

SOUTHERN JUSTICE: TIMELINE

SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS*

1975	<i>Enslin v. North Carolina</i> – Only two years after Lambda Legal's founding, we submitted a friend-of-the-court brief to the U.S. Supreme Court challenging North Carolina's sodomy law		
1979	<i>Hyde v. Parrish</i> – A Tennessee judge dismissed a challenge to a lesbian mother's right to the custody of her daughter, which was brought by the child's grandparents because of the mother's sexual orientation		
1987	<i>Shuttleworth v. Broward County</i> – We challenged a Florida county's dismissal of a person with AIDS from employment with the county, resulting in a positive settlement		
1992	<i>Woodward v. Sheriff of Orange County</i> – Our client, a deputy sheriff in Florida, was fired simply because of his relationship with a man; a jury found the sheriff guilty of anti-gay discrimination and the judge ordered our client reinstated with full back pay		
1996	<i>Campbell v. Sundquist</i> – We joined a successful challenge to Tennessee's "Homosexual Practices Act," in which the Tennessee Court of Appeals found that the law violated the State's constitutional right to privacy		
1997	Lambda Legal opened its Southern Regional Office in Atlanta, GA		
1998	<i>Powell v. The State</i> ¹ – Our victorious challenge to Georgia's sodomy law, in which the Georgia Supreme Court struck down the law as unconstitutional	2004	<i>Dunbar v. Foot Locker, Inc.</i> ⁴ – We successfully represented an employee who faced discrimination in his North Carolina workplace because of his sexuality by his supervisors and co-workers
1999	Lambda Legal Staff Attorney Stephen Scarborough received the Outstanding Service to the Stonewall Community Award from Georgia's Stonewall Bar Association	2005	<i>Rowell v. Rowell</i> ⁵ – A Louisiana court ordered our client to keep her children away from their aunt, who has HIV; but we won the appeal and the court modified its order
	<i>City of Atlanta v. Oxendine</i> – We successfully represented then-City Councilwoman Cathy Woolard in her lawsuit against the Georgia Insurance Commissioner, who was withholding approval of Atlanta's domestic partner ninsurance forms		<i>Pelala v. Mike</i> – We successfully settled a lawsuit by a North Carolina man who was fired from his job as a cook because he has HIV
2002	Lambda Legal opened its South Central Regional Office in Dallas, TX	2006	<i>Miller-Jenkins v. Miller-Jenkins</i> – In a groundbreaking decision, the Virginia Court of Appeals ruled in favor of our client, holding that federal law precluded her ex-partner from trying to find an antigay court to decide a custody battle
	<i>Jegley v. Picado</i> ² – Our lawsuit obtained a ruling from the Arkansas Supreme Court striking down that State's ban on consensual sex for adult same-sex couples		<i>Moses v. King</i> – We persuaded the Georgia Court of Appeals to reverse a decision stripping a mother of custody of her child because of her relationship with another woman
	<i>Kaufman v. Virginia Dept. of Social Services</i> – We secured a settlement allowing Linda Kaufman and other lesbian and gay Virginians to adopt across state lines	2007	<i>Roach v. Roach n.k.a. Silverwolf</i> – We led a first-of-its-kind case in Florida, involving our transgender client's fight for alimony from a former spouse
	<i>Perdue v. Mississippi Department of Health</i> – We won a judgment requiring the State to issue a revised birth certificate for a Mississippi-born child that includes the names of both of his adoptive lesbian parents	2008	<i>Central Alabama Pride, Inc. v. Langford</i> – After the mayor of Birmingham, AL announced that he would not provide a permit for Pride based on his religious beliefs, our complaint resulted in a victorious settlement
2003	<i>Lawrence v. Texas</i> ³ – Our landmark Supreme Court case, which struck down remaining sodomy laws across the country and laid the groundwork for future work		Lambda Legal Senior Counsel Ken Upton was the recipient of the Judge Black Award, the highest honor given by the LGBT Law Section of the State Bar of Texas
	<i>Sternbach v. Royal Colonial Apartments</i> – After being denied the opportunity to rent an apartment because he planned to live with his partner, our lawsuit resulted in a favorable settlement in Florida	2009	<i>Franke v. Parkstone Living Center, Inc.</i> ⁶ – We fought successfully for our client, who wanted move into an assisted living facility near his daughter in Arkansas, after officials ejected him because he had HIV
			<i>Langbehn v. Jackson Memorial Hospital</i> ⁷ – Our client was denied proper access to her dying lesbian partner in a Miami hospital; our case resulted in a federal rules mandating LGBT-inclusive hospital visitation rights
			<i>Lopez v. River Oaks Imaging and Diagnostic, Inc.</i> ⁸ – We won a ruling from a Texas federal district court that a woman who was denied employment because she is transgender constitutes discrimination because of sex under federal law
			<i>Ralph v. City of New Orleans</i> – We protected the City of New Orleans' right to maintain a domestic partner registry and to provide employment benefits to same-sex partners of City employees

