

LAGBAC



SUMMER 2012 EDITION

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Happy Pride Month! LAGBAC has been hard at work bringing you a litany of wonderful programming, and this summer is no exception. Over the past several months, we celebrated our 25th Anniversary at a spectacular gala, hosted a number of well-attended CLE events, and welcomed Congressman Quigley to speak with our members. Going forward, and in celebrating Pride Month, we will continue to offer our members these and other opportunities, including our annual Judge's Pride Reception at Yoshi's Restaurant, ethics and regular CLE opportunities, the Lawyers for Diversity Mid-Summer BBQ, and our Market Days booth.

Over the past year, LAGBAC has also reinvigorated its committees, which are the driving force behind all of our programming and events. We have also created a number of ad-hoc committees to serve the growing interests and needs of our members. If you would like to become more involved in LAGBAC, consider joining one of our committees. Feel free to e-mail me at jlitchfield@lagbac.org for more information and to get involved!

Finally, please join LAGBAC in congratulating our friends at Lambda Legal and the ACLU, as well as the many Illinois couples involved, in their continued fight for marriage equality here in Illinois. On Wednesday, May 30, 2012, lawsuits were filed in Illinois challenging the state's definition of marriage as between one man and one woman. History is being made in Illinois.

On behalf of the LAGBAC board, we thank you for your continued support. Have a safe and happy Pride!

Yours,
John

LAGBAC Celebrates 25 Years With Gala



On March 16, LAGBAC held its 25th Anniversary Gala at the Palmer House. It was a smashing success, with over 250 guests and thousands of dollars raised for the LAGBAC Foundation, which provides scholarships for law students working for LGBT causes. Big thanks to all who came! Above: Board members celebrate the gala.

LAGBAC DEBUTS NEW LOGO AT GALA

In conjunction with the 25th Anniversary Gala, LAGBAC decided it was time to take a fresh look at how it communicates its role in the community. "We wanted to create a singular image for the organization, that was professional without being stuffy and clearly communicated the pride we all feel in our LGBTIQ identity," said John Litchfield, President of LAGBAC.

The designer, Nathan Lagacy, who specializes in interactive design and branding, was thrilled at the opportunity to work on the project. Having been familiar with LAGBAC for several years (Lagacy's partner is a LAGBAC member), he welcomed the chance to help the organization renew its visual message. When interviewing members of LAGBAC at the beginning of the project, Lagacy said he recognized "an organization that has experienced significant growth and maturity over the past 25 years. . . , one that has led tremendous progress in LGBT issues, but still has a lot of work yet to do." "It was important to leverage the symbolism of the rainbow icon and palette into the logo in such a way that its meaning would be unmistakable," Lagacy said, "but sometimes doing so can come off as kitschy. This is a bar association, after all." The clean, pared-down design, emphasizing the "LAGBAC" name is meant to respect the organization's history while still being able to champion the work to be done in the next twenty-five years. It is also intended to be a visual statement that says "professional, confident, forward-thinking and unique, without being stuffy," Lagacy added.

LAGBAC'S 2012 VANGUARD AWARD HONOREE: BILL GREAVES

On Tuesday, April 24, 2012 the Chicago Bar Association hosted the 2012 Vanguard Awards at the Standard Club. LAGBAC honored William W. Greaves, the Former Liaison to the LGBT Communities at the City of Chicago. The Vanguard Awards honor members of the community who, through their efforts, have made the law and legal profession more accessible to and reflective of the whole, diverse community. LAGBAC Vice President, Nicole Bashor, gave Dr. Greaves a rousing introduction. Dr. Greaves then gave an interesting and humorous recount of his experiences and commitment to the LGBT community.

Dr. Greaves was born and raised in Queenstown, Maryland. He received his bachelor's degree in chemistry and English literature from Bucknell University in 1973 and his doctorate in inorganic chemistry and journalism from Iowa State University in 1978.

