



FALL 2007 Lavender Law/Back to School Edition

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

Welcome Lavender Law 2007 attendees!



Welcome law school students!



LAGBAC welcomes you!

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends:

Greetings! Lavender Law attendees, I want to welcome you to Lavender Law 2007 and, for those of you from out of town, I want to extend a special welcome to you on behalf of the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago. LAGBAC, its Board of Directors and Members have played an active role in the planning and execution of Lavender Law 2007 and we hope that you enjoy the conference! Throughout the conference, you will be exposed to many great speakers, networking and social opportunities and various CLEs and other programs. We hope that you are able to spend some time and enjoy yourself in our great City. If you have any questions or need directions, please feel free to ask the many LAGBAC Board Members, Members and volunteers.

Chicagoland lawyers, legal professionals, and law students - as Fall approaches and the academic year begins, LAGBAC is excited to announce its upcoming programs and initiatives that have been planned for its Members and the legal community. This year, we are excited to announce that LAGBAC will be presenting for the first time ever "Inside the Illinois Supreme Court" with Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke, on October 25 from 5-7pm, inside the Illinois Supreme Court Courtroom. Justice Burke will speak about the untold secrets and myths of the Illinois Supreme Court and will attend a reception following her presentation. In addition, LAGBAC will formally roll out the HIV Legal CheckUp Program and the LGBT Mediation Program, both developed in conjunction with Howard Brown Health Center, and the Mentorship Program for law students. Coming this Fall/Winter, LAGBAC will maintain for the first time ever a Legal Resource Directory on its web site at www.lagbac.org. (Cont. on p. 2)



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT *(Cont. from p. 1)*

Returning this year, LAGBAC will again sponsor its regularly-scheduled Friday Meet the Bar nights at Sidetrack (3349 N. Halsted St.), its legal seminar series co-sponsored with Howard Brown Health Center and the Chicago Public Library, and various other programs targeting its Members and the community. Most notably, the LAGBAC Foundation, in conjunction with LAGBAC, will again offer scholarships for first and second year law students interning at a civil rights/LGBT rights organization for the upcoming 2008 Summer. Applications will be available this Fall through your Career Services Office and online at [www.lagbac.org](http://www.lagbac.org).

LAGBAC is excited to welcome the participants of Lavender Law 2007! We are hopeful that you enjoy your time in Chicago and that you take advantage of the wonderful opportunities and experiences Lavender Law has to offer. If we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best,

*Jeremy*

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## CHICAGOLAND LGBT LAW STUDENT "OUTLAW" COALITION STARTS SECOND YEAR

The start of a new school year brings with it the Outlaws Coalition Chicago's second year. While the Coalition is not officially affiliated with LAGBAC, it works closely with Jason Johnson and LAGBAC's Law School Committee. The Coalition is an organization comprised of members of Chicago-area law school LGBT groups. Its aims include: providing support for the individual law school group and organizing events, both social and educational, as well as volunteer opportunities, for LGBT members of the Chicago law school community. Top priorities for the 2007-08 school year include the HIV Legal Check-Up program and promoting the LAGBAC Mentorship Program. Outlaws Coalition Chicago is: Daniel Attaway, Chicago-Kent Lambdas; Brian Butler, President DePaul OUTLaws; Cory Bagby and John Litchfield, Co-Chairs Loyola OUTLaw; Mark Seconsky, Co-President GALLA; Hector Bove, Northwestern OUTLaw; and Alex Kolod, Co-Chair University of Chicago OUTLaw.

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

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: LAGBAC announces 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.

**September 19, 2007**

**Chicago Landlord/Tenant**  
(Mario Sullivan)

**October 17, 2007**

**Securing and Dissolving LGBT Relationships**  
(Richard Wilson)

**November 3, 2007**

**Immigration and Labor/Employment Law For Business Owners**  
(Mike Jarecki and Tanya Jachimiak)  
(Note: This will be held noon-3 PM)

**November 14, 2007**

**Adoption and Custody**  
(Kate Buchanan)

**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 Jeremy Gottschalk)

## MEET THE BAR NIGHTS ANNOUNCED

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. Meet the Bar will take place on the following dates from 6-8pm: September 28; October 26; November 30; and, January 25. 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 SET TO LIFT OFF

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 gearing up for the 2008 election year. Beginning in September, LAGBAC along with the nine other member bars of the Alliance of Bar Associations for Judicial Screening, will begin to interview 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 at 312-435-3001 if you would like further information about the JEC.

## THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A JUDGE?

If you have given thought to seeking election or appointment to the bench, there are two upcoming events that will be of interest to you.

First, on Thursday, September 27, 2007 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Daley Center, LAGBAC will be co-sponsoring, along with the Asian-American Bar Association, Black Women Lawyers' Association, Cook County Bar Association, and the Puerto Rican Bar, a forum entitled "Getting on the Ballot and Winning." Panelists will include Judges Nathaniel Howse, Marjorie Laws, Leonard Murray, Sandra Otaka, and Sebastian Patti. The program is free of charge and will cover such topics as campaign finance, commonly litigated election law issues, and running effective subcircuit and countywide campaigns. If you have any questions, please contact Mark Dupont at 312-435-3001.

Second, on either Wednesday October 10 or Wednesday October 17, 2007, from 5:15 to 7:00 (date pending), the Alliance of Bar Associations for Judicial Screening will be hosting a program for prospective judicial candidates which will give candidates an overview of the entire Alliance evaluation process, including the candidate application, investigation process, interview, and ratings. This informative program is an excellent opportunity for those thinking about seeking election or appointment to the bench to see how the Alliance works, what will be expected of them as candidates, and to have their questions answered. The program will be presented free of charge at the Illinois State Bar Association, 20 South Clark Street, Suite 900, and will include panelists from the member bars of the Alliance. Cook County Circuit Court Chief Judge Timothy C. Evans has been invited to deliver welcoming remarks. For further information please contact Mark Dupont at 312-435-3001 or Joyce Williams at the ISBA, 312-726-8775.

# LAGBAC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS FINISH SUCCESSFUL FIRST YEAR AT LAMBDA LEGAL SERVICES

The LAGBAC Foundation gave out its first summer internship stipends this past summer to Malcolm “Skip” Harsch, a 3L at DePaul University College of Law, and Todd Kolb, a 3L at Chicago-Kent College of Law. Kolb and Harsch both worked as interns at Lambda Legal in Chicago this summer. Both recipients indicated that the LAGBAC Foundation stipend allowed them to consider working for a nonprofit, which they would not have been able to afford to do otherwise. As Kolb noted, “Students pursuing public interest work often must consider the possible economic sacrifice involved. The work is great, but the pay is not. But the LAGBAC Foundation allowed me to work where I wanted to without having to worry about money and bills for the summer.”

Kolb worked on long-term research issues, including researching Wisconsin state law in *Timmerman v. Waite and Urias*, the first case where the Wisconsin “hate crimes” statute will be used to recover civil damages for the victim of a crime motivated by sexual orientation. He also worked on the “Help Desk,” the first point of contact that potential clients have with Lambda Legal. As Kolb noted, interacting with potential clients on a daily basis made the needs of the LGBT community real and immediate. However, the work was often challenging. As Kolb noted, “Some calls were not so easy: a crying mother who has not seen her daughter because of an ugly and biased custody fight, or an employee who has been forced out of a job because of his HIV status. Being on the front lines and dealing with the raw story is a double edged-sword. It gave me a perspective that I have not gotten from a case book or news article. But sometimes it simply wore me down. I have a deep respect for the Lambda Legal employees who deal with the Help Desk on a daily basis.”

Harsch also worked on the Help Desk and handled research and writing tasks. “I was asked right off the bat to work on writing questions for an upcoming deposition. This project was so much more than your usual research and writing assignment. It required me to become fully immersed in the pending case and all the work that had been put into litigation up to that point. Another of my more interesting assignments was writing a line of direct questions to be asked to an expert witness in an upcoming trial. Once again I found that this task required so much more than a normal research assignment. I had to quickly get caught up on almost a year’s worth of motions, briefs, affidavits, and depositions.”

