 2005, <http://www.thenation.com/article/beyond-gay-marriage>).

<sup>85</sup> *Id.* (citing Waite & Gallagher, *supra* note 77).

<sup>86</sup> *Id.* (citing Herdt & Kertzner, *supra* note 64; Catherine E. Ross, et al., *The Impact of the Family on Health: The Decade in Review*, 52 J. Marriage & Fam. 1059 (1990); Waite & Gallagher, *supra* note 77; Cathleen Zick & Ken Smith, *Marital Transitions, Poverty, and Gender Differences in Mortality*, 53 J. Marriage & Fam. 327 (1991)).

health.”<sup>87</sup> In sum, the denial of marriage to lesbians and gay men is harmful to the health and welfare of our residents and is harmful to society at large.

**II. As Large Employers, State-Sponsored Marriage Discrimination Costs Us Money, Adds Needless Bureaucracy, and Compromises Employee Morale, All Resulting in a Less Efficient and Effective Government.**

Our business is to provide world-class service to our residents and visitors. We employ large and diverse workforces, which perform functions ranging from that of City Manager to summer recreation counselors – everything needed to run multi-faceted governmental organizations. It is only by our ability to attract and retain top-tier talent that we can live up to our promise. Orlando said it this way:

The City of Orlando community has a population which is richly diverse. The effective provision of governmental services within such a diverse community requires the services of an equally diverse employee population. The City of Orlando is, therefore, committed to providing an employee workforce which, in all positions and at all levels, fairly reflects the community it serves. The City encourages all segments of its population to become involved with, and seek employment in, City government. To achieve this goal, it is the policy of the City of Orlando, binding on all officials and employees, to offer equal employment opportunity to all persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability. The City will further take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that all employment practices, including, but not limited to, compensation, benefits, layoffs, promotions, training, terminations, hiring, and recruitment, are administered in a manner that provides full and fair opportunity to all persons.<sup>88</sup>

The Williams Institute at the University of California at Los Angeles School

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<sup>87</sup> Herdt & Kertzner, *supra* note 64, at 36.

<sup>88</sup> City of Orlando, *Harassment, in Policies and Procedures* § 808.26.

of Law recently reviewed 36 research studies and found that working in an LGBT-supportive workplace climate resulted in “greater job commitment, improved workplace relationships, increased job satisfaction, improved health outcomes, and increased productivity” among LGBT employees.<sup>89</sup>

**A. We Work Hard to Provide a Nondiscriminatory Workplace.**

In Florida, all 12 public universities in the state prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and nine prohibit discrimination based on gender identity. There are at least 28 localities that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation against their own government employees. Twenty localities also prohibit discrimination based on gender identity.<sup>90</sup>

A 2011 study found that 68 local governments in the United States require that their contractors have LGBT-supportive affirmative action policies, or policies granting same-sex domestic partners equal benefits.<sup>91</sup> We prohibit discrimination based upon sexual orientation and gender identity by covered employers doing

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<sup>89</sup> M.V. Lee Badgett, Laura E. Durso, Angeliki Kastanis, & Christy Mallory, *The Business Impact of LGBT-Supportive Workplace Policies* 1, Williams Institute (2013) (*hereinafter* “Williams Institute”), *available at* <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Business-Impact-LGBT-Policies-Full-Report-May-2013.pdf>.

<sup>90</sup> Email from Christy Mallory, Senior Counsel, Williams Institute, to Robert F. Rosenwald, Jr., Senior Asst. City Att’y, Miami Beach, Fla. (June 13, 2014, 12:36 EST) (on file with recipient).

<sup>91</sup> Williams Institute, *supra* note 89, at 21.

business in our jurisdictions.<sup>92</sup> We also encourage or require our covered contractors to provide domestic partner benefits on equal footing with those offered to married couples.<sup>93</sup>

**B. Marriage Inequality Presents Unique Challenges.**

Marriage discrimination by the state presents its own unique challenges for us to address. Although we attempt to lessen the harmful effects on our employees, these efforts impose significant administrative burdens. While we provide near-equivalents to some of the benefits afforded to legally married couples, we are unable to erase the stain of inequality.