Dr. Greaves's career has been a mix of the two disciplines, working first as a chemist for Standard Oil of Indiana and, following that, as the physical sciences editor at Science magazine in Washington D.C., where his tenure coincided with the growing recognition of AIDS as a world-wide epidemic. At that time, Science was the leading American journal covering the disease. Dr. Greaves was given editorial responsibility for the epidemiology of AIDS and, during his time at the magazine, gained recognition as one of the world's experts on the transmission of HIV.

As Dr. Greaves saw his friends fall victim to AIDS, his desire to become an effective advocate for his community grew stronger. He joined DC Front Runners, a gay and lesbian running club devoted to raising funds for community causes in Washington. On his return to Chicago in 1988 he continued these activities with the affiliate group Frontrunners/Frontwalkers Chicago, eventually becoming that organization's President.

In 1995, Dr. Greaves was invited to become a member of the City of Chicago's Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues, where he began pursuing areas of policy development related to the integration of diverse groups and individuals into the fabric of city government and culture. In 2000, Mayor Richard M. Daley appointed Dr. Greaves to be the Council's Director. He served in that capacity until January 2012, acting as the Council's chief administrator and the Mayor's primary liaison to Chicago's LGBT communities.

During his tenure, Dr. Greaves shepherded the City's Gender Identity ordinance to passage, broadening the scope of the Chicago Human Rights and Fair Housing Ordinances to include protections for gender identity and naming transgender individuals as members of a protected class. He also amended the City of Chicago Personnel Rules to be in accord with the City's Human Rights Ordinance, and he co-wrote and edited the City's LGBT nondiscrimination statement and policy model for homeless shelters and its policy statement on LGBT substance abuse. Dr. Greaves also administered the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame, co-founded and directed the nation's only annual, government-sponsored military salute to LGBT veterans, and managed the official City ceremonies uniting 36 couples in Illinois's first civil unions.

Because of his background, experience, and accomplishments, Dr. Greaves is recognized throughout the city as an effective instrument for the integration and coordination of diverse populations into the cohesive, mutually respectful whole that is Chicago.



2012 ELECTIONS FOR LAGBAC BOARD

LAGBAC needs motivated legal professionals -- practitioners and students alike -- to serve on the Board of Directors. Terms begin on July 1, 2012. Practitioner Board Members are elected for two-year terms; law student Board Members are then appointed for one-year terms. Responsibilities include attending monthly meetings, heading Committees, and organizing and participating in LAGBAC events and programs. Board membership presents incomparable opportunities to make a difference in the local LGBT community.

Those interested in becoming Board Members should submit a brief bio for distribution to the general membership to whall@lagbac.org by June 15, 2012. The bio should include past involvement in LAGBAC and other LGBT activities and the reasons for seeking a Board position. Ballots will be made available to the general membership by June 18, 2012, with instructions for returning them. If you have questions about the role of a Board Member, go to lagbac.org and feel free to contact any current Board Member at their lagbac.org email address.

LAGBAC MENTORING UPDATE

On May 24, the LAGBAC Mentoring Program met at Casey Moran's for a trivia night. About thirty mentors and mentees came to take part in a two-hour happy hour, generously donated to LAGBAC by Casey Moran's. It was a beautiful Thursday evening, and our group gathered on the patio, where those who chose to participate formed two teams. Neither team won any prizes, but everyone had a good time and LAGBAC student members had an opportunity to meet other attorneys and build stronger relationships with their mentors.

This fall, when classes resume, LAGBAC will reach out to student members to let them know about our mentoring program. Participating in the program is an easy and enjoyable way for attorneys to make a profound difference in the career of a student or younger attorney entering the workforce. Students also gain the invaluable insight of a mentor and can begin building their legal network. And as was the case of our last outing, mentoring program events are a lot of fun! Any students or attorneys interested in participating should email David Amen at damen@lagbac.org.

