



**JANUARY 2006**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hopefully this finds you relaxed and well-rested from the Holidays! As snow starts to fall and Winter finally sets in, I am happy to report on LAGBAC's new initiatives for 2007 and our progress. Before I get to that, however, there are some changes in the Board worth noting. First, after years of service to the LAGBAC Board as Secretary, Mark Teague has stepped down. December would have marked the end of Mark's term, which was extended due to the recent change in the Bylaws. We thank Mark and wish him well. I am sure Mark will stay in touch and we will see him at our events. Dan Allen will assume the role of Secretary as well as Membership Chair. I am excited to announce that Jason Johnson has joined the Board and will fill the remainder of Mark's term. Jason has been vital in LAGBAC's effort in reaching out to all the LGBT law school students and groups. As the Law School Liaison, Jason serves as a conduit between the Board and the student groups as well as an advisor to many of the groups. We'd also like to welcome Megan Schaeffer to the Board. She is a law student at DePaul and will serve in the newly-created Law Student Board position. Please join me in welcoming Jason and Megan.

### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

LAGBAC is seeing a growth in its membership over past years. We are grateful to all our members and especially thank our Sustaining Members, whose added contribution positions us to reach our goals and implement new initiatives. LAGBAC Memberships follow the calendar year, so take advantage of the full year of membership by signing up now! As we begin to grow and expand, the Board is committed to bringing opportunities for its Membership. Many of you have asked how you can help and how you can give back to LAGBAC. One of the most vital roles the membership can play is to ask others to become members of LAGBAC. There is strength in numbers and we want to be stronger than ever. Please forward this newsletter to fellow lawyers in your firm or organizations, other firms or organizations, law schools and law school students. Please contact Dan Allen for more information at [dallen@chilagbac.org](mailto:dallen@chilagbac.org).

### 2007 BOARD MEETINGS SCHEDULED

The Board is committed to encouraging membership involvement and invites all members to the monthly meetings. The meetings for 2007 are as follows: 2/5; 3/5; 4/2; 5/7; 6/4; 7/9; 8/6; 9/10; 10/1; 11/5; and 12/3. Unless otherwise notified, all meetings will take place at the offices of Bell Boyd Lloyd, at 70 W. Madison St., Suite 2700. Please note that you must contact me [jgottschalk@chilagbac.org](mailto:jgottschalk@chilagbac.org) to let me know you intend to join us so I can enter you into security. Please join us.

### BYLAW REVISION PROJECT

The Board is in the process of revising the Bylaws for LAGBAC and we seek your input. We will send the proposed revisions to the membership in February. The main item on the agenda for the March meeting will be discussion and adoption of the revised bylaws. We ask that all those wishing to participate in the discussion or offer comments or suggestions, please do so by joining us at the 3/5 meeting.

*Judicial Evaluation Committee update... see page 5.*

*New LAGBAC Law Student Committee is forming... for details see page 4*

*Meet our newest Board Members! see page 4.*

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# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT *(continued)*

## **SAME SEX DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MEDIATION PROGRAM**

Along with the Board, Brad Fiorito is spearheading an effort to bring a same-sex mediation program to Cook County. The Program, rumored to be the first of its kind, would be offered to litigants faced with domestic violence and housing/property issues, as well as relationship dissolution. If you are a certified mediator and/or willing to be on the steering committee that has been formed to create and implement the mediation program, please contact Brad Fiorito at [bfiorito@seyfarth.com](mailto:bfiorito@seyfarth.com). We are in the early stages and looking for member involvement!

## **ANDERSONVILLE MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL EVENT**

We are in the process of planning many events, the first of which will be an informal social event in Andersonville. As we grow and expand, we are looking for ways for the membership to get to know one another, network and socialize. The second event is a membership award and cocktail reception in April. This event will focus on the members of LAGBAC and those serving the LGBT legal community. Stay tuned for more information and contact Mario Sullivan at [msullivan@chilagbac.org](mailto:msullivan@chilagbac.org) if you would like to participate in the planning process.

## **NEW AND IMPROVED LAGBAC WEB SITE TO BE LAUNCHED SOON**

Stay tuned for LAGBAC's brand new, interactive and informational web site coming next month! Beginning with the launch of the new web site at [www.lagbac.org](http://www.lagbac.org) (instead of [www.chilagbac.org](http://www.chilagbac.org)), email addresses for Board Members and all other instances of [chilagbac.org](http://chilagbac.org) will be changed to [lagbac.org](http://lagbac.org). Stay tuned!!!