The LAGBAC Foundation was very pleased to give Harsch and Kolb this opportunity, and we are looking forward to our next round of scholarships. This will be enabled in large part by the successful Lawyers for Diversity fundraiser held at Sidetrack on July 26 of this year. The application for the 2008 summer stipends will be available soon - check [www.lagbac.org](http://www.lagbac.org) for details!.

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## INSIDE THE SUPREME COURT WITH JUSTICE ANNE BURKE

LAGBAC is excited to announce “Inside the Illinois Supreme Court,” a presentation by Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne M. Burke, to occur on October 25, 2007 from 5-7 PM in the Supreme Court Courtroom. Justice Burke will address mysteries and myths about the Illinois Supreme Court. LAGBAC will follow the presentation with a reception at which guests can meet and talk to Justice Burke.



## LAGBAC welcomes NLGLA's 2007 Lavender Law conference to Chicago

The Lesbian and Gay Law Association of Chicago (LAGBAC) would like to welcome Lavender Law – 2007 to Chicago. For the first time since 1992, Chicago has the distinct honor of being the host city of Lavender Law 2007. LAGBAC is honored to have assisted the Local Host Committee in planning this year Lavender Law, a conference that brings together more than 1000 LGBT lawyers, law professors, law students, judges and other legal professionals.

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### BE A MENTOR OR A MENTEE

Don't pass up the opportunity to participate in LAGBAC's mentorship program, which was launched this past year. The program pairs law students with LGBT attorneys practicing in their fields of interest. Mentors and mentees meet with each other at least once a semester – hopefully more often. Each semester LAGBAC sponsors an event that brings all mentors and mentees together. This fall, LAGBAC plans to have a speed networking social. Each law student will meet with an attorney for a few minutes then switch partners and spend time with a different attorney. Keep your eyes peeled for details. LAGBAC accepts mentorship program applications on a rolling basis. However, to get the most out of the program, attorneys and law students should sign up early this fall. For more info, email [jjohnson@lagbac.org](mailto:jjohnson@lagbac.org). An application is included herein, pages 8-10.

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### AIDS LEGAL CHECKUP

The OUTLaw Coalition of Chicago is gearing up to implement the Howard Brown HIV/AIDS Legal Checkup Program. 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 Coalition 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.



## SEPTEMBER 14 & 15 2007

### 3RD ANNUAL COOK COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE MINORITY RECEPTION

Friday, September 14, 2007  
JOHN MARSHALL LAW SCHOOL  
315 SOUTH PLYMOUTH COURT  
CHICAGO, IL  
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

### 11TH ANNUAL PROSECUTORIAL OPPORTUNITIES SYMPOSIUM

Saturday, September 15, 2007  
JOHN MARSHALL LAW SCHOOL  
315 SOUTH PLYMOUTH COURT  
CHICAGO, IL  
8:30 am to 12:30 pm

Both events are free of charge!

RSVP at (312) 603-1847  
Please respond no later than  
September 7, 2007

#### PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

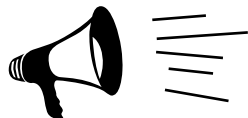
- \* The Cook County State's Attorney's Office
- \* City of Chicago Corporation Counsel's Office
- \* U.S. Attorney's Office
- \* Illinois Attorney General's Office

#### COSPONSORS

- \* The Cook County State's Attorney's Office
- \* National Black Prosecutor's Association
- \* National Hispanic Prosecutor's Association
- \* Asian American Bar Association
- \* Indian American Bar Association

#### SYMPOSIUM HIGHLIGHTS

- \*Head Prosecutors' Round Table
- \*A Young Lawyer's Perspective
- \*Interviewing and How To Prepare For Government Employment



A special thank you to: Jeremy Gottschalk for helping organize the Lawyers for Diversity event at Sidetrack which raised significant funds for the LAGBAC Foundation, to Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke for her remarks, and to Sidetrack for, as always, being great hosts!



Another special thank you to Tanya Jachmiak for coordinating LAGBAC's first-ever table at NorthHalsted Market Days! And thanks to all our volunteers! We talked to a lot of people and hope to expand our presence next year.

