



DECEMBER 2007

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

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings and Happy Holidays! I hope this finds you well and ready for the Holidays (ready or not...). If you are anything like me, the cold weather and Holidays snuck up on you faster than anticipated. And, much like the Holidays (and cold weather), LAGBAC's 2008 membership year is fast approaching (recall, LAGBAC's membership year is January 1 through December 31). Unlike in years past, this year you will not receive a reminder in the 'regular' mail; rather, you will soon be receiving an e-mail asking you to renew your membership through the web site (www.lagbac.org) or by regular mail. You may either wait for the email reminder or you may go to the web site now to renew your membership for 2008. In either event, please remember to renew your membership! And as 2008 is soon upon us, so are some noteworthy differences to your 2008 LAGBAC membership.

Beginning in 2008, LAGBAC members will enjoy the following benefits:

- \*Admission to monthly Meet the Bar nights (nonmembers and guests will be charged \$5);
- \*Admission to Lawyers for Diversity Mid-Summer Barbecue (nonmembers and guests will be charged to attend);
- \*Reduced admission to the Judge's Pride Reception and complimentary admission to other receptions and events;
- \*Continuing Legal Education seminars (as offered);
- \*Membership on one or more of LAGBAC's committees (including Judicial Evaluation Committee); and
- \*Much, much more...

As the only bar organization solely dedicated to the LGBT legal community, it is crucial that our membership reflect our strength and our unity. For the past few years, the Board has been working tirelessly to increase the membership and profile of LAGBAC and the benefits of LAGBAC membership. Chances are that you have shared a cocktail with your colleagues during a Meet the Bar at Sidetrack or you or your firm participated in or sponsored Lawyers for Diversity. Or, perhaps you investigated or interviewed a judicial candidate or you have joined the Mentorship Program as a mentor or mentee. No doubt over the last year you have witnessed the great programs, events and initiatives that LAGBAC has brought to the LGBT legal community and its membership...and 2008 stands to be no different. From CLEs and workshops, to the regularly-scheduled Meet the Bar events and Lawyers for Diversity, 2008 promises to be a great year for LAGBAC.

During the New Year, LAGBAC promises to build on these existing programs and to introduce new opportunities for its membership. But, in order for LAGBAC to fulfill this promise to you, LAGBAC needs you to do three things! **First**, LAGBAC needs you to renew your membership (or become a member). LAGBAC is only as strong as its membership and we can be stronger! The greater LAGBAC's membership, the more programs, events and initiatives LAGBAC is able to bring to its membership. **Second**, LAGBAC needs you to spread the word to your friends and colleagues. Whether you work in a law firm or for the government, please pass this to any and all attorneys whom you think would be interested in joining. **Third**, ask one person to join LAGBAC. If each current member asks one person to become a member, LAGBAC will easily be one of the biggest minority bars in Chicago. Please consider helping LAGBAC fulfill its promise...

I hope you enjoy the Holidays and I wish you a Happy New Year!

Best, *Jeremy*



*OUTLAW Coalition continues activities - see page 2.*

*Judicial Evaluation Committee news- see page 4*

*LAGBAC re-launches membership directory - see page 7*

*2008 Scholarship Applications due January 1, 2008 - see page 5*

## inside...

Message from the President.....	1
OUTLaw Coalition continues.....	2
Mentorship program underway.....	2
Upcoming programming.....	2
Know your rights: Seminars.....	3
LGBT mediation pilot program.....	3
Meet the Bar nights continue.....	3
JEC news.....	4
Special Event: State's Attorney	
Candidate Forum.....	4
Speednetworking: save the date!.....	4
2008 Scholarship applications available.....	5, 8-9
AIDS Legal Checkup.....	6
Membership Application.....	6

# CHICAGOLAND LGBT LAW STUDENT "OUTLAW" COALITION CONTINUES ACTIVITIES

The Outlaw Coalition of Chicago has been working to make an impact on the greater Chicago LGBT scene since its formation last year. The group, which consists of the LGBT groups of the six Chicago-area law schools, has officially established a set of bylaws and a rotating presidency among the law schools. On Thursday, October 11 – the Coalition hosted a National Coming Out Day Happy Hour at Sidetrack. Sponsored by the John Marshall Law School GALLA, the Loyola OUTLaws, the UChicago OUTLaws, the NWU OUTLaws, the DePaul OUTLaws, and the Chicago-Kent Lambdas, the happy hour brought together a number of LGBT students from across Chicago to celebrate the 19th anniversary of the international awareness day. The Coalition has a number of plans for next semester and for future years, so keep an eye out for these student-led activities!