As you can see, we are working very hard to bring LAGBAC to the forefront of the LGBT legal community. We hope you will join us at the events, participate on a committee or get involved in some way.

*-- Jeremy*



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

The National Lesbian and Gay Law Association ("NLGLA") is bringing Lavender Law to Chicago in 2007. Each year NLGLA presents Lavender Law, an LGBT Conference, presenting panel discussion, CLE programs, and events focused on current legal issue affecting the LGBT Community. This past Lavender Law was an overwhelming success! It was attended by over 800 students, lawyers, judges, and other legal professionals who came together to support diversity in the profession.

NLGLA needs your help. The legal profession has recognized the importance of diversity in their firms. Supporting Lavender Law 2007 – Chicago, the only national LGBT job fair, as a sponsor and attendee at the career fair provides your firm with recognition for its diversity efforts. Won't you join us? For more information on sponsorship opportunities please contact D'Arcy Kemnitz at [darcy@nlgl.org](mailto:darcy@nlgl.org) or visit NLGLA's website at [www.nlgl.org](http://www.nlgl.org).

# LAGBAC'S WEB BASED REFERRAL NETWORK

Have you ever faced a situation where you need to find an attorney with a particular expertise (or from a certain discipline or practice) and wished you knew a “family” member or supporter to whom you could pitch the business? LAGBAC is launching a referral network that will be available through our new web site at [www.lagbac.org](http://www.lagbac.org). Now we will have the opportunity to refer clients to other LGBT attorneys. Please find below a Questionnaire. If you’re interested in taking part, please fill it out and return to LAGBAC, or contact our Membership Chairperson, Daniel Allen, at [dallen@chilagbac.org](mailto:dallen@chilagbac.org), for an electronic copy of the application. If you sign up for the network, please be advised that all the information you provide, including your firm’s information, will be posted on the LAGBAC web site. We all know how important networking is, and this added benefit is free to all LAGBAC members. We hope to have this up and running with the new website launch next month.

## 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.

Please return the filled out form to via email [dallen@chilagbac.org](mailto:dallen@chilagbac.org) or via fax to 773-784-0207.

# Welcome to our newest board members!

Jason M. Johnson is an Associate at Maduff & Maduff, where he represents plaintiffs in employment discrimination and civil rights matters. Before moving with his partner to Chicago in May 2006, Jason completed a clerkship with the D.C. Office of Bar Counsel, the equivalent of the Illinois ARDC. He graduated from George Mason University School of Law in Arlington, Virginia, in May 2005, where he was President of the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Law Association. In addition to his involvement with LAGBAC, Jason also volunteers with the Epilepsy Foundation and the Special Olympics and is involved with the creation of the National Organization for Law Students with Disabilities. Jason can be reached at [jmattjohnson@hotmail.com](mailto:jmattjohnson@hotmail.com).

Megan Schaeffer is a 2L at DePaul University College of Law where she is seeking a certificate in Health Law. Growing up in Washington, D.C., Megan spent summers interning at the House of Representatives and the U.S. Department of State. While an undergrad at Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, Indiana, Megan worked with a number of student organization, most particularly those addressing women's and feminist issues. Additionally, she organized Saint Mary's first Gay-Straight student alliance. Currently, Megan serves on the executive board of DePaul's student LGBT group and is a member of the Outlaw Coalition of Chicago.

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## MEET THE BAR NIGHTS SCHEDULED

Meet the Bar is a monthly social held at Sidetracks which brings together the Chicago area law students, practitioners, and judges in an informal setting to meet, network, and socialize. Our first Meet the Bar of the New Year will be on January 19, 2007. Mark your calendars for the next Meet the Bar on the February 16th, March 30th, April 27th, and May 18th. LAGBAC is currently looking for firm sponsorship for our February, March, April, and May Meet the Bars. This is a great opportunity to promote your firms diversity efforts, to support the LAGBAC Foundation, and to meet with the LGBT legal community. If you or your firm is interested in sponsoring Meet the Bar, please contact Mario Sullivan at [msullivan@chilagbac.org](mailto:msullivan@chilagbac.org).

