

We're ready for our close-up!

Lambda Legal is proud to announce that "Overruled!", our short film about *Lawrence v. Texas*, has made it to the big screen. The film was shown at *Reeling: The Chicago Lesbian and Gay International Film Festival* with other short films under the title "Pushing the Gay Envelope."

MY BROTHER'S KEEPER



(1995)
This television movie starring John Lithgow was based on our case

Bradley v. Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield, which concerns an insurance company refusing a life-saving bone-marrow transplant between Bob Bradley and HIV-positive brother, Tom.

SERVING IN SILENCE THE MARGARETHE CAMMERMEYER STORY



(1995)
Glenn Close received an Emmy for her portrayal of our client Grethe Cammermeyer,

who we represented in *Cammermeyer v. Perry*, a case which sought to reinstate this Army and National Guard Veteran, who was fired because of her sexual orientation.

BOYS DON'T CRY



(1999)
This Oscar-winning film stars Hilary Swank as Brandon Teena, a transgender

man whose family Lambda Legal represented in *Brandon v. Richardson County*. Lambda Legal took action against the sheriff who humiliated and failed to protect Brandon, who was murdered after he reported being raped.

ON THE DOCKET

SERVING UP DISCRIMINATION

Korrin Krause Stewart was born with HIV but was not diagnosed until she was 14 years old. Shortly after her diagnosis, Stewart learned that her HIV infection had developed into AIDS. A few years later, Stewart applied for a waitstaff position at Lee's Log Cabin, a restaurant in Wausau, Wisconsin. After the prospective employer found out that Stewart had HIV, "HIV+" was written on her application and the restaurant refused to hire her. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) filed a lawsuit against the restaurant for violating the Americans with Disabilities Act. The EEOC lawsuit was filed as a case of HIV discrimination. The district court ruled against Stewart and the EEOC and that ruling was upheld by a federal appellate court. The court's ruling was based on a confused distinction between HIV and AIDS--saying that Stewart could not be a victim of HIV-related discrimination if her diagnosis is now AIDS. The case has been appealed and Lambda Legal filed a friend-of-the-court brief on behalf of 11 local, regional and national HIV/AIDS advocacy organizations supporting the EEOC's request that the entire appellate court panel review the decision.

IMPACT: Our friend-of-the-court brief argues that the ruling in this case creates new, inappropriate burdens for people living with HIV and could eliminate protections they have under the ADA. Success in this case would reaffirm these protections.

SCHOOLED!

Nancy Wadington endured antigay abuse at her high school in southern New Jersey until the middle of 11th grade, when she had to leave school to protect her safety. In a lawsuit Lambda Legal filed on her behalf against school officials, Wadington asserted that she suffered verbal and physical attacks from other students over a two and a half year period. In an effort to avoid the attacks, she stayed out of the hallways, walked around the outside of the school building to get to her next class, and stopped using the school bathrooms, which led to abdominal pain during class. Under New Jersey's Law Against Discrimination, school officials that know or should know about discriminatory abuse must take effective remedial action. After a mediation, school officials agreed to mandatory training for administrators, faculty and staff, and agreed to pay Wadington a settlement.



NANCY WADINGTON

IMPACT: This is the first known lawsuit filed under New Jersey's Law Against Discrimination to successfully challenge antigay discrimination in a public school. The training now required of all educators and school staff in the school is a legacy that will serve LGBTQ youth going forward.

THE GOOD NEWS . . . AND THE NOT SO GOOD

The good news is that Congress finally returned authority to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to decide whether HIV should be on the list of diseases that prevent foreign citizens from entering the United States. The not-so-good news is that we are now waiting for HHS to use that authority to take HIV off the list. Until HHS does this, nothing has really changed in the way people with HIV are treated by customs and immigration

officials. HHS indicated that it was considering making the change needed to lift the entry restrictions. Lambda Legal has already asked the Obama transition team to promptly make those changes and will continue to press the new Administration to take immediate action. Stay tuned to learn how you can help push for this important change!



INDECENT EXPOSURE

Following a public sex sting operation in Johnson City, Tennessee, the Johnson City Police Department arrested 40 men and included their pictures in a press release approved by the police chief. The local news then published these pictures. Many of these men lost their jobs, and one committed suicide. Lambda Legal investigated the nearly 600 JCPD press releases from that year and found that no others included a picture of the person arrested. Lambda Legal is representing Kenneth Giles, whose employer explicitly based its termination of him on the notoriety associated with the newspaper publishing his photograph.

Lambda Legal is arguing that the police chief of Johnson City violated federal equal protection laws by singling out these men for unusual public exposure about their arrest.

IMPACT: This case highlights the unequal and often cruel treatment of LGBT people by those whose job it is to “protect and serve.” Gay men are often selectively targeted and charged with lewd conduct charges, sometimes through entrapment.

Though some police departments have improved over the years in their treatment of LGBT people, the Johnson City case exemplifies the need for further protections and education.



IOWA'S BIG DAY

On December 9, Lambda Legal argued before the Iowa Supreme Court, asking it to uphold the 2007 trial court ruling that denying marriage to same-sex couples is unconstitutional. Three years ago, Lambda Legal filed a lawsuit in Polk County, Iowa, Court on behalf of six same-sex couples who were denied marriage licenses. The couples in this case have been together between five and over 16 years. Three couples are raising children, others are planning families, and all want the responsibilities of marriage and the protections only marriage can provide. Lambda Legal co-counsel and former Iowa Solicitor General Dennis Johnson made an emotional and powerful argument in favor of equality.

IMPACT: If the Iowa Supreme Court upholds the lower court decision it will become the fourth state Supreme Court to rule that banning same-sex couples from marriage is unconstitutional, after Massachusetts, California and Connecticut.

