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"We are a pretty traditional couple, and we wanted to have what our families had. Some people say getting gay-married is a 'Fuck you!' to the world, but for me, it was more like an 'I love the world, and I love my parents!'" He characterizes his thoughts on marriage as much more about emotion than politics.

Nevertheless, he and Martinez are not yet married. Instead, they are suing the state for that right in Martinez vs. Kulongoski, which challenges the validity of Ballot Measure 36. Beck says although they have spoken of it generally, neither has yet formally proposed to the other.

Beck cites the day of the court filing Jan. 31 as the cement of his convictions

about the right to marry. "When we were standing on the steps of the courthouse, I knew it was the right thing for us."

Because he is a journalist with a visible presence in the city's weekly, Beck questioned the correctness of taking on this legal fight. "If I had been a cheerleader for gay marriage, then maybe not. But I don't think anyone thinks that is the case."

Beck characterizes his own column as a queer perspective that is both controversial and sexy. "I want to make the straights laugh," he says. "But I think with this I've moved from being the silly faggot to the faggot with a purpose." **J**



AM I MARRIED, AND ACCORDING TO WHOM?

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO LEGAL RELATIONSHIPS

by Jaymee R. Cuti*

Lake Perriguet, a Portland general practice attorney, helps *Just Out* answer some of the most confusing legal questions about same-sex marriages and relationships.

Jaymee R. Cuti: Are the 3,000 same-sex couples who were married in Multnomah County a year ago considered legally married until ruled not married or not married until declared legally married?

Lake Perriguet: My understanding is the marriages have not been invalidated by any court at this time. The issue has been heard by the Oregon Supreme Court, and the decision is being awaited.

JRC: What is the status of the Multnomah County marriages in light of the passage of Constitutional Amendment 36, the ban against same-sex marriage?

LP: Questions of whether Constitutional Amendment 36 is retrospective or prospective—and what happens to all the transgender persons who were legally married but one of them has transitioned—are significant issues. The Oregon Supreme Court is deciding that right now. It's the question on everybody's mind: Were the marriages valid or invalid from the beginning? If they were valid, does Constitutional Amendment 36 invali-

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