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## LAGBAC STUDENT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM UNDERWAY

Eighteen law students and fifteen attorneys are currently participating in LAGBAC's mentorship program. LAGBAC attorneys have offered incredible support for the program, which is still in its first year. The mentorship program pairs GLBT law students with attorneys practicing in their areas of interest. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, and additional assignments will be made at the beginning of next year. If you are interested in becoming a mentor or mentee, go to [www.lagbac.org](http://www.lagbac.org) for an application or contact [jmjohnson@lagbac.org](mailto:jmjohnson@lagbac.org).

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## UPCOMING PROGRAMMING

In April, LAGBAC will be presenting a law student program on "What To Expect In Your Summer Clerkship."

LAGBAC is in the process of developing an Ethics MCLE on "Workplace Diversity: Why Your Firm Should Include Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity In Its Diversity Statement." This program will be held in May.

Times and dates for both programs will be announced in a later newsletter, or check out our webpage, [www.lagbac.org](http://www.lagbac.org).

## LAVENDER LAW 2008

For its 20th Anniversary, Lavender Law – 2008 will be returning to the city of the first conference, San Francisco. Lavender Law is conference that brings together more than 500 LGBT lawyers, law professors, law students, judges and other legal professionals. The conference will be held September 4-6, 2008. Please visit [lavenderlaw.org](http://lavenderlaw.org) for more information

**COMING SOON!**

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: LAGBAC continues the 2007- 08 Legal Seminar Series

LAGBAC has joined forces with the Chicago Public Library and Howard Brown Health Center on a comprehensive legal seminar series.

Come learn from experts in each field.

All sessions begin at 6:30 pm., unless otherwise noted, and are held at Howard Brown Health Center., 4025 N. Sheridan Road, in Chicago.

**December 12, 2007**

**Gay and Gray: Financial Planning and Related Issues**  
(Michael Mock)

**January 16, 2008**

**Buying Your First Home**  
(Irene Reed)

**February 20, 2008**

**Estate Planning and Advance Directives**  
(David Wells and Ray Prather)

Check out the  
LAGBAC website  
[www.lagbac.org](http://www.lagbac.org)

## MEET THE BAR NIGHTS CONTINUE

LAGBAC is excited to announce the return of Meet the Bar, which is a social gathering of law students, lawyers and judges at Sidetrack (3349 N. Halsted St.) that meets monthly. Members are offered complimentary drinks and a great way to meet other LGBT law students, judges, practitioners and our supporters. The next two Meet the Bar nights will be November 30 and January 25, 2008. If you or your law firms would like more information about sponsoring a Meet the Bar night, please contact Jeremy Gottschalk at [jgottschalk@lagbac.org](mailto:jgottschalk@lagbac.org) for more information. If you are interested, you are encouraged to hurry because sponsorships are filling up fast!!

We generally attract a large crowd of students, practitioners, and judges, and if you haven't tried Sidetrack's slushy drinks you don't know what you're missing! It's a great mix of networking and serious fun. See you there!

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## LGBT MEDIATION PILOT PROGRAM

Calling all certified mediators!!! In conjunction with the Cook County Circuit Court, LAGBAC seeks certified mediators to help develop and execute a one-of-a-kind LGBT mediation program. The Program is set to lift off the ground this Fall/Winter and we need certified mediators to volunteer. Specifically, LAGBAC seeks certified mediators to volunteer in the pilot LGBT mediation program and to work with the Center for Conflict Resolution and Cook County Circuit Court on developing the Program to be implemented in and available to the Cook County Circuit Court. Please contact Brad Fiorito at [bfiorito@seyfarth.com](mailto:bfiorito@seyfarth.com) for more information or to volunteer.

