



**KENTUCKY EQUALITY
FEDERATION**

Peace. Liberty. Equality.

**KENTUCKY EQUALITY FEDERATION
Office of the Chairman of the Board**

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August 24, 2011

United States of America
Department of Justice
Community Relations Service
Walter Atkinson, Senior Conciliation Specialist
Southeast Region IV
75 Piedmont Ave NE, Ste 900
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

**RE: HATE CRIME COMPLAINT IN HARLAN COUNTY, KENTUCKY A SUBDIVISION OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY**

Dear Mr. Atkinson:

As you are aware, Kentucky Equality Federation received a hate crime complaint from the County of Harlan, a subdivision of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

The victims in this complaint believe this to be a hate crime as outlined in our press release dated August 22, 2011 (<http://community.kyequality.org/2011/08/kentucky-equality-federation-condemns.html>) that you received a copy of and we have corresponded by email.

Though the Commonwealth has a hate crime law, which has been used in Judicial Circuits throughout the Commonwealth, we are not aware of it ever being used in Southern or Southeastern Kentucky.

Southeastern Kentucky communities are primarily rural communities with municipal populations less than 10,000 citizens. Kentucky Equality Federation and its legal representation have witnessed before the manner in which these courts operates because Judges as well as the County and Commonwealth's Attorney are elected to office and not appointed by the Governor or Chief Justice of the Commonwealth. As such, the Judges, County and Commonwealth's Attorney must keep the bulk of the population happy with their service to the Commonwealth or they risk not being re-elected to office and taking a stand to protect victims of hate crimes, especially members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex community is politically dangerous to them, thus, justice rarely prevails.

Kentucky Equality Federation was contacted by the victims of this case to act as their public advocate because they do **not** believe justice will prevail. In addition, the victims have reported they have already been informed of alleged ex parte meetings taking place in reference to this case in which the prosecutor was not involved or invited.

Kentucky Equality Federation, at the request of the victims hereby requests the United States Department of Justice move to this case to federal court where neither prosecutors nor Judges are elected to office. This case clearly falls within the hate crimes legislation signed by U.S. President Obama.

In service,

Richard T. Jones
Chairman of the Board

Jordan Palmer
President

cc: Board of Directors
Will Taylor, Assistant Southeastern Kentucky Regional Director
Josh Koch, Public Relations and Media Director