**1. The Marriage Ban Imposes Significant Administrative Burdens.**

To alleviate the disparities in available benefits between gay and straight employee families, we provide comprehensive workarounds in an attempt to approximate marriage equality for our employees. First, we have enacted domestic partner registries that the public can use to register families for local recognition.<sup>94</sup>

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<sup>92</sup> Alachua County Code § 111.25; Broward County Code §§ 16½-33 to -33.1; Orange County Code § 22-28; Palm Beach County Code § 2-312; Miami Beach City Code § 62-86; Gainesville City Code § 8-48; Orlando City Code § 57.14; Tampa City Code § 12-26; West Palm Beach City Code § 42-35.

<sup>93</sup> Broward County Code § 16½-157; Hallandale Beach City Code § 23-3; Key West City Code § 2-799; Miami Beach City Code § 2-373(b); City of St. Petersburg, Proclamation of Mayor Rick Kriseman (June 12, 2014); West Palm Beach Ordinance No. 4526-14; Wilton Manors City Code § 2-268(v).

<sup>94</sup> Broward County Code, ch. 16½, art. VIII; Orange County Code §§ 22-71 to -79; Palm Beach County Code § 2-6; Gainesville City Code §§ 2-610 to -613; Key

Second, we provide benefits to registered domestic partners of city employees.<sup>95</sup> Finally, we reimburse our employees for the additional federal income tax liability that domestic partners – but not legally married couples – incur when receiving benefits (“grossing up”).<sup>96</sup>

Grossing up is a costly and complex process. To illustrate, a married employee who, through an employer, obtains health insurance for a spouse does not pay federal income tax on the value of the insurance obtained, but only if the employee’s spouse is legally recognized. Many employers attempt to address taxability differences by reimbursing the employee to offset the tax impact of imputed healthcare benefits. Grossing up offsets the inequity created by Florida’s discriminatory marriage law, but it imposes a pecuniary cost beyond the direct cost of paying for employee benefits.

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West City Code §§ 38-291 to -296; Miami Beach City Code §§ 62-161 to -164; Orlando City Code §§ 57.80-86; St. Petersburg City Code §§ 15-31 to -37; Tampa City Code §§ 12-120 to -127; West Palm Beach City Code §§ 42-47 to -50; Wilton Manors City Code §§ 13.5-41 to -46; Biscayne Park Village Code § 2-47.

<sup>95</sup> Broward County Code, ch. 16½, art. VIII; Orange County Code §§ 22-71 to -79; Miami Beach City Code § 78-34; Palm Beach County, *Domestic Partner Tax Equity Policy*, PPM No. CW-P-082; Email from Terrill Pyburn, *supra* note 14; Key West City Code § 38-295; Email from Amy Iennaco, *supra* note 29; South Miami City Code § 19-5; City of St. Petersburg, Proclamation of Mayor Rick Kriseman (June 12, 2014); City of Tampa, *Group Health Insurance*, in *City of Tampa Personnel Manual* § B22.1; West Palm Beach City Code § 62-81; Wilton Manors City Code § 13.5-45; Biscayne Park Village Code § 2-48.

<sup>96</sup> Palm Beach County, *Domestic Partner Tax Equity Policy*, PPM No. CW-P-082; City of Hallandale Beach Resolution No. 2014-140; Miami Beach City Code § 62-128(d); West Palm Beach City Code § 62-66; City of Wilton Manors Resolution No. 2013-0069.

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management, in a study of grossing up, noted that this approach “raises costs considerably . . . . Under a grossing up policy, a \$1,000 net cash award would actually cost the agency \$1,713.80.”<sup>97</sup> The New York Times estimates that grossing up for an employee who incurred between \$1,200 and \$1,500 in extra taxes costs the employer between \$2,000 and \$2,500.<sup>98</sup>

Grossing up is also quite complicated. Tax rates, timing, and the taxation of the gross up amount itself all come into play. We must retain experts who craft the policies and structure systems that can record gross-up amounts, as well as educate human resources, benefits, and payroll administrators.

## **2. Our Best Efforts Still Impose Stigma and Confusion Among Employees.**

Our workarounds – as well-intentioned and beneficial as they are – still perpetuate a stigma by according different treatment to those employees who were married out-of-state to a same-sex spouse or are barred from marriage by Florida law, as opposed to those who are legally married to a different-sex spouse. Rightly

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<sup>97</sup> U.S. Office of Pers. Mgmt., *Grossing Up Awards: Why and Why Not*, <http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/performance-management/performance-management-cycle/rewarding/grossing-up-awards/> (using the following withholding rates: federal income tax, 28 percent; Medicare tax, 1.45 percent; Social Security tax, 6.2 percent; state income tax, 6 percent).

