

VICTORY FOR  
ROBINA ASTI!

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# Impact

SUMMER 2014

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Lambda Legal  
making the case for equality

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# Proud and Committed



Happy Pride! Every summer since the Stonewall Uprising in 1969, we celebrate our community, our pride and our commitment to equality. Lately, we also celebrate how much the world has changed—because of our pride and our work together for all these years.

We keep marching during Pride season because the work is far from done. While the headlines have captured the amazing momentum of marriage equality victories around the country, same-sex couples in the large majority of states in this country are still barred from marriage, and LGBT people and people living with HIV still face discrimination, harassment and sometimes violence at work and school and in public places.

Some of our victories are bittersweet: At Lambda Legal, we honor the memory of long-time lesbian activist Vernita Gray, who died March 18 in Chicago. She was admired in the Chicago LGBT community as someone who had supported and proudly spoken out about social justice for more than 40 years. We were so glad to win an emergency ruling in Illinois late last year that allowed Vernita and her partner Pat to marry, even as Vernita battled cancer.

As the *Windy City Times* reported of the wedding: “Judge Patricia Logue, former head of Lambda Legal’s Midwest office and a longtime lesbian activist herself, performed the marriage ceremony for Gray and Ewert in front of several dozen family and friends... Logue called the event ‘a very personal yet historic occasion—an event long-awaited and hard-won, [and] one that crystallizes the impact of equality and inequality in all our lives. And once again, as so often happens in our nation’s long civil rights journey, we are assisted by a federal court decree in favor of justice and humanity for a minority group.’”

Lambda Legal kept fighting in court, and Vernita and Pat’s victory soon led to an early victory for all same-sex couples seeking to marry in Illinois. Thank you, Vernita—one last time.

Of course, don’t let the headlines obscure the other important news for LGBT people around the country. In this magazine, we tell the stories of victories we won on behalf of John East and other lower-income people living with HIV in Louisiana; a transgender high school student in New York State; a 93-year-old transgender widow in New York City; and lesbian and gay city employees in Houston. We also bring readers up-to-date on new cases in Arizona, Georgia and Indiana.

Pride season is a time to celebrate and to rededicate ourselves to the work. We are winning—because equality unites us.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“WE KEEP MARCHING DURING PRIDE SEASON BECAUSE THE WORK IS FAR FROM DONE.”

# How John East Got His Health Insurance Back

Three Louisiana insurance companies threatened to stop accepting federal assistance for lower-income people living with HIV, until Lambda Legal and John East protested.

JOHN EAST, A 59-YEAR-OLD HIV-POSITIVE NEW ORLEANS MAN, found out in January that BlueCross BlueShield (BCBS) of Louisiana would no longer accept the federal dollars that had helped pay his health insurance for the past five years. “My gut reaction was just disbelief,” says East, who relies heavily on the payments because he doesn’t earn enough as a part-time worker in the hospitality industry. BCBS was effectively cutting him off from the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, which helps lower-income individuals living with HIV purchase health insurance they could not otherwise afford.

East has been with BCBS since 1985, paying the ever-increasing premiums himself until 2009, when he lost his job following Hurricane Katrina and was unable to continue. On the eve of cancellation, he learned that assistance was available through the Ryan White program, and credits the program with saving his life. But in January, BCBS announced it would no longer accept premium

payments from any third party, including the federal government. John was afraid he might suddenly stop getting his HIV medication—and, he thought, what about all the Louisianans affected by the new policy without the means to fight back? “I knew this was wrong,” says East.

That’s when Lambda Legal stepped in, first by sending BCBS a letter urging it not to change its policy and then by filing complaints with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services against BCBS and two other Louisiana insurers threatening to do the same thing. When this didn’t work, Lambda Legal filed a federal class action lawsuit against all three insurers on behalf of East and other lower-income Louisianans living with HIV.

Justice was swift: Days later, the U.S. District Court issued a temporary restraining order requiring the insurers to continue accepting the Ryan

White payments. Two weeks after that—the day Lambda Legal started presenting evidence at a hearing on a preliminary injunction—the insurers said they would take the payments through the end of the year. With catastrophe averted in Louisiana, the federal government subsequently issued a regulation requiring that insurers accept the money nationwide.

“When we filed, our lawsuit was the only thing stopping these insurers from dumping lower-income people living with HIV,” said Scott Schoettes, Senior Attorney and HIV Project Director at Lambda Legal. “And if federal officials hadn’t acted, we were ready to fight until we knew this wouldn’t happen in Louisiana or anywhere else.”

BCBS claimed it needed to stop accepting such third-party payments to diminish the risk of fraud, but attorneys for the company were unable to identify any fraudulent activity involving Ryan White

funds. Schoettes says he believes the insurers “knew exactly what they were doing by implementing this supposedly neutral policy not to accept third-party payments.” He says insurance companies have always looked for ways to avoid insuring people living with HIV, but under the Affordable Care Act—with its strong protections against discrimination and elimination of the pre-existing condition exclusion—they have run out of options to avoid insuring this group.

John East knows he did the right thing to put his name and story on this important battle. “I had reservations about outing myself about my HIV,” he says. He feared the stigma might affect his work life or make it uncomfortable for him to continue singing in his local Catholic Church choir. “But I had no choice. It’s just one of those things that you’ve got to take a stand on and fight for your life—and the lives of other people.”



“I HAD NO CHOICE. IT’S JUST ONE OF THOSE THINGS THAT YOU’VE GOT TO TAKE A STAND ON AND FIGHT FOR YOUR LIFE—AND THE LIVES OF OTHER PEOPLE.”

John East had been insured by BlueCross BlueShield of Louisiana for nearly 30 years when the company tried to drop him because he is living with HIV.



Houston Mayor Annise Parker announced last year that **all married city employees would be eligible to enroll for spousal benefits.**



The new city policy would include same-sex couples married legally in states that allow it. (Texas does not.)



