

Shine Brighter Première

Snapfile 7 Marriage is in the courtroom

Document 2, Extrait p.73 – Article de Patricia HRUBY POWELL, *Loving vs. Virginia*, 2017

RICHARD

April 9, 1967

Tomorrow our case gets heard in Washington.

Mr. Cohen asked us to attend.

We're not going.

We just want to be left alone and live our lives.

I know this is the last court.

You can't go higher than the U.S.

Supreme Court.

When Mr. Cohen¹ asked for a statement, I said,

Tell the Court I love my wife and it is just unfair that I can't live with her in Virginia. [...]

MILDRED

TWO MONTHS LATER

JUNE 12, 1967

We WON.

Mr. Cohen and Mr. Hirschkop are on the phone.

¹ Mr. Cohen and Mr Hirschkop: Richard and Mildred Loving's lawyers

They ask us to come to the press conference at their office in Alexandria– right here in Virginia.

We don't have to pretend we live in Washington.

We can go–TOGETHER–to their Virginia office.

I put my hand over the phone and ask

Richard about driving to Alexandria.

He frowns and says, “No. It's time they leave us alone.”

I say to Mr. Cohen, “Thank you for everything, but I don't think so.”

He says, “Mrs. Loving, this is important.

I think it would be good for America to hear you speak.”

I cover the phone again and say, “Richard, Mr. Cohen thinks this is important. We can take the kids to Garnet's.” He nods.

“Okay, Mr. Cohen, we'll be there as soon as we can.” [...] At the press conference, I say, “I feel free now. It was a great burden.” [...]

I start crying, but not hot angry tears.

Tears stream down my cheeks because so much has happened. Nine years' worth of tears slide down my face.

Mr. Cohen says to the newsman, “We hope we have put to rest the last vestiges of racial discrimination in Virginia and all over the country.”

Patricia HRUBY POWELL, *Loving vs. Virginia*, 2017

Document 2, Extrait p.74 – Article de *JUSTIA U.S*, 2015.

“No union is more profound than marriage, for it embodies the highest ideals of love, fidelity, devotion, sacrifice, and family. In forming a marital union, two people become something greater than once they were. As some of the petitioners in these cases demonstrate, marriage embodies a love that may endure even past death. It would misunderstand these men and women to say they disrespect the idea of marriage. Their plea¹ is that they do respect it, respect it so deeply that they seek to find its fulfillment for themselves. Their hope is not to be condemned to live in loneliness, 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.”

Obergefell v. Hodges, Opinion of the Court by Justice Kennedy, *JUSTIA U.S.*

Supreme Court, 2015

¹ legal argument

March 2025

No state can invalidate your marriage!

In nine states, lawmakers have proposed resolutions or bills to roll back¹ marriage equality protections in a direct challenge to *Obergefell v. Hodges*. While states like Michigan, Montana, Idaho, North Dakota, and South Dakota urge the Supreme Court to revisit its historic 2015 decision, others such as Texas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Tennessee have introduced bills recognizing a new category of marriages solely between heterosexual couples.

We know this is frightening for many people in our community. At the same time, we want you to know that these measures are little more than political theater. These proposals, if passed, will not prevent same-sex couples from marrying in any state or invalidate anyone's current marriage. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 2015 that the U.S. Constitution guarantees all couples, including same-sex couples, the freedom to marry. As a result, same-sex couples can marry in every state today.

The constitutionally protected freedom to marry can only be changed if a case comes before the Supreme Court and a majority of Justices vote to overturn the court's marriage equality decision. Right now, there's just no sign that is going to happen.

The resolutions being debated in Idaho and other states can't do anything to change the law that allows same-sex couples to marry. [...]

We know that these proposed resolutions, and the misinformation surrounding them, has caused significant distress for many in our community. With so many hostile laws and policies coming from the federal government and many states today, it's understandable that people are worried. The main point is this: there's nothing any

state can do to eliminate the freedom to marry. People can get married in every state, and only the Supreme Court has the power to change that.

Chris STOLL, *nclrights.org*, 3 March 2025

Évaluation de la compréhension de l'écrit – Guide pédagogique

The nation celebrates 57th anniversary of *Loving v. Virginia*

The nation marked the 57th anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision in *Loving v. Virginia*, celebrating a ruling that significantly altered the legal and social landscape of the United States by overturning laws banning interracial marriage. This historic decision, delivered on June 12, 1967, remains a cornerstone in the ongoing struggle for civil rights and equality. [...]

In Tennessee, as in many other states, the impact of *Loving v. Virginia* was profound. Before the ruling, Tennessee had enforced laws that prohibited interracial marriage, reflecting the broader societal norms of racial segregation prevalent at the time. The Supreme Court's decision rendered these laws invalid, paving the way for interracial couples in Tennessee to marry without legal barriers.

The *Loving v. Virginia* decision not only dismantled legal restrictions but also began to challenge and change societal attitudes towards race and relationships. It played a crucial role in advancing the civil-rights movement and promoting a more inclusive society. The ruling underscored the principle that marriage is a fundamental right and that laws discriminating against individuals based on race are inherently unjust.

Despite the monumental progress achieved since *Loving v. Virginia*, the anniversary also serves as a reminder of the continuing challenges in the fight for civil rights. The decision laid the groundwork for further legal and social advancements, and its legacy continues to inspire efforts to address racial disparities

and ensure equal rights for all individuals. Recently, the *Respect for Marriage Act* was signed by President Biden enshrining¹ *Loving* into federal law.

Ivan Sanchez, *The Tennessee Tribune*, 2024

¹ *entériner*