* Look inside for further information on the footnoted cases

Lambda Legal Transgender Rights Attorney Cole Thaler received the Outstanding Service to the Stonewall Community Award from Georgia's Stonewall Bar Association

2010 *Calhoun v. Pennington*⁹ – We won an appeal against the Atlanta Police Department after it disqualified a Georgia man living with HIV who applied to be a police officer, claiming that his HIV status made him a "threat" to others

2011 *Glenn v. Brumby et al.*¹⁰ – Our victorious landmark transgender rights case, on behalf of our client who was fired from her job at the Georgia General Assembly after she told her supervisor that she planned to transition from male to female

Adar v. Smith – We fought for a gay couple seeking to add both of their names to the birth certificate for their Louisiana-born adopted child; although ultimately unsuccessful, our case highlighted the continued struggle for the recognition of our families

2012 *Roe v. City of Atlanta*¹¹ – We successfully sued the Atlanta Police Department after it raided a gay bar called the Atlanta Eagle, forcing patrons to lie face-down on the floor in spilled beer and broken glass

2013 *McGee v. Cole*¹² – We filed our West Virginia marriage equality case on behalf of three same-sex couples seeking the freedom to marry, and the child of one of the couples

*Harris et al. v. Rainey et al. and Bostic v. Schaefer*¹³ – Our marriage equality lawsuit was certified as a class action, representing all same-sex couples in Virginia who wish to marry here or who have married in other jurisdictions

*Freeman v. Parker*¹⁴ – We sued the City of Houston to require it to recognize the marriages of its gay employees and their same-sex spouses for the purpose of providing spousal employment benefits

2014 *Hatcher v. DeSoto County Board of Education, et al.*¹⁵ – Our client, a high school student, was denied by school administrators the opportunity to participate in GLSEN's National Day of Silence; we fought for her rights and the school board amended its policies

*Inniss v. Aderhold*¹⁶ – Our Georgia marriage equality lawsuit argues that Georgia's marriage ban unfairly discriminates against same-sex couples

In re Adoption of D.P.P. – We successfully appealed a Florida trial court decision concerning a stepparent adoption and secured our client's status as a second parent to the child

*East v. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana*¹⁷ – Our lawsuit helped to avert a crisis after Louisiana insurance companies tried to deny insurance to lower-income Louisianans living with HIV

Our work continues...

* Look inside for further information on the footnoted cases

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making the case for equality



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SOUTHERN JUSTICE: LAMBDA LEGAL

SELECTED CASE HIGHLIGHTS*

GOVERNMENT MISCONDUCT

LANDMARK

TRANS RIGHTS

WORKPLACE



We fought for Janice Langbehn, who was denied proper access to her lesbian partner as her partner lay dying in a Miami hospital. Our case resulted in President Obama ordering federal rules to be written on hospital visitation rights that are inclusive of LGBT people.

*Langbehn v. Jackson Memorial Hospital*⁷

Dr. Robert Franke, a 75-year-old university provost and minister, relocated to Little Rock, Arkansas to be near his daughter and moved into an assisted living facility. We filed suit against the facility after officials abruptly ejected Dr. Franke because he had HIV. The lawsuit resulted in a positive settlement.

*Franke v. Parkstone Living Center, Inc.*⁶

Lambda Legal's lawsuit helped avert a crisis after three Louisiana insurance companies tried to use a loophole to avoid providing insurance to lower-income Louisianans living with HIV.