**But an antigay group sued.** And then Lambda Legal sued on behalf of three city workers.



Parker became Houston's **first openly gay elected official** in 1997 and was elected mayor in 2009. She married her partner of 24 years in January.



## TEXAS

# Lambda Legal Fights for Spousal Benefits in Houston

Lambda Legal filed suit December 26 to stop the City of Houston from halting its plan to provide health insurance and other benefits for city employees married to same-sex spouses, and on January 9 asked a U.S. District judge to allow it to join a case filed by extreme antigay taxpayers who seek to take away the coverage.

Lambda Legal's case, *Freeman v. Parker and City of Houston*, is brought on behalf of three Houston employees who were notified by the City that the spousal benefits were subject to being interrupted and might stop altogether.

The back-and-forth started in November, when Mayor Annise Parker directed the City to provide spousal benefits to all legally married City employees in the wake of last summer's Supreme Court decision in *United States v. Windsor*. The state of Texas prohibits same-sex couples from marrying, although the ban was found unconstitutional in a separate case in February of 2014. But Parker and Houston's city attorney's office believe that *Windsor* compels the City to legally recognize marriages entered into by same-sex couples in states that permit them to do so.

An antigay group called Family Values responded to Mayor Parker's November announcement by suing the City, in *Pidgeon v. Parker and City of Houston*, to block the insurance coverage. *Pidgeon* was filed in secret, after office hours, and the City was compelled to send out the warning about a benefits disruption.

Lambda Legal's suit against Mayor Parker has been a little confusing to some because it targets an official and a city government that are trying to do the right thing and provide these benefits. "It's precisely to support them that we are suing them," explained Kenneth Upton, Senior Counsel in Lambda Legal's South Central Regional Office in Dallas. "We are seeking a court order that will reinforce Mayor Parker's and the City's decision by compelling her to do that which she wants to do and offset the case brought by the antigay group."

Lambda Legal wants to combine the two Houston lawsuits so that the interests of the *Freeman* plaintiffs are fairly represented in the antigay group's case. "Furthermore, these cases should be consolidated because, as it stands now, Mayor Parker and the City of Houston could find themselves facing conflicting judgments when all they are trying to do is ensure all City employees are treated equally," says Upton.



Lambda Legal weighed in on two important cases before the U.S. Supreme Court about religious exemptions in health insurance.

## HEALTH CARE

# Battling Religious Refusals at the Supreme Court

On March 25, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in two cases weighing whether for-profit employers may refuse to provide certain types of health coverage based on the company owners' religious beliefs. Lambda Legal filed a friend-of-the-court brief on January 28 arguing that allowing such refusals would permit widespread use of religion as a reason for discrimination against LGBT people and others.

At the center of the conflict are two cases, *Sebelius v. Hobby Lobby Stores* and *Conestoga Wood Specialties Corporation v. Sebelius*. The owners of both companies say they have religious objections to offering employee insurance coverage for some kinds of birth control, as provided for by the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA).

In its ACA-implementing regulations, the Obama Administration has permitted accommodation of similar religious objections by non-profit religious organizations that represent the religious commitments of their members; the cases before the Supreme Court are two of nearly 50 cases arguing that businesses should be exempt as well, an allowance that Lambda Legal strongly opposes.

"What these for-profit companies are seeking would open the floodgates for religion-based discrimination targeting LGBT individuals, people living with HIV and other vulnerable populations, denying them equal compensation, health care access and other fair treatment in commercial interactions," said Jennifer C. Pizer, Lambda Legal Senior Counsel and Director of the Law and Public Policy Project.

The Supreme Court is expected to issue a ruling in June.

## ON OUR BLOG



FOR MORE ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF SUCH RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS ON LGBT PEOPLE, VISIT [lambdalegal.org/rel-ex](http://lambdalegal.org/rel-ex)



Naya Taylor was told that her Illinois clinic "does not have to treat people like you."

## ILLINOIS

# Lambda Legal Sues Clinic for Denying Transition-Related Health Care

On April 15, Lambda Legal filed a lawsuit on behalf of Naya Taylor, a transgender woman who was denied medical care in Illinois. The lawsuit, filed with the Urbana Division of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois, argues that Taylor's primary care physician and the doctor's clinic violated the nondiscrimination clause within the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Lambda Legal also filed an administrative complaint on her behalf with the Illinois Department of Human Rights.

The trouble began early last year when Taylor asked her personal physician, Dr. Aja Lystila, to administer hormone replacement therapy (HRT) as part of her medically necessary transition-related treatment for gender dysphoria. At first, Dr. Lystila said she wouldn't accommodate Taylor's request because she didn't have experience with the treatments—even though HRT is commonly administered to non-transgender patients and is not considered a complicated medical procedure.

When Taylor approached the physician's office two more times in the fall about care related to the treatment, a clinic employee told her that the facility "does not have to treat people like you." According to Taylor, "When they said [that], I felt like the smallest, most insignificant person in the world."

Kenneth Upton, Senior Counsel for Lambda Legal, said, "The ACA's nondiscrimination provisions were intended to ensure appropriate medical care for transgender people, a community that already faces a disproportionate amount of discrimination, violence and suicide rates." He said the actions of Dr. Lystila and her clinic posed "a significant risk to Ms. Taylor's health."



**GEORGIA** Plaintiffs Chris Inniss, 39, and his partner Shelton Stroman, 41, have been together for 13 years. Their son, Jonathan, is 9.

