

CONNOLLY ET. AL. V ROCHE PLAINTIFFS

www.arizonaequality.org

Dear Connolly v. Roche Supporter:

As we write this note of gratitude to you for your emotional and financial support, we are in awe at the events of October 17th when Judge John Sedwick ruled in favor of the plaintiffs in Connolly et. al. v Roche. You helped us immensely.

As we scan the list of contributors, it touches our hearts. Some of the contributors we know personally and others we don't know at all. To those who know us, we are touched by your generosity, love and the emotional support you have shown. To those who we have never met, we are also awe struck at your generosity, reaching out and supporting people you don't even know. We expect marriage equality is also a cause that must be close to your hearts, in other words it somehow affects you personally or someone you love. To those who had donations made in your name and those donors, we hope you also share the joy we now feel. We sincerely thank you all. Your contributions meant so very much.

Part of your contributions paid for a large transcription service fee. Will Knight, a member of our legal team discovered audio recordings back in the late nineties where state legislators discussed the same sex marriage law they eventually passed. Those discussions needed to be transcribed to be submitted. In those audio conversations, one legislator admitted this law may violate the both the Equal Protection and the Full Faith and Credit Clauses of the United States Constitution, the latter would recognize the marriages of the couples performed in other states. The legislature disregarded the issue raised by their colleague¹ and intentionally enacted a law that would to exclude the gay and lesbian community from marriage and prevented the recognition of same sex marriages performed elsewhere. You helped uncover willful, intentional, legalized discrimination and bring it forward in support of our case. The transcript was just one shining example your participation in our victory.

As stewards of your contributions, we have used them wisely and for the intended purpose. Thank you for your support, your trust. We share this victory with you and we will be stewards of this gift of marriage you have given all Arizonans.

As promised, any residual funds will be donated to a cause the plaintiffs decide on. We believe there may be some outstanding items and we will let you know when the remaining funds are dispersed. However, we want you to share in the joy and excitement of this past week and express our thanks to you.

Again, we cannot say it enough "Thank YOU". Your generosity has touched us all. With heartfelt gratitude.

Jeff Ferst and Peter Bramley
Robin Reece and Renee Kaminski
Megan and Natalie Metz
Clark Rowley and David Cheney
Mason and Chris Hite-Devine
Suzanne and Holly Cummings-Mitchell
Terry Pochert & Joe Connolly

¹ The legislator who raised this issues later eventually voted for the bill banning same sex marriage because "that's what his constituents would have wanted him to do".