

## **Obergefell v. Hodges / Diagram of How the Case Moved Through the Court System**

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### **Supreme Court of the United States**

The Supreme Court consolidated (joined) the cases from Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, and Tennessee to be argued together. The Court ruled for the same-sex couples in a 5–4 decision. In practice, the decision made same-sex marriage legal in all states across the nation.

*Obergefell v. Hodges and consolidated cases (2015)*



### **U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit**

In November 2014, The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit reversed the district court opinions finding that the ban on same-sex marriage was not unconstitutional. In the months prior to the Sixth Circuit decision, other federal courts of appeals had upheld trial court decisions finding same-sex marriage bans to be unconstitutional. (The Supreme Court likely agreed to hear the cases to resolve the conflict between the Sixth Circuit and other federal courts of appeals.)



### **U.S. District Courts**

From 2012–2014, district courts in Ohio (*Obergefell v. Kasich* and *Henry v. Wymyslo*), Michigan (*DeBoer v. Snyder*), Kentucky (*Bourke v. Beshear* and *Love v. Beshear*), and Tennessee (*Tanco v. Haslam*) found for the plaintiffs (same-sex couples).