

GLAD BRIEFS

GAY & LESBIAN ADVOCATES & DEFENDERS

SUMMER '08



Fighting for Transgender Rights

GLAD Transgender Rights Project Director Jennifer Levi at the New England Trans Pride March, June 7

When Trina Harrington was in middle school, all she wanted was to attend classes like the other students.

She was born biologically male, but identified as female, and wore girl's clothing to school. But the principal made her report to his office every morning to make sure what she was wearing was "appropriate", even sending her home from school one day for wearing butterfly barrettes. "I told him I was just there for my education, and what I wear shouldn't matter," says Trina. "It was so stressful for me. I was just trying to be understood and do what I had to do, and for him to put a barrier up against me trying to better my life was really hard."

To ensure that the law protects the rights of people like Trina, GLAD is launching a Transgender Rights Project, under the leadership of attorney Jennifer Levi.

"Transgender people face the most basic and blatant discrimination every day, but we still don't have the best legal tools to fight back," says Levi. "With this project, GLAD can put its legislative,

litigation, and educational assets to work in a focused way. One of the key goals of the project is to establish some clear, affirmative protections for the community."

In New England, only Rhode Island, Maine, and Vermont provide explicit laws that prohibit discrimination against transgender people and only Vermont and Connecticut have passed hate crimes laws that protect trans people. At the federal level, there are no laws explicitly protecting transgender people in any context.

Levi, a nationally-recognized expert in transgender legal issues, is Professor of Law at Western New England College. She serves on the Legal Committee of the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, and is a founding member of both the Transgender Law & Policy Institute and the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition.

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Fighting for Trans Justice Some of GLAD's Notable Trans Cases:

Doe v. Yunits (2000) GLAD won for middle-schooler Trina Harrington the right to wear clothing that was consistent with her female gender identity. This was the first victory of its kind in the country. (Learn more about this story in our August case profile and audio podcast at www.glad.org)

Rosa v. Park West Bank (2000) GLAD secured a ruling from the federal appeals court that transgender people may be protected under federal prohibitions against discrimination in lending. That precedent paved the way for future federal court decisions finding transgender people protected under federal employment laws. (Learn more about this story in our July case profile and audio podcast at www.glad.org)

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From the Executive Director

Lee Swislow



Cheers and tears burst out in the GLAD office in May, when we realized that California would be the second state to enjoy marriage equality. Now they are facing an attempt to amend the California constitution to take away that equality. Along with other national LGBT organizations, we are doing all we can to support them in their fight, lending the wisdom we gained from the Massachusetts experience. At the same time, we continue

to wait for a decision in the marriage equality case GLAD argued one year ago before the Connecticut Supreme Court. We hope they will also do the right thing and make marriage equality a reality in one more state.

Seeing the change that started in Massachusetts move across the country gave us another moment of celebration during this, our 30th anniversary year. Our anniversary plans continue with two new initiatives. As reported on the front page of the newsletter, we have launched the Transgender Rights Project. Transgender people face pervasive and continuing discrimination and, through this project, GLAD will be able to increase and intensify our long-term and on-going efforts to end this discrimination. This is a rapidly developing legal arena, and we're looking forward to expanding protections for transgender people, and finding the right cases to litigate to enforce those rights.

We have also been working all year on a newly designed www.glad.org, scheduled to launch next month. The site will be more dynamic and easier to use, while maintaining the comprehensive content that is GLAD's hallmark. We will continue to use new methods on the website to bring you that great content – such as the podcast of legal director Gary Buseck's incisive analysis of the California marriage decision, available now at www.glad.org. ■

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Every Family Deserves Respect

Laura Patey and Leigh Powers walked into their living room one afternoon four years ago and found a battleground.

"There were little Army men everywhere," says Laura. "Hundreds of them."

"[H]ere we were, these two nonviolent lesbians, and here were our sons playing with Army men," says Leigh. "They played for hours."