## MARRIAGE ROUNDUP

# Chicago Couples Go Down the Aisle, and Lambda Legal Pursues Marriage in New States

The year 2014 is already another big one for Lambda Legal's work for marriage equality, starting with three important wins in Illinois, Ohio and Indiana and new cases in Arizona and Georgia:

### MORE ABOUT ILLINOIS

DOWNLOAD FACT SHEETS in both English and Spanish by visiting [lambdalegal.org/publications/il-marriage-faq](http://lambdalegal.org/publications/il-marriage-faq)



**ILLINOIS:** On February 21, a federal court ordered the Cook County Clerk's office to provide marriage licenses immediately to same-sex couples seeking the freedom to marry, rather than require them to wait until June, the default implementation date for the marriage equality bill passed by the Illinois legislature last November. This victory stemmed from *Lee v. Orr*, a case Lambda Legal filed jointly with the ACLU of Illinois. It also followed an important emergency ruling late last

year in a case on behalf of Pat Ewert and Vernita Gray, who has since died of cancer (see page 2).



**OHIO:** On April 14, a federal court declared Ohio's ban on recognizing out-of-state marriages of same-sex couples unconstitutional. The court also held that the state violates the Full Faith and Credit Clause of the U.S. Constitution by denying recognition to out-of-state adoption decrees by refusing to amend the birth certificates of Ohio-born children adopted by same-sex couples. The court issued a stay on the ruling pending appeal, with the exception of the couples directly involved in the case, who won accurate birth certificates for children who will soon be born or already were born in Ohio.

### LAMBDA LEGAL HAS ALSO FILED NEW MARRIAGE CASES:



**GEORGIA:** On April 22, Lambda Legal filed a federal class action lawsuit on behalf of a Georgia widow and three same-sex couples seeking to represent all Georgia's same-sex couples. The suit challenges the state's marriage ban as discriminatory and argues that it sends a purposeful message that lesbians, gay men and their children are second-class citizens who are undeserving of the legal sanction, respect, protections and support that different-sex couples and their families are able to enjoy through marriage.



**INDIANA:** On March 10, Lambda Legal filed a lawsuit in a U.S. District Court on behalf of three couples wishing to marry in Indiana, later adding two additional couples and their children to the lawsuit. Lambda Legal filed emergency papers and won immediate recognition of the out-of-state marriage of one of the new couples, Amy Sandler and Niki Quasney, as Niki battles an aggressive cancer. Shockingly, Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller has appealed the court order and is fighting to make sure Amy and Niki remain legal strangers. (Your support is important! Sign Lambda Legal's petition on the case at [www.lambdalegal.org/petition/indiana-attorney-general](http://www.lambdalegal.org/petition/indiana-attorney-general))



**ARIZONA:** On March 13, Lambda Legal sued in the U.S. District Court in Phoenix on behalf of seven same-sex couples and two surviving spouses, challenging the state's ban on marriage between same-sex couples. The suit argues that the ban violates the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution.



DOES YOUR STATE  
LEGALLY PROTECT  
LGBT PEOPLE AND  
THEIR FAMILIES?

FIND OUT BY VISITING  
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LEGAL'S PROGRESS  
STATE BY STATE!

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**NEVADA** Plaintiffs Beverly Sevcik, 76, and Mary Baranovich, 78, have three children and four grandchildren—and have been together for more than four decades.

#### AND HERE'S THE LATEST ABOUT LAMBDA LEGAL CASES ALREADY IN COURT:



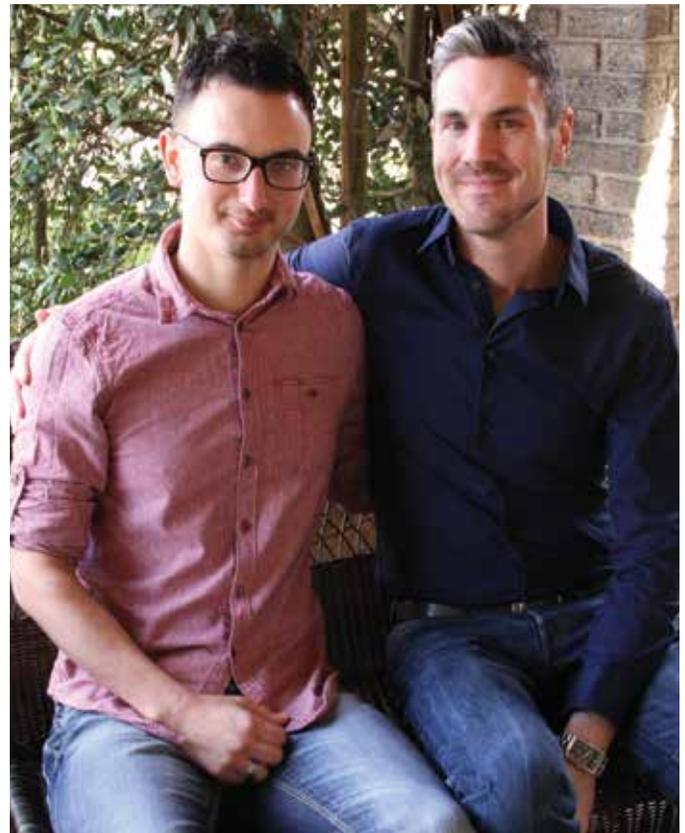
**WEST VIRGINIA:** On January 29, a U.S. District Court ruled that Lambda Legal may proceed with its case on behalf of three same-sex couples fighting for the freedom to marry in West Virginia. In the case, known as *McGee v. Cole*, the couples sued two county clerks last fall, arguing that by refusing to issue them marriage licenses, the clerks were violating the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the U.S. Constitution. As we go to press, we are awaiting a decision on our motion for summary judgement.



**VIRGINIA:** On May 13, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit heard oral arguments in a challenge to Virginia's constitutional and statutory bans on marriage for same-sex couples. Lambda Legal, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and the ACLU of Virginia have been representing plaintiff couples and a certified class composed of all Virginia's same-sex couples in a case called *Harris v. Rainey*, and have now joined a second case (*Bostic v. Rainey*) to represent the class.