WOMEN EVERYWHERE SERVICE EVENT

On Wednesday, June 27, 2012, LAGBAC members will be participating in Women Everywhere Public Service Day between 3:00-8:00 PM. This service event mobilizes members of bar associations and other groups across the city, and assigns volunteers to particular direct-service organizations for a day of networking and helping out. We'll be volunteering at Howard Brown Health Center. Volunteers may participate for the entire evening, or for part of the evening. If you would like to participate, please RSVP to either Nicole Bashor nbashor@gmail.com or Olivia St. Clair at ostclair@novackmacey.com.

JEC UPDATE

LAGBAC's Judicial Evaluation Committee ("JEC") would like to broaden its reach by adding new members. The JEC screens judicial candidates seeking election or appointment, as well as sitting judges. Through investigation, screening and interviewing, the JEC determines whether candidates can be recommended for judicial positions. Most recently, the JEC screened all candidates running in the March 2012 primary elections. The committee is currently screening sitting judges who will be seeking retention in the November election. Although JEC membership does require some time commitment (usually no more than 10 hours over the course of 2-3 months), the committee's work is vital to ensure that the state judiciary is comprised of well qualified judges and to provide the public with an opportunity to cast an informed vote. Those interested in joining LAGBAC's JEC should email Susana Darwin at susanadarwin@earthlink.net or Chuck Little at clittle@gsgolaw.com.

Check out LAGBAC's
website
[www.lagbac.org!](http://www.lagbac.org)

LAGBAC NOW HAS "HARDSHIP" MEMBERSHIP RATES

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF LAGBAC?

Join now by going to www.lagbac.org or mailing your membership dues to:

LAGBAC
P.O. Box 64933
Chicago, Illinois 60664-0933

LAGBAC members enjoy the following benefits:

- Meet the Bar nights (nonmembers and guests will be charged \$5);
- Lawyers for Diversity Mid-Summer Barbecue (nonmembers, non-sponsoring firms & guests will be charged to attend);
- Judge's Pride Reception and other receptions and events;
- Continuing Legal Education seminars;
- Networking opportunities;
- Membership on LAGBAC's committees; and
- Much, much more...

All communication from LAGBAC is electronic. You MUST provide us with an email address to receive future information and newsletters. Membership runs January 1-December 31.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Email: _____
Amount Enclosed: _____

ANNUAL DUES:

_____ Sustaining Member \$100
_____ Sponsoring Member \$75
_____ Regular Member \$50
_____ Student Member \$30 (*valid through December 31 of graduating year*)
If applying for Student Membership, please indicate law school/graduation date: _____

LAGBAC AWARDED IVI-IPO AWARD

On April 30, 2012, LAGBAC was honored by the Independent Voters of Illinois – Independent Precinct Organization (“IVI-IPO”) with the 2012 Glynn Sudbery Award. This great honor was awarded to LAGBAC for its education of the electorate on judicial candidates through the Judicial Evaluations Committee, and for its advocacy for professionals in the legal community. LAGBAC was very honored to receive this award, and we thank our members, and specifically the Judicial Evaluations Committee, for their hard work and dedication.

REP. QUIGLEY ADDRESSES LAGBAC MEMBERS

On May 23, 2012, Congressman Quigley met with LAGBAC members in an informal community reception, hosted by the offices of Foley & Lardner LLP. In addressing the nearly 50 attendees, Quigley spoke to the challenges the divided Congress faces, as well as his work with Senator Mark Kirk on a variety of campaign finance reform and government accountability legislation. He also took questions about DOMA, ENDA, and immigration reform. Congressman Quigley was elected to serve Illinois’ 5th Congressional District in a special election in 2009 to fill the seat vacated by Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, and was re-elected in 2010. He was recently appointed by Democratic party leadership as an assistant minority whip in the House.

Join LAGBAC at other upcoming member-only events like this. Sustaining Members receive priority access and, where possible, are invited to “VIP” receptions.

WANT TO GET MORE INVOLVED? JOIN A LAGBAC COMMITTEE!

LAGBAC is always looking for fresh thoughts and new ideas! If you didn’t know, LAGBAC has 12 committees (listed below) on which members are encouraged to serve. Serving on a LAGBAC committee is a great way to network, use your talents and skills, and make new friends. If you’re interested in serving on one or more committees, please contact John Litchfield at jlitchfield@lagbac.org.

