

**Morehead State University
Special Collections & Archives
Manuscript Accession Form**

Collection Title: Kentucky Marriage Equality Collection

Manuscript Series Number: MS037-2016

Date Received: Summer and fall of 2015

Processed by: Dakota Barr

Cataloged by: Dieter C. Ullrich

Date Listed: March 4, 2016

Date Span: 2015-2016

Size of Collection: 6.0 linear feet.

Number of Boxes: 1 letter size document case and 4 oversized boxes.

Type of Material: Newspaper issues, printed articles, ephemera and artifacts.

Condition of Material: Good.

Arrangement: Chronological arrangement.

Biographical / Historical Information: On June 26, 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the landmark case of *Obergefell v. Hodges*, 576 U.S. (2015), holding that the fundamental right to marry is guaranteed to same-sex couples by both the Due Process Clause and the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear ordered all county clerks to begin issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. A same-sex couple from Morehead, Kentucky released video footage of County Clerk Davis refusing to issue them a marriage license under "God's authority". The video went viral overnight, and it caused an international outrage against the actions of the county clerk. Six couples, four represented by the ACLU, and two couples with separate legal representation, sued Davis in her official capacity as County Clerk. The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky and the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit ruled that she must issue the licenses.

Scope and Content: The Kentucky Marriage Equality Collection consists of local, regional and national issues of newspapers related to the protest movements that occurred following the denial of marriage licenses to gay and lesbian couples by the Rowan County Clerk of Morehead, Kentucky in the summer of 2015. Included in the collection are printed news releases from online sources, and ephemera and artifacts donated from the protests.

Subject Headings / Descriptors:

Same-sex marriage – Religious aspects – Christianity.

Gays couples – Kentucky.

Civil unions – United States.

Same-sex marriage – Moral and ethical aspects.

Morehead (Ky.) – History.

Rowan County (Ky.) – History.

Notes: