

The statement below is used with the knowledge and permission of Nancy Brodzki, Esq.

Nancy Brodzki was trial counsel for Heather Brassner in the ***Brassner v. Lade*** same-sex divorce case, in which Circuit Judge Dale Cohen entered a Final Judgment granting the Divorce on 17 December 2014, the first same-sex divorce granted in Florida. She issued the statement below in response to federal district court Judge Robert L. Hinkle's 1 January 2015 ruling in the ***Brenner/Grimsley*** case.

1 January 2015 Brodzki Statement on Judge Hinkle's ruling:

On this first day of the New Year, Judge Hinkle has reaffirmed what we have been saying from the very beginning of this fight for full equality for gays and lesbians - that our Constitution does not permit discrimination. All Clerks and every other Public Official throughout the State of Florida are obligated first and foremost to uphold the Constitution of the United States. This is their sacred oath. Judge Hinkle made it crystal clear that their failure to follow the Constitution and issue marriage licenses to same sex couples will result in them being the newest defendants in the federal case, and plaintiffs who sue them will be entitled to recover their legal expenses for having to force them to do their constitutional duty. I call on each and every Clerk of Court in this State to do the right thing, follow the Constitution and issue marriage licenses to those qualifying same sex couples, or I promise that they will be sued in their official capacity and added as defendants to the pending Federal case. Floridians are ready to enforce their constitutional rights, and we are ready to help them do that in Court. The war is over. Equality has finally arrived in Florida. Embrace it.