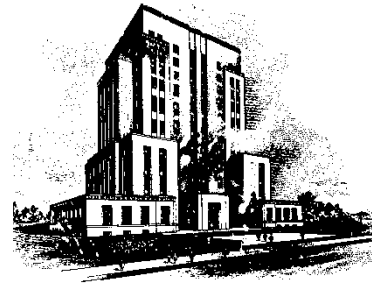


# Racine County Office of Corporation Counsel



RACINE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

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## MEDIA RELEASE

### STATEMENT FROM RACINE COUNTY CORPORATION COUNSEL REGARDING ISSUING MARRIAGE LICENSES TO SAME-SEX PARTNERS

For Immediate Release  
12 June 2014

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RACINE – Judge Barbara B. Crabb for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin ruled in the matter of *Wolf, et al. v. Walker, et al.* on Friday 6 June 2014. The lawsuit challenges the state’s constitutional ban on same-sex marriage and Judge Crabb’s decision last Friday struck down that ban. However, her decision was also unclear as to how County Clerks should proceed and in a subsequent motion hearing on Monday, Judge Crabb clearly stated that she “...never said anything about whether any county clerk could go forward with issuing a marriage license. That hasn’t been decided.” She also confirmed that the current state of affairs is “status quo.”

On the advice of Corporation Counsel, Racine County Clerk Wendy Christensen is refraining from taking applications and issuing marriage licenses to same-sex partners so as to avoid violating the current state marriage law. According to Corporation Counsel Jon Lehman, “We regularly rely on the Wisconsin Department of Justice for legal guidance and Attorney General Van Hollen has made it very clear in this matter that Wisconsin’s marriage law remains in full force and effect, and nothing in Judge Crabb’s decision has altered the status quo.”

The Clerk’s Office is respectful of all Racine County residents who seek to marry and the caution it has exercised is neither a commentary on the desires of many to allow same-sex marriages to proceed nor the merits of the state’s defense of the same-sex marriage ban. As the case of *Wolf, et al. v. Walker, et al.* develops over time, Racine County will act accordingly when a final directive from the court is articulated.

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*To Provide Effective and Efficient Services that are Valued by Our Citizens  
And Contribute to a High Quality of Life for Present and Future Generations.*