



justmarried

the great love stories of marriage equality

This series shines a light on the great love stories of marriage equality: the brave couples from the 50s through present day, who struggled to come out of the closet in order to protect themselves and their chosen loved ones.

In search of the 1138 rights of federal marriage and the dignity that comes with it, they fought against power-hungry US politicians, religious zealots —and their own fearful communities— in order to be seen as normal.

**They did not go into it to be activists - They went into it to be together.**

**They did it for love.**

**Marriage Equality's win** was a beautiful and fraught experience, woven in historical isolation and fear.

This documentary series chronicles the highs of gaining a right and lows of having it stripped away time and again.

The movement is seen through the personal love stories of defiant, courageous couples who exposed their private heartbreaks and hopes for public consumption in the fight for future dignity.

It continues the ongoing stories of those still fighting today—in light of the new Supreme Court make-up where this most basic of human rights—marriage equality, is again once under threat.





The most powerful way to resist these erosions:  
remain in the hearts and minds of Americans—  
the intent of this series is to do just that.

If you have never known what it's like to:  
be afraid to hold the hand of the one you love in public  
be shunned from the funeral of your life partner  
not have your children recognized as your own  
hide your true self from your loving family, friends, or  
devoted fans—

You will after watching **justmarried.**

**" I THINK THAT THE CHANGE CAME ABOUT BECAUSE GAY PEOPLE, WHO WERE ONCE IN THE CLOSET, AFRAID TO SAY WHO THEY WERE, CAME OUT OF THE CLOSET AND SAID, THIS IS WHO I AM AND I'M PROUD OF IT. "**

~Ruth Bader Ginsburg

**LOVE = LOVE.** The equation seems simple. Still, it took years to win the constitutional right for same sex couples to marry. To be accepted as worthy enough to be included in the most sacred of legal institutions and to gain the privileges, protections and recognition granted therein.

Marriage has privileges, rights, protections, and benefits – 1138 to be exact. Parenting & custodial rights. Spousal emergency medical decisions. Social security pensions. Tax transfer of property upon death. Joint adoption. Joint tax filing. Insurances. Licenses. Rights to spousal inheritance. These are just the tip of the marriage umbrella.

**justmarried** illustrates the untold stories of the love, passion, and heartache that went into achieving marriage equality. The struggles met couple by couple, who came out and stepped forward, bravely facing the historical isolation and fear of physical harm to challenge social norms. They insisted on claiming their dignity and right to equality under the law. Until now, the great love stories of marriage equality have not been gathered into an interconnected collective. The intent of this series is to showcase these devoted, yet-to-be legal families, bolstered by a faithful and enthusiastic support system. Together, they garnered the most important civil rights wins of this new century.

We document the hope and heroism of plaintiffs who exposed their lives for the future rights of all. Audiences will get to know more intimately major court case winners like Edie Windsor and Thea Spyer, whose case overturned the Defense Of Marriage Act— alongside Jim Obergefell and John Arthur, whose case won equality across the nation. Their powerful stories of love. Turned into court cases. Ultimately winning the rights to marriage equality across our nation. **justmarried** also shines the light on well-known personalities like Ellen DeGeneres & Portia de Rossi, George Takei, Wanda Sykes, Cynthia Nixon, Robin Roberts and Ricky Martin, who came out of the closet and spoke to their broad fan base about the need for marriage equality. We make the acquaintance of lesser known heroes, such as Shirley Tan and Jay Mercado, a Filipino bi-national couple fighting to keep their family together; and Christie Lee Littleton, a trans woman in Texas fighting to be recognized as a spouse post mortem. Quiet love stories that made them heroes and changed a nation.

In the United States, “marriage” isn’t just a word or just a civil institution.

## **MARRIAGE IS AN EXCLUSIVE CLUB, WHERE MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES—1,138 RIGHTS AND BENEFITS TO BE EXACT:**

