



APRIL 2006 Newsletter

PO Box 64933
Chicago, IL 60644-0933
www.chilagbac.org

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

What an exciting time for the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago! LAGBAC has become more active in both the legal and social communities and our membership is growing! We are sponsoring more activities and providing more opportunities for members to get together. Here are some of the events that are on the horizon for members:

- The Vanguard Award is being given to Senator Carol Ronen on April 18, 2006 at a luncheon at the Standard Club.
- LAGBAC hosts the monthly Meet the Bar events at Sidetrack. Usually held on the third Friday of the month, this is an excellent time to meet lawyers and law students and have a couple of cocktails on us! The next Meet the Bar is April 21.
- We are partnered with the Center on Halsted, Howard Brown Health Center, and the Chicago Public Library to provide a series of informational legal presentations - details coming soon...
- LAGBAC has joined with numerous other Bar Associations to present this year's Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges Conference to be held at the CBA on May 12.
- The annual Judges Reception is being held during the Pride Parade. This year we are planning another spectacular event—food and drinks for all attendees.
- As a co-sponsor of Lawyers for Diversity this year, the LAGBAC Foundation will be a recipient of monies to assist in creating our scholarship fund.
- The LAGBAC Foundation will be requesting applications for its first scholarships next fall. Scholarships will be awarded at an event to celebrate the work of the LAGBAC Foundation.
- We will be addressing LGBT issues and hosting Career Coaching, Mock Interviews and a Career Fair for students in the beginning of the next school year.

As we have grown, so has the Board. I am pleased to announce three new members of the Board of Directors: Jeremy Gottschalk, Daniel Allen and Mario Sullivan. All three of these new Board members bring a tremendous amount of energy and ideas to continue to make LAGBAC a vibrant organization and I am excited about working with them in the coming months.

No organization can continue to grow without the help and input of its members. I am asking each of you to help LAGBAC to continue to bring excellent programs and increase membership. If you want to help with any of the activities, contact any one of the Board members at our email addresses listed on this Newsletter. If you know someone who should be a LAGBAC member and isn't, get them to join! It is easier than ever now that the application is on our web page (www.chilagbac.org). If you are short on time but want to donate in another way, consider increasing your membership and becoming a Sustaining Member or give funds to the LAGBAC Foundation. All donations to the Foundation are tax deductible as the Foundation has received its 501c3 designation from the IRS.

Maybe you have an idea for a LAGBAC event or something LAGBAC should be involved in? If so, contact us. We welcome your input. Most importantly, I look forward to meeting each of you at a social event this year. The easiest way to support LAGBAC is to attend the events! Watch your emails – more exciting LAGBAC programs will be coming.....

-- *Dorene*

VANGUARD AWARD TO BE PRESENTED TO SENATOR CAROL RONEN TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2006

Each year LAGBAC presents the Vanguard Award to a member of the community who has made the law more accessible to individuals in our community. Past awardees have been Judge Sebastian Patti and Judge Illana Rovner. This year we will be presenting the Vanguard Award to Senator Carol Ronen. During her career as a Legislator and Senator, Senator Ronen has been a vocal advocate for education and the rights of children, women, immigrants and sexual minorities. Last year she was successful in her 10-year effort to add sexual orientation (including identity) to the Illinois Human Rights Act. The long fight for passage of the bill included coalition-building with the Senate President and the Governor and resisting a push to remove "sexual identity" from the bill. In addition to the Vanguard Award, Senator Ronen is an inductee in the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame. In 2004 she was presented with the Ethel Parker Award from the IVI-IPO (Independent Voters of Illinois – Independent Precinct Organization). The Ethel Parker Award is given to the legislator who has had the best voting record on over 55 issues. At 96%, her record was the best achieved by any other member of the House or Senate.

We are honored to present this award to someone who has worked tirelessly to ensure rights for all the gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender residents of the State of Illinois.

