

ON THE DOCKET IN THE FIELD

HIGHLIGHTS OF LAMBDA LEGAL'S RECENT WORK AROUND THE COUNTRY

CALIFORNIA

Lambda Legal Sues for Spousal Health Coverage

In January, Lambda Legal filed suit against the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) on behalf of federal court employee Karen Golinski, whose wife, Amy Cunningham, has been denied the health insurance the federal judiciary provides for spouses of public employees. In January 2009, Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals Chief Judge Alex Kozinski ruled the benefits denial constitutes illegal discrimination, but OPM, citing the so-called "Defense of Marriage Act," stepped in and told Golinski's insurer, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, not to comply, leading to this lawsuit.

TENNESSEE

Suit After Sex Sting Results in Police Policy Change

In January, Lambda Legal successfully resolved a lawsuit filed against the Johnson City Police Department (JCPD) in Tennessee, on behalf of Kenneth Giles, whose photo, along with those of 39 other men arrested in a public sex sting, was made available to the media contrary to usual practice. The lawsuit asserted that it was improper and discriminatory for the JCPD to single out certain groups of people for increased public attention by publicizing their arrest photographs. The Department agreed to adopt a nondiscrimination policy, update the department's media policy and institute a sensitivity-training program for officers.

CALIFORNIA

SkyWest Offers Travel Benefits to Spouses of Gay Employees

In March, SkyWest Airlines announced that it is now offering travel benefits for the same-sex spouses or domestic partners of its gay and lesbian employees. The move came after Lambda Legal sent a complaint letter last October on behalf of SkyWest employee Gilbert Caldwell. The airline had denied travel benefits for Caldwell's spouse. Lambda Legal's letter explained that the airlines' treatment of married or partnered gay employees violated the airlines' stated policies as well as California law. "I'm relieved and gratified that I now will be treated as an equally valued employee," said Caldwell.

WISCONSIN

Federal Court Mandates Treatment for Transgender Prisoners

In 2006, the Wisconsin legislature passed a law denying transgender people access to medical care while in state custody. But on March 31st, a federal court, ruling on a challenge brought by Lambda Legal and the ACLU, struck the law down. "The court understood that medical treatment is critical for transgender people and that medical decisions should be made by doctors, not legislators," said Dru Levasseur, Lambda Legal's Transgender Rights Attorney.

HAWAII

Civil Unions Approved While Lambda Legal Prepared Suit

Lambda Legal was preparing to file suit in Hawai'i for civil unions when, on April 29, the state's lawmakers approved a bill to create civil unions for the state's unmarried gay and straight couples. Hawai'i's constitution allows the legislature to restrict marriage to heterosexual couples and gay couples have been able only to register as "reciprocal beneficiaries." The vote was "down to the wire, but it represents years of steady work by Hawai'i's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community and by concerned state legislators," said Lambda Legal Marriage Project Director Jennifer Pizer. As we go to press, we await Governor Lingle's decision whether to sign, veto or allow the law to go into effect without her signature.

NEW YORK

Lambda Legal Wins Parental Rights for Non-Biological Lesbian Mom

Lambda Legal successfully convinced the New York State Court of Appeals, in a May decision, to rule that petitioner Debra H., a non-biological mom, is a legal parent based on a Vermont civil union that she and her former partner entered prior to the birth of their son. The ruling overturned an intermediate appeals court that had denied Debra H.'s right to seek custody and visitation as well as her obligation to provide financial support to the child.

CELEBRATE PRIDE WITH LAMBDA LEGAL

Lambda Legal staff, supporters and volunteers will be at the following Pride season events. Come grab a tote bag, check out our information resources or just say hello!

JUNE

- 11–13 Los Angeles
- 12 Brooklyn, NYC: Park Slope Gay Pride
Chicago: Latino/a Pride Picnic
Indianapolis
- 12–13 Chicago: Midsommarfest
Des Moines: Capital City Pride
Washington, D.C.: Capital Pride
- 13 Birmingham, AL
Philadelphia
- 19 Honolulu
Iowa City
- 20 Wilton Manors, FL: Stonewall Street Festival
- 19–20 Denver
Baltimore
- 26 Houston
Harlem, NYC
- 26–27 San Francisco
Twin Cities, MN
- 27 Chicago Pride Parade
Seattle
New York: Heritage of Pride Parade

JULY

- 17–18 San Diego
- 25 New York: LGBT Dominican/Latino Health Fair Picnic

AUGUST

- 7–8 Chicago: North Halsted Market Days
- 28 Jersey City, NJ

SEPTEMBER

- 3–6 Atlanta: Black Pride
- 12 Peoria, IL
- 18 Rehoboth, DE
- 19 Dallas
San Francisco: Latino Pride

OCTOBER

- 2 Asheville, NC: Blue Ridge Pride
- 9–10 Atlanta
- 10 Philadelphia: Outfest Philly



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VOLUNTEER AT PRIDE! Pride volunteers all over the country help us get the word out about our important work for equality. You can help us staff a Pride booth or march with Lambda Legal at a Pride parade in a city near you. Visit www.lambdalegal.org/pride