Joint and family-related rights: joint filing of bankruptcy permitted; **JOINT PARENTING RIGHTS**, such as access to children’s school records; family visitation rights in a hospital or prison; next-of-kin status for **EMERGENCY MEDICAL DECISIONS** or filing wrongful death claims; custodial rights to children, shared property, child support, and alimony after divorce; **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTERVENTION**; access to “family only” services, such as reduced rate memberships to clubs & organizations or residency in certain neighborhoods; tax-free transfer of property between spouses (including on death); **FUNERAL AND BEREAVEMENT LEAVE**; joint adoption and foster care; joint tax filing; insurance licenses, coverage, and eligibility; legal status with stepchildren; permission to make funeral arrangements for a deceased spouse, including burial or cremation; right to change surname upon marriage; right to enter into prenuptial agreement; right to inheritance of property; **SPOUSAL PRIVILEGE IN COURT CASES**... Right to many of ex- or late spouse’s benefits, including: **SOCIAL SECURITY PENSION**; veteran’s pensions; \$100,000 to spouse of any public safety officer killed in the line of duty; continuation of employer-sponsored health benefits; renewal and termination **RIGHTS TO SPOUSE’S COPYRIGHTS** on death of spouse; making, revoking, and objecting to post-mortem anatomical gifts... Spousal income and assets are counted in determining need in many forms of government assistance, including: **HOUSING ASSISTANCE**; child’s education loans; educational loan repayment schedule... There are some laws that either benefit or

## LOVE'S WIN IS INSEPARABLE FROM THE LARGER COMMUNITY MOVEMENT OF PROUDLY COMING OUT TO SAY, "YES, I AM."

**justmarried's** eight documentary episodes tie together the interconnectedness of the gay rights movement with the couples whose love stories opened the door to equality one small step at a time - from the Lavender Scare to Stonewall, from the AIDS crisis to the day when marriage equality was finally the law. **justmarried** looks at the famous, the reluctantly famous, the stalwarts from all walks of life and their allies, to tell their tales of true love and challenge a nation's ingrained homophobia, which kept these newlyweds-to-be in the closet and out of the chapel.

Original, engaging, and environmental interviews combine with moving archival imagery to detail the narrative of each episode. Each protagonist's story, as told by someone involved or affected by the story, lends an authenticity and consistency to the narrative. We hear Jim Obergefell intimately share how Edie Windsor and Thea Spyer inspired Jim and his husband John to tie the knot. Senator Dianne Feinstein details the story of Shirley Tan and Jay Mercado's fight to stay in this country together with their twins. A situation so preposterous, she felt compelled to step in. Former MA Senator Barney Frank, the first member of Congress to voluntarily come out as gay, celebrates the relationship of Hillary and Julie Goodridge and how they fought to win marriage. His steadfast objection to anti-equality legislation helped their case. Their determination to win, to push through, enabled the Senator himself to finally get married.

At its core, these are stories of love. Of loss. Of dignity. Of the protections provided in the constitution. Our nation has become so divided, it is our hope this docuseries will reveal that our community lives in every community. It is symbolic of current times, and particularly important for contemporary awareness, as African Americans and the Black Lives Matter Movement fight for their stories to be heard. Both communities are targets of vicious violence by white supremacist and neo-Nazi hate groups. With 40 murders of black trans lives in the last 18 months, we intersect.

**"WE NEVER EXPECTED, ONCE WE'D WON THAT RIGHT, WE MIGHT HAVE TO FIGHT FOR IT ALL OVER AGAIN. ONE THING IS FOR SURE: WE CAN'T TAKE THAT RIGHT FOR GRANTED. NOT NOW. NOT EVER. BUT THAT SEEMS TO BE THE WAY WHEN IT COMES TO HUMAN RIGHTS.  
WHEN YOU THINK THE WAR IS WON, THINK AGAIN. "**

~Kris Perry and Sandy Stier, the lead plaintiffs in the Supreme Court case that overturned Prop. 8 California's same-sex marriage ban

History and the current political climate show how quickly positive change can fall back into chaos and heartache. LGBTQ+ communities now fear personal sacrifices made for equality could turn out to have been made in vain. The same forces that fought against equality are still working hard to dismantle our newfound freedoms. We believe the most powerful means to resisting these rollbacks remains in the hearts of average compassionate Americans.

Women gained the right to choose to terminate a pregnancy less than 50 years ago. This right has been methodically eroded culminating in a very real threat to its existence. Many of these same groups are currently working to undermine marriage equality. With the loss of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and the Court's highly-visible swing to the right [four sitting Justices now on record questioning the marriage equality decision] our hard-won rights are once again on the table.

The good news is that in 15 years, attitudes about same sex marriage among Americans swung from 60% disapproval to 60% approval. People began hearing real-life stories and witnessing positive LGBTQ+ characters on TV, in newspapers, magazines and online media. But there are still approximately two million LGBTQ+ kids currently living on the streets, rejected by their families simply for being who they are. Safety in the workplace, adoption, religious exemption, freedom to travel, citizenship for children of LGBTQ+ parents are all still under threat. The fight continues.

