

# The Law Office of Cohen, Hirschkop & Hall

*Loving v. Virginia*



James, Norman Collection via Getty Images

**“Mr. Cohen, tell the court I love my wife and it is just unfair that I can’t live with her in Virginia.”**

**Richard Loving**

The law office of Bernard Cohen and Philip Hirschkop was here at 110 N. Royal Street on June 12, 1967, the day they were notified that their Supreme Court case *Loving v. Virginia* had been decided unanimously in their favor. The plaintiffs, Mildred and Richard Loving, had sued the Commonwealth of Virginia for its ban on interracial marriage. The day after the decision was announced, the Lovings held a press conference in the office of their attorneys in Suite 300. The ruling by the Supreme Court not only voided Virginia’s anti-miscegenation law but legalized interracial marriage throughout the country.

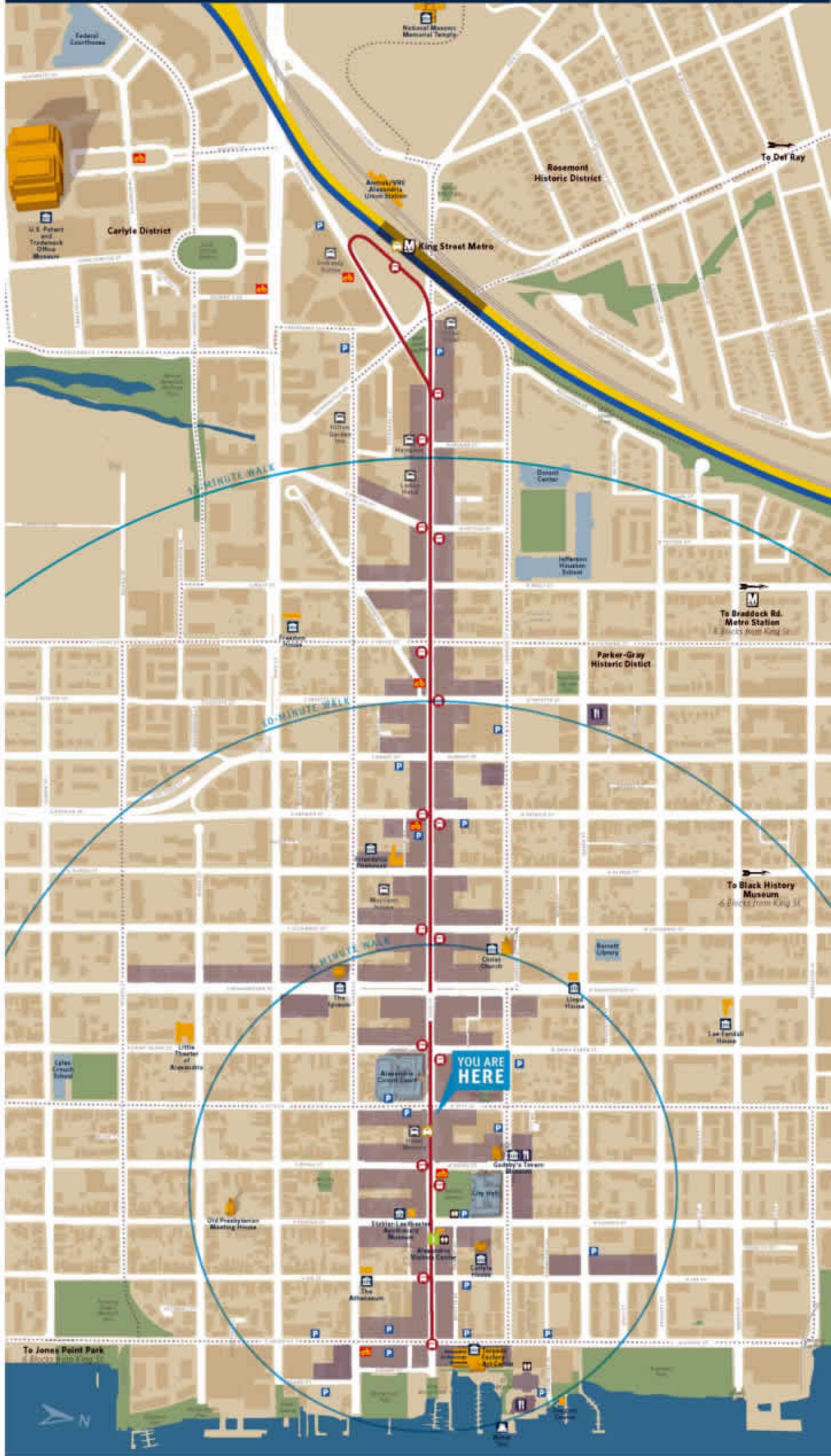
Hirschkop later recalled how he and Cohen learned of the decision:

I had a call from a reporter at the old *Washington Star*. He was their Supreme Court reporter (and he said) that it would be coming down the next morning. So, we’re in our office. We had clerks in those days. We didn’t have the electronic ability to ...[get] the opinion as soon as it came down....we were sitting in the library on Royal Street—when we got that opinion [delivered]. And I spoke with the reporter because he had [already] had a chance to read it...before we...got it from [the Supreme Court clerk’s] office. So, I knew what was in it. And then we had a secretary place a call to the Lovings.

After the decision, the Lovings lived together in Caroline County, Virginia, until 1975 when Richard was killed in a car accident by a drunk driver. Mildred never remarried and continued to live in Caroline County until her death in 2008.

*Loving v. Virginia* was one of the many court cases that formed the legal argument for civil rights and asserted that the right to marry was a constitutional right. The case was consistently cited in the 2015 Supreme Court decision *Obergefell v. Hodges*, which legalized same-sex marriage.

- ↔ Shopping 🛍️
- ↔ Dining 🍴
- ↪ Waterfront 🚢  
6 BLOCKS
- ↪ Torpedo Factory Art Center
- ↑ King Street 🚇  
12 BLOCKS



**WALKING MAP LEGEND**

Information	Public Parking	Museum	Shopping & Dining	Park	Public Parks
King Street Trolley Stop	Taxi Stand	Lodging	Bike Route	Attraction	Visitor Attraction
Metro Station	Water Taxi	Capital Bikeshare	5-minute walk (1/4 Mile)	Civic	Civic Destination