



# Our Marriage Victory Unleashed a Backlash.

After our 2015 marriage victory, we celebrated a huge moment in our collective march toward LGBTQ equality, inclusion, and dignity. But today, forces intent on eroding LGBTQ equality want to undermine the breadth and reach of that landmark decision, curtail our freedoms, and turn back decades of progress. Standing strong with our Anniversary Circle supporters, NCLR will not allow that. Period.



NATIONAL CENTER FOR LESBIAN RIGHTS

## INTRODUCTION

You likely remember what a watershed moment it was for LGBTQ equality and inclusion when we won the right to marry at the U.S. Supreme Court. But as with many past landmark moments in civil rights struggles, our win unleashed a ferocious backlash.



Now we've seen an opposition unleashed, determined to erode our win in *Obergefell*. In response, NCLR is tirelessly fighting these ruthless, ongoing attempts to limit the reach and impact of our marriage win. In fact, NCLR has returned to the U.S. Supreme Court twice since *Obergefell*—winning a challenge to the Alabama State Supreme Court's refusal to recognize a lesbian mother's adoption, and overturning an Arkansas Supreme Court decision denying the right of two married same-sex couples to list both parents on their children's birth certificates.

Denying adoptions, refusing to recognize us as parents, allowing businesses to refuse us services—these tactics and many more have been deployed to limit our marriage win and leave our relationships stigmatized and disregarded.

We know this history, and with you on our side, we are standing up to our opponents' attempts to erase our progress.

But this battle is only beginning. And as you will see in the following proposal, with your Anniversary Circle support, NCLR will stay the course, fighting for LGBTQ people wherever they encounter hatred, discrimination, and injustice.

As you read on, know that your support could not be more critical in bringing to heel those who would tear down our equality and threaten the lives and freedom of LGBTQ youth, elders, and families all across the country.

In order to continue at the pace and ferocity required, we must raise \$2,000,000 by December 31, 2017. I hope I can count on your generous support. Thank you!



## STANDING UP FOR CONVERSION THERAPY SURVIVORS

Katherine McCobb's therapist told her that being a lesbian is unnatural and pathological and that he could make her straight. Katherine didn't seek out therapy because of her sexual orientation but her therapist fixated on her lesbian identity and pressured her to change. He used shame tactics and pushed Katherine to wear makeup and be more stereotypically feminine, eventually even pressuring her to date one of his male clients so that she could become straight.

NCLR has filed a consumer fraud lawsuit against Lloyd Wiley, Katherine's therapist, for charging her more than \$70,000 to provide a treatment based on harmful lies and a practice that has been discredited by the American Psychological Association and other professional counseling organizations as unethical and dangerous. We want to send a clear message that therapists who engage in these deceitful practices will be held accountable.



*To date, NCLR's #BornPerfect campaign has helped nine states and the District of Columbia pass laws protecting LGBTQ youth from conversion therapy.*

**NCLR needs your immediate Anniversary Circle level gift to protect LGBTQ youth and adults from the harmful practice of conversion therapy.**





## PROTECTING OUR VICTORIES

The effort to limit the full reach and power of *Obergefell* is well under way, including an unprecedented attempt to pass state laws that permit businesses to refuse services to LGBTQ customers or same-sex couples.

Seven states have passed legislation that permits state-licensed child welfare agencies to refuse to serve LGBTQ children and families if doing so conflicts with their religious beliefs. Sixteen states have introduced legislation to bar transgender individuals from restrooms consistent with their gender identity.

In addition, the Trump administration has argued that federal law does not protect employees from discrimination based on sexual orientation; rescinded guidance protecting transgender students; and announced that it will ban all transgender persons from military service “in any capacity.”

We will not stand by and watch our opponents turn back time. With our most stalwart Anniversary Circle supporters by our side, NCLR will continue to fight back relentlessly against this onslaught.



## FIGHTING FOR TRANSGENDER YOUTH

Emily—an 18-year-old transgender girl in Minnesota—had to leave home when she was 15 to escape her mother’s verbal and physical abuse. Emily became homeless—living with friends and extended relatives. But despite these huge challenges, she stayed in school, obtained health insurance, got her own apartment, and found a job. With the help of medical professionals, Emily began her gender transition and was thriving in her new life. Sadly, that’s when her mother suddenly re-entered Emily’s life, filing a lawsuit to try to stop Emily from receiving transition-related care.