BREAKING BARRIERS AND BUILDING BRIDGES MAY 12, 2006

We are happy to be participating in the Annual Breaking Barriers and Building Bridges Conference that will take place on Friday, May 12, 2005 at the CBA Building, 321 S. Plymouth Court. This conference focuses on issues of diversity and inclusion in addition to providing specialized skills training; strategies; resources and practical guidance for success. It is a unique opportunity for women and minority attorneys to establish networks with leading lawyers. The conference also highlights the achievements of women and minority lawyers, many of whom serve as inspirations and role models in the Chicago legal community. Harvard Law School Professor Charles J. Ogletree, Jr. will be the keynote speaker at the conference luncheon. To see other topics and speakers, see the attached conference brochure or go to www.chicagobar.org/bb/. Any questions, call 312-554-2050.

MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER!

Mario A. Sullivan is an associate attorney with The Offices of Peter Anthony Johnson. He is a member of the Chicago Bar Association (CBA), the Illinois State Bar Association, and the American Bar Association (ABA). In addition, Mario is a member of the National Lesbian and Gay Law Association and the American Constitution Society. Mario serves as National Lesbian and Gay Law Associations National Representative to the ABA Young Lawyers Division; Vice-Chair on the CBA Committee on the Legal Rights of Lesbians and Gay Men; Co-Chair of the Programming and Outreach Committee for the American Constitution Society, Chicago Lawyer Chapter; and Co-Chair for the Equality Illinois' 2006 Gala Corporate Committee. While attending The John Marshall Law School, he served as president of Gay and Lesbian Legal Alliance, American Constitution Society, and Amnesty International. Mario received a special award acknowledging his work and dedication to these organizations.

Check out LAGBAC's website www.chilagbac.org. We're working hard to keep it updated with the latest community events and information.

The LAGBAC newsletter is produced by Will Thomas – questions and comments can be sent to his attention at wthomas@gmail.com.

JUDICIAL EVALUATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

LAGBAC's Judicial Evaluation Committee continues its important work in evaluating candidates for the judiciary. Earlier this year, LAGBAC and the other members of the Alliance of Bar Associations for Judicial Screening, completed their investigations and interviews of candidates running in the March 2006 primary. Happily, voters appear to be paying increasing attention to the ratings issued by LAGBAC and the other bar associations: the great majority of candidates who won their primary races this year had been found qualified or recommended by most bar associations. With the primary election behind us, LAGBAC's JEC is now turning its attention to the judges seeking retention in the November 2006 election as well as a large pool of applicants seeking appointment to the bench as associate judges. As one of ten member bars of the Alliance, LAGBAC JEC members will share responsibility for investigating, interviewing, and rating these candidates. Although LAGBAC is not as large as some other bar associations, our JEC plays an important role in the Alliance. We have a reputation for having top-notch investigators and a rigorous ratings process. Last year, our JEC proposed and put together an orientation program for judicial candidates that the Alliance adopted and presented in the Fall; Circuit Court Chief Judge Evans delivered the welcoming remarks. The program was attended by over 50 judicial candidates and was praised by those who participated in it. LAGBAC's JEC would welcome new members. Our work offers the opportunity to get an inside look at the judicial selection process, to have a concrete impact on the election and appointment of judges, and to meet and work with the wide diversity of attorneys who make up the Alliance. Members of LAGBAC's JEC determine their own level of involvement in judicial evaluation work, and new members are mentored by more experienced committee members. If you are interested in joining our JEC or would like additional information, please contact committee chair Mark Dupont at 312-435-3001.

Bar Association Desperately Seeking Woman Lawyer For Fulfilling Long Term Relationship

We've been looking everywhere but can't seem to find the right one. Well, to be truthful, we can't seem to find *any* women willing and ready to serve on LAGBAC's board of directors. In fact, we've recently had to suspend our gender parity-on-the-board bylaw for 2006... so we're desperate! If you're a woman, a lawyer, and are interested in putting your time and energy into making things better for Chicagoland LGBT lawyers, please contact our President, Dorene Kuffer, at dkuffer@chilagbac.org.