LAGBAC Standing Committees include: Judicial Evaluation Committee, Law School Committee, Women’s Committee, Programming/Events Committee, Communications/Newsletter Committee, Membership/Development Committee, Community Outreach Committee, Special Programs/Initiatives Committee, and Nominating Committee. Our Ad-Hoc Committees include: Development Committee, Corporate Counsel Committee, and Market Days/Pride Committee.

LAGBAC RELAUNCHES WEBSITE

It was a long time coming, but in conjunction with the 25th Anniversary celebration, LAGBAC launched its new and improved website. Check it out at www.lagbac.org. “We wanted to mark the organization’s milestone anniversary with an updated online resource that provides a more accessible resource to information for our members and the community at large,” said Greg Zinkl, a LAGBAC board member of LAGBAC and head of its Web Committee. “We really wanted to highlight the fact that LAGBAC serves three distinct constituent groups: legal professionals, law students and the broader non-law community,” he added. To that end, the updated website now features new information about how to join or renew your LAGBAC membership, news on upcoming CLE, networking and social events and additional information on ways professionals and students can get involved in LAGBAC activities.

“The need for a new website platform with enhanced abilities to reach out to our members and share updated information really drove our design process,” remarked Stephen Komonytsky, a fellow LAGBAC board member. “This also gave us the ideal opportunity to revamp the visual design of the site and improve useability, too,” he said. “What most visitors will not see, though, are the back-end tools that allow us to keep information current and communicate with our members more easily,” Komonytsky, said, “and credit for that really goes to Michael Semrad [of Semrad Media], who worked closely with us to create a platform that both looks and functions beautifully!”

As with every website overhaul, “there are still a few tweaks we want to make, pictures to add, resources we want to highlight; and we are constantly looking for new ways to better communicate LAGBAC’s message,” remarked Zinkl. As LAGBAC moves into its next twenty-five years, keep your eyes on the new website to see what’s coming up next.

Alliance of Illinois Judges Event

The Alliance of Illinois Judges (“AIJ”) is having its 2012 annual meeting and installation officers on Wednesday, June 20 at 5 PM, and they are having an event to celebrate. The event will take place at the CBA, 321 Plymouth Ct. Cost is \$35 per person, \$10 for students. The AIJ is made up primarily of LGBTQ judges with a mission of promoting diversity within the judiciary and the legal profession, and fostering a sense of equality in the legal system. Tickets may be purchased in advance by mailing a check to the AIJ at 321 S. Plymouth Ct, Chicago, IL 60604, or a the door.

FREE ETHICS CLE OPPORTUNITY

Join Mary Andreoni, an ARDC attorney, and Tom Sukowicz, a disciplinary defense attorney, for a discussion on the new rules regarding trust accounts, the records required for trust accounts, retainers, and ethical issues concerning the use of social media. 1.0 hours of CLE ethics credits are currently pending for this program, and it's free!

Hosted by Hinshaw & Culbertson, 222 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 300, on June 14, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

RSVP at: <http://hinshawlawnews.com/ve/ZZk7182653160t5875Pyr/VT=0/page=1>

The LAGBAC Programming and Events Committee is looking for ideas for new CLE programming. If you have suggestions for new and different CLE courses, please email Nick Furtwengler at nfurtwengler@lagbac.org. (For more details see the ad on page 7!)

LAGBAC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS START WORK

Our two LAGBAC Foundation scholarship recipients begin work soon at their summer internships. Both were honored at the LAGBAC 25th Anniversary Gala. Robin Wagner, a law student at DePaul, will be working at Lambda Legal this summer. Robert Harvey, a student at Northwestern, will be working at Equality Illinois. We wish them both the best of luck! We'll have updates on their experience in subsequent newsletters.



