

**HISTORIC DAY AT THE SUPREME COURT!**  
PAVING THE WAY FOR MARRIAGE IN MORE STATES P. 6

**CONGRATULATIONS,  
AMBER HATCHER**  
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# Impact

FALL 2014



## WE CAN DO IT!

**WORKPLACE RIGHTS NEWS FROM LAMBDA LEGAL:**

- \* OUR NEW ONLINE GUIDE, *KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AT WORK*
- \* OUR CAMPAIGN TO STRENGTHEN ENDA'S PROTECTIONS
- \* PRESIDENT OBAMA'S EXECUTIVE ORDER

LAMBDA LEGAL COMMUNITY  
EDUCATOR ARON COBBS

 **Lambda Legal**  
making the case for equality

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# Fighting for Fairness at Work



Workplace discrimination is a critical issue for our community: From the thousands of calls for help we receive at Lambda Legal each year, we know that employment problems are among the most frequent faced by LGBT and HIV-positive people. That's why we were so alarmed when the U.S. Supreme Court held in June that some corporations can use religious beliefs as an excuse to discriminate against their employees.

In its controversial *Hobby Lobby* decision, the Court held that family-owned businesses can refuse to pay for insurance coverage for contraception, despite the requirements of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), just because their owners have religious objections. The implications of *Hobby Lobby* for LGBT people were immediately clear to Lambda Legal (see page 3)—especially when the decision was cited to defend discrimination against a lesbian couple in a Lambda Legal case in Hawai'i (see page 4).

*Hobby Lobby* was also front and center when Lambda Legal joined in July with other LGBT rights groups in withdrawing support for the current version of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) in Congress because it includes a broad provision allowing religious organizations to discriminate based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

There has been exciting progress for fairness at work: President Obama issued an executive order protecting transgender federal employees and the LGBT employees of federal contractors. In September, Lambda Legal launched "Know Your Rights at Work" ([lambdalegal.org/kyr/workplace](http://lambdalegal.org/kyr/workplace)), a new hub on our website offering tools for identifying and challenging workplace discrimination against LGBT and HIV-positive people and explaining the current legal landscape.

The continued march toward the freedom to marry is Lambda Legal's other big story in this issue of *Impact* (see page 6). On October 6, the Supreme Court let stand marriage victories in five states including in Lambda Legal cases in Virginia and Indiana. And on October 7, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of marriage equality in our Nevada case and in Idaho. Once all the states in the 4th, 7th, 9th, and 10th Circuits follow the lead of their courts of appeal, same-sex couples will have the freedom to marry in 35 states and the District of Columbia.

There were also exciting new Lambda Legal victories on behalf of LGBT rights at a Florida high school (Amber Hatcher, page 8); defeating HIV criminalization in Iowa (Nick Rhoades, page 5); supporting same-sex partners' right to employee death benefits in Alaska (Debbie Harris, page 5); and advocating for a transgender woman mistreated at a halfway house in Illinois (Donisha McShan, page 13).

The fallout from *Hobby Lobby* and the marriage cases shows that Lambda Legal's extraordinary successes around the country must be celebrated, but never taken for granted. Lambda Legal will continue to fight for the rights of LGBT people and those living with HIV in every part of the country—when courts, Congress and policy-makers are on our side and when they are not.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LAMBDA LEGAL WAS ALARMED WHEN THE U.S. SUPREME COURT HELD IN *HOBBY LOBBY* THAT MANY CORPORATIONS CAN USE RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AS AN EXCUSE TO DISCRIMINATE AGAINST THEIR EMPLOYEES.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

# Workplace Discrimination

Lambda Legal weighed in on three major battles over religious exemptions from nondiscrimination laws: the Supreme Court's *Hobby Lobby* decision, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) in Congress and new workplace protections from President Obama.



LGBT rights were front and center when protestors marched in front of the U.S. Supreme Court earlier this year, prior to the controversial *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby* decision allowing some business owners to cite religious beliefs as a reason not to abide by antidiscrimination laws.

ONE OF THE DISAPPOINTMENTS FROM THE SUPREME COURT'S SEASON was the *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores* decision on June 30. It was a blow to women's reproductive freedom and workers' rights—and Lambda Legal worked hard both before and after the decision to minimize its effects on LGBT workers' rights.

Right away, it was clear at Lambda Legal that many employers would try to use *Hobby Lobby*—which held that family-owned businesses can cite religious beliefs and exclude contraception from their employees' health insurance, despite the requirements of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA)—to discriminate against LGBT workers as well.

**"YOUR RIGHT TO SWING YOUR ARMS ENDS JUST WHERE THE OTHER MAN'S NOSE BEGINS."**

—JUSTICE GINSBURG, FROM HER *HOBBY LOBBY* DISSENTING OPINION

"Today's 5-4 ruling disregards decades of case law that drew a protective line between free religious expression and religious dominance of others," said Jenny Pizer, Director of Lambda Legal's Law and Policy Project.

Pizer put *Hobby Lobby* in a larger, troubling context. "The [*Hobby Lobby*] litigation is the fruit of an intensive strategy by today's religious conservative movement," she said. "At Lambda Legal, we wrangle often

with its law firms in our marriage and discrimination cases. And while they are losing dramatically on marriage, they have been ramping up their drive for religious exemptions to LGBT rights laws as well as to the ACA, and especially the inclusion of birth control within basic care coverage for women.”

It was with this strategy in mind that, back in 2013 and in early 2014, Lambda Legal submitted friend-of-the-court briefs in *Hobby Lobby* and numerous similar cases. Our briefs argued that large for-profit corporations like Hobby Lobby should follow the same rules as other companies that sell products to the general public and not be free to impose their owners’ religious views on employees or selectively block insurance to interfere with employees’ decisions about family planning and other medical treatment.

Lambda Legal is confident the concerns we raised regarding effects on nondiscrimination laws were heard. Pizer said that in *Hobby Lobby*, all nine Supreme Court justices appeared aware that the ruling would be seen as threatening for LGBT people and others. The majority offered assurance that the Court’s decision provides no “shield” for discrimination even if “cloaked as religious practice.” And Justice Kennedy separately stressed that religious exercise must not “unduly restrict other persons, such as employees.” Still, the dissenting justices voiced legitimate alarm that the decision’s elevation of religious rights over other interests may well be invoked with discriminatory effects.

It didn’t take long to see the effects of *Hobby Lobby*. Some opponents of LGBT equality immediately tried to use the decision as a defense for discrimination in violation of state law (see “Hawai’i: Lambda Legal’s B&B Case Is Back in the News,” below).

Then came a dramatic series of national policy developments in which the reverberations of *Hobby Lobby* were apparent. On the congressional front, the Supreme Court decision helped prompt a July 8 announcement by Lambda Legal, the American Civil Liberties Union, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, National Center for Lesbian Rights and Transgender Law Center withdrawing support for the proposed federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) bill. The reason: the already too-broad religious exemption in the current version of ENDA became clearly unacceptable in the “religious refusal” context created by *Hobby Lobby*.

“ENDA’s discriminatory provision, unprecedented in federal laws

## NEW ONLINE GUIDE KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AT WORK



Lambda Legal has just published a new online guide to workplace rights for LGBT people and those living with HIV called “Know Your Rights at Work.”