<sup>98</sup> Tara Siegel Bernard, *A Progress Report on Gay Employee Health Benefits*, N.Y. Times, Dec. 5, 2012, <http://bucks.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/12/14/a-progress-report-on-gay-employee-health-benefits/>.

or wrongly, our employees see us as the enforcement mechanism for a discriminatory regime. Employee morale and productivity suffer as a result.

### **III. Marriage Inequality Denies Our Taxpayers Hard-Earned Tourism Revenue.**

Our local economies, like those of most of Florida, are heavily dependent upon domestic and international tourism. As the state's number one industry, tourism was responsible for welcoming 94.3 million visitors in 2013 who spent \$76.1 billion, generating 23 percent of the state's sales tax revenue and employing nearly 1.1 million Floridians.<sup>99</sup> Miami Beach's tropical weather, thriving arts scene, multicultural populace, and booming nightlife drew a diverse international crowd of 5,293,722 tourists to the city in the last counted year. Tourism brings in more than \$8 billion dollars annually and makes up a large percentage of Miami Beach's annual budget.<sup>100</sup> The South Florida region is also a favorite tourist destination for lesbians and gay men. Broward and Miami-Dade counties draw an estimated 2.15 million LGBT visitors a year who spend nearly \$3 billion.<sup>101</sup>

The Williams Institute has determined that Florida would see an economic

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<sup>99</sup> Visit Florida, *About VISIT FLORIDA*, <http://www.visitflorida.com/en-us/about-visit-florida.html> (last visited Oct. 9, 2014).

<sup>100</sup> Tourism, Culture, and Economic Development Department, City of Miami Beach, *Miami Beach Economic Indicators (2012)*, available at <http://miamibeachfl.gov/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=65252>.

<sup>101</sup> Hannah Sampson, *Miami-Beach, Fort Lauderdale Offer Two New Options for Gay Tourists*, Miami Herald, Jan. 10, 2011, <http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/01/10/2009627/miami-beach-fort-lauderdale-feature.html>.

boost as same-sex couples plan their weddings, and as their out-of-state guests purchase goods and services in the state, in the first three years following the state's recognition of same-sex marriage. The authors of this study based their findings on information regarding marriage spending by same-sex couples in other states, along with wedding expenditure and tourism data from the State of Florida, to estimate the economic stimulus from the state's recognition of marriage equality. The study indicates that the total spending on wedding arrangements and tourism by same-sex couples and their guests would be approximately \$182.2 million over three years, with a positive impact of \$116.6 million in the first year alone. The total added economic activity over three years would generate about \$12.1 million in tax revenue for state and local governments. Finally, marriage spending would directly account for the creation of up to 2,600 jobs in Florida.<sup>102</sup>

We spend significant public funds to attract tourists. Institutional discrimination that makes Florida a less attractive place to visit is directly contrary to the interests of our taxpayers and to society at large.

### **CONCLUSION**

Fair and transparent government is the cornerstone of our society. Florida's same-sex marriage ban compromises our ability to fulfill that promise. In addition to violating notions of constitutional government and basic fairness, the state's

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<sup>102</sup> E.G. Fitzgerald, Christy Mallory & M.V. Lee Badgett, *Estimating the Economic Boost of Marriage for Same-Sex Couples in Florida*, Williams Inst. (2014).

marriage ban keeps us from doing our job. The Court should affirm the District Court's order declaring Florida's statutory and constitutional bans on same-sex marriage unconstitutional.<sup>103</sup>

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<sup>103</sup> Broward and Palm Beach Counties join in the brief filed by *Amici Curiae* solely for the purpose of asking the Court to provide the relief requested and requesting it to take judicial notice of the Counties' ordinances granting equal benefits to same-sex couples and other domestic partners as heterosexual married couples.

**CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this brief complies with the type-volume limitation of Fed. R. App. P. 32(a)(7)(B) because this brief contains 6,808 words, excluding the parts of the brief exempted by Fed. R. App. P. 32(a)(7)(B)(iii); and this brief complies with the typeface requirements of Fed. R. App. P. 32(a)(5) and the type style requirements of Fed. R. App. P. 32(a)(6) because this brief has been prepared in a proportionally spaced typeface using Microsoft Word in 14-point Times New Roman font.

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Dated December 23, 2014

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on December 23, 2014, a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was electronically filed with the Clerk of the Eleventh Circuit through the Court's CM/ECF System. Counsel for all parties will be served via the Court's CM/ECF System at the email addresses on file.

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