## GIVE BACK

.this time for marriage equality

As it stands today in the U.S., same-sex couples are excluded from marriage in all but one state: Massachusetts. But the fight for marriage equality is taking place across the nation — and not just in LGBT communities. Different-sex couples everywhere are standing up and speaking out for marriage equality through

Lambda Legal's "I do" campaign.

"Denying marriage equality to same-sex couples is just plain unfair," says Susan Sommer, Senior Counsel at Lambda Legal. She and her husband, Stephen Warnke, have joined the "I do" campaign. They've signed the "I do" pledge and are telling all of

their friends why they believe marriage equality is an issue for different-sex couples too.

"Each of our ancestors came to this country at very different points in our history, but what they had in common was they were all seeking liberty, freedom from discrimination and the freedom to be themselves and raise their families in safety," Sommer says. "They found this in America, and Stephen and I have benefited from it. To see some Americans still being denied basic freedoms goes against what we were each raised to believe matters most about our country."

Visit www.lambdalegal.org/ido to meet other couples who are saying "I do" again — and to sign the "I do" pledge, make a donation and learn how to help us get the word out about the campaign.

## Lambda Legal In the News

"Legally, this case isn't hard. Morally, it's even easier.... Federal law prevents any Virginia court from interfering in an ongoing custody case in Vermont or any other state. There is no exception for gays or lesbians."

Washington Post editorial on Lambda Legal's case Miller-Jenkins v. Miller-Jenkins

**NOVEMBER 30, 2006** 

"When was our constitutional quarantee of equality downgraded to a right to only 'parallel' protection? Lesbian and gay couples seek only the same freedom to marry provided everyone else. Equality, not some separate scheme, is the principle that deserves support."

Legal Director Jon Davidson Los Angeles Times

**OCTOBER 31, 2006** 

"So, I turned around and said, 'I don't know why you're saying those things to me. I'm just like you.' And then I got beat up. I thought there was a good chance I might be killed that night. It was the scariest thing I've ever experienced."

Lambda Legal plaintiff Brett Timmerman, recalling his assault Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

**SEPTEMBER 28, 2006**