VISIT [lambdalegal.org/know-your-rights/workplace](http://lambdalegal.org/know-your-rights/workplace)

prohibiting employment discrimination, could provide religiously affiliated organizations—including hospitals, nursing homes and universities—a blank check to engage in workplace discrimination against LGBT people,” the groups said in a joint statement. “The provision essentially says that anti-LGBT discrimination is different—more acceptable and legitimate—than discrimination against individuals based on their race or sex.”

Lambda Legal had already stressed in spring 2013 that the religious exemption in the ENDA bill must be narrowed consistent with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the federal law barring race and sex discrimination in employment. This year’s statement reiterated this demand, saying it was vital to “achieve the long-sought goal of explicit, effective federal nondiscrimination protections for LGBT people.”

The religious exemptions issue came up again on July 21 when President Obama issued an Executive Order banning discrimination against LGBT workers by federal contractors and against federal government employees who are transgender. The president’s move was widely welcomed, and hailed for not including

new religious exemptions. However, his silence on that issue left intact an executive order from the George W. Bush administration that allows religious contractors to favor workers who share their religious beliefs when hiring for projects funded by tax dollars.

According to Pizer, the justices’ comments in *Hobby Lobby* about discrimination show our concerns were taken seriously but also spotlight the importance of remaining vigilant in the fights ahead over workplace and reproductive rights that already are heated in Congress, state legislatures and the courts. **L**

## "EQUALITY IN THE WORKPLACE IS NOT ONLY THE RIGHT THING TO DO, IT TURNS OUT TO BE GOOD BUSINESS."

—PRESIDENT OBAMA, SIGNING ORDERS  
JULY 21 TO PROTECT LGBT EMPLOYEES  
FROM DISCRIMINATION



Taeko Bufford and Diane Cervelli

## HAWAI'I: LAMBDA LEGAL'S B&B CASE IS BACK IN THE NEWS

One Lambda Legal case took an immediate turn following the Supreme Court’s *Hobby Lobby* decision. On August 4, Lambda Legal and the Hawai’i Civil Rights Commission urged the intermediate Court of Appeals of the State of Hawai’i to reject a new argument that *Hobby Lobby* makes it legal for a commercial business offering lodging to refuse a lesbian couple based on the owner’s religious disapproval of same-sex couples.

In April 2013, the First Circuit Court of Hawai’i ruled in favor of the couple—Diane Cervelli and Taeko Bufford—and Aloha Bed & Breakfast has appealed.

“While the *Hobby Lobby* ruling is very troubling,” said Lambda Legal Staff Attorney Peter Renn, “the Court made clear that it wasn’t handing businesses a license to discriminate.”



Debbie Harris had to fight for survivor benefits after her partner was killed at work.

## ALASKA

## Lambda Legal Wins Benefits for Same-Sex Survivors

On July 25, the Alaska Supreme Court unanimously ruled that it was unconstitutional for the State of Alaska to discriminate against Lambda Legal client Debbie Harris and other same-sex survivors of partners killed on the job with respect to survivor benefits declined under Alaska's workers' compensation law.

Until this important ruling, the government had categorically denied requests from same-sex survivors like Harris because, according to a state statute, only "widowers and widows" are eligible, and Alaska does not allow same-sex couples to marry.

"Like the avalanche of decisions we're seeing from every corner of this country, the court recognized that loving, committed same-sex couples should have equal access to the law's protection," said Lambda Legal Staff Attorney Peter Renn.

Harris's partner was shot and killed at Anchorage's Millennium Hotel in 2011 by a disgruntled ex-employee. The government turned down Harris's request for survivor benefits—which are designed to minimize disruption to family members who had relied upon the deceased worker's income.

Lambda Legal argued that excluding a surviving same-sex partner's access to such benefits violated constitutional guarantees of equal protection.

The July decision continues the Alaska Supreme Court's streak of striking down discrimination. In April, the Court held that the state could not deny property tax exemptions to same-sex couples.

## IOWA

## HIV Criminalization Ruling Could Have National Reach

The Iowa Supreme Court on June 13 threw out Nick Rhoades's 2011 conviction under the state's HIV criminalization law, in a ruling that could help derail similar efforts around the country to prosecute people living with HIV. Lambda Legal, which litigated the Rhoades appeal and argued before the Court on his behalf in March, cited the Iowa decision in a July 17 call for a national moratorium on such cases.

The Court explicitly recognized that HIV-positive people who have a reduced viral load as a result of effective treatment pose little risk of transmitting the virus. Rhoades's viral load was undetectable when he had sex with the man who filed charges against him and they used a condom—making transmission almost impossible.

"The importance of the Iowa Supreme Court's decision cannot be overstated," said Christopher Clark, Counsel for Lambda Legal. "We will take this Court's clear guidance on the interpretation and application of these types of laws to the many jurisdictions in which HIV criminalization remains a pressing issue."

Thirty-nine states have HIV-specific criminal statutes or have brought HIV-related criminal charges resulting in more than 160 prosecutions during the past four years.

Lambda Legal's call for a moratorium followed a U.S. Justice Department report in March that advised states to stop prosecuting people under these laws unless there is clear evidence of intent to harm and a significant risk of HIV transmission.



## NEW MARRIAGE LAWSUIT ON VETERAN BENEFITS

On August 18, Lambda Legal filed a lawsuit challenging the federal government's denial of benefits to same-sex spouses of veterans living in states that refuse to recognize their marriages. We argue that the policy violates last year's **U.S. Supreme Court's decision** striking down the so-called **Defense of Marriage Act**. "No members of our community should be left behind just because their home state continues to discriminate against their marriage," said Susan Sommer, Director of Constitutional Litigation at Lambda Legal.

The suit names the Secretary of Veterans Affairs as defendant and is brought on behalf of the American Military Partner Association (AMPA), an advocacy organization dedicated to supporting partners and spouses of LGBT troops and veterans.

# MARRIAGE ON THE MOVE

THE SUPREME COURT PAVES THE WAY FOR MARRIAGE IN MORE STATES.



**INDIANA** Lambda Legal Midwest Regional Director Jim Bennett and Rep. Greg Harris with plaintiffs Henry Green and Glenn Funkhouser and their son, Casey.

**O**N OCTOBER 6, THE U.S. SUPREME COURT SAID it would not review any of the federal circuit court decisions before it that struck down five states' marriage bans, but instead let all the decisions stand. The impact reaches far beyond just Virginia, Indiana, Utah, Oklahoma and Wisconsin.

By the time this edition of *Impact* magazine reaches your mailbox, there could very well be a total of 35 states plus the District of Columbia where same-sex couples have the freedom to marry. Our journey for marriage equality across the country just took a giant leap forward—but our work is not yet done.

Lambda Legal won a victory in Virginia at the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals along with our partners at the ACLU and Ted Olson, David Boies and other co-counsel. Once that decision became final, it impacted the other states within the 4th Circuit, which includes West Virginia, South Carolina and North Carolina. Immediately after the Supreme Court's action, Lambda Legal filed papers asking the court in our West Virginia case to issue a decision to end the exclusion of same-sex couples from marriage, in compliance with the 4th Circuit.

Lambda Legal's victory in Indiana along with the ACLU, who also represented the couples in Wisconsin, means that same-sex couples in all the states in the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals now have the freedom to marry.