**NEVADA:** On February 10, Governor Brian Sandoval requested to withdraw his brief defending the state ban on marriage between same-sex couples in Lambda Legal's case *Sevcik v. Sandoval*. The suit—on behalf of eight couples—argues that the ban violates the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the U.S. Constitution.



**WEST VIRGINIA** Plaintiffs Justin Murdock, 32, and Will Glavaris, 31, were born and raised in the state and now live in Huntington.



Robina Asti was refused survivor benefits, until Lambda Legal fought for her.

## NEW YORK

## Transgender Widow's Victory Prompts Policy Change

On February 14, just in time for Valentine's Day, the Social Security Administration (SSA) finally paid 92-year-old World War II veteran Robina Asti the survivor benefits that she had been denied following her husband's 2012 death. The good news was followed on April 1 by an announcement that the SSA would begin expediting applications for people in similar circumstances.

Lambda Legal petitioned the agency on Asti's behalf last year, after the SSA said it didn't recognize her as a woman at the time of her 2004 marriage—even though Asti transitioned in 1976 and had changed the gender on her passport, Federal Aviation Administration pilot's license and driver's license.

Then Asti just happened to notice that the agency had deposited the money she was owed into her account on February 14; there was no official notification. "When I saw that the money was in my account, I was so happy. I felt like it was my husband Norwood's Valentine's Day gift to me," said Asti. "I'm glad that Social Security finally came to its senses."

Lambda Legal's advocacy on Asti's behalf was instrumental in the SSA's April decision to update its policies on marriage-based claims by transgender people. "Today's announcement removes many hurdles that transgender people had to overcome when they filed claims for spousal benefits," said Dru Levasseur, director of Lambda Legal's Transgender Rights Project. "We hope no one has to ever again endure the disrespect that Ms. Asti experienced."



CHECK OUT LAMBDA LEGAL'S VIDEO ON THE CASE AT [lambdalegal.org/asti](http://lambdalegal.org/asti)

## FAIR COURTS

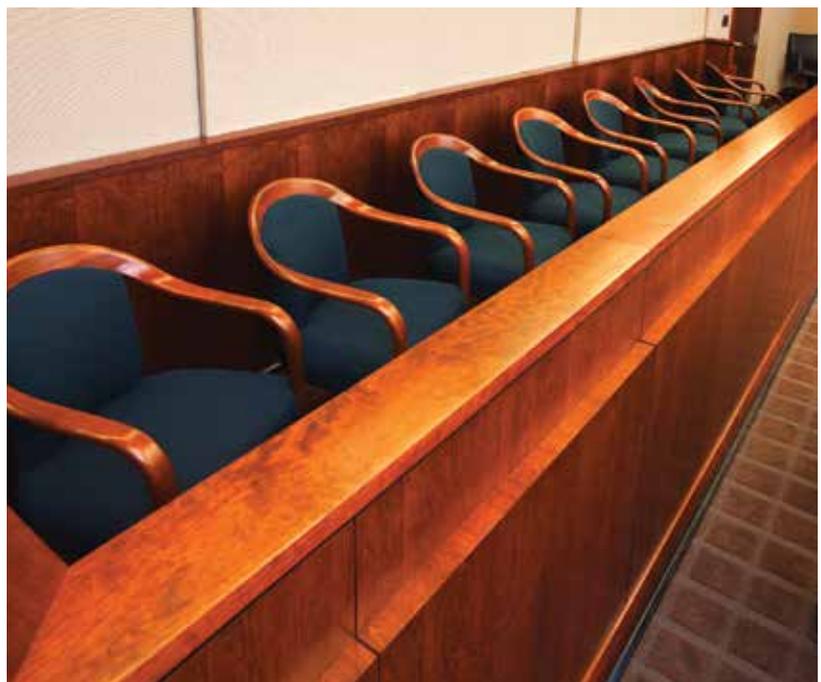
## Ruling on Gay Juror Could Boost Antidiscrimination Efforts Nationwide

On January 21, the federal Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit in San Francisco issued a landmark ruling that could make lawsuits challenging discrimination based on sexual orientation easier to win.

The appellate court ruled that attorneys for the defendant in the case known as *SmithKline Beecham Corp v. Abbott Laboratories* had violated the Constitution by eliminating a juror from service because he was gay. In its opinion, the 9th Circuit also held that "heightened scrutiny" must be applied to cases involving government discrimination against lesbians, gay men and bisexuals, which is a difficult standard to meet for those seeking to defend discrimination.

Lambda Legal submitted a friend-of-the-court brief in the case and welcomed the decision. "This is the first time a federal court has ruled that jurors cannot be disqualified based on their sexual orientation," said Jon Davidson, Legal Director and Eden/Rushing Chair at Lambda Legal, "and it is yet another indication of the progress our community is rightfully making in convincing the courts that the Constitution's protections extend fully to LGBT people."

Abbott Laboratories has not appealed the ruling, but one judge on the 9th Circuit has called for a vote of all 9th Circuit judges to rehear the case. If a majority of those judges do not vote for rehearing, the ruling could have a particularly strong impact on Lambda Legal's lawsuits challenging constitutional bans on marriage for same-sex couples in Nevada and Arizona, as well as other cases in the 9th Circuit and beyond.



## ADVOCACY &amp; POLICY

## Lambda Legal Demands Fairness in Football

On February 18, Lambda Legal sent a letter to the National Football League reminding the professional sports organization of its legal obligation to prevent discrimination against players on the basis of sexual orientation, even those not yet in the league. The letter, from Lambda Legal Executive Director Kevin Cathcart to NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, followed the February 9 announcement by University of Missouri football star Michael Sam that he is gay—and a series of controversial comments after that from team officials.

Goodell's March 14 reply affirmed the NFL's commitment to a "workplace that is free of workplace discrimination."

Two months later, Sam became the league's first openly gay player when he was drafted by the St. Louis Rams on May 10. But in an article

published February 9 by *Sports Illustrated*, several NFL team officials had commented anonymously in a way that Lambda Legal found troubling. One claimed to be an NFL player's personal assistant and said, "I don't think football is ready for [an openly gay player] just yet."

