



**MASSACHUSETTS LESBIAN &
GAY BAR ASSOCIATION**

www.mlgb.org

P.O. Box 9072 Boston, MA 02114

LEGAL BRIEFS

DECEMBER 2009

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MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS:

As the year comes to a close and we all become busy with holiday and end-of-the-year activities, the MLGBA wants to thank you all for your continued support and membership.

We hope to see you at our Boston-Area Holiday Party at Parris Lounge in Boston on December 14, 2009, or at our Western Massachusetts Holiday Party at Bishop's Lounge in Northampton on December 16, 2009 (or both!). RSVP information for both parties can be found at www.mlgb.org.

We at the MLGBA wish you a wonderful holiday season filled with good cheer, good friends and much joy – and a new year full of the same!

Happy Holidays!

David Eppley (deppley@rackemann.com)
Jane Rothchild (jane558@yahoo.com)

MLGBA Co-Chairs

Save the Date!

MASSACHUSETTS LESBIAN & GAY BAR ASSOCIATION

25TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Friday, May 7, 2010

Westin Copley Place
10 Huntington Avenue, Boston
Directions at: *www.westin.com*

Continue to check *www.mlgb.org* for additional information!

NEWSWORTHY:

President Obama Signs LGBT Hate Crimes Bill into Law

On October 28, 2009, President Obama signed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, a major piece of national civil rights legislation for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans. The Act broadens the definition of federal hate crimes to include those motivated by a victim's gender identity or sexual orientation. It gives victims the same federal safeguards already afforded to people who are attacked because of their race, color, religion or national origin.

To have the U.S. government acknowledge and combat the hate violence that LGBT people still face on a daily basis in this country sends a powerful message to Americans and to the rest of world. While there is still a lot to be done, we congratulate President Obama on signing this integral piece of civil rights legislation into law.

CALENDAR

Special Events:

**Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers
Stress Reduction/Meditation Series
Wednesday, December 9, 2009, 5 PM, Boston**

The practice of law is inherently stressful. Lawyers can and do tolerate high levels of stress which, over time, inevitably takes a toll. We cannot eliminate stress, but we can learn to reduce its effect on us. This series will provide lawyers with the opportunity to learn how to achieve the "Relaxation Response" and will provide a venue for lawyers already versed in meditation who would like to join others in a mid-day "time-out" to relax and re-charge.

For the time being, the Stress Reduction/Meditation Series will meet on Wednesdays beginning at 5 PM. Some have indicated different levels of interest in the pre-meditation decompression stretches and progressive relaxation segments, so they will begin promptly at 5 PM with a somewhat abbreviated version, and at about 5:20 PM, the actual mindfulness meditation will begin, so as to finish by 5:50 PM.

Time: 5 PM to 5:20 PM – Pre-meditation decompression stretches and progressive relaxation segments, 5:20 PM to 5:50 PM – mindfulness meditation. Punctuality is essential. Free. No registration required. RSVP appreciated at nancyb@iclma.org or 617-482-5004. For more information, go to www.iclma.org. The Session will be held at 31 Milk Street in Boston.

**MLGBA Boston-Area Holiday Party
Monday, December 14, 2009, 5:30 PM, Boston**

Come enjoy the company of your Boston-area colleagues and friends as the MLGBA rings in the holiday season with scrumptious appetizers, a buffet dinner, and coffee and dessert!

Join us for the festive gathering on **Monday, December 14, 2009** at Parris Lounge at Ned Devine's conveniently located on the second floor of the Quincy Market Building near Faneuil Hall. Please take the interior stairs near Ned Devine's. For directions, visit <http://www.parrisboston.com/parris/directions/index.htm>.

Tickets are \$40 per person (\$30 for students or low income individuals). You may purchase tickets and RSVP online before December 9, 2009 at www.mlgba.org.

**MLGBA Western Massachusetts Holiday Party
Wednesday, December 16, 2009, 6 PM, Northampton**

Come enjoy the company of your Western Massachusetts-area colleagues and friends as the MLGBA rings in the holiday season with scrumptious appetizers, a buffet dinner, and coffee and dessert!