This series will be important for the next generation of our community. A group who had the right to same-sex marriage by the time they entered high school. They will now be able to see the stories of those who came before them. Who gave them this right. The struggles they endured. And the understanding that marriage equality is not etched in stone. Our voices are needed to ensure it remains the law of the land as we move through the 21st century.

The series is also a celebration. A wedding dance of the heart and hope, devotion, faith and integrity, all in the face of adversity. It is symbolic of the current times while documenting the tremendous joys of achievement. Of love. Of happiness.

The beauty of this series is the love stories themselves. The magic is witnessing individuals who, against all odds, spoke about their lives. Love's win is inseparable from the larger community movement of proudly coming out to say "Yes, I am." Societal inclusivity is the holy grail of acceptance, something previously denied to the LGBTQ+ community.

These audaciously stout-hearted couples won equality by encouraging so many Americans to fall in love with love. We could all use a lot of love stories right now.

**THESE ARE THE GREAT LOVE STORIES OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY.**



# A Few Love Stories

Representing all walks of life - a Missouri patrolman, a Filipino immigrant family, an African-American Baptist preacher, plus well known activists and celebrities-each of **justmarried's** compelling, personal narratives embodies the long fight for societal inclusion and its significant other, dignity.



**THEA SPYER + EDITH WINDSOR.** This couple's romantic 40+ year love inspired its own documentary. Unable to marry in New York, they wed in Canada to validate their magical union. Their love story took a devastating turn shortly afterwards with Thea's passing. Edith would fight in court to get access to the protections she would need to live after her wife's death. In their story, *With This Ring*, their court case overturns DOMA, *The Defense of Marriage Act*, which codified marriage into federal law as 'being between a man and a woman. Overturning DOMA instantly validated same sex marriages in 17 states.



**ELLEN DEGENERES + PORTIA DE ROSSI.** The married TV stars need no introduction. They were the first LGBTQ+ couple to land a wedding cover of *People* magazine, their story proudly showcased for millions of Ellen's fans and thus, middle America. Ellen not once, but twice, put her career on the line by opening up her life to her fans, this time with her actor wife Portia. In *For Richer, For Poorer*, we see how the power of their openness and worldwide exposure could alter the psyche of a nation. Putting a bright and familiar face to the cause of understanding the daily struggle of the LGBTQ+ community, Ellen and Portia conveyed nothing short of normalcy in their relationship to the masses, all the while giving us all a breather from the emotional pain of social differences and prejudice via laughter.



**In 1970, Richard Baker and his partner James McConnell, devise clever ways to attain a marriage license in their state of Minnesota, including getting a law degree and doing a simple name change.**

**SHIRLEY TAN + JAY MERCADO.** Together for 24 years, the Pacifica, CA couple found themselves torn apart when Shirley was taken from her home in handcuffs by US I.C.E. agents carrying out an order for her deportation. The arrest came as a shock as Shirley had lived in the U.S. for decades while she sought asylum as the victim of horrific violence in her native country. In *For Better Or For Worse*, Shirley was tossed in a van and strip searched like a criminal. With their boys at home, Jay, a U.S. citizen, along with her ailing mother, watched on. They were frightened, demoralized and helpless to interfere. ‘If only Jay were born a man,’ one ICE agent affirmed the arrest wouldn’t have happened. Senator Dianne Feinstein would intervene on their behalf to help keep the family together.



**JAMES OBERGEFELL + JOHN ARTHUR.** After 20 loving years together John Arthur became afflicted with ALS. He lost his ability to walk, talk, and eventually breathe. With the immediacy of John's illness, the couple decided to get married in a neighboring state where they could be legally wed and be legally buried next to each other as a couple in their state. *In Sickness and In Health*, we see their friends and family raise funds so the two could make an emergency flight to Maryland, where they were married on the airport tarmac. Upon returning home, they filed a lawsuit that would end up in the Supreme Court, winning equality for all and giving their love eternal validity in the eyes of the government and conferring the rights and dignity of legal marriage.



**ELAD + ANDREW DVASH-BANKS.** The bi-national, married couple fought post-equality to have their twin sons - each conceived with the sperm of one of the married fathers - both considered United States citizens. In their story, *From This Day Forward*, we see the Trump State Department stretch the bounds of science into pure discrimination, declaring that only the twin whose sperm came from the American-born father is the only legitimate citizen.



