



Brandon and Kevin Bowersox-Johnson with their son Garrett

Affidavit of Brandon Bowersox-Johnson

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
COUNTY DEPARTMENT, CHANCERY DIVISION**

JAMES DARBY and PATRICK BOVA, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

DAVID ORR, in his official capacity as Cook County
Clerk,

Defendant.

TANYA LAZARO and ELIZABETH “LIZ” MATOS,
et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

DAVID ORR, in his official capacity as Cook County
Clerk,

Defendant.

STATE OF ILLINOIS, *ex rel.* Lisa Madigan, Attorney
General of the State of Illinois,

Intervenor,

CHRISTIE WEBB, in her official capacity as Tazewell
County Clerk, and KERRY HIRTZEL, in his official
capacity as Effingham County Clerk, DANIEL S.
KUHN, in his official capacity as Putnam County
Clerk, PATRICIA LYCAN, in her official capacity as
Crawford County Clerk, BRENDA BRITTON, in her
official capacity as Clay County Clerk,

Intervenors.

Case No. 12 CH 19718
The Honorable Judge Sophia Hall

Case No. 12 CH 19719
The Honorable Judge Sophia Hall

**AFFIDAVIT OF
BRANDON BOWERSOX-
JOHNSON**

COUNTY OF CHAMPAIGN)
)
STATE OF ILLINOIS) ss.

AFFIDAVIT OF BRANDON BOWERSOX-JOHNSON

Brandon Bowersox-Johnson, having been duly sworn, states as follows:

1. I am one of the Plaintiffs in this lawsuit.
2. I was born on June 18, 1980, and I am 32 years old.
3. I am in a loving committed relationship of 10 years with Kevin Bowersox-Johnson, and we wish to marry.
4. Kevin also has provided an affidavit. We each will try not to repeat the things the other has said.
5. I have lived in Champaign-Urbana all my life. I graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in Mathematics. I am part-owner of and vice-president of technology for a small software company. I am also in my seventh year as an Urbana city council member.
6. On April 22, 2006, Kevin and I celebrated our love and commitment with a ceremony in front of family and friends. We felt it was important to have this public ceremony before starting our family because we wanted friends and family to know that our child was coming into a committed relationship and we wished society to see that our child would have two dads.
7. Kevin and I are legal parents by adoption to our son, Garrett (5).
8. On June 3, 2011, Kevin and I entered into a civil union in Urbana, Champaign County, Illinois.
9. Upon entering our civil union, we were initially excited that the state was finally recognizing our relationship and protecting our family. But our excitement turned to

disappointment as we quickly learned and have continued to experience all the ways in which we are treated differently because our civil union is not the same as a marriage. Many of our coworkers and friends were surprised to learn about our civil union and surprised to learn that we were not already married. Many assumed we were married because we have raised our son together, own a home together, have worn wedding rings since our 2006 ceremony, and act like any married couple would. So repeatedly explaining that we actually were not married, but instead had entered a civil union created a sense of stigma and shame.

10. In the months since then, we have had to continually explain our civil union to teachers, health care providers, and many people at our bank, insurance companies, and in the community. Each time we need to give a lengthy explanation or justification of our relationship and our family, it raises doubt about how we should be treated.

11. At our health insurance company, it took numerous conversations to get onto a family policy. Our request was initially denied. After repeated inquiries we are now on a family plan together and the shared family deductible now saves us thousands of dollars in annual health care costs.

12. In our son's school, the Kindergarten registration forms only had a space for "Father" and "Mother", so we had to explain that we are a same-sex couple in a civil union and we are both Garrett's legal parents with the full rights to participate at school in decisions about his education.

13. We want to get married so that we can know for certain that our family is protected, and so that our son, Garrett, never has to worry that our civil union will jeopardize our ability to participate together in important care-taking decisions about health care, family

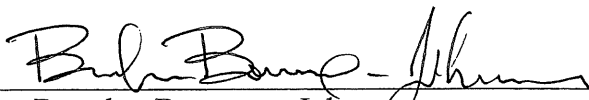
finances or education. We hope we never have to explain to Garrett that our family was subject to inequality because of our civil union.

14. We wish to marry so that our son may grow up feeling pride in his parents and to protect him from having to defend the worth of his parents' relationship.

15. Kevin and I are both over the age of 18, have the capacity to contract, are not within the degrees of consanguinity or affinity prohibited by law for a legal marriage, are not wards under a guardianship, and are not legally married to any other person.

16. On or about the 25th day of May, 2012, Kevin and I appeared in person, prepared to tender the \$60 application fee and identification documents, at the office of the Cook County Clerk to request an application for a marriage license so that we could marry each other in the state of Illinois. An employee of the Cook County Clerk denied our request on the ground that we are a same-sex couple.