**Do you know someone who
should be a member of
LAGBAC and isn't?**

**A membership application is
enclosed in this newsletter.**

**Or they can join on the web at
www.chilagbac.org.**

SAVE THE DATE!

7/27/06

The Lawyers for Diversity Mid-Summer Barbecue, aside from celebrating summer in Chicago, will be a networking and fundraising event to benefit four of Chicago's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community organizations, including the LAGBAC Foundation, for which it will serve as the kickoff event. Other beneficiaries include The Center on Halsted, Equality Illinois and the Gay and Lesbian Legal Alliance (GALLA) and the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association (LAGBAC) Foundation. This year promises to be the biggest ever and, like last year, we have invited special guests to speak on diversity in the legal profession.

The LAGBAC Foundation, which is LAGBAC's charitable arm, presents and sponsors educational forums, legal seminars and other initiatives for the general public rather than only for LAGBAC members. The Foundation grants scholarships to Chicago-Area law students who show an interest in civil rights and protecting the rights of all persons to basic human services.

The barbeque is scheduled for July 27, 2006, on the private roof deck of SideTrack, which is located at 3349 North Halsted. The event will begin at 6 p.m. and valet parking is available. Stay tuned for RSVP details!

6/25/06

Our annual Judges' Reception will be taking place during the Pride Parade. Last year's event was a smashing success, and we're working hard to make this year's even better! Stay tuned for RSVP details!

5/13/06

The members of LAGBAC have been invited to participate in a fundraiser sponsored by the Filipino American Bar Association (FABA). On February 17, 2006, a massive landslide hit the central Philippines. This mudslide killed more than 1,000 people. Since that horrific event, the Filipino American Council of Greater Chicago (FACC) Rizal Center has been raising money for the mudslide victims. As an organization, FABA has donated \$625.00 to this effort. We are looking to donate more money, while raising money for our organization. In order to fulfill both of these needs, FABA will be hosting a fundraiser on Saturday, May 13, 2006. The fundraiser will take place at the Green Eye Lounge located at 2403 W. Homer St., Chicago, IL, right near the intersection of Western, Armitage and Milwaukee. It is just inches away from the Western Blue-Line stop. The party will be from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Price of admission will be \$30.00 per person. The fee includes free domestic beer and well drinks. Five percent of the proceeds will be earmarked for FABA; although, a majority of the funds will be for the landslide relief fund. If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail (frederickagustin@hotmail.com) or call Fred E. Agustin, Treasurer of FABA & Event Organizer at (773) 315-3106.

The Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago (LAGBAC) 2006 Board of Directors:

President: Dorene Kuffer (dkuffer@chilagbac.org)

Treasurer/Newsletter: Will Thomas (wwithomas@gmail.com)

Secretary: Mark Teague (mteague@chilagbac.org)

Other Board Members: Daniel Allen (dallan@chilagbac.org); Jeremy Gottschalk (jgottschalk@chilagbac.org); William Hall (whall@chilagbac.org); Mario Sullivan.



LAGBAC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Future communication from LAGBAC will be electronic. You MUST provide us with an e-mail address to send future information and newsletters. If you are unable to accept electronic communications, your membership fee will be slightly higher.

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
City, State, Zip _____
Email _____

Annual Dues:
Sustaining Member: \$100 _____
Sponsoring Member: \$75 _____
Supporting Member: \$60 _____
Regular Member: \$40 _____
Student Member: \$20 _____ Law school and graduation date: _____
Snail Mail Surcharge \$5 _____
AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

I would like to help out with the following committees:

- Newsletter
Judicial Evaluation Committee
Social Events Committee
Women's Events Committee
Nomination Committee
Awards Committee
Membership Committee

The best way to reach me about committee activities is by: phone e-mail

If you are interested in further info, please contact us at : dkuffer@chilagbac.org

Send to: LAGBAC
P.O. Box 64933
Chicago, Illinois 60664-0933

or Visit us and Apply online at
www.chilagbac.org