



ACTION ALERT

On The Ground

On December 1, 2006, World AIDS Day, Lambda Legal presented Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice with a letter and petition demanding that the State Department end its legacy of HIV discrimination in the Foreign Service.



Petition Signatures: 17,000
Letter Signatories: 40 HIV/AIDS, sexual health and civil rights organizations
Tell-A-Friend Emails: 4,500
New Lambda Legal Subscribers: 1,000

Thank you to everyone who supported our campaign!

>>> www.lambdalegal.org/btw

we're every

The American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau reveals that same-sex couples in the United States have increased by 30 percent between 2000 and 2005, growing from nearly 600,000 couples to almost 777,000. The ACS data shows gay, lesbian and bisexual people in every congressional district in the country.

San Francisco topped the charts as the most LGBT-populated city in the United States for 2006. *Seattle* followed a close second, with *Atlanta, Minneapolis, Portland, Denver* and *Chicago* all making appearances.

ON THE DOCKET

AT HOME

Lambda Legal is on the front lines securing ties between gay and lesbian parents and their children. In Pennsylvania, the State Supreme Court let stand our hard-won precedent holding that all nonbiological parents should be held to the same standards when determining custody and visitation, regardless of their sexual orientation. And in Virginia, an appeals court unanimously ruled that the state has no say in a lesbian mother's custody dispute that began in Vermont. Our client's ex-partner has tried to use Virginia's antigay marriage statutes to nullify her parenting rights.



A Virginia appeals court ruling brings Janet Jenkins one step closer to reuniting with her daughter.

IMPACT: As we win rulings that show there's no "gay exception" in state and federal parenting laws, fewer gay and lesbian parents have to live in fear that their sexual orientation will cost them their children.

AT WORK

Lambda Legal defended two families in Ohio whose health care benefits came under attack by the antigay Alliance Defense Fund and ultraconservative Ohio legislator Thomas Brinkman. They claimed that Miami University's domestic partner benefits violated Ohio's antigay marriage amendment, but Lambda Legal filed for dismissal of their claim. The court agreed with Lambda Legal and tossed the case out of court, since neither Brinkman nor the ADF could show any harm when domestic partners receive health care benefits for their families.

IMPACT: We've successfully defended the community from another right-wing attack on domestic partnerships and kept an antigay marriage amendment from overreaching its bounds.



Yvonne Keller (right), a professor at Miami University, with her partner Susan Gray and their two children.



where!



"People see us, they admire the love and determination we display taking care of each other despite injustice. Hearts and minds change."

SENIOR COUNSEL **JENNY PIZER**

In a speech to the Lesbian & Gay Lawyers Association of Los Angeles

**10
YEARS
AND
10
POINTS**

In **1996**, a Gallup poll found that 68 percent of American adults were opposed to marriage for same-sex couples, while 27 percent were in favor. In **2006**, Gallup found that 58 percent of American adults opposed marriage for same-sex couples, while 39 percent were in favor. This steady shift of opinion, averaging one percentage point a year, mirrors the public's shift of opinion on interracial marriage from decades before.



Brett Timmerman is fighting back against antigay violence.

AT SCHOOL

Brett Timmerman, a former student at University of Wisconsin-Platteville, was about to walk into a local sandwich shop when his attackers called him a "faggot." He was pushed, hit in the head, and police had to pull one of his attackers off of him upon their arrival. His attackers even falsely accused Timmerman of starting the fight, leading to a citation for disorderly conduct against him that prosecutors later dismissed. Lambda Legal is seeking justice for Timmerman under Wisconsin's hate crimes law.

IMPACT: Lambda Legal is bringing the state's hate crimes law to bear, sending the message that violence against LGBT people will not be tolerated.

AT PLAY

Blu Sotier, a transgender woman in California, contacted Lambda Legal's Help Desk after her Match.com profile was pulled off the site because she described herself as "pre-op." She was told there was an in-house policy against the use of that term. Lambda Legal wrote an advocacy letter on her behalf and received a call back from Match.com's general counsel, clarifying that the term was no longer excluded. Sotier was offered a refund, along with 60 free days of membership.

IMPACT: All Match.com customer care representatives will be retrained on the current policy and we have taken one more step in eliminating discrimination against transgender people.



LAMBDA LEGAL HISTORY

30 Years Ago (1977): Lambda Legal helps a lesbian mother retain custody of her foster children in *Matter of V*, the first known parenting victory of its kind.

20 Years Ago (1987): ACT UP shuts down Wall Street in response to the price of AZT; Lambda Legal helps pressure makers of AZT to lower its price by 20 percent.

10 Years Ago (1997): Lambda Legal intervenes on behalf of gay groups denied tax-exempt status by the IRS; the IRS reverses itself, giving the groups tax-exempt status and undertaking sensitivity training.

Today (2007): Lambda Legal strategically pushes forward with two marriage equality lawsuits, as our case with lead counsel NCLR and the ACLU in California goes before the State Supreme Court and our case in Iowa moves toward trial, continuing to gather support on the ground.