## Through Our Lens



Archival imagery —combined with current interviews of couples, friends, family, lawmakers and supporters from both sides of the aisle --creates an emotional backdrop to the stories of couples who courageously pioneered the marriage equality movement from closet to cathedral.

Our intention is not to focus only on the adversity and antagonism. Just the opposite. We also want to escort our audience through the ups and downs, the elation and enthusiasm, and the absolute joy of the marriage equality movement.

Our vision is to create a series with a cinematic integrity that is as beautiful and enduring as the stories of these fierce souls that believed in that historic day. Who didn't give up. Real people who fought for and won the ultimate right to love: to live proudly and be justmarried.

## **THE EPISODES:**

### **Episode 1: DEARLY BELOVED, WE ARE GATHERED HERE**

The audacity of meeting during a time when families cast out their gay and lesbian children or placed them in mental institutions, Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin founded The Daughters of Bilitis, a “secret social club for lesbians,” in their home. A brave move in a time of homosexual witch hunts. The first glimpse of a tide of public support rises around the gay and lesbian community after remarks from Anita Bryant spur celebrities Bette Midler, Barbra Streisand, Paul Williams, and Jane Fonda to oust Bryant as the spokesperson for Florida orange juice.

### **Episode 2: I TAKE THIS MAN**

When AIDS decimates a community, the power of connection gains new meaning. Tom Joslin and Peter Friedman document their fight against AIDS while capturing the love they have for each other. We see the community unite and expand to include straight people when the Defense of Marriage Act takes hold. We learn about the unexpected forces behind this act -- the first time in U.S. history that Constitutional rights are taken away from a group of citizens.

### **Episode 3: FOR BETTER, FOR WORSE**

Hillary and Julie Goodridge marry on a bright spring day in Boston, becoming the faces of the right for lesbians to wed. John Lewis and Stuart Gaffney describe their own wedding and how Loving v. Virginia made it possible for John’s parents – an interracial couple – to marry. But George W. Bush is elected president and celebration turns to heartbreak as special interest groups sue to have the right to marry rescinded.

### **Episode 4: ACCORDING TO GOD'S HOLY ORDINANCE**

Gavin Newsom and Kamala Harris blow up the one-man/one-woman doctrine and allow 18,000 couples to marry, including Ellen and Portia and Prop. 8 plaintiffs, Kris Perry and Sandy Stier. Barack Obama is elected president and repeals DOMA. But massive amounts of out-of-state money flow into fear-mongering ad campaigns in California, and a ballot initiative in the state halts marriage for gay and lesbian couples, igniting the marriage equality movement across the nation. Pro-gay clergy enter the fight against powerful opponents including the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of Latter-day Saints. LGBTQ+ celebrities risk it all, coming out en masse explaining to their fans the need for dignity, rights and protections.

## **Episode 5: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD**

In Missouri, Cpl. Dennis Englehard is killed in the line of duty and his religious parents block his life partner, Kelly Glossip, from taking part in the memorial service. Kelly fights for the pension he is entitled to and that he needs to care for their child. Shirley Tan, a 43-year-old mother of two, was taken from her home in handcuffs by U.S. ICE officers carrying out a deportation order. This came as a shock to Shirley and Jay Mercado, her partner of 20 years. They were frightened, demoralized and helpless to interfere. 'If only Jay were born a man,' one ICE agent affirmed, Jay would have been allowed, years earlier, to petition on Shirley's behalf and sponsor her for residency. As a woman, and as Shirley's non-legal spouse, Jay could do nothing.

## **Episode 6: TIL DEATH DO US PART**

When debilitating disease affects a life partner, how does the couple respond? Edith Windsor and Thea Spyer respond by fighting the law and finally flying to Canada to be married by Canada's first openly gay judge. When Thea dies, Edie goes to court. Years later, the story of Edie and Thea inspires James Obergefell and John Arthur. Canada is too far to go when John begins succumbing to ALS, but they fly from their home in Cincinnati and are married on the tarmac of the Baltimore-Washington International Airport in a heart-rending emotional time. John passes away weeks later. The Supreme Court states that marriages in California are finally legal.

