



JULY 2007

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

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear LAGBAC Member:

It is hard to imagine that just over a year ago, I assumed the role of President of LAGBAC. And as I was just re-elected in June, I am even more energized and excited to work with and on behalf of our members so that we continue to grow LAGBAC. My goal is to grow LAGBAC into the strongest organization it possibly can be -- which will be achieved when every LGBT attorney, law student, and supporter becomes a member. I am ecstatic about the growth LAGBAC has seen in the last year, including the expansion of the Board of Directors, and the expansion of various programs and initiatives.

As you have no doubt witnessed, LAGBAC has been successful in securing law firm sponsorship for the regularly-scheduled Meet the Bar nights, which sponsorship money goes to support the LAGBAC Foundation Scholarships; developing and implementing the most successful legal seminar series to date, which is done in partnership with Howard Brown Health Center and the Chicago Public Library; developing Chicago's version of the HIV Legal Check Up Program, which Program will offer free legal needs assessments to people living with HIV/AIDS, also in partnership with Howard Brown Health Center; and hosting various events for our members and the judiciary, including the Reception held April 11, 2007, to honor the Gay and Lesbian Judges of Cook County.

Although LAGBAC has seen substantial growth in the past year, there is still a lot that can be done. It is my hope that the members and the Board of Directors will work together to bring meaningful CLE seminars, create additional scholarship opportunities, develop seminars and panels for law students, and much, much more. To that end, I encourage you to get involved with LAGBAC's various programs and initiatives. If you are not a member, I encourage you to become a member today. If you are a member, please encourage your colleagues to join. Remember, joining LAGBAC is simple, just go to [www.lagbac.org](http://www.lagbac.org) and sign up today. I look forward to seeing you at an event in the very near future. Until then, enjoy Lawyers for Diversity!!!



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Best, *Jeremy*

# Check out the new LAGBAC website www.lagbac.org

NOTE: All Board of Director email addresses have been changed from xx@chilagbac.org to xx@lagbac.org.

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## Women's Committee Launches

LAGBAC's Women's Committee is a new committee and welcomes members of all genders. The committee exists as a reminder to us all that lesbian and bisexual women are under-represented not only among the LAGBAC ranks but also within other legal professional organizations. It is our hope that some day this committee will no longer be needed. For now, however, the Women's Committee will continue to encourage other female legal professionals within our community to join LAGBAC and to provide a voice within LAGBAC for concerns that may be of particular importance to female legal professionals. For more information or to become involved, please contact Tanya L. Jachimciak at tjachimciak@lagbac.org.

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## MEET YOUR NEW LAGBAC BOARD MEMBERS

### Richard Wilson

Richard A. Wilson is principal in The Law Offices of Richard A Wilson PC, in Chicago, where he concentrates exclusively on litigation and appellate practice relating to domestic relations law and legal issues, with particular emphasis on same-sex issues, including domestic partnerships, parentage, custody and visitation and related concerns and rights of persons in same-sex relationships.

Richard currently serves as Chair of the National Lesbian and Gay Law Association, and is active with the ISBA, ABA, AIDS Legal Counsel of Chicago, and NFLAC/NCLR. Richard has been a member of LAGBAC for a number of years and has had the privilege of doing volunteer work for the Law at the Library Series for LAGBAC in 2003-2004 and later through the Center on Halsted, where he has also participated in being a regular volunteer for the Center's legal clinic; as well as with Howard Brown Health Center. He has been a sponsor and participant in Lawyers for Diversity since its founding in 2005. He regularly does speaking and CLEs on same-sex legal issues related to domestic relations, both nationally through the ABA and related groups, and in Illinois at different area law schools.

Richard has strong commitment to working with LAGBAC and to its goals and programs, particularly (though not limited to) the work LAGBAC does with law students, scholarships and mentoring and is privileged to now be serving LAGBAC as a Member of its Board of Directors.