Cathcart's letter strongly recommended that the NFL reach out to all affiliated clubs to remind them of the potential legal ramifications of teams discontinuing their interest in employing Sam based on his announcement, or considering him as a later-round pick in the draft (and hence pay him less), as some of the unnamed officials suggested.

The letter quotes from the NFL's own nondiscrimination commitment, as outlined in its collective bargaining agreement, which says, "There will be *no discrimination in any form* against any player...any Club...because of race, religion, national origin, [or] sexual orientation," and that "the prohibition against discrimination in any form does not allow for rejection of a draft prospect based on sexual orientation."



Football star Michael Sam became the first openly gay player to be drafted into the NFL.

## NEW YORK

## High School Drops Anti-Transgender Stance

On March 4, Lambda Legal sent an advocacy letter to the Harrison Central School District in New York State on behalf of 15-year-old Elliot Fuerst after his high school refused to update his school records to accurately reflect his gender or to allow him to use the bathrooms and changing areas that correspond to his gender. Just ten days after Lambda Legal's letter, the district reversed course and allowed Elliot all of the changes and accommodations requested, including a locker in the boys' locker room—just in time for the start of Elliot's beloved lacrosse season.

"It makes me feel that I don't have to hide anymore," Elliot said of the school's change of mind. "I'm not singled out anymore just because I'm a trans boy."

Lambda Legal's letter said Harrison High School was in violation of the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), which states that "students have a right to seek to amend their school records if they are inaccurate, misleading or in violation of the student's rights of privacy."

The letter also cited a similar California case known as *Student v. Arcadia Unified School District*, in which the federal Departments of Education and Justice found that a school had treated a transgender student differently from other students and had therefore violated federal prohibitions against sex discrimination and gender stereotyping.

Lambda Legal stressed the personal harm of treatment of the kind Elliot Fuerst experienced at Harrison High School. "Besides being unlawful, denying Elliot access to male-designated spaces at school is emotionally damaging," said the letter, which was signed by Lambda Legal Transgender Rights Project Director Dru Levasseur and Transgender Rights Project Law Fellow Andrew Kravis. The letter said that being denied access to gender-appropriate facilities "can cause severe harms that are likely to prevent Elliot from having equal opportunities to learn and participate at school."

Lambda Legal is also working with the school district to develop broader policy changes that would allow records changes and access to gender-appropriate facilities even for transgender students who haven't changed their names, as Elliot has. "I want it to be a fair policy that is inclusive of all transgender students," said Elliot.



Elliot Fuerst won the right to use the boys' locker room at his high school.

# Spotlight on Lambda Legal's Southern Regional Office

When Lambda Legal opened its Southern Regional Office in Atlanta in 1997, the world looked a lot different for LGBT people and people living with HIV. Fifteen states, many of them in the south, still had sodomy laws that criminalized consensual sexual conduct between same-sex adults—and Georgia was the state where the terrible 1986 Supreme Court decision upholding sodomy laws (*Bowers v. Hardwick*) had originated.

“We knew there were LGBT people and people with HIV in the South who were living in a hostile legal environment, and we were determined to join local activists and strengthen the fight there,” said Kevin Cathcart, Lambda Legal’s Executive Director.

The next year, in 1998, Lambda Legal helped to secure an important victory when the Georgia Supreme Court struck down that state’s sodomy law in *Powell v. State of Georgia*. “We were on the march toward our eventual victory in *Lawrence v. Texas*, where the U.S. Supreme Court finally struck down all state sodomy laws,” Cathcart explained, “but first we had to win the fight in more states—and we did.”

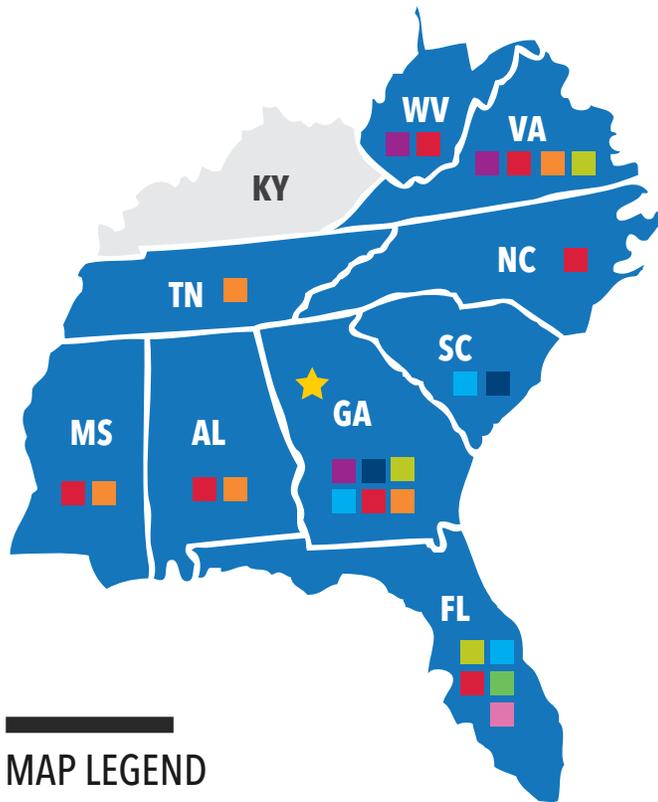
Since then, Lambda Legal has won a string of victories in this region.

Recent wins include a landmark federal court ruling 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; a \$1.25 million settlement and police reforms following an illegal Atlanta Eagle bar raid; effective advocacy flowing from a federal lawsuit on behalf of student Amber Hatcher, who faced discrimination at her Florida high school; and a suit on behalf of Janice Langbehn, denied access to her partner in a Miami hospital, that was cited by President Obama as motivation to require all hospitals receiving Medicare or Medicaid to have nondiscriminatory visitation policies, and which led to his awarding Langbehn a Presidential Citizen’s Medal.