# LAGBAC JUDICIAL EVALUATION COMMITTEE NEWS

LAGBAC's Judicial Evaluation Committee (JEC) is in full swing for the 2008 election year. LAGBAC, along with the nine other member bars of the Alliance of Bar Associations for Judicial Screening, are currently interviewing judicial candidates who plan to seek election in the February 2008 primary. Following that primary, the Alliance and the Chicago Bar Association will begin to jointly interview the 80 or so sitting judges who will be seeking retention in the November 2008 general election.

Service on LAGBAC's JEC presents an excellent opportunity both to have a voice in the selection of judges and to make contact with the diverse attorneys who represent LAGBAC and the other members bar of the Alliance, which include the Asian American Bar, the Black Women Lawyers, the Chicago Council of Lawyers, Cook County Bar, Decalogue Society of Lawyers, Hellenic Bar, Illinois State Bar, Puerto Rican Bar, and the Women's Bar Association. The JEC chair, Mark Dupont, would be glad to discuss with you how the committee operates. Should you decide to join the committee, you will be paired with an experienced JEC member to accompany you to your first set of interviews and orient you to the evaluation process. Although JEC members are encouraged to participate in all aspects of the evaluation process, including interviews, investigations, and committee discussions of individual candidates, each member determines his or her own level of involvement.

Please contact Mark Dupont at 312-435-3001 if you would like further information about the JEC.

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## STATE'S ATTORNEY CANDIDATE FORUM

The Cook County Bar Association is planning a State's Attorney Candidate Forum, to be held December 11, 2008, at the ISBA Chicago Office, 20 S. Clark Street, from 5:30 to 8 PM. LAGBAC is pleased to be co-sponsoring this event. Come find out about the candidates for State's Attorney!

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## SPEEDNETWORKING - SAVE THE DATE (Feb. 26, 2008)!

In conjunction with LAGBAC's mentorship program, LAGBAC's Law School Committee and Loyola University Chicago School of Law's Career Services will be sponsoring a networking event to be held at Loyola on Thursday, February 26, 2008, from 5 to 8 p.m. A short reception will follow. Law students will have the opportunity to briefly meet with an attorney, take his/her business card, and then switch partners. The goal is for law students to learn more about the careers of as many GLBT attorneys as time allows and to hopefully gain some important contacts in the process. LAGBAC is asking for the help of its attorney members in making this event a success. If you can make yourself available for the evening, please RSVP to Jason Johnson at [jmjohnson@lagbac.org](mailto:jmjohnson@lagbac.org) and include your contact and practice information.

Details are as follows: Loyola University Chicago School of Law, Lewis Towers, Beane Hall, 13th Floor Ballroom. Lewis Towers is located at 820 North Michigan Avenue.

# APPLICATIONS FOR 2008 LAGBAC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM NOW AVAILABLE

After a successful inaugural year, The LAGBAC Foundation, the charitable arm of the Lesbian & Gay Bar Association of Chicago, is seeking applications for its Scholarship Program for 2008.

If you are a law student who is committed to social justice in the LGBTQ community and have secured or will secure an internship with an organization or agency that does this type of work, this scholarship is for you. Many times internships with organizations that work on issues important to our community are unpaid. This, as you know, discourages many from taking these jobs. The LAGBAC Foundation is doing its part by paying a stipend to those who do this good and necessary work.

Last year, the Foundation awarded two \$4000 scholarships to students who worked at the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. Interested?

This year, The LAGBAC Foundation will award scholarships to support full-time employment at a qualified LGBT/civil rights organization during the summer of 2008. First, Second and Third year law students are encouraged to apply; the scholarships range in amount, from \$3,000 to \$4,000. Applications are printed herein at pages 8-9 and also can be found at [www.lagbac.org](http://www.lagbac.org) and are due by January 1, 2008. Remember, you must apply for your own internship as well as the scholarship by January 1, 2008.