## **Episode 7: I THEE WED**

Equality becomes the law at long last. Justice Kennedy says: "As some of these petitioners demonstrate, marriage embodies a love that may endure past death . . . their hope is not to be excluded from one of civilization's oldest institutions. They ask for equal dignity in the eyes of the law. The constitution grants them that right." We see stories of joy: Shirley Tan, Jay Mercado and their twins win the right to can stay together; celebrities like Wanda Sykes can work her family into her act; two men on opposite sides of the final court case for marriage equality become friends.

## **Episode 8: FROM THIS DAY FORWARD**

In the heart of the Midwest, Afghanistan War Veteran Pete Buttigieg marries middle school teacher Chasten Glezman. "Mayor Pete" embarks on the first presidential campaign of an openly gay man. He speaks eloquently of his relationship and as a Christian, why marriage matters to him. The LDS Church rolls back a policy that allowed gay members to be excommunicated. Two out of three Catholics polled now say they support gay marriage. The State Department denies citizenship to one twin of two gay dads but not the other.



## The Landscape: Other Documentary Films and Series

**justmarried** is a docuseries that brings to light the collective coming out of couples, famous and unknowns, in an effort to acquire the 1138 rights, protections and privileges of federal marriage. Their accumulated stories won over the compassion and consciousness of a nation. Together, across seven decades, they transformed a seemingly radical movement into one affirming that 'Love is Love.' With four Supreme Court Justices now on the record in favor of overturning Obergefell, this series also serves as a call to action for why these protections must remain law.

The following documentaries tell the stories of select couples or a particular state's rights fight with respect to marriage equality. There are a few others beyond the list below, but no recounting includes the collective stories of marriage equality that covers the couples who changed the nation, nor is there a film covering the Obergefell story which represents the most important civil rights win of this century. No other films cover the ongoing fight for marriage equality rights up to present day. And certainly no documentary takes our approach: telling the history of the movement through its love stories.

**2005 *Pursuit of Equality*** looks at San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom as he uproots the status quo and attempts to change the way the nation looks at life, love, and marriage, issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples in his city.

**2009 *Edie & Thea: A Very Long Engagement*** is a documentary telling the story of the long-term lesbian relationship between Edie Windsor and Thea Spyer.

**2014 *The Case Against 8*** focuses on two couples and their fight to overturn California's Proposition 8, which took away marriage equality via a voter approved initiative.

**2015 *Freeheld*** is a documentary which chronicles the story of Laurel Hester in her fight against the Ocean County, New Jersey Board of Chosen Freeholders to give her earned pension benefits to her partner, Stacie.

**2015 PBS *Portraits of Partnership*** covers eight couples who have been together for 10-40 years. All except two couples are mostly unknown, were not involved in legal action and had no impact on the movement.

**2015 PBS-Indie Lens segment: *Limited Partnership*** is the love story of a gay couple's 40-year fight for the right to marry, paving the way for the defeat of the Defense of Marriage Act.

**2015 *The State of Marriage*** focuses on the two-decade struggle for marriage equality in Vermont, particularly the efforts of Mary Bonauto of Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders and local attorneys Beth Robinson and Susan Murray.

**2017 Netflix *Freedom to Marry*** is a documentary largely focusing on Evan Wolfson, the founder and president of Freedom to Marry, which worked for 14 years to establish equal marriage rights for gay and lesbian couples in the United States.

**2018 *Church & State*** follows the efforts of Utah activists to overturn the state's 2004 "Amendment 3," which not only made same-sex marriage illegal under the state constitution, but effectively blocked future legislators from granting same-sex couples any legal rights considered inherent to marriage – such as those affecting medical and end-of-life decisions or rights of inheritance.

**2020 *Family Equality*** is a six-episode docuseries which follows two Texas couples bound by love and determination to build families despite hurdles, hardships and homophobia.

**2020 HBO Max *Equal*** is four-part series that chronicles landmark events and leaders in LGBTQ+ history, and consists of a mixture of archival footage and scripted reenactments.

# justmarried

DOCUMENTARY TEAM



## The Creative Team

**Frankie Frankeny, justmarried Creator + Director/Producer.** Named by *Entertainment Weekly* as one of the 100 Most Creative People in the US. Frankie scripted and directed *Fell*, a film short that was part mock commercial with a lesbian love theme and part commentary on the LGBTQ+ place, or lack thereof, in mainstream marketing. It appeared in six LGBTQ+ festivals world-wide and was excerpted in sociology, psychology and marketing books. Frankie worked diligently covering the fight for equality as a photographer and scripted/directed a film short to Nina Simone's ballad *Everything Must Change* for a fundraiser benefitting GLAAD's Marriage Equality work. In addition, the director/photographer has sired over 70 books as creator, producer and photographer including multiple national and international award winners.