# LAGBAC MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

LAGBAC is excited to announce a new mentorship program overseen by the Law School Committee. Attorneys who agree to participate in the program will be paired with one or more Chicago-area law students. For attorneys, the program provides an opportunity to mentor students who may be facing concerns about career choices, passing the bar, and entrance into practice as GLBT attorneys. For students, the program will offer networking opportunities, the chance to learn about different practice areas, and the support of an attorney who was once in their shoes.

Attorneys and students who participate in the program should meet at least once a quarter at a mutually agreeable place (we encourage mentors and mentees to get together somewhere other than the attorney's office). The Committee also plans on organizing an event each semester that will bring together all mentors and their mentees.

To participate in the program, please fill out the appropriate application form (attached) and return it to Jason Johnson, LAGBAC Board Member, as listed on the form. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. The Committee will do its best to match mentees with mentors practicing in their areas of interest and with their sexual orientation of preference. We will notify you of your mentor/mentee assignment as soon as possible.

If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions, please direct them to [jjohnson@lagbac.org](mailto:jjohnson@lagbac.org).

Thanks for your participation in this important program!

The LAGBAC Board and  
Law School Committee

# LAGBAC MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

## Mentor Application

*Fax to Jason Johnson at (312) 276-9001*

*or email to [jjohnson@lagbac.org](mailto:jjohnson@lagbac.org)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Work) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Type of employer: [ ] Firm [ ] Government [ ] Non-profit [ ] Other \_\_\_\_\_

Practice areas \_\_\_\_\_

Yrs in practice \_\_\_\_\_

Law School \_\_\_\_\_ Grad. date \_\_\_\_\_

Bar Admissions/Date: Illinois / \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Number of mentees desired \_\_\_\_\_

Prefer mentee that is: [G] [L] [B] [T]

Why do you want to participate in the mentorship program?

Comments:

As a mentor, you agree to contact and meet with any mentees assigned to you at least once quarterly. Meetings should take place at a mutually agreeable location other than your office (although we encourage you to introduce your mentee(s) to your office on other occasions). Please contact your mentee(s) within two weeks of receiving your initial assignment. Should you have questions or concerns, please contact Jason Johnson of the LAGBAC Board at [jjohnson@lagbac.org](mailto:jjohnson@lagbac.org).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# LAGBAC MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

## Mentee Application

*Fax to Jason Johnson at (312) 276-9001*

*or email to [jjohnson@lagbac.org](mailto:jjohnson@lagbac.org)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Law School \_\_\_\_\_ Expected Grad. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Law School  First  Second  Third  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Employment Interests:

Firm  Government  Non-profit  Other \_\_\_\_\_  Undecided

Practice Areas of Interest \_\_\_\_\_

Bar Exam / Date  Illinois / \_\_\_\_\_  Other \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Prefer mentor that is:  [G]  [L]  [B]  [T]

What do you hope to gain from the mentorship program?

Comments:

As a mentee, you agree to meet with your mentor at least once quarterly. Meetings should take place at a mutually agreeable location other than your mentor's office (although we encourage you to visit your mentor at his or her office on other occasions). Please contact Jason Johnson at [jjohnson@lagbac.org](mailto:jjohnson@lagbac.org) if you have not heard from your mentor within two weeks of receiving your initial assignment or if you have other concerns.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



**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. **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 \_\_\_\_\_

**\*NEW LAW STUDENT RATE:** A one-time \$30 membership payment enables law students to LAGBAC membership through December 31st following graduation!

I would like to join the following committees:

- Communications Committee (develop, create and maintain web site & newsletter)
- Judicial Evaluation Committee (participate in judicial investigations and interviews)
- Program/Events Committee (design and execute programs/events for members, students)
- Women’s Committee (design and execute women’s initiatives, programs and events)
- Law School Liaison Committee (develop and maintain law school/student relationships)
- Membership Committee (outreach to and development of LAGBAC membership)

Would you like to be added to LAGBAC’s Membership Resource Directory?  yes  no  
*The LAGBAC Membership Resource Directory is an online referral list on our web site. By choosing “yes” you agree to be publicly included in our online referral list.*

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

Send to: LAGBAC  
P.O. Box 64933 or apply online at [www.lagbac.org](http://www.lagbac.org).  
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