Laura and Leigh adopted Jesse and Alex through the state foster care system. Jesse came first, in 1998, then Alex four years later. Although the boys were different ages and from different families, they shared a common story: both had been adopted before, and both had been returned to foster care.

Helping Jesse and Alex adjust to life in a stable two-parent family—not to mention helping each other adjust—was a challenge. Along the way, Laura and Leigh have learned how to raise two Latino boys in a predominantly Caucasian

suburb, and how to establish and enforce rules for kids who weren't used to close supervision.

But there has been joy in the process. Although they struggled in public school, Jesse and Alex later flourished in private school. And when Laura and Leigh legally married on May 17, 2004, the boys were visibly proud. Jesse stood up at the reception after their small ceremony and thanked the priest who married them for, in his words, "taking a seat on the bus."

Civil marriage hasn't been a straightforward blessing for this family, however. Because of the federal Defense of Marriage Act, passed by Congress and signed by then-President Bill Clinton in 1996, there are a number of ways in which Laura and Leigh are disadvantaged compared to different-sex married couples. Their marriage simply isn't recognized by the federal government.

Because Laura and Leigh are not able to file

their federal taxes as a married couple, they pay more each year than they would otherwise. If one of them predeceases the other, the surviving spouse will be subject to hefty taxes different-sex married couples can avoid. And neither is eligible for the other's Social Security survivor benefits; for parents who have made their children's high school education a financial priority over building their own retirement accounts and saving to purchase a home, that is a major concern.

Supporting two teenage boys, every penny counts. But, says Laura, it's not only about the tangible ways they are disadvantaged. It's about the message discrimination sends to their kids.

"It's especially hard to explain to two young men who have already been so disadvantaged by the system," she says. "It's one of the things that really sort of eats away at them. In their lower times, it's just more proof that they're not as respected as other people in the world." ■



(from left to right) Leigh, Laura, Alex, and Jesse Powers-Patey

Fighting for Transgender Rights

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Rhiannon O'Donnabhain is being represented by GLAD in her case against the IRS

Fighting for Trans Justice Some of GLAD's Notable Trans Cases:

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Blanchette v. St. Anselm College

(2005) When Sarah Blanchette transitioned while employed as a computer programmer, her employer of seven years fired her. GLAD represented Sarah and settled the case to the satisfaction of all.

Barreto-Neto v. Town of Hardwick

Police Department: GLAD successfully represented transgender police officer Tony Barreto-Neto in a case against the Vermont town that ran him off the force when fellow officers learned (from an internet search) that he is transgender.

Beger v. the Division of Medical

Assistance (1999) GLAD successfully fought on behalf of Germaine Beger when Medicaid refused to pay for breast reconstruction surgery following removal of a cyst – because Germaine is transgender.

O'Donnabhain v. Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service (2007-08)

The Internal Revenue Service refused to allow Rhiannon O'Donnabhain to deduct as medical expenses costs associated with her transition. We are awaiting a decision in this U.S. Tax Court case.

With GLAD Senior Attorney Ben Klein, she authored the chapter "Pursuing Protections for Transgender People through Disabilities Laws," in the book *Transgender Rights*. Levi has been on GLAD's staff since 1998.

GLAD's work on behalf of the transgender community is not new. GLAD has represented transgender people since the early '80s. A 1983 newsletter reports: "GLAD has become involved in a daycare worker's fight to regain her teaching job. Our client was terminated because she is a transsexual."

Since then, GLAD has taken on cases involving school, employment, public accommodations, health care, custody, and taxes (*see sidebar*). Some have been precedent-setting, like *Doe v. Yunits*, in which Levi and GLAD represented Trina Harrington in her dispute with her school about her clothing. GLAD brought claims of both sex discrimination and disability discrimination, and won on both counts. It was the first ruling of its kind anywhere in the country.

GLAD is currently representing Rhiannon O'Donnabhain in her case against the Internal Revenue Service. The IRS refused to allow O'Donnabhain to deduct as medical expenses the cost of treatments and procedures relating to her transition despite the broad legal standard laid out in the tax code for medical care. Like *Doe*, this case has the potential to set precedent.