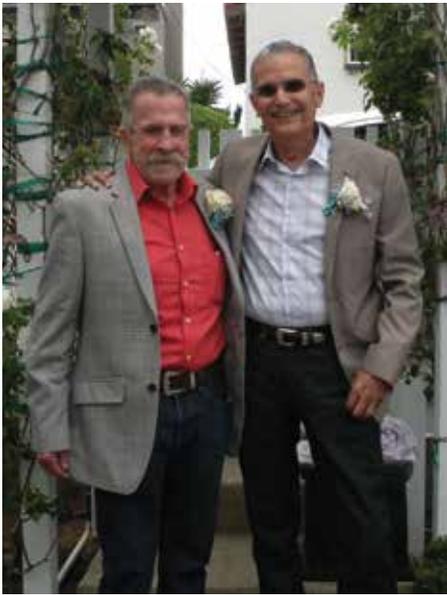
The Utah and Oklahoma victories in the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals also pave the way for other states in that federal circuit. Congratulations to our colleagues at the National Center for Lesbian Rights and Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders. The Colorado attorney general immediately issued a statement affirming that local officials must begin allowing same-sex couples to marry. Lawyers in Wyoming and Kansas are planning quick action, too.

That means that, in addition to Virginia, Indiana, Wisconsin, Utah and Oklahoma, same-sex couples in Colorado, Kansas, North Carolina, South Carolina, West Virginia and Wyoming who want to marry should be able to soon start to plan their weddings as well.

Officials in Missouri also announced that they will no longer fight for the marriage ban and will begin respecting the out-of-state marriages of same-sex couples.

We are not done yet. As we went to press, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of marriage equality in our Nevada case and in Idaho. The 9th circuit also includes Arizona, where Lambda Legal is currently representing couples, as well as Montana and Alaska. We are awaiting one more federal circuit court decision: the 6th Circuit, which includes Ohio (another state where Lambda Legal is representing couples) as well as Michigan, Kentucky and Tennessee.

"This is a historic moment for our country," said Lambda Legal Executive Director Kevin Cathcart, "but we have already heard from couples in other states asking: 'When will it be our turn to celebrate?' We need



**ARIZONA** Fred McQuire and his late husband, George Martinez, had been together 45 years.



**PUERTO RICO** Yolanda Arroyo Pizarro and Zulma Oliveras Vega are among the plaintiff couples in this newly expanded case.

**"THIS IS A HISTORIC MOMENT FOR OUR COUNTRY, BUT WE HAVE ALREADY HEARD FROM COUPLES IN OTHER STATES ASKING: 'WHEN WILL IT BE OUR TURN TO CELEBRATE?' WE NEED TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR EVERY SAME-SEX COUPLE—NO MATTER WHERE THEY HAPPEN TO LIVE—TO HAVE THE PROTECTIONS AND DIGNITY THAT THE FREEDOM TO MARRY PROVIDES."**

—LAMBDA LEGAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KEVIN CATHCART

to make it possible for every same-sex couple—no matter where they happen to live—to have the protections and dignity that the freedom to marry provides."

*For breaking marriage news and expert analysis from Lambda Legal as developments unfold, visit [lambdalegal.org/blog/topic/marriage](http://lambdalegal.org/blog/topic/marriage).*

**So what's left on Lambda Legal's docket?**

**LOUISIANA**

Lambda Legal has joined as co-counsel in the federal case *Robicheaux v. George* in Louisiana, located within the 5th Circuit, which includes Texas and Mississippi.

**GEORGIA**

On September 5, Lambda Legal responded to a motion from Georgia's attorney general to dismiss *Inniss v. Aderhold*, a federal lawsuit challenging the state's discriminatory marriage

ban. Lambda Legal originally filed the lawsuit in April on behalf of three same-sex couples and a surviving spouse who has been denied an accurate death certificate; another couple was added to the case on September 4. Georgia is in the 11th Circuit, which includes Alabama and Florida.

**PUERTO RICO**

On June 25, Lambda Legal joined a lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico, seeking the freedom to marry for same-sex couples there. The suit also asks the commonwealth to recognize the marriages of same-sex couples legally entered in other jurisdictions.

The lawsuit, now called *Conde v. Garcia Padilla*, had been filed in March on behalf of one couple; the new case adds four plaintiff couples and Puerto Rico Para Tod@s, a leading LGBT advocacy organization on the island. Puerto Rico is the only jurisdiction in the 1st Circuit that does not allow same-sex couples to marry.

**THE BIG PICTURE**



**FOR BREAKING MARRIAGE NEWS AND EXPERT ANALYSIS**  
from Lambda Legal in the wake of the Supreme Court's big October 6 announcement, visit [lambdalegal.org/blog/topic/marriage](http://lambdalegal.org/blog/topic/marriage)

**ALSO**  
Check out our online marriage map at [lambdalegal.org/pending-marriage-equality-cases](http://lambdalegal.org/pending-marriage-equality-cases)

**NORTH DAKOTA**

On June 9, Lambda Legal filed a lawsuit in North Dakota seeking recognition of out-of-state marriages. Six days after filing the complaint, Lambda Legal filed a motion asking the court to decide the case for the plaintiffs. The state responded by asking the court to dismiss the case, *Jorgensen v. Montplaisir*. The case now is fully briefed by both sides and ready for a final decision any day. North Dakota is in the 8th Circuit, which includes North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Arkansas. The other states in that circuit, Iowa, Minnesota and soon Missouri, respect marriages of same-sex couples.



Amber Hatcher and the First Amendment won big at her Florida high school.

## FLORIDA

### Victory in “Day of Silence” High School Case

Lambda Legal announced an important victory July 23 on behalf of 17-year-old Florida high school student Amber Hatcher and freedom of expression. Hatcher’s school system agreed to a settlement that included policy changes to better respect the rights of student protestors and LGBTQ students.

Hatcher was suspended in April 2012 for participating in the national Day of Silence, an annual student-led action sponsored by Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN) to call attention to the silencing effect of anti-LGBTQ bullying and harassment in schools.

“I feel proud that I took a stand that created positive change at my school,” said Hatcher of the settlement with the DeSoto County Board of Education, “and I hope that other students will feel like they can stand up against bullying too.”

Under the settlement, the school board agreed to include sexual orientation and gender identity in its anti-harassment code and institute a freedom of speech policy in line with the First Amendment.

Lambda Legal first became involved in the case when Hatcher was denied permission to participate in the 2012 Day of Silence. Lambda Legal sent a letter to the principal and superintendent. But when Hatcher arrived at school wearing a T-shirt reading “DOS April 20, 2012: Shhhhh” and used a dry-erase board to communicate, she was suspended for the day.

When the settlement was announced, Lambda Legal Senior Attorney Beth Littrell said, “If school officials had any doubt before, it’s clear now: First Amendment rights apply to all students on every day of the year, and efforts to silence LGBTQ youth will not go unchallenged.”

 VISIT [lambdalegal.org/hatcher](http://lambdalegal.org/hatcher)



Fighting for the domestic partnership law before the Wisconsin Supreme Court: Lambda Legal Midwest Regional Director Jim Bennett, Fair Wisconsin External Relations Director Megin McDonell, Lambda Legal Litigation Coordinator Cheryl Angelaccio, Lambda Legal Fellow Sean Karunaratne, Lambda Legal Counsel Christopher Clark, Fair Wisconsin President and CEO Katie Belanger and Lambda Legal Public Information Officer Erik Roldan.