THE "BILLABLE HOUR"

You wanted more events downtown, and we listened! Come meet fellow LAGBAC members downtown, at Downtown Bar (440 N. State). Thursday, June 21, 2012, from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. Meet, mingle, and enjoy. LAGBAC members receive two free drink tickets!

PRIDE PARADE RECEPTION

The annual judge's reception for the 43rd Annual Chicago Pride Parade will be held on Sunday, June 24, between 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at Yoshi's Café, 3257 North Halsted Street. You will be able to see the parade from a private room. A cash bar is available. Judges (and a guest) can attend at no cost. For LAGBAC members, the cost is \$25; for non-members it's \$50 (payable at the door). Please RSVP to Cecilia Horan at choran@hinshawlaw.com by close of business Thursday, June 21.

NORTH HALSTED MARKET DAYS

Come and stop by LAGBAC's booth and join the celebration. A special surprise is planned this year. Volunteers to help work in our booth. If interested, please contact: Jim Nawrocki at jnawrocki@gwclaw.com.

LAWYERS FOR DIVERSITY BBQ

Lawyers for Diversity is scheduled for July 26, 2012, on the private roof deck of Sidetrack, located at 3349 North Halsted Street, Chicago. The event begins at 6:00 p.m., and valet parking is available. LAGBAC members and guests of sponsoring firms attend free; nonmembers and guests attend for just \$25. For more information, or if you or your firm are interested in sponsoring Lawyers for Diversity, please contact Jeremy Gottschalk at jgottschalk@lagbac.org. As a reminder, sponsorship of Lawyers for Diversity starts at \$1,500 and benefits the following local, LGBT organizations: AIDS Legal Council of Chicago, Equality Illinois, Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago Foundation and Parents, Friends and Families of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG).



In Recognition of Gay Pride Month



Anita Alvarez
Cook County State's Attorney

&

The LGBT Advisory Council
Invite you to the

3rd ANNUAL PRIDE CELEBRATION & AWARDS CEREMONY

Honoring

Honorable Greg Harris
Illinois State Representative 13th District
&

Mona Noriega
Commissioner of Human Relations Department

Tuesday, June 26, 2012
Reception 5:30 p.m. - Program 6:30 p.m.

Center on Halsted
3656 North Halsted
Chicago, Illinois

Master of Ceremonies
Dean Richards, WGN-TV Channel 9

R.S.V.P. by June 19, 2012
(312) 603-8710



What's New in Attorney Discipline



Mary Andreoni, an ARDC attorney, and Tom Sukowicz, a disciplinary defense attorney, will discuss the new rules regarding trust accounts, the records that are required for trust accounts, three kinds of retainers and when to use them, and the ethical issues concerning the use of social media.

Date & Time:

June 14, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

Location:

Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP
222 North LaSalle Street, Suite 300
Chicago, Illinois 60601

1.0 CLE ethics credits are currently pending for this program.

Space is limited and registration is required. [Click here to register.](#)

Presenters:

Mary F. Andreoni

Ethics Education Counsel
IL ARDC
130 E. Randolph Drive, Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60601

Thomas P. Sukowicz

Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP
One East Broward Blvd.
Suite 1010
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301

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If you have questions, please contact Renee Odom at rodom@hinshawlaw.com or 312-704-3050.

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Lambda Legal Files Lawsuit Seeking Marriage for Same-sex Couples in Illinois

“By excluding these couples and their children from marriage, and relegating them to civil unions, our government has marked them as different and worth less than other Illinois families -- and that is exactly how others treat them.”

(Chicago, Wednesday, May 30, 2012) – Today, nearly one year after the civil union law took effect, Lambda Legal filed papers in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Chancery Division on behalf of 16 same-sex couples and their children seeking the freedom to marry.