Our work in this region is expanding and growing stronger: We now have marriage equality lawsuits pending in Georgia, West Virginia and Virginia, and we continue to fight for the rights of LGBT parents and their children, transgender employees and others facing discrimination. To increase our capacity, we have added a third attorney to our office in Atlanta.

We’re not going away and we’re not giving up—because equality unites us.

## HERE’S A LOOK AT LAMBDA LEGAL CASEWORK OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS IN OUR SOUTHERN REGION:



### MAP LEGEND

★ Lambda Legal's Southern Regional Office is based in Atlanta and covers ten states.

- MARRIAGE EQUALITY
- GOVERNMENT MISCONDUCT
- WORKPLACE RIGHTS
- HEALTH CARE FAIRNESS
- FAIR COURTS
- TRANSGENDER RIGHTS
- PARENTING RIGHTS
- STUDENT RIGHTS



**THREE BIG WINS FROM THE SRO** Vandy Beth Glenn (top) was fired for transitioning at work in Georgia and won a landmark ruling. Chris Daniels (above left) was at the Atlanta Eagle the night of the police raid that prompted a key settlement. Amber Hatcher is suing her Florida school for discrimination.

PHOTO: JOEY IVANSCO (GLENN AND DANIELS), TANYA DOWNS (HATCHER)



## NEW GOV'T MISCONDUCT REPORT

In May, Lambda Legal released alarming new findings about misconduct by police, courts, jails/prisons and school security against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people as well as people living with HIV. "Protected and Served?" is based on survey responses from 2,376 people and nearly 40 organizations.

### AMONG THE FINDINGS:

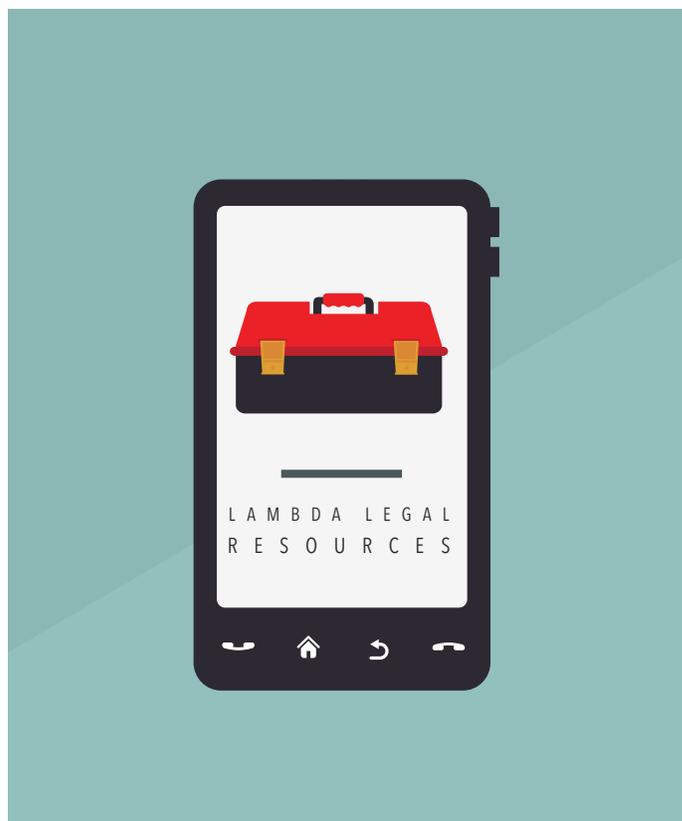
**14%** of all respondents who had recent face-to-face contact with police reported being verbally harassed by police.

**30%** of respondents of color and 33% transgender and gender non-conforming respondents who had recently been in court heard a judge, attorney or other court employee make negative comments about a person's sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

**23%** of respondents who had security or police in their middle or high schools heard those security officers using anti-LGBT language such as "fag" or "dyke" and nearly 1 in 10 (9%) of respondents who had school security or police reported being verbally assaulted by them.



The report includes detailed accounts of rights violations from survey respondents as well as a range of policy recommendations. It is available at [lambdalegal.org/protected-and-served](http://lambdalegal.org/protected-and-served).



## Know Your Rights



### IF YOU'RE TRANSGENDER OR GENDER-NONCONFORMING

Check out our guide to fighting discrimination in health care, family rights, the workplace and the criminal justice system.

**VISIT** [www.lambdalegal.org/know-your-rights/transgender](http://www.lambdalegal.org/know-your-rights/transgender)



### IF YOU'RE YOUNG AND LGBTQ

Find the latest information about bullying, proms, free speech, foster care and how to make school curricula LGBTQ-inclusive.

**VISIT** [www.lambdalegal.org/know-your-rights/youth](http://www.lambdalegal.org/know-your-rights/youth)



### IN YOUR STATE

Lambda Legal's interactive U.S. map is a state-by-state overview of legal protections for LGBT people and their families.

**VISIT** [www.lambdalegal.org/states-regions](http://www.lambdalegal.org/states-regions)

## LAMBDA LEGAL IS BILINGUAL!

Lambda Legal's Spanish-language website ([lambdalegal.org/es/en-espanol](http://lambdalegal.org/es/en-espanol)) offers a wide range of news and information about the rights of LGBT people as well as people with HIV—much of it of particular interest to Latinos and their loved ones and allies.



## Did You See Lambda Legal on Chicago's Red Line?

In March and April, Lambda Legal ran its first-ever public education and awareness campaign on public transit—celebrating the arrival of marriage equality in Illinois on Chicago's CTA Red line with the slogan, "You make your life. We make it legal."

"This is a celebration campaign," said Jim Bennett, Regional Director for the Midwest Regional Office of Lambda Legal. "We all did this together—these ads are full of joy."