## WISCONSIN

### Domestic Partnership Law Survives 5-Year Challenge

On July 31, the Wisconsin Supreme Court upheld as constitutional a 2009 law establishing a domestic partnership registry. The unanimous decision ends a five-year battle fought by Lambda Legal on behalf of Fair Wisconsin, an LGBT advocacy group, and five same-sex couples.

“We’re thrilled that Wisconsin same-sex couples can keep the limited but very important protections that the domestic partnership registry grants them,” said Christopher Clark, Counsel for Lambda Legal.

Those protections, conferred in 2009 when Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle signed the domestic partnership law into effect, include hospital visitation, the ability to take family medical leave to care for a sick or injured partner and 41 other rights. (Married couples, by contrast, have more than 200 rights under state law and more than 1,000 under federal law.)

Lambda Legal became involved when Wisconsin Family Action, an antigay group, filed suit seeking to have the law declared unconstitutional under the state amendment prohibiting marriage for same-sex couples.

Marriage is next up for Wisconsin same-sex couples, Clark said after the July decision. “We look forward to the day—fast approaching—when Wisconsin will join its neighbors to the south and west and the growing number of states across the country where same-sex couples have the freedom to marry, rendering limited domestic partnership registry unnecessary,” he said.

In early September, the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals issued a strong rejection of Wisconsin’s ban on same-sex marriage in *Wolf v. Walker*, an ACLU case—and did the same in Lambda Legal’s Indiana marriage case, *Baskin v. Bogan*. Illinois, the third state in the 7th Circuit, already has a law in place allowing same-sex couples to marry.

 VISIT [lambdalegal.org/appling](http://lambdalegal.org/appling)



# CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES (CGA)

**MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR RETIREMENT FUNDS WHILE LEAVING A LEGACY GIFT TO EQUALITY**

When you support Lambda Legal with a legacy gift or charitable gift annuity (CGA), you become a member of the Guardian Society, a growing group of more than 1,000 individuals who have taken the extra initiative for the future of equality by including us in their estate plans. It's simple: Just make Lambda Legal a beneficiary of your will, retirement plan, life insurance, trusts or other estate planning vehicles, or establish a charitable gift annuity.

As a member of the Guardian Society, you will be recognized each year with a listing in the Lambda Legal Annual Report.

For free and confidential information about CGAs or other legacy giving opportunities, or to let us know you have already included Lambda Legal in your estate plans, please contact Thai Pham, Senior Director of Legacy Giving, at [tpham@lambdalegal.org](mailto:tpham@lambdalegal.org), or call at 212-809-8585, ext. 214. You can also complete the enclosed form and return it to us.

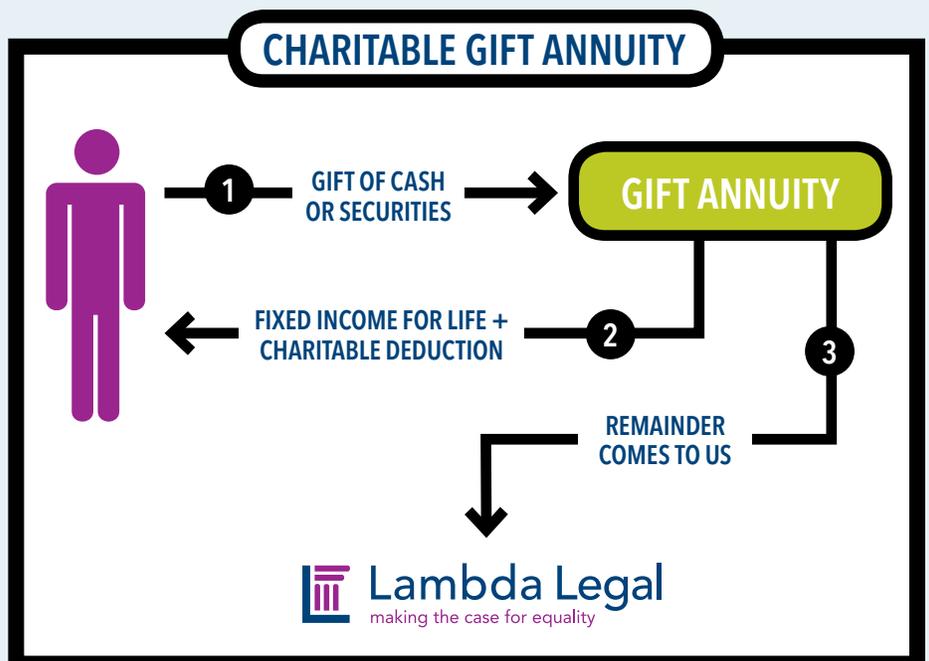
It is important that you consult with your attorney, accountant and/or financial advisor to determine the planned giving options that are best for you. Lambda Legal is a 501(c)(3) and gifts to us are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Our legal name is Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. Our taxpayer ID is 23-7395681.

A **charitable gift annuity (CGA)** is a great planned giving vehicle. A CGA is a contract under which Lambda Legal agrees to make fixed payments for life to you or your designated beneficiary in exchange for an irrevocable gift of \$10,000 or more. If you are 55 or older, consider establishing a CGA that will support Lambda Legal's vital work while providing retirement income to you or a loved one. CGA payments can begin when the beneficiary reaches the age of 60.

CGAs often provide returns greater than those of money market accounts, CDs, commercial annuities or stock dividends.

## SOME ADVANTAGES OF CGAS

- A reliable, partially tax-free stream of income beginning as early as age 60 to supplement retirement.
- An immediate charitable income tax deduction based on Lambda Legal's remainder interest in the annuity (calculated based on the age of the beneficiary[ies]).
- Deferment of capital gains taxes when the CGA is funded with appreciated securities.



# HOW A CGA CAN WORK FOR YOU – AND FOR EQUALITY

## LAMBDA LEGAL OFFERS 3 TYPES OF CGAS:

**1 ONE-LIFE CGA:**  
*Only you or your designated beneficiary (minimum age of 60) will receive income from your contributions. The rate of return is greater than if two people are designated to receive income.*

### FOR INSTANCE\*

George is 77 and retired. He has income from a pension and Social Security as well as some interest income from a savings account. George wants to increase the income from his money market but is fearful of a high risk investment. He purchases a \$20,000 CGA from Lambda Legal. Under the current rate of 6.2%, George is guaranteed an annual income of \$1,240, paid in quarterly installments of \$310. George receives an immediate tax deduction of \$9,175.80 and \$974.64 of his annual income is tax-free for 11.1 years. In addition to the income and tax benefits, George enjoys the satisfaction of making a major contribution to Lambda Legal's work.

**2 TWO-LIFE CGA:**  
*You can provide income for you and a designated second, successive beneficiary. The age of both will be used to calculate your rate of return and the tax deductible portion.*

### FOR INSTANCE

MJ, age 62, and Lori, age 65, raised a family with MJ as the stay-at-home parent. The couple currently lives in Athens, GA and Lori is planning for their retirement income. Lori chooses to establish a two-life CGA with Lambda Legal with \$151,870 in appreciated stock, which she originally purchased for \$50,000. Lori receives an immediate tax deduction of \$21,972.55. Instead of paying all the capital gains tax in the year she creates the annuity, the capital gains tax obligation is spread out over her and MJ's life expectancy. MJ and Lori now receive an annual payment of \$6,378.56. For 19.9 years, \$636.65 of that income is tax free; \$4,376.90 is capital gains income; and \$1,365.01 is ordinary income. If either passes away, the other will continue to receive the income for life. They both enjoy the security of the guaranteed income and the fact that they are providing for equality.

