

# A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP



ROBBIN BURR

**WISDOM . . . CONSISTENCY . . . RELIABILITY . . .** those are the words that come to mind when I think of Lambda Legal and of its leader, Kevin.

Kevin Cathcart came into my life more than 15 years ago when I was a founding member of the American Airlines “Rainbow Marketing TeAAm.” I worked as a part of the team to establish and implement an American Airlines sponsorship for Lambda Legal (a sponsorship that continues to this day). Back then we were confident in what continues to play out. Lambda Legal would maintain a strong march towards the Equality Finish Line with strategic, well-managed and highly professional work.

When I retired from American Airlines and went on to spend a few years as the first executive director of Chicago’s Center on Halsted (LGBT Community Center) my profound respect for Kevin

Cathcart deepened. Kevin is viewed by others as a leader *among* leaders. He generously contributes to the success of other leaders as a founder and leader of the LGBT Executive Directors Institute held yearly in Southern California. Kevin gives so much in his day-to-day work at Lambda Legal, but also takes time to mentor others, making a difference on the front line *and* behind the scenes.

Kevin, congratulations on twenty years at Lambda Legal! Through your work you’ve made an indelible mark to better the lives of LGBT individuals, people living with HIV and their families. Thank you. I’m proud you are our Executive Director and wish you many more years of success.

**ROBBIN BURR**  
LAMBDA LEGAL BOARD CO-CHAIR  
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BRUCE DEMING

**UNLESS YOU’RE A BOTTLE OF FINE BORDEAUX,** getting better with age is no easy feat. Kevin Cathcart has managed that task with grace. His insight, drive and focus have served the LGBT community for decades and over that period of time his contributions have only grown in scope and significance.

I first met Kevin in 1991 when I was a third year law student at Harvard and Kevin was executive director of Boston’s Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD). I interviewed Kevin for a law review article about the passage of the Massachusetts civil rights bill for gay and lesbian people. I was struck by his understanding of, and his commitment to, our movement for full equality. Since that initial meeting, I have been witness to Kevin’s remarkable string of accomplishments on behalf of the LGBT community.

Lambda Legal has flourished under Kevin’s guidance over the last 20 years. With five offices across the country, over two dozen legal staff, and the support of many of the leading global law firms, Lambda Legal has successfully navigated a dizzying array of political, social and economic

challenges and established itself as a fundamental force for good in the LGBT civil rights movement.

Not only has Lambda Legal thrived, but our community has benefited directly and tangibly from Kevin’s work and Lambda Legal’s success. No longer can LGBT people be jailed for private consensual sexual behavior, because of Lambda Legal’s historic Supreme Court victory in *Lawrence v. Texas*. Kevin guided our organization and our movement to that moment that changed the legal landscape forever. And there are so many other successes: In most states, no longer can children be removed from their parents simply because of their sexual orientation. No longer can schools ignore bullying of LGBT teens. No longer can same-sex couples be deprived of the right to marry in a small but growing number of states.

Thank you Kevin. I can’t wait to see what you do over the next 20 years.

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