Lambda Legal's lawsuits *Darby v. Orr*, *Gray v. Orr*, and *Lee v. Orr* were instrumental in the battle for the freedom to marry in Illinois. The ads feature plaintiffs Lakeesha Harris and Janean Watkins from Chicago and Timothy Rice and Don Julian of Alto Pass, Illinois as well as Lambda Legal Board Co-Chair Karen Dixon and her spouse Nan Schaffer, formerly of Chicago.

### WHAT YOU'RE SAYING

A SAMPLING OF COMMENTS FROM OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

#### RE: RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS AT THE SUPREME COURT (SEE P. 5)

**MARGUERITE AHLSTROM:** If someone refuses services to me on some feeling based on hate, I will gladly take my \$\$ to others. Money talks.

#### RE: ROBINA ASTI VICTORY (SEE P. 8)

**PHILLIP ZIMMERMAN:** Congratulations Robina. It's because of people like you that had the courage to be who you are that we have made such great progress in LGBT equality.

#### RE: LOUISIANA HIV INSURANCE CASE (SEE P. 3)

**MATHEW MARTIN-EVANS:** Yes indeed! I lived for years in New Orleans paying outrageous medical bills because I just could not get health coverage there. Thank you Lambda!

#### RE: NAYA TAYLOR'S TRANSITION-RELATED HEALTH CARE LAWSUIT (SEE P. 5)

**JAKE JONES:** This isn't about looks. Breast augmentation or liposuction can't compare to someone transitioning. This is about their mental health and having the body they were supposed to have.

#### RE: FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF IOWA MARRIAGE VICTORY

**LES BOHLEN:** And no "traditional" marriages have been hurt by it yet.

# Pride 2014

## VOLUNTEER AT PRIDE!

In April and May, Lambda Legal participated in Pride events in Miami Beach, Dallas, Albuquerque, Philadelphia, Long Beach, CA, Asbury Park, NJ and more. Here's where we'll be June to September. You can help us staff a Pride booth or march with Lambda Legal at a Pride parade in a city near you.

**Please join us to help raise awareness about Lambda Legal and our work.**

· C A L E N D A R ·	
<b>LA PRIDE</b> JUNE 6-8 / 1:30AM-11PM	<b>WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA</b> West Hollywood Park, 647 N. San Vicente Blvd.
<b>TULSA PRIDE</b> JUNE 6-7 / 12PM-12AM	<b>TULSA, OK</b> Dennis R. Neill Equality Center, 621 E. 4th St.
<b>MIDSOMMARFEST</b> JUNE 7-8 / 11AM-10PM	<b>CHICAGO, IL</b> Clark Street between Foster and Catalpa
<b>CAPITAL PRIDE</b> JUNE 14 / 12PM	<b>WASHINGTON, DC</b> Pennsylvania Ave. between 3rd and 7th St.
<b>CIRCLE CITY PRIDE</b> JUNE 14 / 10AM	<b>INDIANAPOLIS, IN</b> American Legion Mall
<b>PORTLAND PRIDE</b> JUNE 14 / 12:15PM	<b>PORTLAND, OR</b> Waterfront Park, SW Naito Pkwy
<b>MONTANA PRIDE</b> JUNE 20 / 1PM	<b>BUTTE, MT</b> Location to be determined *
<b>DENVER PRIDEFEST</b> JUNE 21-11 / 10AM-10:15PM	<b>DENVER, CO</b> Civic Center Park, Broadway and Colfax Ave.
<b>SAN FRANCISCO PRIDE</b> JUNE 28-29 / 12PM-6:30PM	<b>SAN FRANCISCO, CA</b> Civic Center
<b>HARLEM PRIDE</b> JUNE 28 / 12PM	<b>NEW YORK, NY</b> Jackie Robinson Park, Bradhurst Ave. at West 148th St.
<b>CHICAGO DYKE MARCH</b> JUNE 28 / 10:15AM	<b>CHICAGO, IL</b> Humboldt Park, 1400 N. Sacramento Ave.
<b>CHICAGO PRIDE PARADE</b> JUNE 28 / 12:15PM	<b>CHICAGO, IL</b> Montrose Ave. and Broadway
<b>MANHATTAN PRIDE</b> JUNE 29 / 12:30PM	<b>NEW YORK, NY</b> Hudson St. between Abingdon Sq. and W. 14th St.
<b>PRIDE SAN ANTONIO</b> JULY 5 / 11AM	<b>SAN ANTONIO, TX</b> TBD *
<b>ATLANTA BLACK GAY PRIDE</b> AUG. 30-SEPT. 1 / 12PM-9PM	<b>ATLANTA, GA</b> TBD *
<b>LAS VEGAS PRIDE</b> SEPT. 5-6 / 11AM-11PM	<b>LAS VEGAS, NV</b> TBD *

\* Location to be determined.  Check [www.lambdalegal.org/pride](http://www.lambdalegal.org/pride) for complete, updated listings.

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.



**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.\*\*\*

I PREFER TO CHARGE MY:     MASTERCARD     VISA     AMERICAN EXPRESS     DISCOVER

NAME ON CARD \_\_\_\_\_ CREDIT CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE\* \_\_\_\_\_ SECURITY CODE\*\* \_\_\_\_\_

BILLING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DAYTIME NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

\* 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

IM14SUMJ

**DONOR PROFILE**

**ANNE GOODMAN**

Anne Goodman had been a member of Lambda Legal for over a decade before she joined the Guardian Society, a group of individuals who have left a legacy for equality by including the organization in their planned giving. Already a supporter of a number of sister LGBT organizations as well, Anne inherited some assets and decided to expand her giving even further, feeling privileged to now have the means to contribute more to her community. Though she admits that at first she enjoyed all the membership “schwag” from Lambda Legal and others, Anne began to consider how to use her gift to make a bigger impact and possibly also provide for herself later in life. One of her financial advisers, both a lesbian and a Lambda Legal supporter herself, suggested a charitable gift annuity (CGA) and Anne agreed. “I liked that it was good not only for me but also for us, the community.”