NCLR stepped in and represented Emily. We were able to get the lawsuit dismissed, but Emily’s mother has now appealed.

**Wherever this case goes, your support will enable NCLR to be there to ensure that Emily, and transgender people like her, can access the medically necessary care they need.**



## LESSONS LEARNED FROM PAST STRUGGLES

Whether it’s *Brown v. Board of Education*, *Roe v. Wade*, or the Voting Rights Act of 1965, in every case these past victories were met with targeted assaults to undermine freedom and equality—even before the ink was dry.

Your Anniversary Circle level support will ensure you are part of this timeless struggle as NCLR fights every day, defending not just our right to marry, but to be treated equally under the law in every way, in every part of this country. You will also help us protect transgender service members, provide access to healthcare, and stop vicious new attacks on LGBTQ immigrants, our families and youth, LGBTQ employees, and so many others.



## FIGHTING FOR FAMILIES

Earlier this year, the Arkansas Supreme Court issued a devastating ruling, holding that *Obergefell* was only about the right to marry and does not require equal treatment of married same-sex parents. If it had been permitted to stand, the Arkansas decision likely would have been followed by other state courts, leading to a potential domino effect of decisions chipping away at marriage equality across conservative states.

To prevent that destructive result, NCLR took this case to the Supreme Court.

On June 26, 2017, the U.S. Supreme Court summarily reversed the Arkansas Supreme Court decision based entirely on our petition, making crystal clear that it will not tolerate any attempt by states to disregard or narrow the holding in *Obergefell*.

As a result, our clients—two married, same-sex couples who had children, and who simply wanted to be issued birth certificates naming both spouses as parents—now have full protection under Arkansas law. “My wife, Leigh, and I just welcomed our new baby daughter, Willa Fern, into the world,” said plaintiff Jana Jacobs. This “decision gives me comfort that my growing family, and other Arkansas families, will receive the respect and protections we deserve.”

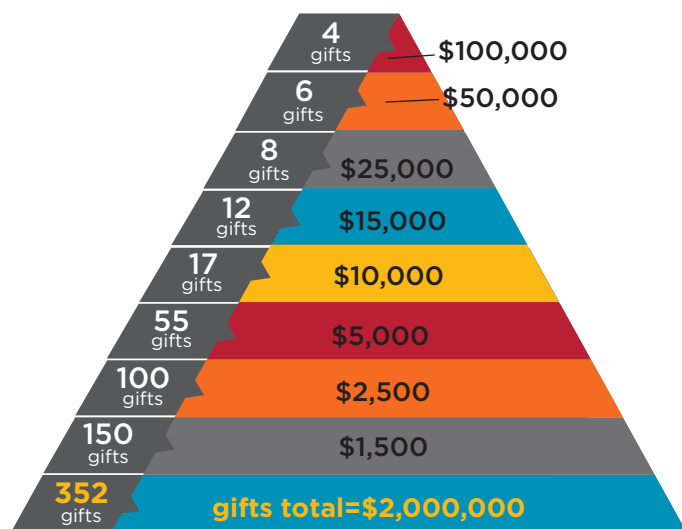
And just as important, married same-sex couples have the security of knowing that NCLR has their backs as we fight similar battles in states across the country.



*The Jacobs family are comforted that Arkansas families, including theirs, will be safe and respected.*

**By helping NCLR meet our goal of raising \$2,000,000 by December 31, you will help fight for the parental rights of LGBTQ parents across the country.**

**Please help NCLR reach its critical goal of raising \$2,000,000 by December 31 by making a generous Anniversary Circle level contribution today.**



As you can see, your generous donation today will help as NCLR continues to demand greater protection and security for our community on multiple fronts.

While we know the arc of history is long, we also have 40 years of experience helping to bend that arc toward justice. And with your Anniversary Circle level support, we will meet every threat and challenge to equal justice under the law.

*NCLR is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and our federal tax identification number is 94-3086885.*

**NATIONAL CENTER FOR LESBIAN RIGHTS** | 870 Market Street Suite 370 | San Francisco, CA 94102 | [www.NCLRights.org](http://www.NCLRights.org)