“One year ago same-sex couples across the state were joined in civil unions. The experiences of the couples and the children in this suit show the hurt, confusion, and private bias that they have encountered as they have lived their lives,” said Camilla Taylor National Marriage Project Director for Lambda Legal based in the Midwest Regional Office in Chicago. Notably Taylor is the attorney who led the litigation effort and won marriage for same-sex couples in Iowa. “These couples and their children share a dream of being part of a married family. By excluding them from marriage, and relegating them to civil unions, our government has marked them as different and worth less than other Illinois families -- and that is exactly how others treat them. They have suffered disrespect in schools, workplaces, hospitals, and in their every-day interactions with government for long enough. They should have the freedom to marry – it’s just time,” Taylor added.

Lambda Legal represents 16 same-sex couples and their children from across the state of Illinois. The couples have been together between 6 to 48 years and 10 of the couples are raising children. The case argues that barring same-sex couples and their children from marriage is a violation of the Illinois Constitution’s guarantee of Equal Protection and Due Process.

“Civil unions do not satisfy Illinois’ guarantee of equality because they single out a group of people, treat them differently under the law, and deny them the fundamental right to marry,” said Christopher Clark, Senior Staff Attorney in Lambda Legal’s Midwest Regional Office based in Chicago. “We are taking this case to court because, in our democracy, it is the job of our courts to uphold the Constitution and protect individual freedom.”

Lead plaintiffs Jim Darby and Patrick Bova of Chicago have been together for over 48 years. Darby, who worked in the stockyards before enlisting to fight in the Korean War, and Bova, a librarian, met on the south side of Chicago and fell in love in 1963, and have been in a committed relationship ever since.

“After 48 years together we know very well what it means to love honor and cherish,” said Darby. “I have lived in Illinois all my life and I want to marry Patrick here. A civil union doesn’t reflect what we mean to each other.”

NEWS RELEASE

www.lambdalegal.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Contact:

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Lisa Hardaway

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Lambda Legal is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and those with HIV through impact litigation, education and public policy work.

The couples in the case are: Jim Darby, 80, and Patrick Bova, 73, of Chicago; Daphne Scott-Henderson, 41, and Ryan Cannon, 34, of Bloomington; Michelle Chappell, 45 and Michelle Franke, 46 of Champaign; Daryl Rizzo, 47 and Jaime Garcia, 50, of Chicago; Lynne Burnett, 55 and Robyne O'Mara, 56, of Godfrey; Patricia Garcia, 54 and Julie Barton, 50 of Evanston; Bert Morton, 64 and Lee Korty, 53, of Springfield; Theresa Volpe, 41 and Mercedes Santos, 46, of Chicago; Robert Hickok, 42 and Brian Fletcher 52 of Oak Park; Peggy Burton, 65 and Donna O'Crowly, 66 of Bloomington; Lakeesha Harris, 37 and Janean Watkins 38, of Chicago; Angelica Lopez, 36 and Claudia Mercado, 36 of Chicago; Tim Rice, 50 and Don Julian, 51 of Alto Pass; Anne Dickey, 37 and Laura Hartman 34 of Rock Island; Bob Proctor, 49 and Hector Martinez, 49 of Peoria; Brandon Bowersox-Johnson, 31 and Kevin Bowersox-Johnson, 40 of Urbana.

In a separate case filed today, the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois represents 9 same-sex couples seeking the freedom to marry. The coordinated marriage cases between Lambda Legal and the ACLU-IL signals the organizations' shared commitment to ensure that the government treats all families fairly.

Camilla Taylor, National Marriage Project Director and Christopher Clark, Senior Staff Attorney in Lambda Legal's Midwest Regional Office are handling the case for Lambda Legal. They are joined by Emily Nicklin, Jordan M. Heinz and Amy Crawford, partners at Kirkland & Ellis LLP in Chicago.

Click here to read the complaint: http://www.lambdalegal.org/in-court/legal-docs/darby_il_20120530_complaint-declaratory-injunctive-relief

Learn more about the plaintiff couples and the case here:
<http://www.lambdalegal.org/ilove>

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Lisa Hardaway Cell: 973-902-9298; Email: lhardaway@lambdalegal.org

Lambda Legal is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and those with HIV through impact litigation, education and public policy work.

MORE PICTURES FROM THE LAGBAC 25TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

