

Same-sex marriage: G.W. students among first to marry in D.C.

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WASHINGTON - Two same-sex couples, including two students from George Washington University, are the first to be married in the District.

Tuesday is the first day same-sex couples can pick up their marriage licenses and get married.

Decked out in pink ties with about a dozen friends gathered nearby, Robert Michael Hawthorne, 24, and James Michael Betz, 23, tied the knot on the sidewalk outside D.C. Superior Court. The Rev. Bonnie J. Berger officiated.



Robert Hawthorne and James Betz married outside the courthouse. (WTOP Photo/Jamie Forzato)

Hawthorne's dad came from New York City to witness the ceremony and hold their rings as the George Washington University students exchanged vows.

Dad, who also is named Robert Hawthorne, said it was "the happiest day of my life."

As the students married outside, another couple -- Jeremy Moon, 31, and Bryan Legaspi, 30 -- married in the judge's chambers, reports WTOP's Mark Segraves via Twitter.

Moon and Legaspi wore evening tuxedos and corsages for their special day.

While the courthouse didn't open until 8:30 a.m., couples began arriving at 3:30 a.m.

Security around the courthouse is tight. U.S. Marshals could be seen on every floor of the courthouse.

No protesters showed up when the courthouse opened.

WTOP's Mark Segraves contributed to this report.