GLAD formally added "gender identity and expression" to its mission statement in 2001, and in the recent battle over the federal Employment Non Discrimination Act (ENDA), took a national leadership role advocating for a trans-inclusive bill. GLAD believes that discrimination against trans people is profoundly intertwined with discrimination against gay, lesbian, and bisexual people. "Gay people and trans people don't fit everyone's idea of what it is to be a 'real' man or a 'real' woman," says Executive Director Lee Swislow.

Because there are few laws with specific transgender protection, Levi says lawyers representing transgender clients have sometimes relied on sex discrimination statutes, or laws designed to protect people with disabilities.

These can be imperfect tools: "Courts often refuse to extend sex discrimination protections to transgender people. And while state-level disability laws have sometimes and in some places been used effectively, transgender people were explicitly excluded from the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. And not all transgender people easily fit within the framework of federal disability law."

While Levi supports using all available legal tools, explicit laws are essential both because of the protections they provide and because of the importance of having clear statements of public policy that include transgender people. Thus among her priorities for the project are supporting efforts to write gender identity and expression into the anti-discrimination laws of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Hampshire. Other priorities will include ensuring access to health care, securing employment protections, and advocating for appropriate identity documents and standards for changing gender markers on them.

GLAD will also work with allies to raise the profile of transgender people in the public eye. "A lot of transphobia is based on fear and ignorance," says Levi. "Too many people say they have never met a transgender person. It's very powerful when trans people tell their stories. It moves hearts and minds." ■

Founders Circle

The Founder's Circle, led by Board Member and Founding Chair Joanne Herman, has been created to support the important work of the Transgender Rights Project with financial contributions of \$3,000 or more. Joanne is joined by Deborah Bershel, MD; Jane A. Hiscock and Marijean Lauzier; Catherine Reuben; and Charles P. Wagner, Esq. For more information on joining the Founders Circle please contact Janet Lawn, Director of Development at 617-426-1350 x23 or jlawn@glad.org.

The Making of an InfoLine Volunteer

Resources for the Trans Community

Although GLAD litigates only impact cases and does not provide legal services, the organization can assist trans people with legal problems in a variety of ways:

Legal InfoLine: GLAD's Legal InfoLine volunteers answer questions about the law, tell callers what their options are, provide resources, and make referrals. Call 1-800-455-GLAD Monday through Friday, from 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Publications: GLAD's legal publications tell transgender people what their rights are under law, and are available free of charge. Visit www.glad.org/rights/transgender.shtml.

Referrals: When GLAD cannot take on a case, we refer callers to trans-friendly private attorneys, legal aid, a legal clinic run by the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition, and other legal and non-legal agencies that may be able to provide further resources and assistance.

Advocacy: Many legal problems can be resolved short of litigation, and GLAD provides information on how to self-advocate. GLAD also advocates on the policy and legislative level for system-wide changes.

Save the Date: Spirit of Justice Award Dinner

Friday, November 7, 2008
The Westin Boston Waterfront
425 Summer Street, Boston
Reception 6:30 PM •
Dinner 7:30 PM • Dancing 9:30 PM
Details at www.glad.org



Some of GLAD's volunteers, at a recent volunteer appreciation party, with Bilingual Outreach Educator Noreen Giga and InfoLine Manager Bruce Bell (front)

Monday through Friday around 1:30 they start to trickle in. They settle into their seats, ready to handle a variety of calls, letters and emails that have found their way to GLAD's Legal InfoLine. They are retired attorneys, law students, undergrads, part-time workers – gay, straight, bisexual and transgender people from all parts of the Greater Boston community who volunteer their time to inform callers of their rights. But this is no easy task. Every volunteer undergoes a three-day intensive training organized by GLAD's InfoLine Manager Bruce Bell. After listening to four presentations by GLAD attorneys, undergoing countless role plays, and watching the veteran volunteers in action, the new InfoLine volunteers prepare to take their very first call.