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## AIDS LEGAL CHECKUP

LAGBAC and the OUTLaw Coalition of Chicago are gearing up to implement the HIV/AIDS Legal Checkup Program in conjunction with Howard Brown Health Center. This American Bar Association- endorsed, cutting-edge legal needs assessment program will combine the skills of both practicing attorneys as well as law students. Volunteers will be able to provide a preventative legal service for low-income individuals living with HIV/AIDS. The legal check up program is in the final vetting process to finalize the information that will be used to assess the legal rights of participants under Illinois law. Early this fall, the partners will begin soliciting volunteers from both the general legal community as well as from area law schools to help in implementing the program.

Volunteers will participate in a short training session and will then begin performing the legal checkups at the Howard Brown Health Center. The checkups will include an overview of the legal rights that citizens have if they are living with HIV/AIDS as well as how their status can impact their treatment under the law. In addition, participants may help provide referrals to legal services as necessary. The program seeks to provide a free service for members of the LGBT community at large and also will allow both working professionals and students to put their knowledge to work in order to help those that may need it most.

# DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR LAGBAC MEMBERSHIP FOR 2008!

Renew your membership now by going to [www.lagbac.org](http://www.lagbac.org) or mailing your membership dues to:

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

LAGBAC members enjoy the following benefits:

- \*Meet the Bar nights (nonmembers and guests will be charged \$5);
- \*Lawyers for Diversity Mid-Summer Barbecue (nonmembers, non-sponsoring firms and guests will be charged to attend);
- \* Judge's Pride Reception and other receptions and events;
- \*Continuing Legal Education seminars (as offered);
- \*Membership on LAGBAC's committees; and
- \*Much, much more...

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## 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. Membership runs January 1-December 31.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues:

Sustaining Member: \$100 \_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsoring Member: \$75 \_\_\_\_\_  
Regular Member: \$50 \_\_\_\_\_  
Student Member: \$30\* \_\_\_\_\_ Law school and graduation date: \_\_\_\_\_  
AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

\*STUDENTS: \$30 membership is valid through Dec 31 of graduation year

If you are interested in further info, please contact us at : [jgottschalk@lagbac.org](mailto:jgottschalk@lagbac.org).

# LAGBAC MEMBER DIRECTORY RELAUNCH

LAGBAC is in the process of developing the LAGBAC Member Directory. The LAGBAC Member Directory provides membership information on a volunteer basis among LAGBAC members and the public, and is available to the public through LAGBAC's website, located at [www.lagbac.org](http://www.lagbac.org). The Directory is a benefit to LAGBAC's members, providing them with a unique and significant opportunity to develop clients through the website from people who are seeking counsel in particular areas of expertise. LAGBAC's website has a significant and increasing amount of traffic, and much of it is from individuals looking for a LGBT lawyer in the Chicago area, and often a referral to a lawyer in a particular field. Any LAGBAC member is entitled to participate. To participate, complete and return the attached form, which is also available on the website. Upon receipt of the form, the lawyer's name, contact information and area of practice or expertise will be posted to a separate page on LAGBAC's website devoted to the Directory, and readily accessible to searches on the web, as well as from within the website.

Members interested in participating should complete the form below and return it to: LAGBAC Member Directory c/o LAGBAC, P.O. Box 64933, Chicago, Illinois 60664-0933, or pdfs of the application herein can be emailed to [jgottschalk@lagbac.org](mailto:jgottschalk@lagbac.org).

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## LAGBAC QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MEMBER ATTORNEYS

Do you currently practice law? \_\_\_ YES / \_\_\_ NO  
Are you currently licensed to practice in Illinois? \_\_\_ YES / \_\_\_ NO  
Are you licensed in any other jurisdictions? \_\_\_ YES / \_\_\_ NO  
If yes, which other jurisdictions? \_\_\_\_\_

If you practice law, which best describes your firm?

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1-5 Attorneys
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6-25 Attorneys
- \_\_\_\_\_ 26-99 Attorneys
- \_\_\_\_\_ 100 + Attorneys

In what area(s) of the law do you practice or specialize? \_\_\_\_\_

In what area(s) of the law does your firm practice or specialize? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you open to referrals? \_\_\_ YES / \_\_\_ NO  
Is your firm LGBT friendly? \_\_\_ YES / \_\_\_ NO  
Contact Information to be displayed on the LAGBAC Web site:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Firm: \_\_\_\_\_

Firm Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

By checking this box, you agree to have your information along with you firms information displayed on LAGBAC's web site. If you do not check this box, your information will NOT be displayed on the web site.

