



## RISING TOGETHER

### LAMBDA LEGAL'S BOLD BLUEPRINT FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

For more than 50 years, Lambda Legal has been fighting for the rights of LGBTQ+ people and everyone living with HIV – and winning. Through groundbreaking litigation, relentless policy advocacy, and expansive public education, we have helped secure landmark victories that delivered freedom, strengthened civil rights, and transformed lives.

But the progress we've made isn't guaranteed. Our hard-won gains are under direct assault — in statehouses, in the courts and from the White House. As attacks on LGBTQ+ rights, access to health care, and civil rights protections escalate, Lambda Legal offers our answer, a new five-year strategic plan built around three priorities:

### Stop Bad Laws • Pass Good Laws • Change Public Opinion

**Rising Together provides a roadmap for protecting progress while advancing equality. The plan will guide our work across litigation, advocacy, and public education. Rising Together reflects our enduring commitment to building a more just and equitable future.**



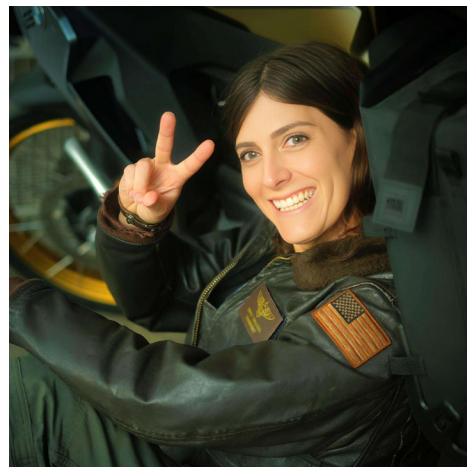
# Stop Bad Laws

For more than 50 years, impact litigation has been at the heart of Lambda Legal's work. By pursuing cases with the potential to reshape laws, policies, and public opinion, we have secured protections that have transformed countless lives.

Our work demands honesty about both victories and setbacks. This summer, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *West Virginia v. B.P.J.*, upholding West Virginia's ban on transgender girls participating on the sports teams that align with their gender. The decision is a devastating setback for transgender young people and their families. Yet, this case serves as a reminder of our commitment — we must challenge discrimination and defend our Constitution's guarantee of equal protection under the law whenever it is threatened.

As attacks on LGBTQ+ rights continue to escalate, our litigation has become more critical than ever. Since 2022, lawmakers have introduced 2,446 anti-LGBTQ+ bills across the country (at least one in every one of our 50 states), with 255 becoming law in 27 states. Lambda Legal is challenging these attacks in courts nationwide, with active litigation in 24 states as of this writing.

Over the next five years, we will hire new attorneys so we can grow our litigation capacity — allowing us to show up in more court rooms and stop more bad laws. We will also evolve our legal arguments, so they appeal to the increasingly-conservative courts we are arguing in — building lasting precedent that supports LGBTQ+ rights.



(Photos, left column, top to bottom)

- *Victory in Lawrence v. Texas* 2003
- *Carcaño v. Cooper*, 2017
- *Benitez v. North Coast Women's Care Medical Group*
- *Alla Pitcherskaia, In re Pitcherskaia* 1991

(Photos, right column, top to bottom)

- *Victory in Iowa v. Brien* 2009
- *Jamie Nabozny, Nabozny v. Podlesny* 1996
- *Isaiah Wilkins, Wilkins v. Hegseth* 2025
- *Commander Emily Shilling, Shilling v. Trump* 2025



# Pass Good Laws

Winning in court is essential. But it is not enough. Lasting equality requires laws and policies that shape everyday life — and that's where Lambda Legal's policy and advocacy work comes in. By advancing legislation and advocating for policies that expand opportunity and prevent discrimination, Lambda Legal works to create durable protections for LGBTQ+ people and everyone living with HIV.

That vision has deep roots. In 1968, one year before Stonewall and five years before Lambda Legal was founded, a small group of advocates issued a bold call for a "Homosexual Bill of Rights." At a time when LGBTQ+ people faced widespread criminalization and discrimination, they imagined a future with legal protections, equal opportunity, and the freedom to live openly. Many of those aspirations seemed impossible.

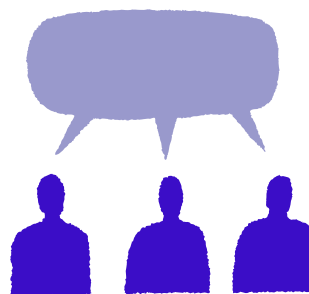
Over the decades that followed, Lambda Legal helped transform many of those goals into reality through groundbreaking litigation, policy advocacy, and public education. The rights that once existed only as aspirations became reality for millions of people.

Today, our work continues with a call for a **New LGBTQ+ Bill of Rights**, a forward-looking vision that builds on this legacy. It calls for quality, affordable health care, inclusive public education, meaningful economic opportunity, a culture of belonging, and a government that protects the constitutional rights of every LGBTQ+ person and everyone living with HIV. To pass good laws, we are building up our policy team with experts who will work with state governments to pass laws that protect our communities.

History reminds us that substantial progress begins with bold ideas. Through sustained advocacy and thoughtful policymaking, we are working to turn today's vision into tomorrow's reality.

## A New LGBTQ+ Bill of Rights

- **Quality, affordable, and culturally competent health care that allows all LGBTQ+ people and everyone living with HIV to thrive.**
- **Public education that respects and cultivates the full potential of every student.**
- **A Society of Opportunity that offers all LGBTQ+ people meaningful and dignified access to the American economy and our society.**
- **A Culture of Belonging for LGBTQ+ people and their families.**
- **A Constitutional Republic that truly represents and serves LGBTQ+ individuals.**



# Change Public Opinion

Legal change alone is not enough to secure lasting equality. Cultural understanding plays an equally important role in shaping how rights are recognized, protected, and exercised. While individual cases can establish important legal precedents in the court of law, sustained progress depends on winning in the court of public opinion as well by changing hearts & minds on our issues.

Education about the rights LGBTQ+ people and everyone living with HIV already have is central to this work. A right you don't know you have is a right you can't use. When people understand their rights, they are better equipped to protect themselves and support their communities.

To support this, Lambda Legal has launched a **Know Your Rights** resource hub, offering practical guidance on topics such as identity document updates for transgender people and protections for LGBTQ+ individuals and families. The hub also connects community members with our Help Desk for general legal information.

These tools are designed to make the law more accessible, but their impact depends on awareness. Spread the word — it is essential that our community knows who Lambda Legal is and that these resources are available as a trusted source of information and support.

# RISING

A 5-YEAR BLUEPRINT FOR OUR FUTURE

# TOGETHER

**Together, these three strategies form an integrated approach to advancing equality.**

Each element reinforces the others. Litigation challenges discriminatory laws, policy work helps prevent harm before it occurs, and public education ensures people understand and can exercise their rights in daily life.

Rising Together reflects this coordinated approach over the next five years. It is a commitment to sustained action across multiple fronts in service of lasting change.

As attacks on LGBTQ+ rights continue, Lambda Legal remains focused on a single goal: ensuring that LGBTQ+ people and everyone living with HIV can live freely, safely and with full equality under the law. That has always been the point. It still is.

**Renew your gift today**  
to ensure Lambda Legal  
can continue to rise in  
our fight for equality.

FUND THE FIGHT