Anne has long been active in the LGBT community. After coming out as a lesbian in 1978, she moved back from the Chicago area to her native New York City and became involved in the gay and lesbian movement. “It’s important to be out,” Anne says. “It is the most important personal statement any gay person can make.” Anne volunteered at the National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce and worked at the Gayellow Pages and the *New York Native*, a now-defunct LGBT newspaper. “It was pretty cool to be sort of in the hub of the gay community.” She wasn’t the only active Goodman—her mother Dorothy attended PFLAG meetings, both in New York and Florida.

Now a nutritionist, Anne still works to improve the lives of marginalized communities, including low-income people and those with HIV and AIDS. She marvels at the way the LGBT movement has grown since she came out. “I couldn’t ever have imagined this,” she says, citing for example, the fact that LGBT issues are no longer the footnote of a news story and instead are taken into consideration in many major topics. Anne is proud to help Lambda Legal further the cause and would love to see not only marriage equality but an end to all discrimination faced by the LGBT community. “Lambda Legal has had so many victories,” she says, and with the investment in equality by Guardian Society members like Anne, we can have so many more.



Goodman is a longtime volunteer and activist for LGBT causes.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** on joining the Guardian Society, contact Thai Pham, Director of Legacy Giving, at 212-809-8585 ext. 214 or tpham@lambdalegal.org.



**LAMBDA LEGAL IN FORT LAUDERDALE** Event honoree Robert Boo with Executive Director Kevin Cathcart, board member and Amicus-level Liberty Circle member Robert Kuhn and Lambda Legal plaintiff Craig Lieby at The Bonnet House Museum & Gardens in Fort Lauderdale, FL, on March 30, 2014. *Photo: Jason Leidy*



**BON FOSTER** Lambda Legal board member and Amicus-level Liberty Circle member Marcus Boggs with Amicus-level Liberty Circle members Tom Konopiots and Michael Stornello at The Art Institute of Chicago Modern Wing on April 23, 2014. *Photo: Timmy Samuel*



**NEW YORK LIBERTY AWARDS** National Leadership Council member and District-level Liberty Circle member Dan Cochran (Chief of Staff, UBS Americas Group) and National Leadership Council member and Defender-level Liberty Circle member David de Figueiredo (Senior Vice President and Chief Credit Officer, Wells Fargo Practice Finance), at Pier Sixty in New York City on May 5, 2014.



**MOMENTUM: A LAMBDA LEGAL COCKTAIL PARTY** Lambda Legal member Umar Sadiq with Lambda Legal member and event co-chair LeMar Moore at Momentum: A Lambda Legal Cocktail Party, hosted by Lambda Legal's NYC Young Professionals group at Humphrey in New York City on May 1, 2014.



**SAN FRANCISCO SOIREE** Dennis Raybuck, David Stringer, Defender-level Liberty Circle member Ruth Borenstein, board member and District-level Liberty Circle member Elliott Sernel, Western Regional Director and Liberty Circle member Rick Davis and Defender-level Liberty Circle member Karen Strauss, at City View at Metreon in San Francisco, CA, on April 25, 2014.



**PHILADELPHIA THANK YOU HOUSE PARTY** National Leadership Council member and Amicus-level Liberty Circle member Michael Soileau with event host and Liberty Circle member David Dubbeldam, National Leadership Council member and Liberty Circle member Kate Kleba, Lambda Legal Counsel and Amicus-level Liberty Circle member Thomas Ude and event host and Liberty Circle member David Devan, at the home of David Dubbeldam and David Devan on April 12, 2014.



**LOVE LOUNGE** Event co-chair and Liberty Circle member Nick Dierman with event co-chair Alissa Norby at Saint Felix in Hollywood, CA, on March 28, 2014. *Photo: Dayron Leon*



**JEFFREY FASHION CARES** Defender-level Liberty Circle members Isaac Mitchell-Namdar and Andrew Mitchell-Namdar, National Leadership Council member; Executive Director Kevin Cathcart; Board member and Liberty Circle member Todd Sears at The 69th Regiment Armory in New York City on April 8, 2014.



**LAMBDA LEGAL IN MIAMI** Gera Peoples, Senior Attorney Tara Borelli and Liberty Circle members Liebe and Seth Gadinsky at the home of Liberty Circle member Joe Falk on February 27, 2014. *Photo: Milen Gonzalez*



**NEW YORK LIBERTY AWARDS** South Central Regional Director and Liberty Circle member Roger Poindexter, board member and Liberty Circle member Marla Butler, Liberty Circle member Michelle Waites and her partner April Holder, at Pier Sixty in New York City on May 5, 2014.



**LAMBDA LEGAL IN FORT LAUDERDALE VIP RECEPTION** Defender-level Liberty Circle member Mona Pittenger with Liberty Circle members Lea Krauss and April Halle at The Stranahan House in Fort Lauderdale, FL, on March 28, 2014. *Photo: Jason Leidy*

# MAKING THE CASE FOR EQUALITY



THIS SUMMER, JOIN LAMBDA LEGAL WITH A CONTRIBUTION OF \$25 OR MORE, AND YOU WILL RECEIVE THIS LAMBDA LEGAL STAINLESS STEEL WATER BOTTLE.

SEE PAGE 14.

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

- > Anti-transgender policies at a New York high school
- > Efforts in Houston, Texas to deny benefits to same-sex spouses
- > Anti-LGBT bias by police, school security and courts

## Contact Lambda Legal

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

**HELP DESK:** 1-866-542-8336

[lambdalegal.org/help](http://lambdalegal.org/help)

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.*

COVER PHOTO: ANTHONY SCHOENECKER

 **Lambda Legal**  
making the case for equality