**3 DEFERRED CGA:**  
*Ideal for younger donors or those who have not yet retired. It can be purchased at age 55 or older. You can defer receipt of payments on your one-life or two-life CGA until after you (and/or your designated beneficiary) reach age 60.*

### FOR INSTANCE

Jim is 55 years old and beginning to think about his retirement at age 60. Jim establishes a deferred CGA with a contribution of \$35,000 and receives an immediate tax deduction of \$8,824.90 for his gift. In five years, Jim will collect guaranteed annual income of \$1,785, \$1,085.28 of which is tax-free and \$699.72 of which is ordinary income. He has elected to receive quarterly payments of \$446.25. After 24.1 years from the date the first payment is made, the payments become ordinary income.

*\*Examples are for illustration only.*

*Please note: This is not legal advice. Any prospective donor should seek the advice of a qualified estate and/or tax professional to determine the consequences of his or her gift.*

GUARDIAN SOCIETY PROFILE

# The Critcher Family

Clayton Critcher came out to his parents just one month before Lambda Legal’s landmark 2003 victory in *Lawrence v. Texas*. The news served as an eye opener for his parents, Adrienne and Robert, who had previously not understood the breadth of the discrimination faced by LGBT people. The family began to follow the case closely, together. “That’s what happens when the closet is left behind,” explains Clayton’s mother, Adrienne. “Families get to fully participate in each other’s lives. No family can be whole when anyone feels they can’t be who they really are.”

Thus began Adrienne and her husband Robert’s accomplished careers as activists. In their hometown of Shreveport, LA, Adrienne is a founding member of People Acting for Change and Equality (PACE), Northwest Louisiana’s primary advocacy organization for the LGBT community; Robert and Clayton are charter members. Adrienne has helped pass both private and public employment nondiscrimination laws in Shreveport; served on the board of a resource center for those with HIV and AIDS; and been recognized multiple times for her work towards equality. “Our family is grateful to be part of this grassroots work that is going on all over the country,” she says, “but we know that it takes the best legal minds like those at Lambda Legal to carry out litigation that will make sure our country is held accountable for making good on its promise of liberty and justice for *all*.”



Robert, Adrienne and Clayton Critcher

Clayton, now living in California, is very proud of his parents. He recognizes that “for minority rights to be protected in a democracy, it is necessary that a majority of people take a stand for equality.” A social psychologist, Clayton has a particularly keen understanding of the strain that discrimination can have on a person. In studies

he conducted as a Cornell graduate student, Clayton found that when forced to hide their sexual orientation, people underperformed on tests of intelligence and skill. He explains, “Pressuring people to hide who they are is not only morally suspect, but blunts the concealer’s true skills.”

The Critchers continue to support organizations committed to ending discrimination against LGBT people. Adrienne and Robert are longtime monthly sustaining donors of Lambda Legal. In 2008, they made the decision to join the Guardian Society, a group of donors investing in the future of the

LGBT and HIV community by leaving Lambda Legal in their wills and other planned giving vehicles.

“We know that even with changes in the law to prohibit discrimination against LGBT people and those with HIV/AIDS, there will always be challenges to these laws so there will always be a need for Lambda Legal,” Adrienne says. “It gives us great comfort to know that even after we’re gone, Lambda Legal will still be here to protect our Clay and other LGBT people.”

## CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY (CGA) RATES

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY (CGA) RATES VARY DEPENDING ON THE AGE OF THE BENEFICIARY. THE OLDER THE BENEFICIARY, THE GREATER THE ANNUITY RATE. HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THE RETURN YOU MIGHT RECEIVE ON YOUR ONE-LIFE LAMBDA LEGAL CGA:

\*(AT TIME CGA ESTABLISHED)  
RATES AS OF 7/1/13

AGE*	RATE
60	4.4%
65	4.7%
70	5.1%
75	5.8%
80	6.8%
85	7.8%
90+	9.0%



## THE GUARDIAN SOCIETY

*Formed in 2000, the Guardian Society is a growing group of individuals who have taken the extra initiative for the future of equality by including Lambda Legal in their wills, retirement plans, life insurance, trusts or other estate planning vehicles, or establishing a charitable gift annuity (CGA). For more information, please contact Thai Pham, Senior Director of Legacy Giving, at 212-809-8585, ext. 214 or [tpham@lambdalegal.org](mailto:tpham@lambdalegal.org).*

**PLEASE SEND ME MORE INFORMATION ABOUT LEGACY GIVING.** To request more information about how you can use planned giving vehicles to support the work of Lambda Legal, please return this form to our Legacy Giving Office, call 212-809-8585 or email [tpham@lambdalegal.org](mailto:tpham@lambdalegal.org).

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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EVENING PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

**IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY, PLEASE FILL IN THE INFORMATION BELOW:**

I am considering a gift annuity in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  CASH  SECURITIES

BENEFICIARY 1 \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

BENEFICIARY 2 \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

*All information and inquiries will be held in strict confidence.*

**I AM INTERESTED IN:**

\_\_\_ INCLUDING LAMBDA LEGAL IN MY ESTATE PLANS BY:

- MAKING A BEQUEST TO LAMBDA LEGAL
- MAKING A GIFT OF LIFE INSURANCE
- MAKING A GIFT OF REAL ESTATE
- ESTABLISHING A CHARITABLE TRUST
- MAKING LAMBDA LEGAL THE BENEFICIARY OF MY RETIREMENT ASSETS

\_\_\_ ESTABLISHING A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY WITH LAMBDA LEGAL:

- ONE-LIFE CGA
- TWO-LIFE CGA
- DEFERRED CGA

\_\_\_ I HAVE ALREADY INCLUDED LAMBDA LEGAL IN MY ESTATE PLANS BY \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LIST ME/US IN THE GUARDIAN SOCIETY AS: \_\_\_\_\_

**HOW TO INCLUDE LAMBDA LEGAL IN YOUR WILL**

To make a bequest to Lambda Legal you will need to use the correct language in your will: "I hereby give and bequeath [cash amount, percentage amount, or property you are giving] to Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc., New York, New York, for its general purposes." To ensure that your wishes are followed exactly, we suggest including Lambda Legal's full name and address in your will:

LAMBDA LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION FUND, INC.  
120 WALL STREET, 19TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, NY 10005

501(C)(3) TAX ID NUMBER: 23-7395681

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO: LAMBDA LEGAL | 120 WALL STREET, 19TH FLOOR | NEW YORK, NY 10005-3919**

# Donisha McShan

## A transgender woman mistreated in a halfway house tells her story

I AM A TRANSGENDER WOMAN. I first realized that I felt more like a girl than a boy when I was four years old, but it wasn't until 1999 that I started hormone therapy. For the past fifteen years, I have lived openly in the world as a woman.

In August of 2010, I was sentenced to two years in federal prison. I began three years of supervised release in April of 2012, but was sent back because I tested positive for drug use. That was a real wake up call for me, and I started attending Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings. With hard work and prayer, I have been drug free since April 15, 2013.

In October 2013, I was paroled to The H Group, a halfway house in Marion, Illinois, to complete my sentence and begin a drug rehabilitation program. At the halfway house, I was able to enroll in college, and attend counseling and substance abuse treatment. I was excited about the opportunity to focus on my rehabilitation and to set myself up to succeed once I was released. I was sorry about the actions that had landed me in jail and truly believed that I was capable of more, but the way I was treated at The H Group made it nearly impossible for me to think about the future.

