

# IMPACT

LAMBDA  
LEGAL

SPRING 2026



A growing number of laws targeting LGBTQ+ people, especially transgender people, along with ongoing legal battles and political attacks, have created uncertainty for many. In some places, Pride organizers are planning events with additional safety measures in mind, while other celebrations have been “paused” entirely for this year.

**This year especially, we’re reminded of the riot at Stonewall, the protests that followed, and why annual Pride celebrations are a necessary and important part of our community’s visibility and connection.**

Across the country, Lambda Legal staff, volunteers and supporters will be participating in Pride events, talking with community members, and sharing information about the legal work being done to protect LGBTQ+ people and everyone living with HIV. For our Lambda Legal team, Pride is both



“

**Joy is resistance. Now, more than ever, my joy carries weight. I love the warmth of being in community and knowing that our love can change the world.**

**- Dani Alexander-Burk, they/he  
Corporate Partnerships Manager**

personal and professional. It is a chance to celebrate community while also engaging directly with the people impacted by the organization's work.

Pride provides empowerment. For decades, annual Pride events have served as places where people gather to celebrate, learn about their rights, and connect with organizations working on behalf of the community. At Pride festivals and events this year, Lambda Legal staff will engage with community members, answer questions about our work and offer materials designed to educate LGBTQ+ people and everyone living with HIV about their rights.

Conversations at Pride events help shape Lambda Legal's advocacy. Hearing directly from community members about the challenges they are facing helps inform legal strategies and priorities. Pride events create space for those conversations in an environment that is accessible and community centered.

Pride honors our history, and we will not let it be erased. The Stonewall National Monument is the first U.S. national monument dedicated to LGBTQ+ rights and the site of the first Pride, giving it deep and lasting significance. The removal of the Pride flag by the Trump Administration in February was a clear attempt to silence LGBTQ+ history. Lambda Legal, alongside co-counsel at the Washington Litigation Group, secured a major settlement, forcing the National Parks Service to reverse course and restore the rainbow flag to its rightful, historical place.

The reflections shared by Lambda Legal staff highlight what Pride often means to our team. Through defending the flag at Stonewall, Lambda Legal is ensuring our shared history is not erased. By showing up at Prides around the country, we are joining our community in celebration and protest. Together, these actions reflect a deep commitment to honoring the past while actively shaping a more inclusive future.



Check out [lambdalegal.org/pride](https://lambdalegal.org/pride) for our event locations and more ways to engage with us in the world and online.



**In 2026 I am showing up in solidarity with everyone seeking liberation.**

**I'm proud that our work contributes to a future only the most creative dreamers can imagine, and I'm proud to stand up to violent systems even when it's frightening.**

**- Pelecanos, they/them, Lambda Legal Attorney**



**Pride this year is personal — it's being a 55-year-old lesbian woman who wakes up every day and chooses to be fully herself, in her work, in her wellness, in her joy. For me, it looks like pouring into a community of women who look like me. Living out loud, at this age and in this moment, is its own form of resistance and celebration.**

**- Tyleis Davidson, she/her,  
Senior Public Information Officer**

## Where HIV Rights Stand in the Trump Era

Jose Abrigo, He/Him, HIV Project Director

Progress in the fight to end the HIV epidemic is being tested by federal policies that threaten the public health systems people living with HIV rely on daily. Lambda Legal is responding through litigation, policy advocacy, and coalition building to defend hard-won gains and support a stable future for people living with HIV.

Recent developments highlight what is at stake. In February, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit overturned a district court ruling and reinstated a military HIV enlistment ban. The ruling revives outdated assumptions about HIV that contradict modern science and sideline qualified service members.

Much of our work focuses on challenging federal actions that threaten public health infrastructure. A central case is *San Francisco AIDS Foundation v. Trump*, which challenges executive orders that restrict federal funding for programs serving LGBTQ+ people and communities of color. These orders penalize providers that address structural inequities or tailor services to transgender communities.

This case asks whether the federal government can impose restrictions that weaken evidence-based public health programs. HIV prevention, testing, and treatment efforts rely on federal support and on the ability to address drivers of the epidemic, including racism, homophobia, transphobia, and economic inequality. Ignoring these realities would reduce the effectiveness of care.

Lambda Legal is also involved in *National Urban League v. Trump*, which challenges actions aimed at dismantling diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. In HIV work, these frameworks help ensure outreach reaches communities



Photo from San Francisco AIDS Foundation archives

most impacted, including Black and Latino communities, LGBTQ+ people, and transgender individuals. Removing them would limit efforts to reduce health disparities.