New volunteer and GLAD summer intern, Sean Stainton, comments on the challenges of taking an InfoLine call, "It's hard not to feel put on the spot. Your first instinct is to be reassuring, but at the same time you want to make sure you give the right information." Bruce's training always sinks in with the volunteers: it is more important to be accurate than fast. With a number of publications available online and in print, our volunteers will supplement calls by sending out supporting information, in order to be as thorough as possible. Sean says his experience so far has been very gratifying, "The service we provide on the InfoLine is very valuable, and you can tell when you talk to the people that they really appreciate what we have to offer." Knowing that they are providing important information to people on how to protect their rights is rewarding for all of our volunteers.

The InfoLine is staffed by people who come from diverse backgrounds and who receive an in-depth training on a number of different legal issues. Each recruitment period brings in a new group of highly motivated volunteers and we would like to welcome this year's new spring recruits! ■

Mainers Resist Efforts to Roll Back LGBT Rights

“An Act to Protect Marriage and Preserve Equality” was the proposed title of an anti-LGBT referendum the Christian Civic League of Maine submitted to Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap for approval. Then GLAD, EqualityMaine and the Maine CLU got involved. Several hard-hitting memos and meetings later, in which we pushed to ensure the petition's title and summary accurately portrayed what this law would do, he issued substantial revisions.

“We may ultimately be forced to debate the wisdom of denying legal protections to same-sex couples and their children, and repealing the few humane protections that do exist,” said GLAD Civil Rights Project Director Mary Bonauto. “But Maine voters should go into this with their

eyes open, knowing what's at stake, and not interpreting coded messages.”

The initiative is now called “An Act to Remove Protections Based on Sexual Orientation from the Maine Human Rights Act, Eliminate Funding for Civil Rights Teams in Public Schools, Prohibit Adoptions by Unmarried Couples, Add a Definition of Marriage, and Declare Civil Unions Unlawful.”

With the title now nearly accurate (the law would place a limitation on marriage, not a definition), the initiative's discriminatory content is obvious. If enough signatures are certified and the measure were to pass, the new law would deny gay and lesbian Mainers protection from discrimination; deny children secure homes with adoptive same-sex couples; deny students the safe school

environments promoted by the Attorney General's civil rights teams, and forbid civil unions.

It's clear, however, that Mainers have little patience for another attempt to roll back protections for LGBT citizens. Governor Baldacci has come out against the referendum, every major daily paper has run an editorial condemning it, and the dozens of letters in opposition submitted by newspaper readers suggest a groundswell of support for LGBT people.

The Christian Civic League has begun efforts to collect the 55,000 signatures needed to add the referendum to the November, 2009 ballot. GLAD and our partners will continue to work with all fair-minded Mainers – the majority of Mainers – to ensure that equality once again wins out. ■

Mainers: Share Your Story

Make your voice heard today by joining our new project, *Our Stories: Profiles of Same-Sex Couples in Maine*. Visit www.ourstoriesme.org to share your story or the story of a same-sex couple who has touched your life. Your stories will be featured on www.ourstoriesme.org, and in a print storybook. By showing Mainers what love really looks like, we will help safeguard the protections that we have fought so long and so hard to achieve.



Rita Clifford and Sara Jane Elliot.
Read their story and share your own at www.ourstoriesme.org

Save the Date:
Maine: *Making History, Changing Lives*

Sunday, September 14, 2008 • Ogunquit, ME

Details at www.glad.org

Coming
Next Month
the New
www.glad.org

More dynamic, easier
to use with the
content you rely on

Docket Highlights

Charron v. Amaral: Oral argument took place on March 4, 2008, at the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court in this medical malpractice case involving an alleged failure to appropriately test for and diagnose breast cancer. The case raises the question of the right of the now-surviving same-sex spouse to bring a claim for the loss of her wife's consortium. Massachusetts law categorically denies claims of loss of consortium where a couple is unmarried at the time the claim originates, yet it was legally impossible for the couple to be married in 2003, when the alleged misdiagnosis was discovered. GLAD filed an amicus brief in the case, arguing that if the common law does not make room to accommodate this situation, it violates the equal protection guarantees of the MA Constitution. A decision is expected this summer.

