

Marriage Supporters Characterized as Nazis, Ku Klux Klanners & Worse

Senator Endorses and Circulates Hatred

From: Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.
Sent: Friday, October 11, 2013 10:05 PM
To: All Senators; All Reps
Subject: CFER Response to "What Same-Sex Marriage Has Done to Massachusetts"

To All Legislators: A number of emails citing and attaching the publication "What Same-Sex Marriage Has Done to Massachusetts" have been sent to legislators. This booklet was used during the civil unions debate several years ago, and was updated last year. Unfortunately, it contains half-truths, misinformation, and outright lies. See the attached memo from the Citizens for Equal Rights.

LES IHARA, JR.

To: Tambry Young, Chair Citizens for Equal Rights (CFER)

From: Dr. Patricia A. Gozemba, co-author of **Courting Equality: A Documentary History of America's First Legal Same-Sex Marriages** (Beacon Press, 2007). Contact: pgozemba@gmail.com

Re: "What Same-Sex 'Marriage' Has Done to Massachusetts" (2012) by Brian Camenker of MassResistance

Date: October 11, 2013

Thank you for calling my attention to the distribution in the Hawai'i legislature of Brian Camenker's "What Same-Sex 'Marriage' Has Done to Massachusetts." I trust that the Hawai'i groups responsible for the distribution do not understand the extent of the half-truths, misinformation, and outright lies in the document. As a member of the Hawai'i Citizens for Equal Rights Board, an academic and writer on issues of concern to the LGBT community, as well as a part-time resident of Hawai'i and Massachusetts, I feel compelled to respond.

Please consider the source of "What Same-Sex 'Marriage' Has Done to Massachusetts." The source, Brian Camenker, founder of **MassResistance**, an anti-gay group based in Waltham, Massachusetts, has persistently sought to portray Massachusetts's lead position in granting equality as detrimental. For this and other discriminatory offensives, **MassResistance** is consistently named by the **Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC)** as a hate group (www.splcenter.org/get-informed/hate-map). **MassResistance** is in the company of other hate groups such as the Ku Klux Klan, White Aryan Resistance, and a variety of Nazi groups.

The **SPLC**, an eminently respected watch-dog organization, is listed under the resources section of the **FBI's** web page on hate crimes. SPLC is cited by scholars as a reliable source on right-wing extremism and hate groups. Rory McVeigh, chair of the Sociology Department at the University of Notre Dame, considers the SPLC a reliable source of information for scholars.

In addition to SPLC monitoring, **RightWingWatch** (www.rightwingwatch.org), a project of **People For the American Way**, monitors Camenker and **MassResistance**. **RightWingWatch** declares on its website that it is "dedicated to monitoring and reporting on the activities of right-wing political organizations, in order to expose the agenda of the extreme Right." Their researchers "monitor dozens of broadcasts, emails and websites, and use their expertise on right-wing movements to analyze and distill that information for the general public." Their reporting educates by "shedding light on the activities of right-wing organizations" and exposing "the risks that their extreme and intolerant agendas present to our country."

On the **RightWingWatch** website there are 85 published investigations of discriminatory and hateful actions taken by Brian Camenker and **MassResistance**. The research indicates the ways in which Camenker strives to engender intolerance towards the LGBT community.

**"Bait & Switch"
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