Almost as soon as I started living at The H Group, I was told by the staff members that I was a man, which is not true, and that if I didn't stop acting like a woman, I would be sent back to

jail. The staff members addressed me with male pronouns and titles, I was forced to sleep in a room with four men, even though I didn't feel safe, and the staff at The H Group periodically raided my belongings and confiscated anything they viewed as remotely feminine. They took my makeup, clothing, pedicure kit, magazines, and curlers. They even took my pink shower cap. I tried to "take the high road," "turn the other cheek," and "let go and let God," but I was hurt and I knew this treatment was wrong. Instead of focusing on improving myself to build a new life, I was just focused on surviving each day.

Being the first transgender resident at this facility, I realized that I had the opportunity and responsibility to speak out, not only to protect myself, but to make sure that other transgender individuals aren't discriminated against in the same way. After some investigation, I reached out to Lambda Legal, a national LGBT advocacy group. They agreed to advocate for me, but I had to do my part.

On April 21, I filed a formal grievance with The H Group about the way I was being treated. I wasn't convinced that the grievance would cause The H Group to change, but I had learned that if I didn't exhaust The H Group's internal grievance procedure, I could be barred from filing a lawsuit in federal court. There was a tight deadline to file a grievance, but I was able to file the grievance within twenty days of the last raid of my room. In the grievance, I demanded four things: 1) that my personal possessions be returned; 2) that I be allowed to live and present as the woman I am; 3) that staff address and refer to me with feminine pronouns and titles; and 4) that I be removed from the male dormitory. On May 1, Lambda Legal sent a demand letter to the CEO of The H Group with copies forwarded to my probation officer, my U.S. Senator, the regional director of the Bureau of Prisons, and the U.S. Attorney General.

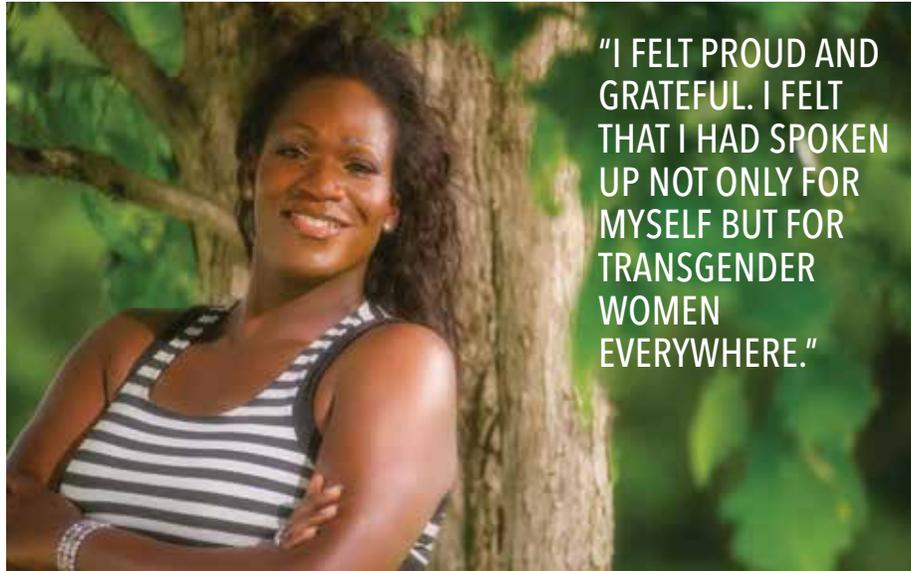
On May 5, I was summoned by the facility director. She extended a formal apology on behalf of the facility. She informed me that all of my personal belongings would be returned, staff would refer to me using appropriate pronouns and treat me with respect, I would start eating meals with the other female residents, and I would be reassigned to a single room. Talk about a grand slam!

I felt proud and grateful. I felt that I had spoken up not only for myself but for transgender women everywhere. When The

H Group was refusing to respect me, I felt as though they were forcing me to take a step backward. After my personal items were returned and The H Group staff started treating me as a woman, I found for the first time that I was able to concentrate on the real reason I was at The H Group – treating my substance abuse and preparing myself for my release.

I have since found a job and nice apartment in the area. I have a growing support network in the community, and I love the progress that I'm making with my therapist. I feel like my trust in God allowed me to trust the process and myself.

I hope that my story can help to further transgender rights in correctional institutions. What happened to me should never happen to anyone just because of who they are. I'm thankful I stood up for myself and thankful that Lambda Legal was able to help me.



After Lambda Legal's advocacy, the facility apologized to Donisha McShan and returned property they had confiscated.

 CHECK OUT OUR VIDEO ABOUT DONISHA'S CASE AT [lambdalegal.org/donisha](http://lambdalegal.org/donisha)

## Expanding Access to Transgender Health Care

This summer ushered in a series of dramatic state and federal policy changes to improve the landscape for transgender people's access to medically necessary health care.

The states of Oregon and Connecticut announced that they will become the fifth and sixth jurisdictions (after California, Massachusetts, Vermont and Washington, DC) to cover medically necessary health care for transgender people under Medicaid. The changes come 18 months after Oregon expanded state employees' health care policies to include transition-related health care in response to Lambda Legal's lawsuit *Esquivel v. State of Oregon*.

In July, the Illinois Department of Insurance issued a bulletin reminding private insurers that state law and the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) prohibit discrimination against transgender policyholders, mirroring similar bulletins issued by California, Colorado, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, Oregon, Vermont, Washington and the District of Columbia.

Also in July, the State of Washington Public Employees Benefit Board (PEBB) voted to support transgender-inclusive health care for state employees.

On the federal level, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) took a big step by invalidating Medicare's policy of categorically excluding transition-related surgery, and the U.S. Office of Personnel Management announced that it will no longer require insurers to maintain discriminatory exclusions of transition-related care in federal employee health plans.

Lambda Legal welcomed the news from around the country, but urged stronger enforcement. "While these steps are significant, the progress is incremental at best and transgender people continue to face significant barriers to accessing medical services despite the ACA and existing civil rights protections," said Dru Levasseur, director of Lambda Legal's Transgender Rights Project.



The growing list of states offering Medicaid coverage of transgender health care includes Oregon, where Lambda Legal won an important victory for Alec Esquivel, pictured (left) with Lambda Legal's Transgender Rights Project Director Dru Levasseur.

**REQUEST A COPY OF OUR "TRANSGENDER RIGHTS TOOLKIT" AT [lambdalegal.org/publications/trans-toolkit](http://lambdalegal.org/publications/trans-toolkit)**  
**VISIT "KNOW YOUR RIGHTS" AT [lambdalegal.org/know-your-rights/transgender](http://lambdalegal.org/know-your-rights/transgender)**

## Lambda Legal Protests Sexual Assault in Immigration Detention

On August 7, Lambda Legal and three civil rights organizations denounced the sexual assault of transgender immigration detainee Marichuy Leal Gamino at the Eloy Detention Center, a for-profit facility in Arizona under contract with the federal government.

The protest letter objected to the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) housing many transgender women in men's facilities—as was Gamino when she was attacked. The letter said that Gamino was encouraged to live in solitary confinement for her own safety, a common practice inflicted on transgender prisoners "for their own protection," despite clear evidence that such confinement can be traumatic.