17. I hereby declare, under penalties of perjury, that the facts stated in this affidavit are personally known to me, and that they are true.




Brandon Bowersox-Johnson

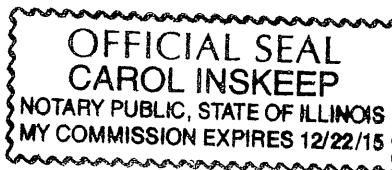
State of Illinois
County of Champaign
Signed / Acknowledged before me on

Sworn to before me this 25th day of ~~January~~ ^{FEBRUARY}, 2013

FEBRUARY 25, 2013 by BRANDON BOWERSOX - JOHNSON



Notary Public





Brandon and Kevin Bowersox-Johnson with their son Garrett

Affidavit of Kevin Bowersox-Johnson

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JAMES DARBY and PATRICK BOVA, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

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Case No. 12 CH 19718
The Honorable Judge
Sophia Hall

TANYA LAZARO and ELIZABETH "LIZ" MATOS,
et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

DAVID ORR, in his official capacity as Cook County
Clerk,

Defendant.

Case No. 12 CH 19719
The Honorable Judge
Sophia Hall

STATE OF ILLINOIS, *ex rel.* Lisa Madigan, Attorney
General of the State of Illinois,

Intervenor,

**AFFIDAVIT OF
KEVIN BOWERSOX-
JOHNSON**

CHRISTIE WEBB, in her official capacity as Tazewell
County Clerk, and KERRY HIRTZEL, in his official
capacity as Effingham County Clerk, DANIEL S.
KUHN, in his official capacity as Putnam County
Clerk, PATRICIA LYCAN, in her official capacity as
Crawford County Clerk, BRENDA BRITTON, in her
official capacity as Clay County Clerk,

Intervenors.

COUNTY OF CHAMPAIGN)
)
STATE OF ILLINOIS) ss.

AFFIDAVIT OF KEVIN BOWERSOX-JOHNSON

Kevin Bowersox-Johnson, having been duly sworn, states as follows:

1. I am one of the Plaintiffs in this lawsuit.
2. I was born on February 19, 1972, and I am 41 years old.
3. I am in a loving committed relationship of 10 years with Brandon Bowersox-Johnson, and we wish to marry.
4. Brandon Bowersox-Johnson has provided an affidavit. We each will try not to repeat what the other has said.
5. I have lived in Champaign-Urbana most of my life.
6. I teach distance education courses at the University of Wisconsin-Stout.
7. On April 22, 2006, Brandon and I celebrated our love and commitment with a ceremony in front of family and friends. We felt it was important to have this public ceremony before starting our family.
8. Brandon and I are legal parents by adoption to our son, Garrett (5).
9. We wish to marry so that Garrett may grow up feeling pride in his parents and to protect him from having to defend the worth of our relationship. I worry about Garrett being treated equally. Even at the age of 5, Garrett already has had to defend his family structure to people who don't understand how he could have two dads. I want Garrett's own state government to stop treating his family as different and worth less than other families, because it invites discrimination and unequal treatment, and

means that Garrett will have to struggle more as he grows older when he has to describe and defend his family structure to other people.

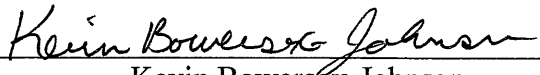
10. I am also very concerned about the protection of my family if Brandon or I get hurt.

11. On June 3, 2011, Brandon and I entered into a civil union in Urbana, Champaign County, Illinois.

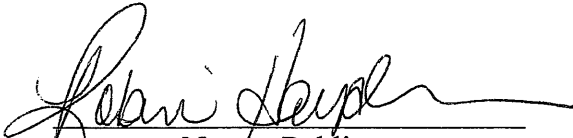
12. Brandon and I are both over the age of 18, have the capacity to contract, are not within the degrees of consanguinity or affinity prohibited by law for a legal marriage, are not wards under a guardianship, and are not legally married to any other person.

13. On or about the 25th day of May, 2012, Brandon and I appeared in person, prepared to tender the \$60 application fee and identification documents, at the office of the Cook County Clerk to request an application for a marriage license so that we could marry each other in the state of Illinois. An employee of the Cook County Clerk denied our request on the ground that we are a same-sex couple.

14. I hereby declare, under penalties of perjury, that the facts stated in this affidavit are personally known to me, and that they are true.


Kevin Bowersox-Johnson

Sworn to before me this 18th day of March, 2013


Notary Public

