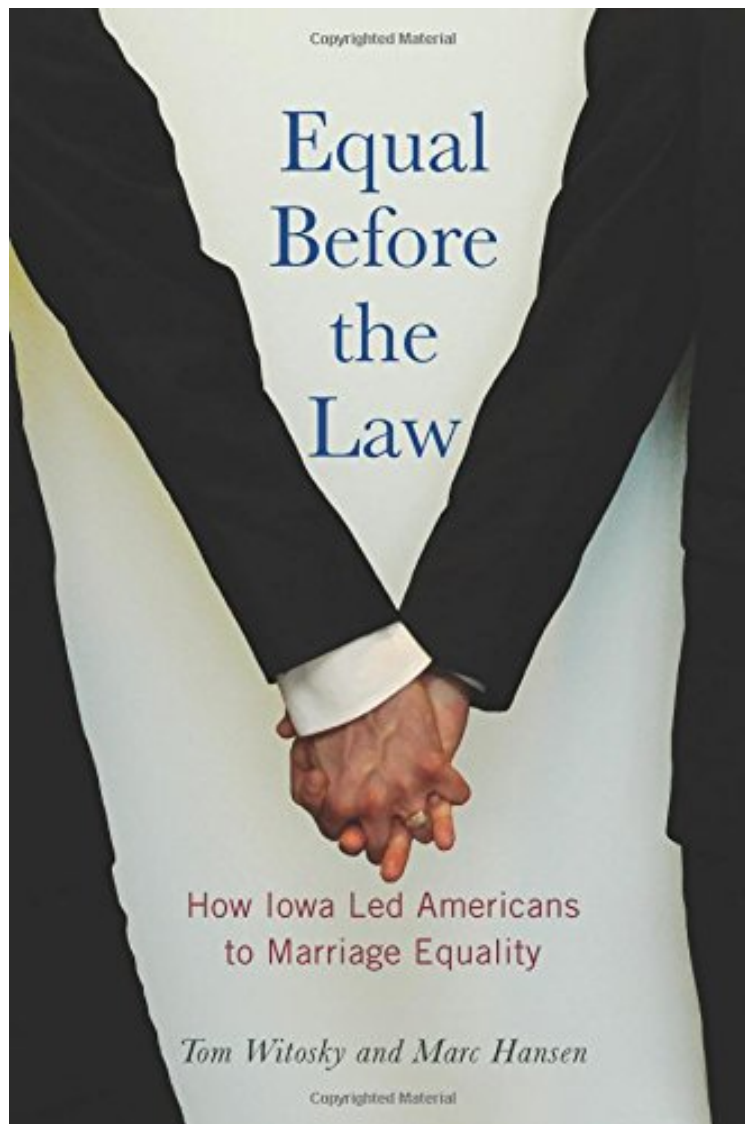


(Online library) Equal Before the Law: How Iowa Led Americans to Marriage Equality (Iowa and the Midwest Experience)

Equal Before the Law: How Iowa Led Americans to Marriage Equality (Iowa and the Midwest Experience)

Tom Witosky, Marc Hansen

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Tom Witosky, Marc Hansen : Equal Before the Law: How Iowa Led Americans to Marriage Equality (Iowa and the Midwest Experience) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Equal Before the Law: How Iowa Led Americans to Marriage Equality (Iowa and the Midwest Experience):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Solid JournalismBy Thomas BengtsonTwo veteran Iowa journalists have done future historians a great service. They place the Varnum v. Brien 2009 decision by the Iowa Supreme Court in context, both nationally and locally, and both for more recent years and since Iowa became a state. Their style is not polemic, but more along the lines of what might be expected from journalists--who said what, who did what and when they did it, with liberal use of direct quotes, along with the sources of these facts and quotes. Their long careers in Iowa gave them access to many sources, on both sides of the issue, which they use liberally and to good effect. The book might serve more as a reference than a narrative about marriage equality in Iowa, and as such it belongs in every library.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The book does an excellent job of putting legal theory into layman's termsBy Mary H.It's a bit slow in the beginning, but then is a very compelling story of how Iowa became a pioneer in legalizing same sex marriage. The book does an excellent job of putting legal theory into layman's terms, but the book holds your interest because of the personal stories of the players involved -- the plaintiffs, the lawyers, the judges etc. I highly recommend it.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A wonderful readBy JPA great read for a complex case (and the surrounding subjects). Brings a human face to a fight that divided a state, and later the country. Agree or disagree with the result, this book shines a light on the people involved.

Weve been together in sickness and in health, through the death of his mother, through the adoption of our children, through four long years of this legal battle, Jason Morgan told reporters of himself and his partner, Chuck Swaggerty. And if being together through all of that isnt love and commitment or isnt family or isnt marriage, then I dont know what is. Just minutes earlier on that day, April 3, 2009, the justices of the Iowa Supreme Court had agreed. The courts decision in Varnum v. Brien made Iowa only the third state in the nation to permit same-sex couples to wedmoderate, midwestern Iowa, years before such left-leaning coastal states as California and New York. And unlike the earlier decisions in Massachusetts and Connecticut, Varnum v. Brien was unanimous and unequivocal. It catalyzed the unprecedented and rapid shift in law and public opinion that continues today.Equal Before the Law tells the stories behind this critical battle in the fight for marriage equality and traces the decisions impact. The struggle began in 1998 with the easy passage of Iowas Defense of Marriage Act and took a turn, surprising to many, in 2005, when six ordinary Iowa couples signed on to Lambda Legals suit against the law. Their triumph in 2009 sparked a conservative backlash against the supreme court justices, three of whom faced tough retention elections that fall. Longtime, award-winning reporters Tom Witosky and Marc Hansen talked with and researched dozens of key figures, including opponent Bob Vander Plaats, proponents Janelle Rettig and Sharon Malheiro, attorneys Roger Kuhle, Dennis Johnson, and Camilla Taylor, and politicians Matt McCoy, Mary Lundby, and Tom Vilsack, who had to weigh their careers against their convictions. Justice Mark Cady, who wrote the decision, explains why the court had to rule in favor of the plaintiffs. At the center of the story are the six couples who sacrificed their privacy to demand public respect for their families. Through these voices, Witosky and Hansen show that no one should have been surprised by the 2009 decision. Iowans have a long history of leadership on civil rights. Just a year after Iowa became a state, its citizens adopted as their motto the phrase, Our liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain. And they still do today.

Equal Before the Law grabs your attention on page one and never lets you go. This is a first-of-its-kind, behind-the-scenes look into the decision that changed marriage in America forever. Youll chuckle, you may even cry, and agree or disagree with the Courts decision, youll put the book down understanding why, and how, Varnum changed everything.Zach Wahls, LGBTQ advocate