Sexual assaults at the Eloy Detention Center have been reported before, including in a June 2011 report by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Arizona. The letter, which was also signed by Human Rights Campaign, the ACLU and the National Center for Lesbian Rights, urged that privately owned facilities such as Eloy be required to comply with the standards laid out in the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), including allowing prisoners to participate in decisions about their housing.

"Continuing to house [Gamino] in men's facilities only exacerbates the emotional and psychological trauma that she has endured," said the letter.



Marichuy Leal Gamino, a transgender woman, was attacked in a men's facility and then encouraged to live in solitary confinement.



Darrin Gayles is the first openly gay African-American man on the federal bench.

## Three New LGBT Appointments Increase Judicial Diversity

Lambda Legal applauded three historic judicial appointments during the month of June and vowed to continue advocating for judicial diversity as a core strategy for achieving fairness for LGBT and HIV rights.

On June 5, Puerto Rico Governor Alejandro García Padilla appointed openly lesbian Maite Oronoz Rodríguez to the commonwealth's Supreme Court. Lambda Legal had sent García Padilla a letter in April urging him to choose a nominee committed to ruling fairly and impartially in cases involving LGBT and HIV-positive litigants.

Then on June 17, the U.S. Senate confirmed President Obama's appointments of Darrin Gayles to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida and Staci Yandle to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois. Gayles is the first openly gay African-American man on the federal bench and Yandle the second openly lesbian African-American judge to serve.

"A diverse judiciary serves not only to improve the quality of justice, but to boost public confidence in the courts," said Lambda Legal's Fair Courts Project Manager Eric Lesh. "Federal courts are charged with providing everyone with equal access to justice, and yet access to justice has not always been a reality for all."

Before President Obama took office, there was only one openly gay federal judge. Today, there are 10 on the federal bench, including the first lesbian Latina and first lesbian Asian American.

## Nevada Removes Ban on HIV-Positive Foster Parents

In response to an appeal from Lambda Legal, the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) of the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services in July removed a requirement that foster parents be free of a list of communicable diseases that included HIV.

"Nevada DCFS recognized that its exclusion of people living with HIV from being foster parents was unsupported by medical science and therefore was discriminatory," said Scott Schoettes, Senior Attorney and HIV Project Director for Lambda Legal.

Late last year, Lambda Legal petitioned the DCFS on behalf of a gay married couple who were barred from being foster parents because one of the partners is HIV-positive. The petition was joined by Aid for AIDS Nevada (AFAN) and Children's Advocacy Alliance (CAA).

DCFS has agreed to remove references to specific diseases from the regulations and instead will require that "[e]ach foster parent must be in sufficiently good physical and mental health, and be physically and emotionally capable, to provide the necessary care to children."

American Airlines 

### AMERICAN AIRLINES IS THE OFFICIAL AIRLINE OF LAMBDA LEGAL.

American Airlines has been a national sponsor of Lambda Legal and a travel partner since 2004. As a Lambda Legal member, you can help support Lambda Legal every time you travel on American Airlines, at no cost to you! It is very simple. When making a reservation on **[www.AA.com/rainbow](http://www.AA.com/rainbow)** or through a travel agent, all you need to do is provide Lambda Legal's unique Business ExtrAA Account number and you will help earn valuable points for Lambda Legal. The best part is that you still earn your own AAdvantage Miles! When booking on **[www.AA.com/rainbow](http://www.AA.com/rainbow)**, simply enter **541544** at the bottom of the Enter Passenger Details section, in the field for Business ExtrAA Account Number.

## Lambda Legal Expert Invited to U.S. Consulates in Mexico

At the invitation of the U.S. Department of State, Lambda Legal's Francisco Dueñas visited four U.S. consulates in Mexico to discuss Lambda Legal's work in the U.S. LGBT movement. Dueñas found strong local interest in the political power of "coming out."

"Mexican audiences, whether LGBT activists or city council members, were moved to learn that the number one reason why a significant number of people in the U.S. have changed their minds on marriage equality is not their belief in equality, but because they have LGBT people in their lives," said Dueñas, who is Director of Diversity, Inclusion and *Proyecto Igualdad*.

Dueñas' two-week tour grew out of Lambda Legal's recognition of the transnational nature of the LGBT Latino community.

After his return from Mexico, Dueñas reflected on the tour's impact on his own work. "We know that just because something worked in the U.S., that doesn't mean it will work in Mexico or vice versa," he said. "Still, there are similarities and communications between these communities that help strengthen our work with Spanish-speaking communities."



Last June in Tijuana, Mexico, Francisco Dueñas, Lambda Legal's Director of Diversity, Inclusion and *Proyecto Igualdad* (left), met with local LGBT and human rights activists and U.S. Consulate staff to discuss Lambda Legal's work.

## Lambda Legal and African-American Faith Leaders Talk Transgender Rights

In June and July, Lambda Legal conducted a series of workshops on transgender rights at three regional conferences of The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries (TFAM), a multid denominational group of primarily African-American Christian leaders and laity representing churches and faith-based organizations from the across U.S.

The "Trans Justice" workshops included information about transgender issues and legal rights and discussions about how church members and congregations can be better allies and advocates for transgender rights.

"TFAM requested the topic; they are making an investment to become even more affirming and to support and increase the transgender leaders in the Fellowship," said Geneva Musgrave, Lambda Legal's Diversity and Inclusion Program Educator, who conducted the workshops along with Beverly Tillery, Lambda Legal's Deputy Director of Education and Public Affairs, and Omar Narvaez, Lambda Legal's Community Educator in the South Central Region.

### ATLANTA BLACK PRIDE 2014



Marcus Lee, president of Safe Space, the LGBT student group at Morehouse College, volunteered at Lambda Legal's table at Atlanta Black Pride in August





**E**ach month, Lambda Legal’s lawyers and public educators work in the courts and in the court of public opinion fighting for the rights of LGBT people and those with HIV.

The most efficient way for you to support Lambda Legal’s ongoing work is to join the Justice Fund with a recurring monthly gift. With as little as \$10 per month, you will be providing the financial stability that our lawyers and public educators need to do their jobs in every corner of our country.

To join the Justice Fund fill out the information below and mail it in the enclosed envelope.

\$10.00     \$25.00     \$30.42     Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I have made a Justice Fund monthly contribution of at least \$25, please send me a Lambda Legal stainless-steel water bottle as a gift.\*\*\*

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\* information required to make gift by credit card. We won’t be able to process your gift if not complete.

\*\* VISA/MC/Discover - 3 digits on the back of card; AmEx - 4 digits on front of card.

\*\*\*Lambda Legal bottle is available with Justice Fund (monthly giving) memberships at the \$25 level or more. Bottle will be mailed after the second consecutive month of Justice Fund membership. Please allow 2 to 4 weeks for delivery. While supplies last. Lambda Legal | 120 Wall Street, 19th Floor | New York, NY 10005

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**MEMBER PROFILE**

**Gwen Searer Never Misses a Month of Support**

**Gwen Searer has been supporting Lambda Legal for over ten years.** For most of that time, Gwen has been a member of the Justice Fund, Lambda Legal’s monthly giving society. Through their consistent support, Justice Fund members provide the financial stability that our lawyers and public educators need to do their work on behalf of LGBT people and those with HIV.

