## **EXHIBIT 10**

## DECLARATION OF NATALIE METZ

I, Natalie Metz, hereby declare that the following facts are true under the penalty of perjury:

1. My name is Natalie Metz. I am an adult woman and am competent to testify to the following facts based on my personal knowledge:

2. I have lived in Flagstaff, Arizona since August 2003.

3. I grew up in a loving, open family, but lived in a very conservative part of Mesa, Arizona. The high school I attended was not accepting of the students who were brave enough to come out. In high school, I was a focused student and athlete and did not pay much attention to my sexuality or whom I could be dating. I moved to Flagstaff after graduating high school to play basketball for Northern Arizona University on a full ride scholarship. Many of my teammates were lesbian and I had a supportive environment where I was safe to be myself and discover who I truly was. I came out to my family and friends during my sophomore year in 2004. Even with my open-minded parents, there was still quite a bit of difficulty and contention after coming out. My parents struggled with the fact that I was gay and would not allow me to talk to my younger sister about it for 2 years. Slowly and with the help of counseling, I worked through the fact that I was different and realized I could still have the life I deserved.

4. I first met Meagan in 2006. We met through mutual friends and I was instantly drawn

to her openness, kindness and generosity. Meagan was one of my closest friends long before we began our relationship. She helped me to know and love myself and I will be eternally grateful for her ability to completely "get me." I have truly never met anyone like Meagan and consider myself blessed to share my life with her and call her my wife.



5. I have been in a committed, exclusive and intimate relationship with my wife, Meagan Metz, for the last seven years. We have lived together since 2007. We were lawfully married in the State of Washington on May 29, 2013. After our marriage, my wife changed her surname from Pugh to Metz in furtherance of our marriage. 6. We decided to marry in Washington because it was legal, and it held significant meaning to the both of us. Meagan and I were engaged on the ferryboat to Bainbridge Island and that is where we returned to make our commitment to each other in a legally binding ceremony. To be able to walk into the county clerk's office and obtain a marriage license and to be treated like any other couple was one of the best days of my life! I am hopeful to be able to receive this same treatment and acceptance in the State of Arizona where I have lived for 27 years.

7. Meagan and I jointly own our home. We also have a joint personal bank account and jointly own a vehicle. All of our assets are combined and have been since 2008.



8. We share in all matters concerning the running of our household including caring for our two dogs, Lucy and Elden.

9. We would have married in Arizona among our many friends and family years ago if the law allowed for it. Instead we were forced to travel to another state and did not have the opportunity of having all of our loved ones at our wedding.

10. I am currently a Registered Nurse and this year I plan on furthering my education by going back to school to obtain my Family Nurse Practitioner degree, as well as a Doctorate of Nursing Practice. I will count on the support of my wife, Meagan, to help me during this stressful time.

11. In December of 2013, my wife, Meagan, was diagnosed with Lupus, a chronic, autoimmune disease that has been difficult to manage. Meagan has been repeatedly hospitalized due to this disease. She has numerous doctors in Phoenix and in Flagstaff. I have remained completely supportive, emotionally and financially during this difficult time. I am currently the sole provider for our family and must juggle working full time with helping to care for Meagan. Our life has changed dramatically since December and we are now more aware than ever of the need to be recognized as a legally married couple so we can be allowed to make important healthcare decisions for each other.

12. Like many other loving, committed couples, Meagan and I have always dreamed of raising a family together. I will be the biological mother of the child and we plan to use the process of artificial insemination to become pregnant. Meagan, for all intents and purposes, will be the child's other parent. Meagan deserves to be a legally recognized adoptive parent of our child so that she can love and support our child without fearing that she might not be given full parental rights, particularly if something happens to me.

13. Although opposite-sex married couples enjoy the presumption that both spouses are the parents of a child born in wedlock pursuant to A.R.S. § 25-814, Meagan and I are not treated the same way. Opposite-sex couples are not required to take additional steps in order to obtain legal recognition for both spouses as parents of their child. We are not treated equally, and would be forced to overcome a plethora of legal obstacles for the same recognition. Such obstacles are against public policy, unfair and unequal, and expose Meagan and I to unacceptable risks while depriving us of a host of critical legal protections should any health emergencies or other problems arise around the time of the birth of our child. Additionally, Meagan and I must suffer financial harm, by investing in legal services or risking our own time and effort in seeking parental recognition for both of us, which is not by any means guaranteed.

14. Because of Arizona's refusal to let us legally marry or to recognize our Washington marriage, Meagan and I cannot benefit from the filing of joint state tax returns, obtain health insurance at beneficial family rates, and are forced to manufacture contractual agreements to protect our rights that are unnecessary for any opposite-sex married couples.

15. Every day that Arizona refuses to respect our marriage, our family must suffer the indignity, stress, and stigma of not knowing whether or when our marriage will be recognized. Unlike opposite-sex couples who have the security of knowing that their marriage will be universally respected by the state and by private actors. We were forced to leave our home state – where we own a home, work, enjoy our friends and family, and live happily together – to be lawfully married in Washington. The daily injury and harm we feel while in our home state of Arizona is painful, unfair, and is the result of Arizona's discriminatory laws prohibiting our marriage from being recognized, or allowing us to become lawfully married.

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16. Because our Washington marriage is considered "void" under Arizona law, Meagan and I are considered to be unmarried, or single, in the eyes of Arizona law. We will not give up on our insatiable desire to be lawfully married in Arizona. Therefore, on February 6, 2014, Meagan and I personally appeared before the Clerk of the Coconino County Superior Court and applied for an Arizona marriage license. We



were refused a marriage license by Clerk of Court Deborah Young, who told us that Arizona law prohibited us from becoming married. She handed us a copy of A.R.S. § 25-101 and turned us away.

17. Arizona's refusal to recognize our marriage or allow us to marry here in Arizona has placed undue financial burdens on us, created an unequal and unfair tax burden on us, has created unfair long-term planning obstacles, and has denied us the privileges and protections given to similarly situated opposite-sex married couples in Arizona.

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Pursuant to 28 U.S.C., section 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on 3/27/14

natalie Metz