

LAMBDA LEGAL: 2009 EVENTS CALENDAR

JANUARY

1.28.09 Bon Foster Kick-off — Chicago, IL

MARCH

3.1.09 Lambda Legal Love Lounge — West Hollywood CA
3.29.09 Lambda Legal in Fort Lauderdale — Ft. Lauderdale FL
3.09 San Francisco Kick-Off Party — San Francisco CA

APRIL

4.19.09 Lambda Legal in Philadelphia — Philadelphia PA
4.23.09 Bon Foster — Chicago IL
4.09 Dallas Women's Brunch — Dallas TX
4.09 Mad Hatter Garden Party — Dallas TX
4.09 Jeffery Fashion Cares — New York NY

MAY

5.4.09 Liberty Awards NYC — New York NY
5.6.09 Lambda Legal's San Francisco Celebration — San Francisco CA
5.09 Lambda Legal in the Desert — Palm Springs CA

Save the Date: Lambda Legal Liberty Awards



May 4, 2009 at Pier 60, Chelsea Piers. New York, NY. For more details and for a complete up-to-date list of our events, visit www.lambdalegal.org/events.



A Closer Look

STEFAN JOHNSON, HELP DESK ATTORNEY

What is the Help Desk? What is your role as Help Desk Attorney?

Lambda Legal's Help Desk functions as a conduit between our communities and our legal department. The Legal Help Desk receives over 5,000 calls per year from the public seeking legal assistance and information on issues of discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and HIV status. We have Help Desk staff in each of Lambda Legal's five offices who answer legal inquiries by telephone, e-mail, fax and mail. Staff in each of our offices can also field calls in Spanish. While we do not dispense legal advice, our goal is to leave callers better off than when they first contact us. We try to direct them to one of our cooperating attorneys, or provide enough information so they can begin to find a solution to their legal problems. In a small number of cases, Lambda Legal will take on direct representation, provided the case

has potential for broad impact. Such a case may also serve as a vehicle for education work on particular forms of discrimination our communities face.

My role as Help Desk attorney is to review all 5,000 calls, ensuring that the Help Desk staff provides consistent information that is current and relevant to callers' particular needs.

Why is the Help Desk important?

The Help Desk is one of the key vehicles available to Lambda Legal to measure the legal pulse of the LGBT/HIV community. The Help Desk gauges what areas of discrimination are particularly urgent in a given state, region or nationwide. Lambda Legal will often look for particular types of cases based on the particular problems that present themselves to the Help Desk. In addition to litigating, Lambda Legal may create educational guides addressing

particular legal problems within the LGBT/HIV community based on problems we encounter at the Help Desk. Moreover, as a free service, the Help Desk provides Lambda Legal direct interface with the very communities we are here to represent.

What are the benefits and challenges to working on the Help Desk?

Undoubtedly, the hardest part for all the Help Desk staff is to receive a call from someone who is obviously experiencing difficult and often painful legal problems, and telling the person that because of our limited resources, we cannot directly represent them. Conversely, the best part of the job is seeing a Help Desk call mature into an actual Lambda Legal case, and the ultimate is to see that case come to a successful outcome for the caller. **L**