Over the course of ten years, Gwen has *never* missed a month of support. In addition to Lambda Legal, Gwen supports the ACLU and the Transgender Law Center, also on a monthly basis. Members like Gwen embody the true spirit of philanthropy. We asked her a few questions about her membership.

**Q: WHAT MOTIVATES YOUR PERSONAL GIVING?**

“I grew up in rural Pennsylvania in the 1980s; back then, I had no words to describe how I felt. When I came out as transgender in 2012, I was fortunate to work for a great company

that accepted me. This acceptance should be typical, not atypical, but we all know it’s not. Discrimination against LGBT people and people with HIV is rampant; we need legal protection to ensure that we have the same rights and opportunities afforded all Americans.

“I have two wonderful daughters and, like all parents, I want them to live in a better world—it’s my responsibility to help make that for them.”

**Q: WHY IS GIVING TO LAMBDA LEGAL A PRIORITY FOR YOU?**

“Lambda Legal strategically picks cases that incrementally yet dramatically alter the legal landscape—we’ve already seen how much the work has changed the country, from *Lawrence v. Texas* to marriage equality.

“I personally hope Lambda Legal can soon shift a large part of its focus from marriage equality to working to dramatically improve the lives of transgender people, particularly with respect to healthcare and employment. Lambda Legal has already done much with cases like *Glenn v. Brumby*, but so much more needs to be accomplished and I’m certain



Lambda Legal Justice Fund Member Gwen Searer and her daughters Arden (left) and Lona

Lambda Legal can get the job done.”

**Q: WHY DO YOU CHOOSE MONTHLY GIVING?**

“It’s important to me that supporting Lambda Legal and others are a part of my budget. Monthly giving allows me to make this support a priority—I don’t want to miss a month, so I don’t.”



**LAMBDA LEGAL IN THE HAMPTONS** National Leadership Council member Peter Wilson and Scott Sanders, both Defender-level Liberty Circle members, at the home of Liberty Circle member Scott Bennett in East Hampton, NY, on June 14, 2014.



**SAN DIEGO HOUSE PARTY** Plaintiff Julia Frost with National Leadership Council member, event host and Liberty Circle member Rich Segal in San Diego, CA, on July 16, 2014.



**LAMBDA LEGAL IN D.C.** Keynote speaker Eric H. Holder, Jr., then Attorney General of the United States, at The Carnegie Institution in Washington, D.C., on June 10, 2014.



**LAMBDA LEGAL IN D.C.** National Leadership Council member and District-level Liberty Circle member Paul Smith; Board Co-chair, event Co-chair and Supreme-level Liberty Circle member Karen Dixon; District-level Liberty Circle member Michael Dennis; Executive Director and Amicus-level Liberty Circle member Kevin Cathcart; and Board member and Liberty Circle member Vadim Schick at The Carnegie Institution in Washington, D.C., on June 10, 2014.



**LAMBDA LEGAL IN THE PINES** Board member, event host and Amicus-level Liberty Circle member Todd Sears; Executive Director and Amicus-level Liberty Circle member Kevin Cathcart; and Board Co-chair and District-level Liberty Circle member Brad Seiling in Fire Island Pines, NY, on July 19, 2014.



**L.A. WOMEN'S SOIREE** Board member, event host and Amicus-level Liberty Circle member Laura Brill; Board Co-chair and District-level Liberty Circle member Brad Seiling; National Leadership Council member and Liberty Circle member Sheri Bonstelle; Board member and District-level Liberty Circle member Roberta Conroy; Staff Attorney Carmina Ocampo; former major gifts officer Sue LaVaccare; Host Committee member Melanie Cristol-Donovan; plaintiff Julia Frost; and event host and Amicus-level Liberty Circle member Ellen Evans in Los Angeles, CA, on August 2, 2014.



**INTO THE WOODS** Lambda Legal member Jim Sharp with Samantha Sosa, Lambda Legal member Joe Martinez, Amicus-level Liberty Circle member Jim McDonough, and event hosts and Liberty Circle members Erik Kolacz and David Kroeger in New Buffalo, MI, on August 23, 2014.



**LANDMARK DINNER** Board member Michelle Peak and Lauren Mutti, both Amicus-level Liberty Circle members, at Hotel Palomar in Dallas, TX, on August 9, 2014.



**SEATTLE GARDEN PARTY** National Leadership Council member and Liberty Circle member Kelly Moser with event honorees Reverend Monica Corsaro and Scoutmaster Geoffrey McGrath, Executive Director and Amicus-level Liberty Circle member Kevin Cathcart and Board member and Defender-level Liberty Circle member Anne Krook at the home of Kay Bullitt in Seattle, WA, on August 7, 2014.



**ORANGE COUNTY BRUNCH** Featured speaker Park Deitz, M.D.; former major gifts officer Sue LaVaccare; National Leadership Council member and Amicus-level Liberty Circle member Paul Coluzzi; plaintiff Julia Frost; U.S. Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez; Staff Attorney Carmina Ocampo; Western Regional Director and Liberty Circle member Shedrick Davis; National Leadership Council member Kathy Paspalis; featured speaker and Liberty Circle member MaryAnne Carlson; and event hosts and Liberty Circle members Randy Harmat and Eugenio Vazquez in Santa Ana, CA, on July 20, 2014.



**WEST COAST LIBERTY AWARDS** Executive Director and Amicus-level Liberty Circle member Kevin Cathcart; event honorees Peter Paige and Bradley Bredeweg (Executive Producers/Showrunners, ABC Family's "The Fosters"), Bamby Salcedo (President, Trans-Latin@ Coalition), U.S. Congressman Henry Waxman and Dan Bucatinsky (writer/producer/actor, ABC's "Scandal" and Showtime's "Web Therapy"); National Leadership Council member, event co-chair and Liberty Circle member Michael Gottfried; and Western Regional Director and Liberty Circle member Shedrick Davis at The Four Seasons Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills, CA, on June 13, 2014.

# PUSH FORWARD

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Lambda Legal is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and those with HIV through impact litigation, education and public policy work.

Impact Magazine *is published three times a year.*

## ROBINA ASTI FEATURED IN PEOPLE MAGAZINE



Lambda Legal client Robina Asti is accustomed to making the rounds in planes as a pilot. Now she is making the rounds in the media. Asti was prominently profiled in the August 11 issue of *People* magazine. Lambda Legal's video about Asti, "Flying Solo: A Transgender Woman Fights Discrimination," won the Grand Jury Award for Best Documentary Short at the Outfest film festival in Los Angeles.

The article and the video tell the story of how the Social Security Administration (SSA) rejected Asti's application for spousal benefits after her husband died, based on a determination that she was "legally male" at the time of their marriage despite more than three decades of legal recognition as a woman.

Earlier this year, Lambda Legal persuaded the SSA to reverse its position and provide Robina the benefits other widows receive. The SSA also changed its policy for how it handles all married transgender spousal benefits claims.

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 **CHECK OUT THE VIDEO AT** [lambdalegal.org/asti](http://lambdalegal.org/asti) and read the magazine story at [www.people.com/article/robina-asti-transgender-social-security-survivor-benefits](http://www.people.com/article/robina-asti-transgender-social-security-survivor-benefits).

## LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE TO FIND OUT HOW LAMBDA LEGAL IS FIGHTING:

- > against HIV criminalization
- > for judicial diversity
- > to improve health care access for transgender people