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 14 PAUL T. KATAMI, and JEFFREY J. ZARRILLO

15 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
 16 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

17 KRISTIN M. PERRY, SANDRA B. STIER,
 18 PAUL T. KATAMI, and JEFFREY J.
 ZARRILLO,
 19 Plaintiffs,

20 v.

21 ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, in his official
 capacity as Governor of California; EDMUND
 22 G. BROWN, JR., in his official capacity as
 Attorney General of California; MARK B.
 23 HORTON, in his official capacity as Director of
 the California Department of Public Health and
 State Registrar of Vital Statistics; LINETTE
 24 SCOTT, in her official capacity as Deputy
 Director of Health Information & Strategic
 25 Planning for the California Department of Public
 Health; PATRICK O'CONNELL, in his official
 26 capacity as Clerk-Recorder for the County of
 Alameda; and DEAN C. LOGAN, in his official
 27 capacity as Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk for
 the County of Los Angeles,

28 Defendants.

CASE NO. C 09-2292 VRW

**DECLARATION OF SANDRA B. STIER
 IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION
 FOR A PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION**

1 I, Sandra B. Stier, declare as follows:

2 1. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein and could and would testify
3 competently thereto if called upon to do so.

4 2. I have been in a committed, loving relationship with my domestic partner, Kristin M.
5 Perry, since 2000. Together we have raised our four sons in Berkeley, California. Securing the
6 official recognition of civil marriage and the benefits such recognition provides is very important to
7 us and our family.

8 3. On February 21, 2004, we were one of the many couples that were married in
9 San Francisco's City Hall after Mayor Gavin Newsom allowed same-sex couples to wed. In August
10 of that same year, we renewed our vows in a large celebration with our friends and family. Over 100
11 guests attended. Our beautiful children were in the wedding party. It was one of the happiest days of
12 my life.

13 4. We were devastated, however, when the California Supreme Court struck the validity
14 of our marriage down later that year. It was difficult to explain to our children that our marriage was
15 no longer valid under the law. It was difficult to explain that we could not access the institution of
16 civil marriage in the same way that most other Californians can and were instead relegated to second-
17 class status.

18 5. On August 9, 2004, we registered as domestic partners with the State of California.
19 Although California's domestic partner registry afforded us many of the rights given to heterosexual
20 couples, the fact that we were not given the freedom to marry makes us feel like second-class
21 citizens.

22 6. Kris and I were both overjoyed when the California Supreme Court ruled in May 2008
23 that denying marriage to same-sex couples was unconstitutional. We had planned renewing our
24 vows, but also knew that Proposition 8 was waiting in the wings. Accordingly, we were not
25 interested in running out and getting married again, only to be disappointed once more.

26 7. On November 4, 2008, Proposition 8 passed and foreclosed our chance to wed.

27 8. On May 21, 2009, we went to the office of the Clerk-Recorder for Alameda County
28 and filled out an application for a marriage license.

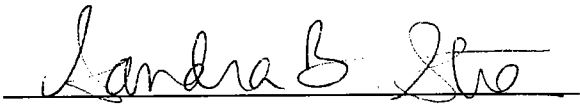
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9. We were told by the clerk's office that they could not grant us a license because they are unable to issue same-sex marriage licenses as a result of Proposition 8.

10. Kris and I want to get married for ourselves and for our children. Our inability to marry one another makes it seem as if our relationship is not as genuine or significant as our heterosexual peers' marriages. We often find ourselves hiding the status of our relationship from strangers because we are aware that many people do not afford domestic partnerships the same respect and dignity that they afford to marriage. Even when interacting with well-intentioned individuals or groups, our lack of recognition as a married couple presents seemingly insurmountable systemic problems and social anxiety (such as explaining our relationship to our children's new friends and their wary parents). As a result of being denied the right to marry the person we love, we have suffered severe emotional distress, psychological harm, and humiliation. A valid, legally recognized marriage would be an affirmation of our love and commitment to one another.

11. Our youngest boys are entering high school, our second eldest is entering college, and our oldest is in college. Our children are profoundly aware of the unfair treatment their moms have experienced. Getting married will provide them a sense of belonging and acceptance critical to their development in these tender years. Simply put, Kris and I want to marry to protect our family and affirm our committed relationship.

I declare, under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that these facts are true and correct and that this Declaration is executed this 26th day of May 2009 at Los Angeles, California.


Sandra B. Stier