**Kevin Sessums, Executive Editor + Writer.** In 2007, Kevin published a memoir titled *Mississippi Sissy* about the conflicted life of a self-aware gay boy growing up in Forest, Mississippi. It made the *New York Times* Bestseller list and won the 2008 Lambda Literary Award for Best Male Memoir. His second memoir, *I Left It on the Mountain*, made the *New York Times* Celebrity Bestseller List. Kevin has served as executive editor of *Interview* and as a contributing editor to *Vanity Fair*, *Allure* (Ellen Degeneres feature) *The Advocate* (Tom Ford Cover Story). He was the founding Editor-in-Chief of *FourTwoNine* magazine. Currently, he is the Editor in Chief of [SessumsMagazine.com](http://SessumsMagazine.com).

**Jim Chapdelaine, Sound Editor/Engineer.** 13-time Emmy Award-winning musician, producer, composer and sound engineer, Jim specializes in music for long form documentary. He has also mixed music for Tori Amos, Ricki Lee Jones, Aimee Mann, Wilson Phillips, Cowboy Junkies, Shelby Lynn and Los Lonely Boys.

**Umlaut Films, Production/Post-Production/Editing.** Since 2003, Umlaut's loft space in San Francisco's SOMA district has served as a creative boutique where artists draw inspiration from the area's vibrant music, sports, film, and art scenes. Umlaut has created motion content for such brands as Amazon, Netflix, Airbnb, Comcast, DirectTV, Salesforce and Google.

**Leslie Stoker, Publishing Director/Executive Editor.** A project manager for various publishers and owner of Stoker Literary, Leslie has published many best-selling chef/authors, including Jacques Pepin, Alton Brown, Rick Bayless, Alain Ducasse and Jacques Torres. In 1993, she launched Artisan, the illustrated book imprint of Workman, and was publisher before becoming President and Publisher at Stewart, Tabori & Chang. Her cookbooks have garnered awards from the James Beard Foundation and IACP, including three 'Best Book of the Year' awards.



## Content Advisory and Confirmed Principal Participants

### Jim Obergefell

Obergefell is the named plaintiff from the landmark United States Supreme Court marriage equality case *Obergefell v. Hodges*. Following the decision on June 26, 2015, he embraced a new career as an LGBTQ+ activist. He is also a speaker on LGBTQ+ equality represented by Keppler Speakers. Obergefell sits on the Board of Advisors of the Mattachine Society of Washington, DC and the National Advisory Council of the GLBT Historical Society and served on the Board of Directors of SAGE, the oldest and largest national organization that advocates for and provides services for LGBTQ+ older Americans. Merging a love of wine with the fight for equality, he co-founded Equality Vines, the world's first cause-based wine label, to support organizations devoted to civil rights and equality for all. With Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative journalist Debbie Cenziper, Obergefell co-authored the book ***Love Wins***, published by William Morrow/Harper Collins.

### Judith-Kasen Windsor

Edie Windsor's surviving spouse and American journalist, philanthropist and LGBTQ+ advocate. Judith has been advising clients for 20 years at Wells-Fargo. Prior to working at Wells-Fargo, she was a Portfolio Manager and Vice President-Investments at Smith Barney. Judith is a graduate of American University in Washington, D.C.

### Kris Perry and Sandy Stier

The lead plaintiffs in the Supreme Court case that overturned California's same-sex marriage ban, *Hollingsworth v. Perry*. Perry and her wife, Sandy Stier, are coauthors of the memoir ***Love on Trial: Our Supreme Court Fight for the Right to Marry***. Kris Perry is the Executive Director of the First Five Years Fund. Sandy Stier is a Senior Advisor in the US Dept. of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children & Families.

### Stuart Gaffney and John Lewis

Gaffney and his husband, John Lewis, have been leaders in the marriage equality movement for over a decade. Together as a couple for 30 years, they were two of the plaintiffs in the historic 2008 lawsuit that held that California's ban on same-sex marriage violated the state constitution. Their leadership in the nationwide grassroots organization Marriage Equality USA contributed to making same-sex marriage legal nationwide. They were also leaders in API Equality, a coalition targeting outreach and education to the Asian-American community. They have appeared extensively in local, national and international media. They currently lead the public education organization Marriage Equality.