Join us for the festive gathering on **Wednesday, December 16, 2009** at Bishop's Lounge, 41 Strong Avenue in Northampton.

Tickets are \$35 per person (\$30 for students or low income individuals). You may purchase tickets and RSVP online before December 9, 2009 at www.mlgb.org, or you may RSVP to jane555@yahoo.com.

**Equal Justice Coalition
11th Annual Walk To The Hill for Civil Legal Aid
January 27, 2010, Boston**

The MLGBA encourages you to participate in the 11th Annual Walk to the Hill for Civil Legal Aid on January 27, 2010. We will be assembling a team of MLGBA attorneys to petition Massachusetts legislators to keep funding legal aid in Massachusetts at current levels. Additional information will be available in the coming weeks, so check www.mlgb.org regularly for details. If you are interested, please contact the MLGBA Walk to the Hill Team Captain, Charles Chambers Jr, at cec29us@gmail.com.

**MLGBA
Membership Renewal**

Please register or renew your MLGBA membership online! Simply visit our Web site at www.mlgb.org, click on "Registering and Renewing" and follow the step-by-step instructions. If you any questions, please contact mlgb.adminassistant@gmail.com.

SAVE-THE-DATES:

MLGBA Boston-Area Happy Hours

Come join your friends and colleagues for Happy Hour on the dates below at Parris Lounge at Ned Devine's, conveniently located on the second floor of the Quincy Market Building near Faneuil Hall. Please take the interior stairs near Ned Devine's. For directions, visit <http://www.parrisboston.com/parris/directions/index.htm>.

- ◆ Wednesday, January 27, 2010, 5:30 PM
- ◆ Wednesday, February 24, 2010, 5:30 PM

MLGBA 25th Anniversary Dinner

Come join us on Friday, May 7, 2010, to celebrate 25 years of the MLGBA working to provide a visible LGBT presence within the Massachusetts legal community!

Westin Copley Place
10 Huntington Avenue, Boston
Directions at www.westin.com

Continue to check www.mlgba.org for additional information.

If you have a news item or photos to share of your own success or milestone or the success or milestone of another MLGBA member, please send them to cec29us@gmail.com and we will consider them for the next publication.

COMMITTEE UPDATE:

We strongly encourage both law students and attorneys to become involved in the important work of the MLGBA. The Chairs of the various committees of the MLGBA have provided updates on the activities of the various committees below. If you would like to become involved with one or more of these committees, please feel free to contact the respective chair at the e-mail address provided. They look forward to hearing from you!

Amicus Curiae Committee

No news to report.

Ragini Shah, Chair
mshah@suffolk.edu

Communications Committee

Legal Lines will have Ben Klein, Esq. of Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) on Wednesday, December 16, 2009 at 4 PM to discuss GLAD's recent legal victories in 2009, and Lisa Cukier of Burns Levinson LLP on January 20, 2010 at 4 PM to discuss updates on estate planning for same-sex couples. The shows will air on *BNN Live*, Channel 23 (<http://www.bnntv.org>)

Tim Lynch, Co-Chair
tlynch@swartzlynch.com

Charles Chambers Jr, Co-Chair
cec29us@gmail.com

The Large Firm Committee

No news to report.

John Koss, Co-Chair
jbkoss@mintz.com

The Membership Committee

Please register or renew your MLGBA membership online! Simply visit our Web site at www.mlgb.org, click on "Registering and Renewing" and follow the step-by-step instructions. If you any questions, please contact mlgb.adminassistant@gmail.com.

Lisa Wilson, Chair
wilson@wmblawfirm.com

Technology Committee

No news to report.

Matthew Sample, Chair
mattsample@gmail.com

The Committee on Transgender Inclusion (CTI)

The MLGBA and its Committee on Transgender Inclusion held its annual Fall Party – a casual soiree for transgender and allied attorneys and law students – on Monday, October 19, 2009, at the home of Darien & Michael Fleming in Boston. Thanks to all who attended and extra special thanks to Bingham McCutchen LLP for their support of this event!

Laura Langley, Chair
lklangley@gmail.com

Outreach Committee

The Gray Scholarship deadline is fast approaching! All law students are invited to apply for the \$1,000 grant. All materials must be received from students by Tuesday, February 16, 2009. For an application or more information, please contact Polly Crozier at the information below.