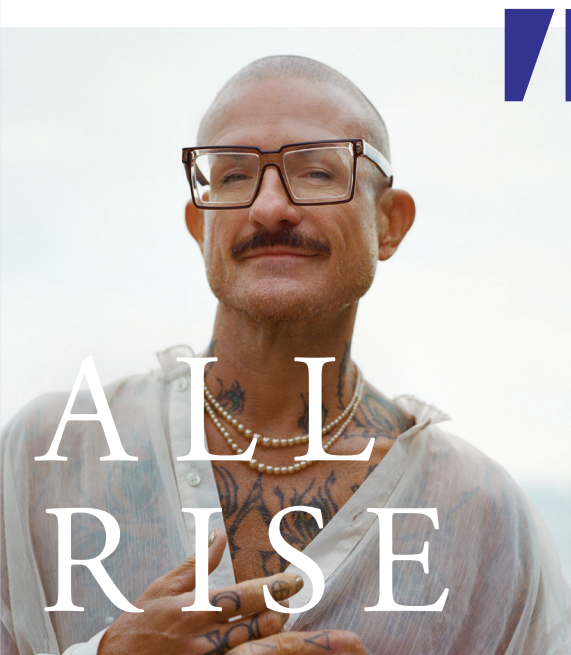
Beyond the courtroom, Lambda Legal is working with partners to preserve access to preventive health care, including PrEP. Challenges to the federal preventive services framework threaten coverage for HIV prevention, cancer screenings, immunizations, and other essential care.

In response, we are partnering with public health leaders and advocates to defend access and promote science-driven standards. We are also supporting efforts to strengthen protections at the state level.

There are reasons for hope. The HIV movement has long been driven by community leadership, storytelling, and litigation. Today, advocates and leaders are coordinating to protect progress. Lambda Legal remains committed to ensuring that science guides public policy and that people living with HIV have access to care, dignity, and equality.



Learn more about the *San Francisco AIDS Foundation v. Trump* - Lambda Legal case here.



## I'm rising and standing up for all the people out there that still live in fear of HIV.

### Addam Moreno's Story

On HIV Is Not a Crime Awareness Day, advocate Addam Moreno reminded us that stigma and misinformation are still shaping laws and policies nationwide. His reflection underscores the urgent need to end HIV criminalization and affirms the dignity of people living with HIV.

Scan the code to read Adam's full blog post on our website.



# Celebrating Parents of Trans Youth



Becky  
Pepper  
Jackson  
and  
Heather  
Jackson

Parents like Heather Jackson have been on the front lines of the fight for fairness and dignity for transgender young people. Alongside Lambda Legal, she has challenged the state of West Virginia so her daughter can participate on her school's track team.

This fight is not just about sports. It is about love, protection, and the strength parents show when they stand up for their children.

"I've been able to be a mother to a child who chose to live authentically since third grade," Heather shared. "I've watched her grow and face battles that no child should have to face just to be herself."

For many parents of transgender youth, the path forward requires unexpected courage. They navigate misinformation, hostile policies, and public scrutiny while ensuring their children feel supported.

Heather has watched her daughter grow into a strong advocate. "Because of Lambda Legal and every person who has donated time, money, expertise, and encouragement to your organization," she said, "I now find myself a mother of a beautiful 16-year-old young lady who exhibits fierce bravery and unfathomable grace."

Behind every legal challenge are families who refuse to let discrimination define their children's futures. Parents often advocate in daily conversations, explaining why inclusion matters to all young people.

To support these efforts, Lambda Legal created our *Trans Youth in Sports Conversation Guide*. The resource helps people discuss transgender participation in school athletics with empathy and clarity. It emphasizes belonging, teamwork, and life lessons.

Participation in sports builds confidence, leadership, and perseverance, and these benefits should be available to every child.

And for parents like Heather, the stakes are personal.

"Without Lambda Legal, I truly believe to my core that there would be more mothers crying because they've lost a child to hate," she said. "Truly, thank you for fighting for all trans young people."

Parents who speak out for their children strengthen this movement. Their love helps ensure that every transgender young person can grow into a strong adult.



Scan the code to view our *Trans Youth in Sports Conversation Guide*.

# ALL RISE

Make a special Pride month gift and double your impact.

ALL GIFTS MATCHED UP TO \$150K