### Beth Kerrigan and Jody Mock

Kerrigan and her wife, Jody Mock, were the lead plaintiffs in the 2008 court case, *Kerrigan v. Commissioner of Public Health*, that led to Connecticut's legalization of same-sex marriage.

## **Kate Kendall**

Executive Director for NCLR, National Center for Lesbian Rights, for 22+ years, Kendall advanced social and economic justice through the lens of LGBTQ+ civil rights. The advancement of marriage equality in California and elsewhere was a significant part of Kendall's tenure at NCLR. Among the milestone efforts were aiding then-San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom's initiative in 2004 to marry same-sex couples, state litigation that led the California Supreme Court to rule for marriage equality, an effort to defeat Proposition 8 at the ballot and assistance with litigation that led the U.S. Supreme Court to restore marriage equality to California and rule in favor of it nationwide.

## **Additional Confirmed Participants:**

**Al Gerhardstein** —Lead counsel for Obergefell v. Hodges

**Paulette Roberts** —John Arthur's aunt who officiated the Obergefell marriage in a plane, on a Maryland tarmac

**M. Sue Wilson** — Lead counsel for Thompson/Kowalski case

**Beth Bye** —An American politician and Connecticut State Senator – District 5, Beth and her wife, Dr. Tracey Wilson, were the first couple to be married in their state after equality's win in 2008.

**Geoff Kors** —Palm Springs Mayor Pro Tem Geoff Kors was elected to the Palm Springs City Council in 2015. He was the Executive Director of Equality California for nine years and Senior Legislative and Policy Strategist for National Center for Lesbian Rights and served member of Freedom to Marry Action's Board of Directors from 2012-2016.

**Joseph Mello** — PhD, Associate Professor, DePaul University, Department of Political Science

Author of: [\*The Courts, the Ballot Box, and Gay Rights: How Our Governing Institutions Shape the Same-Sex Marriage Debate\*](#)

**Ray Sullivan** —Ray lead the successful effort to win marriage equality in Rhode Island and served as a senior political advisor to several statewide and federal candidates. He was picked to be the state director for President Obama's campaign in Rhode Island. Prior to that, Ray served six years in the R.I. General Assembly and was featured in *Campaigns and Elections* magazine "The Influencers 500" – listing of top political operatives from across the country.

## **Aforementioned:**

- **Shirley Tan & Jay Mercado**
- **Elad and Andrew Dvash-Banks**



## The justmarried Project Team

The project team consists of the film creative team and the following:

**Angela Wilson Gyetvan, Executive Producer.** Angela has had a long career as a content strategist and branding expert. She headed marketing and content for the first mass-scale online video platform that monetized content (Revver); created the digital studio for the Project Greenlight franchise (HBO/Matt Damon/Ben Affleck); and launched the first immersive sports, music and film experiences using 3D technology with Intel, the Black Eyed Peas, and Peter Jackson as head of marketing and sales for 3ality Digital. She regularly advises creatives and production companies on developing and distributing digital and published properties, and sits on the Digital Committee for Women in Film. As a member of the Television Academy, she sits on the Awards Working Group, lectures on digital and social media at USC and UCLA, and has been a featured speaker at multiple industry conferences

**Lynn Mueting, Producer/Sponsorships.** Lynn has 15+ years of experience as a senior level Marketing Consultant, brand strategist and advisor to large companies and a variety of design firms. Prior to this, she spent 14 years in marketing for Conde Nast Publications and IDG Entertainment. Lynn is also a member of the International Circle of Wine Writers and a regular contributor to a number of wine related publications.

**Jason Dorn, Producer/Experiential Events.** Jason joins **justmarried** with over 13 years of experience in Sponsorships and Brand Activations, with a proficiency in Lifestyle Marketing, Public Relations and Event Management. His area of focus has been in the LGBTQ+ and luxury spaces. Over the last few years, he has been exploring the world of entertainment. In 2017, he produced the successful run of an off-Broadway original play “Beneath the Gavel” in NYC with the Bated Breath Theatre Company.

**Mindy Rabinowitz, Project Manager.** Mindy has a proven track record for managing large and complex projects. She directed Southwest Airlines brand activation via partnerships with brands such as Disneyland and SeaWorld San Diego. At Caesars Entertainment, she produced Gourmand International’s Best Corporate Book in the U.S., **The Seven Stars Cookbook**, and managed a national bus tour with celebrity novelist Jackie Collins.



**WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW IS LOVE**