

Friday, October 16, 2009

Office of Special Counsel
601 St Charles Ave
New Orleans, LA 70130

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in the hopes of expressing to you the hurt I felt when I heard that an elected official in your state, Keith Bardwell, a justice of the peace in Tangipahoa Parish, refuses to grant marriage licenses to interracial couples.

I feel that it is imperative that persons with authority and salaries from taxpayers exercise their authority in accordance with the will of the law. I am sure that you agree with me in this case that the justice is outside of the bounds of law in his own action, but could you, as you are organizing discrimination training for state government staff over this blunder, also prepare policy for the next wave of civil rights changes?

In my own state, Washington, we are about to approve Referendum 71 in this upcoming election, which will grant marriage-like rights to same-sex couples entering civil unions. I would hope that if our nice gay folk pass through your state, your state-employed staff would be knowledgeable in knowing what, if anything, that should mean to them. And perhaps also you could start talking about the changes that will happen in Louisiana when your state joins us in treating gay couples like interracial couples or differently-abled couples or couples of different religions or even couples who enjoy the status of being in a majority group of a population.

Unrelated to my complaint, could you tell me what race Justice Bardwell considers himself to be?

respectfully yours,

Lane Rasberry
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Seattle, WA 98145