

1 9. During Rachel's pregnancy, in October 1995, we rented a small cabin in the
2 Trinity Alps to celebrate my birthday. As we were driving through Weaverville, Rachel began
3 bleeding and we called her doctor who told us to go to the closest hospital for an ultrasound. The
4 hospital staff did not regard me as Rachel's partner, or as a parent to our soon-to-be child. They
5 almost did not allow me to be present for the ultrasound. During this hospital visit, we learned
6 that our sixteen week old fetus was dead. The trauma of this knowledge was significantly
7 compounded by the treatment we received in the hospital – their failure to treat us as a family.
8 The hospital staff's refusal to recognize our relationship was so distressing that we could not
9 endure staying at the hospital. We drove all the way back to San Francisco, with Rachel bleeding
10 the entire time.

11 10. Rachel got pregnant again. We gave birth to our first child – Izak Peter
12 Lederman-Beach in October, 1996. Izak is named for Rachel's great grandfather Isaac and my
13 father Pete.

14 11. As soon as Izak was born, we began the adoption process to establish my legal
15 relationship as a parent to Izak.

16 12. In March 2000, we had our second son – Raziel Paul Lederman-Beach.

17 13. Being parents together has greatly deepened our relationship to each other. Our
18 boys are the center of our lives. We are both deeply committed to our family; to being good
19 parents, and good partners to each other. We strive to be the most stable and loving family
20 possible.

21 14. Financially, it has been difficult to raise two children on two public interest
22 salaries. We worry about saving enough money to pay for each of our children to go to college.
23 We also worry about having enough money to support ourselves during retirement, or how we
24 would manage if something were to happen to one of us.

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1 15. We know that we are much more vulnerable financially because we are not
2 married. If something were to happen to one of us, the survivor would not be entitled to social
3 security survivor benefits. Although we have named each other as beneficiaries on our respective
4 retirement policies, the survivor will not be entitled to the same share that a surviving spouse
5 would be entitled to. We also know that if one of us passed away, and our assets were transferred
6 to the survivor, the transfer would be heavily taxed, in a way that would not be true if the transfer
7 were between married spouses. Thus, although we have taken steps to protect our family
8 including putting our assets in joint ownership and writing reciprocal wills, we know that our
9 children are much less financially secure than they would be if we were married.

10 16. Although I know that I will spend the rest of my life with Rachel, until February
11 of this year, I did not think I would have the opportunity to marry her. When I learned that
12 same-sex couples were getting married in San Francisco, I knew I wanted to make that public
13 commitment to Rachel and our boys.

14 17. Our family is the center of our lives. We have deep commitments to each other,
15 and we wanted a way to declare that commitment to each other in a public way, and in a way that
16 other people automatically understand.

17 18. We were out of town for a snow weekend with our children and our niece during
18 the first weekend that same-sex couples were marrying in San Francisco. We made the first
19 appointment we could, and were scheduled to get married on March 25, 2004.

20 19. Our children were very excited about our upcoming marriage ceremony. Our two
21 children were going to have roles in our ceremony. We invited many friends and family
22 members to attend our marriage ceremony and we planned to have a party afterwards.

23 20. The recent marriages of same-sex couples was a very positive experience for our
24 sons. All of the first graders in my son's class discussed the issue of marriage for same-sex
25 couples and they all decided that everyone should be able to get married.

1 21. When we learned that we were not going to be able to get married, I was more
2 upset than I had realized I would be. It was devastating to have been given the opportunity to
3 marry each other, and then have it taken away from us at the last minute.

4 22. Izak and Raziel were very upset when we told them that we were not going to be
5 able to get married. They wanted to talk to the judge and tell him or her that their parents should
6 be able to get married, just like everyone else's parents.

7 23. Excluding us from the right to marry sends the message to Izak and Raziel and
8 other children that there is something wrong with our family.

9 24. As attorneys, Rachel and I fully appreciate the many benefits A.B. 205 affords
10 same-sex couples. Likewise, we are also cognizant that, because the law is so new, there will
11 likely be some confusion about what the law means and requires when it first goes into effect in
12 January 2005. I worry about how the confusion will affect our family and the families of our
13 close friends. The implementation would be much easier if we were just allowed to marry – to
14 be a part of the institution that everyone knows and understands. It is frustrating that marriage is
15 a solution to these problems but unavailable to us nonetheless. Moreover, although A.B. 205
16 will provide us with many important protections, it still treats same-sex couples as being
17 unworthy of marriage. My relationship with Rachel is perceived as inferior to relationships
18 between different-sex couples. It sends a message to our children that our family is less
19 deserving than others. We're regarded as second-class citizens.

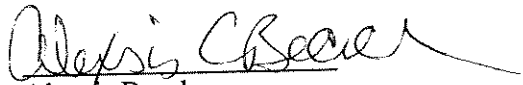
20 25. Rachel and I love each other and our children deeply. Together, with our two
21 boys, we are a family, as deserving of the rights and protections of marriage as any family.

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I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on August 30, 2004 at San Francisco, California.


Alexsis Beach