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## LAGBAC FORMS NEW LAW STUDENT COMMITTEE

LAGBAC is excited to announce the establishment of a Law Student Committee comprised of licensed attorneys and law students. Last year, LAGBAC created a new Board position for one law student. The Board appointed Megan Schaeffer, a 2nd year law student at DePaul, to serve on the Board and the Law Student Committee. Committee members also include Board Members Tanya Jachimiak and Jason Johnson and Law Student Liaison Mike Jarecki.

The Law Student Committee will facilitate stronger relationships between Illinois law students and Chicago-area attorneys. The Committee plans to initiate a mentorship program and to create networking opportunities designed specifically for law students.

The Committee encourages both attorneys and law students interested in getting involved with this new venture to contact Jason Johnson at [jmattjohnson@hotmail.com](mailto:jmattjohnson@hotmail.com).

# LAGBAC FOUNDATION UPDATE

The LAGBAC Foundation is the charitable “arm” of the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago. The goals and mission of the Foundation include the education of the public on issues of importance to the LGBTQ community and to promote the growth of individuals who wish to dedicate their time agencies within our community. We have received applications for the 2007 grant year. Two to three grants, in the amount of \$3,000 - \$4,000 each, will be awarded to Illinois law students who commit to working with a qualified organization. Those organizations include, but are not limited to: Lambda Legal, ACLU of Illinois LGBT Project, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Howard Brown Health Center, Midwest International Human Rights Center, or AIDS Legal Counsel of Chicago. The LAGBAC Foundation is very excited to be able to fulfill its mission by awarding these grants. The Foundation was created as a 501(c)(3) corporation which allows a tax deduction for your contribution. Please help us to continue these awards by donating. You can either mail a check to the Foundation or contribute on-line at the LAGBAC web site. The Foundation will be announcing scholarship recipients in the Spring, and will be having a reception to formally recognize them then. I look forward to seeing you there!

-- Dorene Kuffer, President, LAGBAC Foundation

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## PROGRAMMING UPDATE

This year LAGBAC will be providing many substantive programs to its members and teaming up with other organizations. We are teaming up with the CBA Committee on the Legal Right of Lesbians and Gay Men to bring you programs to help your practice. February 6, 2007, is the next Committee meeting, which will be a presentation on “What you need to know about LGBT Estate Planning” presented by Barry Kozak, John Marshall Law School, and David Berek, Credit Suisse. The Committee meets at 12:15 p.m., Chicago Bar Association, 321 S. Plymouth Court.

In April, LAGBAC will host its first ever Award Reception to announce the recipients of the LAGBAC Foundations scholarship.

Finally, LAGBAC has two exciting programs in the works for law students “What to expect in your summer clerkship” and a CLE Ethics Program for all our members.

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## LAGBAC JUDICIAL EVALUATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

LAGBAC’s Judicial Evaluation Committee has completed its review of the 110 candidates for Associate Judge positions. After a very busy 2006, there are not going to be a lot of new candidates to review in 2007. Many thanks to the hardworking members of LAGBAC’s Judicial Evaluation Committee for their work on these ratings. If you have expressed interest in participating in the committee, watch forthcoming newsletters. We are going to be scheduling a meeting and training for new evaluators in the Spring. If you have any questions about the committee, please contact Mark Dupont at 312-435-3001.

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## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We’re still in the midst of our 2007 membership drive. We’ve had an overwhelmingly positive response from many of our past members who are not only renewing their membership, but renewing it at the SUSTAINING LEVEL! Thanks to everyone who has done that! The support of our members truly sustains this organization throughout the year. We are ramping up our membership drive for 2007 to make sure every Chicagoland gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, and supportive attorney is a member of LAGBAC. Remember our new membership policy change for law students. Beginning this month, all law students will pay a one-time \$30 payment for LAGBAC membership through December 31st following their graduation from law school. All current law student members will be grandfathered into the new policy. A membership application contained herein. If you want to join, fill it out or join on our web site at [www.chilagbac.org](http://www.chilagbac.org). If you know someone who should be a member, pass it on!



## 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: \$30\* \_\_\_\_\_ Law school and graduation date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Snail Mail Surcharge \$5 \_\_\_\_\_  
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)

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

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@chilagbac.org](mailto:jgottschalk@chilagbac.org)

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

or Visit us and Apply online at  
[www.chilagbac.org](http://www.chilagbac.org)