Chambers v. Ormiston: The Rhode Island Supreme Court ruled December 7, 2007, that the state's Family Court does not have jurisdiction to entertain a divorce action by a Rhode Island same-sex couple validly married in Massachusetts. GLAD filed two amicus briefs with the Rhode Island Supreme Court in this matter, helped coordinate several other briefs, and advised the parties to the case. The Rhode Island legislature held hearings in May (at which GLAD testified) on a bill that would extend the necessary jurisdiction.

Kadri v. Mukasey: GLAD has joined an amicus brief in this immigration/asylum case at the US Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. The case involves an Indonesian doctor, Zulkifly Kadri, who was fired from his position at a clinic and ostracized at a hospital where he worked when rumors spread that he is gay. Now in the United States, he has sought asylum based on past persecution in his home country, as well as his fear of future persecution should he be required to return to Indonesia. Kadri's application for asylum was initially granted in 2005, but that finding was subsequently overturned by the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), partially on the grounds that "closeted homosexuality" is tolerated in Indonesia and, therefore, that Kadri could avoid persecution by hiding the fact that he is gay. GLAD worked with Attorney Ilana Greenstein on a portion of the amicus brief demonstrating that the BIA's assertion that a person must hide something fundamental to his or her nature – such as sexual orientation – as a valid alternative to refugee protection violates both domestic and international law.

Kerrigan and Mock et al v. Connecticut Department of Public Health: We continue to await a ruling from the Connecticut Supreme Court on the question of marriage equality for same-sex couples under Connecticut law. Oral argument was heard in the case in May, 2007. As in the case recently decided in favor of marriage equality by the California Supreme Court on May 15, 2008, *Kerrigan and Mock* squarely confronts the court with the issue of whether a separate status just for gay people is constitutional. A decision could come any time.

Miller-Jenkins v. Miller-Jenkins: Vermont's highest court issued a ruling on March 14, 2008, upholding visitation rights for GLAD plaintiff Janet Jenkins and her five-year-old daughter, Isabella. Isabella's biological mother, Lisa Miller, Janet's former civil union spouse, challenged Janet's parental rights in a case that has been ongoing since the couple separated in 2003. Lisa and Isabella now reside in Virginia, where Lisa is also pursuing legal action to block Janet's ongoing relationship with their daughter. This latest decision from the Vermont Supreme Court upholds the Vermont Family Court's final 2007 order dissolving the parties' civil union, granting physical and legal custody to Lisa and providing for visitation between Janet and Isabella. As she has done in the past, Lisa may again seek review of this decision before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Parker v. Hurley: The U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit on January 31, 2008, unanimously affirmed District Court Judge Mark L. Wolf's dismissal of a lawsuit brought by two sets of parents against the Lexington school system. In the suit, parents David and Tonia Parker and Robert and Robin Wirthlin claimed that a Lexington elementary school violated their constitutional rights by exposing their children to books portraying many different kinds of families, including non-judgmental depictions of families headed by same-sex couples. GLAD authored an amicus in the case. The plaintiff parents have filed a petition seeking review before the U.S. Supreme Court.

O'Donnabhain v. Commissioner of Internal Revenue: GLAD is representing Rhiannon O'Donnabhain in her suit against the IRS after the federal government's refusal to treat her expenses for hormone therapy and sex reassignment surgery as a legitimate medical deduction. A four-day trial was held in U.S. Tax Court in July and August, 2007, and GLAD and the IRS completed post-trial briefing in February, 2008. Ms. O'Donnabhain and GLAD now await a potentially precedent-setting decision from the Tax Court.



Ashley Shaw with Attorney Bennett Klein and mother Liz

Shaw v. Murphy: The Massachusetts Court of Appeals ruled February 19, 2008 in favor of 18-year-old Ashley Shaw, whom GLAD has represented in her three-year fight to get MassHealth to cover her HIV-related surgery. The unanimous decision affirms Shaw's right to access to care. MassHealth has complied with the ruling and agreed to pay for the surgery.

