



Of Counsel On Campus

This November, Lambda Legal launched *Of Counsel On Campus*, a bi-monthly eNewsletter aimed at law students. The eNewsletter is a concise and accurate resource that empowers and encourages busy law students to learn more about the civil rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender people and people living with HIV. *Of Counsel On Campus* features information and analysis of Lambda Legal's groundbreaking litigation, reflections on strategy and tactics by Lambda Legal attorneys, and much, much more. So far, hundreds of students have signed up from schools such as New York University, Georgetown University, Columbia School of Law and many others. *Of Counsel On Campus* is an offshoot of our eNewsletter, *Of Counsel*, which focuses on lawyers and the legal community.

Sign up *Of Counsel On Campus* today at www.lambdalegal.org/ofcounseloncampus.

ON THE DOCKET

LGBT POSITIVE SEX ED

The Montgomery County School Board in Maryland voted to implement a curriculum that would discuss sexual orientation in a nonjudgmental framework and include medically accurate information about homosexuality. The curriculum has passed every layer of evaluation and has been successfully tested in several schools. But opponents, led by Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays (PFOX), have filed a legal challenge against the school district's incorporation of the curriculum. Lambda Legal has advised local families and organizations that support the use of an accurate and inclusive curriculum and is now representing the Metro DC chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays in the case. The Maryland State Board of Education denied the opposing groups' challenge and the case is now before the Maryland County Circuit Court.

IMPACT: Lambda Legal supports sex education curricula that reflect the experiences of a diverse student body, including students who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or who question their orientation or gender identity. Access to accurate information on human sexuality is not only important for a well-rounded academic experience but is a necessity when it relates to medical and sexual health.



NOLA STRIKES BACK

Ten years ago, the city of New Orleans extended insurance benefits to same-sex partners of city employees. Shortly thereafter, the city created a domestic partnership registry. Domestic partnership registries have important symbolic value for couples and both public and private employers often find them helpful when extending benefits to employees' partners. Since 2003, the city's domestic partner policies have been under attack by the Alliance Defense Fund, an antigay legal organization that filed a lawsuit against the city. Lambda Legal is participating in the case, representing a city employee and his same-sex partner. In 2005, the case reached the Louisiana Supreme Court, which allowed the challenge to continue and returned it to the lower court. Lambda Legal is now arguing the case at the trial court level.

IMPACT: This case illustrates how antigay organizations like the Alliance Defense Fund not only protest advancement of LGBT civil rights but will also go on the offensive and attack benefits and rights already in place. Lambda Legal was called upon by the city of New Orleans to help protect LGBT couples and to fight hate groups that seek to reverse progress for our families.



People with HIV face increased regulations for U.S. travel

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recently proposed new regulations for HIV positive travelers to the United States. Though supposedly intended to ease restrictions, the new regulations create greater barriers for people with HIV traveling to the United States and significantly limit their rights once within U.S. borders.

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This invasive policy unfairly targets people with HIV by requiring a close examination of an applicant's personal, medical and financial history. Bebe Anderson, HIV Project Director at Lambda Legal comments, "There have been extraordinary advances in the understanding and treatment of HIV/AIDS and how it's transmitted. There is no medical justification to continue to treat people living with HIV as creating, by their very presence, a danger to public health."

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

The Hudson Valley LGBTQ Center is fighting for its property's tax exemption status. The Center provides educational forums, support and counseling groups, and publications for the Hudson Valley LGBT community. The Center's goals and objectives clearly entitle it to nonprofit property tax exemption under New York law. But the assessor for the city of Kingston denied its application, dismissing the Center's activities as merely "social." The Center appealed to the Board of Assessment Review, providing documentation that summarized its activities. This appeal was denied, leaving the center with a damaging tax bill of \$9,000. Lambda Legal, the Worker's Rights Law Center of New York and Fried, Frank, Harris, Shrier and Jacobson LLP representing the center to secure exemption from this discriminatory tax bill.

IMPACT: Many LGBT organizations have had to fight bureaucracy for their right to exist as nonprofit entities. By denying LGBT organizations access to these tax exemptions, the ultimate goals of these organizations are undermined — a blow to LGBT communities at large that receive help and support from such important organizations.



L.A.'S FINEST

The Los Angeles City Council voted unanimously to approve the non-monetary portion of a settlement for Mitchell Grobeson, the first openly gay officer in the Los Angeles Police Department. Grobeson was suspended for what the LAPD deemed "unauthorized recruiting" of lesbians and gay men to join the force, and for allegedly wearing his uniform without permission at Pride and AIDS-awareness events.

IMPACT: This important settlement provides a vast array of protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender employees and job applicants in Los Angeles; additionally, it provides protections for people living with HIV. It also mandates recruitment from LGBT communities and strengthens the city's antidiscrimination policies by writing them into the city's administrative code.



Lawrence v. Texas

Celebrate the 5th anniversary of the Supreme Court victory that changed our lives

EVENTS

4.11.08 >
Lambda Legal and American Constitution Society : Emory Law School
Atlanta, GA

6.5.08 >
National Press Club Roundtable Discussion and Reception
Washington, D.C.

6.20.08 >
Lawrence Fifth Anniversary Breakfast
Houston, TX

6.21.08 >
Lawrence Fifth Anniversary Celebration
Dallas, TX

Visit our website, www.lambdalegal.org, in the coming months to get the most up-to-date information on these events and to learn more about *Lawrence v. Texas*.