Search for Law Student Representatives: MLGBA has enthusiastic and wonderful student board representatives from Boston College Law School, Boston University School of Law, Northeastern University and Suffolk University Law School. We are still looking for representatives from New England School of Law, Harvard Law School and Western New England College School of Law. Please contact Polly Crozier at the information below if you are interested.

Polly Crozier, Chair
polly@kauffmanlaw.net
617-577-1505

Western Massachusetts Committee

The Western Massachusetts Committee is gearing up for a busy winter, beginning with our Annual Holiday Feast at Bishop's Lounge in Northampton on December 16, 2009 beginning at 6 PM. With a festive atmosphere and a delicious Italian buffet, the party promises to be *the* December event not to be missed. More details and RSVP information can be found at www.mlgba.org.

In January, we will be joining with our colleagues at Western New England College School of Law for a reception in honor of Western Massachusetts-area law students. The date is still to be determined, but information will be provided soon by eBlast and on www.mlgba.org. We are also in the planning stages of a panel discussion aimed at college students who are considering careers in law. If you would be interested in becoming a part of this event, we would love your involvement. Please contact Jane Rothchild at the information below.

Jane Rothchild, Chair
jane558@yahoo.com

MLGBA BENEFITS CORNER

Do not let the ravages of a long-term illness or injury devastate your personal finances. Consider a prudent purchase of legal professional liability, disability and long term care insurance to protect you and your loved ones. MLGBA offers discounted legal liability insurance from Verdix, Long Term Care Insurance from John Hancock to MLGBA members, their spouses/partners, and parents and discounted disability insurance from Guardian to protect your income or business expenses. To contact Stuart Armstrong, CFP(R), CLTC about these valuable benefits, call him at 617-424-0005 or email him at sharmstrong@jhnetwork.com or click here: <http://www.mlgba.org/pages/Coverage.php>.

VOLUNTEER AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Jewish Alliance for Law & Social Action Volunteer Attorneys

The Jewish Alliance for Law & Social Action (JALSA) is working with the Chelsea Collaborative on "Renters at Risk" Clinics held every second Tuesday of each month.

JALSA seeks one real estate attorney each month and other persons from a range of disciplines that might be useful during the clinics (e.g., lawyers in other fields, paralegals, social workers, etc.). Participants are asked to take part in a training provided by JALSA, if possible.

Please e-mail JALSA at decter@jalsa.org or call 617-227-3000 to indicate your willingness to participate.

State Boards and Commissions Appointments Various Board Positions

At a recent meeting of the MLGBA Board of Directors, we were fortunate to be visited by Arthur Bernard, Senior Advisor to Governor Deval Patrick, and Alethea Pieters, Director of Boards & Commissions. The purpose of their visit was to encourage MLGBA members to apply for appointment to the multitude of state boards and commissions that need new members. They have launched a new Web site to make it easy to understand the responsibilities of being on a board or commission, to search for vacancies, and how to apply. We encourage you to take a look and to consider serving the Commonwealth in this way. The Web site is located at <http://appointments.state.ma.us>. We have also added a link to this from www.mlgba.org.

SpeakOUT Volunteer Speakers

SpeakOUT trains speakers of all ages how to use its proven format of telling stories and answering questions. Its speaker trainings offer youth and adults an intensive two-day preparation for conducting speaking engagements. SpeakOut educates its own volunteer speakers at this training and invites other organizations with speakers' bureaus to send its members to be trained. In the past, SpeakOut has trained members of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), the Boston Alliance of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth (BAGLY), Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition, and many other area organizations.

For more information about how to become a trained speaker, email Marta at info@speakoutboston.org.

Request for Opportunities

In these difficult economic times, many MLGBA attorney members and law students are seeking volunteer and career opportunities. If you have an opportunity that you would like to share with the MLGBA community, please send them to *MLGBA.adminassistant@gmail.com* and we will consider them for the next publication.

*For additional career and volunteer opportunities, visit
<http://www.mlgba.org/pages/opportunities.php>.*