Welcome New Board Members

Douglas H. Hughes, MD

Douglas H. Hughes, MD, is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Boston University School of Medicine. The recipient of both local and national teaching awards, Dr. Hughes has lectured extensively in Asia, Australia, Europe, and North and South America. He has worked with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta on setting up national guidelines around suicidal and violent behavior, and more recently has consulted with the Department of Defense.

Dr. Hughes edits the column “Emergency Psychiatry” in the American Psychiatric Association journal *Psychiatric Services*. He was a past president of the American Association of General Hospital Psychiatry and is also a past president of the American Association of Emergency Psychiatry.

Doug lives in Brookline with his partner Terry. The two have been together for 23 years, and legally married for the last four.

Reginald Stanley

Reginald Stanley serves as Chief Marketing Officer at Calvert Investments, where he has led marketing and product development initiatives for the past eight years. He has twenty-five years of experience in investment, economic development and entrepreneurial businesses, including seven years in leadership positions at Fidelity Investments. He has worked at the consulting firms of Bain & Company and McKinsey & Company, and is an Alumnus of the Southern Africa/United States Center for Leadership and Public Values. He earned his MBA at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and graduated summa cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Stanley has served on several community and non-profit boards aimed at civil justice, economic development, equality and quality of life issues. In addition to GLAD, his current board affiliations include the Social Investment Forum, Echoing Green and Shared Interest.

Welcome New Staff

Mark LaFrance, Major Gifts Officer

Mark comes to GLAD after a successful seventeen-year career in development and alumni relations in higher education. He holds a BS in hotel administration from UNH, and spent ten years in the hotel and restaurant industry before joining the development field.

As Major Gifts Officer, Mark works closely with leadership donors, engaging and expanding GLAD's pool of supporters and increasing GLAD's visibility throughout New England. Having worked for such institutions as BU's Sargent College, Lesley University, and Wheaton College, Mark sees his position as an opportunity to use what he's learned about fundraising over the past seventeen years to help his own community.

When he's not educating potential supporters about the importance of GLAD's work, Mark can be found spending time by the ocean, listening to all kinds of music (“everything but country,” he says), or enjoying his family and friends.

Laura Hill, Development and Special Events Assistant

Laura joined GLAD after graduating from Wellesley College, hoping to learn how non-profit organizations tick. Starting just a few weeks before the annual Winter Party, she did. “I came in when it was incredibly busy,” she says, “and had a great time watching everything coalesce into this wonderful event.” She'll be using what she learned in those first few weeks to help make the Summer Party just as successful.

Laura started a Gay Straight Alliance at the international high school she attended in Taiwan. Despite encountering some resistance from the Parent Teacher Association, she says the GSA got people to start talking about LGBT issues, which were largely under the radar. Now in Boston – and working at GLAD – she's excited to have the opportunity to work where equality issues are out in the open.

New Publications

A Legal Q & A for Kids of Trans Parents

Explains the legal definitions of terms such as parentage, custody, visitation, and the “best interest of the child” standard, and answers questions about the legal rights of transgender parents.

Transgender Students' Use of Bathrooms and Locker Rooms

Explains that transgender students in Massachusetts public schools and colleges have a right to safe and dignified access to bathrooms and locker rooms consistent with the student's gender identity and expression.

Updated Information for Your State

We have recently reviewed and updated our LGBT and HIV overviews for all six New England states, and many of our other publications. Be sure you have the most up-to-date information on the laws that affect you – download these publications from our website, read them online, or call the Legal InfoLine to have a copy mailed to you.

