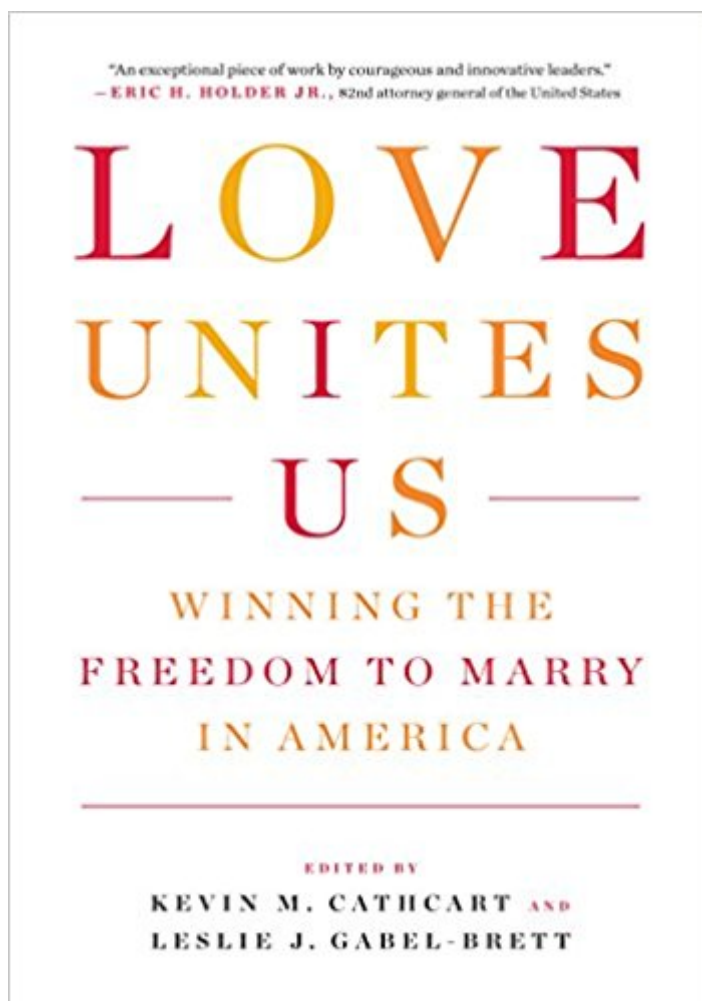


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# Love Unites Us: Winning The Freedom To Marry In America



## Synopsis

Victory may sometimes look like a sudden revolution when, in truth, it rests on years of struggle. The June 2015 decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* is a sweeping victory for the freedom to marry, but it was one step in a long process. *Love Unites Us* is the history of activists's passion and persistence in the struggle for marriage rights for same-sex couples in the United States, told in the words of those who waged the battle. Launching the fight for the freedom to marry was neither an obvious nor an uncontested strategy. To many activists, achieving marriage equality seemed far-fetched, but the skeptics were proved wrong. Proactive arguments in favor of love, family, and commitment were more effective than arguments that focused on rights and the goal of equality at work. Telling the stories of people who loved and cared for one another, in sickness and in health, cut through the antigay noise and moved people's hearts; not without backlash and not overnight, but faster than most activists and observers had ever imagined. With compelling stories from leading attorneys and activists including Evan Wolfson, Mary L. Bonauto, Jon W. Davidson, and Paul M. Smith, *Love Unites Us* explains how gay and lesbian couples achieved the right to marry.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 352 pages

Publisher: The New Press (June 14, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1595585508

ISBN-13: 978-1595585509

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1.2 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #816,709 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #51 in Books > Law > Family Law > Marriage #181 in Books > Gay & Lesbian > Nonfiction > Civil Rights #365 in Books > Law > Constitutional Law > Civil Rights

## Customer Reviews

Praise for *Love Unites Us*: "A unique anthology. . . Providing insider perspectives on the legal-political strategy that bought marriage equality to the United States." Library Journal  
"Love Unites Us is an exceptional piece of work by courageous and innovative leaders." Eric H. Holder Jr., 82nd attorney general of the United States  
"Love Unites Us captures the amazing story of the fight for marriage equality in California and around the country. A remarkable

journey recounted with truth and eloquence."#151;Gavin Newsom, lieutenant governor of California "Love Unites Us is a tour de force and a treasure trove of legal and political history. It is required reading for lawyers and non-lawyers alike interested in learning how the once impossible™ goal of marriage equality was achieved at what some observers rightly have called the speed of light."#151;Tony Varona, professor and academic dean at the American University Washington College of Law and first general counsel and legal director at Human Rights Campaign "A unique look at the marriage debates#151;the inside story from the insiders who were actually there."#151;Nan D. Hunter, professor of law, Georgetown Law

Kevin Cathcart has been the executive director of Lambda Legal since 1992. Cathcart was involved in Lawrence v. Texas and marriage equality victories across the country. He lives in New York City. Leslie Gabel-Brett is the director of education and public affairs for Lambda Legal and lives in Brooklyn. Lambda Legal has offices in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Atlanta, and Dallas.

This excellent collection traces the history (including the dissenting voices) of the fight for marriage equality in the United States. Primarily but not exclusively focused on the legal strategies, it also illuminates the historical moments that influenced how marriage equality was fought for. Particularly moving are the stories of the plaintiffs who fought for their rights and dignity, enduring all the public scrutiny that comes with being a plaintiff. Recommended for anyone interested in US civil rights history, LGBTQIA history, Legal history, and for anyone seeking to learn from the successes and interim mistakes and failures of one long, ultimately successful civil rights campaign.

Gabel-Brett and Cathcart have pulled together a moving collection of voices of LGBTQ heroes in the 45+ year marathon for marriage equality. The book brings the reader into the room hearing the stories of the women and men that took the risks, challenged the country and never gave up on the vision of a land where all people's hopes and dreams for loving relationships are valued. One of the aspects that I found most interesting was the explanation of the strategy used to bring together the organizations in a campaign that used the strengths of each but with a shared goal. Well done!

This is a from the ground, you were there look at the big battles and small skirmishes on the way to marriage equality. Enjoy the behind the scenes funny, poignant and unexpected details.

Such a poignant and important telling of the LGBT fight for marriage equality.

I was thrilled to be able to purchase "Love Unites Us." Very inspiring.

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