*East v. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana*¹⁷

WE NOW HAVE FILED MARRIAGE EQUALITY LAWSUITS IN GEORGIA,¹⁶ WEST VIRGINIA,¹² AND VIRGINIA!¹³ IN ADDITION, WE HAVE ALSO FILED FRIEND-OF-THE-COURT BRIEFS IN PENDING MARRIAGE EQUALITY LAWSUITS IN LOUISIANA AND MARRIAGE RECOGNITION/DIVORCE LAWSUITS IN THE TEXAS SUPREME COURT. *McGee v. Cole*¹² | *Harris et al. v. Rainey et al.* and *Bostic v. Schaefer*¹³ | *Inniss v. Aderhold*¹⁶

The Atlanta Police Department disqualified a Georgia man living with HIV who applied to be a police officer, claiming that his HIV status made him a "threat" to others. After the City of Atlanta won a judgment, we became involved with the appeal and reversed the judgment and secured a favorable settlement.

*Roe v. City of Atlanta*¹¹

Keri Rowell was told that she must keep her children from seeing her sister, who has HIV and who had always played an active role in the children's lives. Within days of filing our brief on Keri's behalf, we won the reversal of the custody restriction by the Mississippi court and the children were reunited with their aunt.

*Rowell v. Rowell*⁵

We sued the City of Houston, Texas, to require it to recognize the marriages of its gay employees and their same-sex spouses performed in states where they are permitted to marry for the purpose of providing spousal employment benefits.

*Freeman v. Parker*¹⁴



We advocated for high school student Amber Hatcher, who faced discrimination at her Florida high school, including being denied by school administrators the opportunity to participate in GLSEN's National Day of Silence. Amber's courage and our lawsuit led the school board to institute new policies, including the addition of sexual orientation and gender identity to its anti-harassment code and a new freedom of speech policy in line with the First Amendment.

*Hatcher v. DeSoto County Board of Education, et al.*¹⁵



Lambda Legal's landmark U.S. Supreme Court case overturned all remaining state sodomy laws. The decision's sweeping language about gay people's equal right to liberty recognized that love and intimacy are just as important to same-sex couples as different-sex couples and marked a new era of legal respect for the LGBT community. Even beyond its direct legal effects, this case helped shift the formerly widespread public perception of LGBT people as criminals to instead recognizing us as individuals engaged in intimate, caring relationships. This victory meant that our community's legal and political resources were freed up from fighting the nation's remaining sodomy laws and could instead be redirected to fighting for workplace fairness, fair parenting laws, students' rights, transgender rights, health care fairness, and, of course, protections for those in same-sex relationships.

*Lawrence v. Texas*³



The Atlanta Police Department raided a gay bar called the Atlanta Eagle. During the raid, patrons were detained, searched and forced to lie face-down on the floor in spilled beer and broken glass. Our lawsuit resulted in a cash settlement and an agreement by the police to rewrite unconstitutional policies and make changes to protect the public from police misconduct.

*Calhoun v. Pennington*⁹

Lambda Legal, as a friend of the court, helped defeat Georgia's 182-year-old sodomy law,¹ 12 years after the U.S. Supreme Court upheld Georgia's sodomy law in the now-infamous *Bowers v. Hardwick* and five years before the Supreme Court struck down similar laws across the country. In 2002, we also invalidated the Arkansas sodomy law.² *Powell v. The State*¹ | *Jegley v. Picado*²

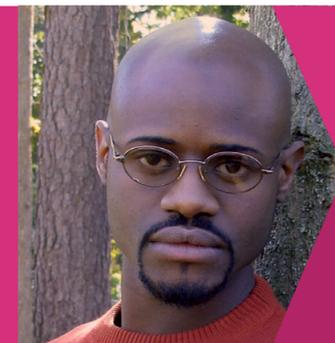
We obtained a ruling from a Texas federal district court (the first of its kind in the region) that a woman who was denied employment because she is transgender constitutes discrimination because of sex under federal law.

*Lopez v. River Oaks Imaging and Diagnostic, Inc.*⁸



In this landmark transgender rights case, we brought a lawsuit on behalf of Vandy Beth Glenn, who was fired from her job at the Georgia General Assembly after she told her supervisor that she planned to transition from male to female. Our victory has been relied upon in subsequent successful transgender rights cases.

*Glenn v. Brumby et al.*¹⁰



Our lawsuit against a South Carolina retailer resulted in a victorious settlement for Kevin Dunbar, who suffered severe antigay harassment and discrimination at the hands of his coworkers, supervisors and a customer. The settlement also committed Foot Locker, Inc. to better train its managers and employees about antigay harassment and provide resources to address this problem.

*Dunbar v. Foot Locker, Inc.*⁴

* Footnotes correspond to case name on Timeline