GLAD's Legal InfoLine
Monday – Friday, 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.
1-800-455-GLAD
www.glad.org

Summer Party

Saturday, July 26, 2008

4:00 - 7:00 PM

Pilgrim Monument and

Provincetown Museum

Provincetown, MA

Tickets \$60

(children welcome at no charge)

Purchase now at www.glad.org

Sex on the Margins

Wednesday, January 8, Boston

Writers Susie Bright and Michael Bronski, and GLAD Founder John Ward led a lively discussion about where we've been and where we're headed in the LGBT rights movement. ■

Photos: Mainframe Photographics, Inc.



Panelists Michael Bronski, Susie Bright, and John Ward



GLAD Legal Director Gary Buseck introduces the program



GLAD Attorney Jennifer Levi asks the panel a question

The AIDS Epidemic and the Politics of Invisibility

Tuesday, April 22, Boston

Panelists Kevin Cathcart (Lambda Legal); Reverend Irene Monroe; Douglas Brooks (JRI Health); Jacob Smith Yang (MAP for Health); and moderator Bennett Klein (GLAD AIDS Law Project Director) discussed the politics of invisibility surrounding the AIDS epidemic in affected communities, past and present, and offered insight into strategies needed to address the current realities of the epidemic. ■



GLAD CFO Eva Boyce with panelist Jacob Smith Yang



Panelist and former GLAD Executive Director Kevin Cathcart with current Executive Director Lee Swislow



Attendees Buck Mahoney and Colin Kegler

GLAD 2008 Winter Party

Sunday, March 9, Boston

This year's Winter Party took place in a new venue, The Artists for Humanity Epicenter in South Boston. Guests cast their bids in our live and silent auctions, enjoyed great food, and heard featured speaker and former GLAD plaintiff Cathleen Finn describe her fight in the early 90s to march in the city's St. Patrick's Day Parade with the Irish-American Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Group of Boston (GLIB). ■

Photos: Mainframe Photographics, Inc.



GLAD supporters
Gary Bailey and
Arnold Sapenter



GLAD Board Members Lisa Drapkin,
Peter Epstein, and Joanne Herman

Winter Party guests
check out the silent
auction



Featured Speaker Cathleen Finn
(center)

Connecticut: Making History, Changing Lives

Thursday, May 8, Hartford

GLAD Senior Attorney Bennett Klein gave guests an update on *Kerrigan & Mock*, the pending Connecticut marriage lawsuit, and Senior Attorney Jennifer Levi unveiled plans for GLAD's new Transgender Rights Project. ■



Attorney
Bennett Klein
with Brian Rice
of McCarter
& English



Diane Malenfant and
Jerimarie Liesegang



Love Makes a Family
Executive Director
Anne Stanback and
Mark Ojakian,
Connecticut Deputy
Comptroller



Kerrigan and Mock
plaintiffs Janet Peck,
Jody Mock, Carol
Conklin and
Beth Kerrigan

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YWCA Honors Mary Bonauto for Marriage Equality, Anti-Discrimination Work



In recognition of eighteen years fighting discrimination based on sexual orientation, and her vital leadership role securing equal marriage for same-sex couples, GLAD Civil Rights Project Director Mary Bonauto has been inducted into the YWCA Academy of Women Achievers (AWA).

Established in 1995, the AWA celebrates women who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and achievement in their professional and civic lives.

At a lunchtime ceremony on June 4, Bonauto and this year's other inductees, WBZ-TV journalist Reverend Liz Walker, Citizens Bank Senior Vice President Debra Miller, Fidelity Real Estate Company President Sarah Abrams, and Campus Compact President Maureen Curley, each shared her own perspective on the YWCA's goals of equity and empowerment.

Bonauto reflected on the strong connection between GLAD's mission – 'Equal Justice Under Law' – and that of the YWCA – 'Eliminating Racism. Empowering Women.' "Each four powerful words," Bonauto said, "that say so much about our collective priorities, our values, our need for a continuing journey to live up to our nation's promise of equality and liberty for all."

With her induction this year, Bonauto joins a distinguished group of women including, among many others, Teresa Heinz Kerry, Lani Guinier, Kip Tiernan, and Martha Coakley.

We congratulate Mary on this esteemed and well-deserved honor! ■