# THE LESBIAN AND GAY BAR ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO FOUNDATION 2008 SUMMER SCHOLARSHIP GRANT APPLICATION

The Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago (LAGBAC) is a professional, not for profit organization comprised of judges, attorneys, law students, and affiliated legal professionals that relies on the energy of its members to be successful. The LAGBAC Foundation is a charitable, 501(c)(3) organization that raises funds in order to, among other things, assist law students who desire to work for a public interest organization. To this end, the LAGBAC Foundation awards grants to law students attending an accredited law school in Illinois who will be working for a qualified public interest organization. The number of LAGBAC Foundation scholarship grants awarded depends on, among other factors, the result of the Foundation's fundraising efforts and the number of qualified applicants.

The Foundation will award scholarship grants ranging from \$3,000.00 to \$4,000.00 to support full-time, summer employment with a qualified public interest organization. Scholarship grant recipients will be required to complete 300-400 hours over a 10 week period. LAGBAC Foundation scholarship grants can be used to supplement other funding received for work above and beyond the required 300 hours; however, you must disclose any other funding sources and preference will be given to students who lack other dedicated funding for summer work. All scholarship grants will be awarded by the LAGBAC Foundation Board of Directors.

## Student Eligibility:

- The applicant must be a student attending an accredited Illinois law school.
- The applicant must commit to complete between 300 and 400 hours over the course of 10 weeks during the 2008 summer break.
- First, second, and third year full-time and part-time students are encouraged to apply.

## Factors Considered:

- The extent to which the applicant has participated in activities aligned with LAGBAC's goals and mission.
- The position obtained by the applicant (or intended position) and the importance of the unmet public legal need to be addressed by applicant.
- The quality of supervision, including, but not limited to, training, guidance, and learning experience.
- The applicant's demonstrated commitment to public service or public interest law.
- The quality of the applicant's application.

## Qualified Organization:

An applicant must, before applying, apply to or secure a position at a qualifying public interest organization in the Chicagoland area that meets the following standards (you will need to turn in a copy of that application along with this application):

- The proposed organization must utilize the legal skills of the applicant;
- The applicant will be supervised, preferably by a licensed attorney; and
- The position must be consistent with LAGBAC's goals and would otherwise be unfunded.

Public interest work includes, but is not limited to, legal assistance organizations, private nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and private, pro bono projects. The LAGBAC Foundation does not fund employment on political campaigns or with judges. Suggested organizations include, but not limited to: Lambda Legal, AIDS Legal Council of Chicago, American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois LGBT Project, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Howard Brown Health Center, Midwest International Human Rights Center and Equality Illinois. If you are interested in applying but are uncertain which organization to approach or how to approach them, contact Jeremy Gottschalk, at [jgottschalk@lagbac.org](mailto:jgottschalk@lagbac.org).

## Application:

- Current resume, highlighting activities in which you have participated that are consistent with LAGBAC's mission and goals;
- Personal statement (no more than three single-spaced pages);
- Response to the following statement (no more than three single-spaced pages): The role that attorneys play in the LGBT rights movement;
- Either: (a) A letter from a representative at a qualified organization where applicant has obtained summer employment or (b) a copy of your application to the qualified organization where you intend to work; and
- Candidates may be asked to participate in a brief interview.

At the end of the summer, the applicant and the qualified organization will be responsible for jointly preparing a brief report summarizing the experience.

The application must be received by LAGBAC at the address below no later than January 1, 2008.

The scholarship grants will be awarded shortly thereafter.

LAGBAC Foundation Application

P.O. Box 64933

Chicago, Illinois 60664-0933

Questions concerning the application and the potential eligibility of students and/or organizations should be directed to Jeremy H. Gottschalk at [jgottschalk@lagbac.org](mailto:jgottschalk@lagbac.org).