### Brian Butler

*(Law Student Representative)*

Brian Butler is a second year law student at the DePaul University College of Law where he is the President of the DePaul OUTLaws. As a member of his school's Diversity Committee, he coordinated with fellow students and faculty members to bring speakers and professionals from organizations such as the Servicemen's Legal Defense Network on campus to provide important insight into issues like Don't Ask, Don't Tell. He is also member of the OUTlaw Coalition of Chicago and has volunteered with local Chicago groups on behalf of LGBT issues and events. He is currently a member of Lambda Legal's Chicago Leadership Council and sits as a student representative on the Lavender Law Host Committee. In June, he worked with DePaul University to sponsor a number of students to attend the annual gala for the Human Rights Campaign. Mr. Butler attended the University of Illinois College of Business in Urbana-Champaign and graduated with honors with a degree in accounting in 2006.

### Alex Kolod

*(Law Student Representative)*

Alex Kolod is a second year law student at the University of Chicago. She studied philosophy as an undergrad, also at the University of Chicago. In between college and law school she worked as a litigation paralegal at Moses & Singer, LLC in New York City. Alex began her involvement in the GLBT community as a teenager in New York City, where she was a member, and later an officer, of her high school's student-run club, GLASS (Gays, Lesbians and Straight Supporters). Currently, Alex is a co-chair of the University of Chicago Outlaws and a member of Outlaws Coalition Chicago. She is also a member of the American Constitution Society and her school's Public Interest Law Society.

# SPRING EVENT ROUNDUP

## *April reception honors Lesbian and Gay judges and LAGBAC Foundation scholarship recipients; Annual Pride Parade Reception and Cocktail Party draws a crowd*

On Wednesday, April 11, 2007, LAGBAC hosted a Reception to honor the lesbian and gay judges of Cook County. By all accounts, it was a huge success. In all, LAGBAC welcomed over 100 guests, included among them were Illinois Supreme Court Justice Charles Freeman, Illinois Appellate Court Justice Robert Gordon, Illinois Appellate Court Justice Allen Greimen, Illinois Appellate Court Justice Rudolpho Garcia, Illinois Appellate Court Justice Warren Wolfson, Presiding Judge Kenneth Wright, Presiding Judge Moshe Jacobias, Presiding Judge Sophia Hall, Illinois State Representative Greg Harris and many more. In all, there were more than 30 Cook County Judges in attendance, including 13 of the 14 of our very own. Thank you to everyone and thank you and congratulations especially to the Lesbian and Gay Judges of Cook County and the LAGBAC Foundations first scholarship recipients, Todd Kolb and Malcolm "Skip" Harsch. Both Todd and Skip who are interning for Lambda Legal this summer!

LAGBAC and the LAGBAC Foundation held their Annual Judges' Reception during the Pride Parade this past June at Yoshi's. We had a lot of judges and members in attendance. As usual, Yoshi's put out a great spread and everyone had a wonderful time. We look forward to seeing you next year!



*LAGBAC hosted a Spring Cocktail Reception on Wednesday, April 11 at Petterino's (50 W. Randolph) downtown. The Reception honored the 14 Lesbian and Gay judges of Cook County, including three newly sworn in lesbian and gay judges Hon. Patricia Logue, Hon. Stuart Katz, and Hon. Jim Snyder. Pictured here are Hon. James Snyder, Hon. Colleen Sheehan, Hon. Lori Wolfson, Hon. Sebastian Patti, Hon. Sophia Hall, Hon. Cheryl Cesario, Hon. Tom Chiola, Hon. Stuart Katz, Hon. Nancy Katz, Hon. Mary Roberts, Hon. Patricia Logue, Hon. Sherry Pethers, and Hon. Noreen Love.*

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## LAW SCHOOL COMMITTEE PREPARES FOR 2007-2008 SCHOOL YEAR

The Law School Committee is busy preparing for a full year of activities. The Committee welcomes two new Committee and Board Members, Alex Kolod, a 2nd year law student at University of Chicago, and Brian Butler, a 2nd year law student at DePaul. LAGBAC continues to solidify its relationship with the OUTlaw Coalition of Chicago, an alliance among area GLBT law students groups. The partnership between the Coalition and LAGBAC will result in an even stronger presence in the community, and it will make possible larger-scale activities and events. Currently, LAGBAC and Coalition members are working together to ensure that Lavender Law is an unforgettable experience.

This year, the Committee hopes to see every law student involved in the new mentorship program. Through the mentorship program, law students are paired with GLBT attorneys practicing in their fields of interest. In addition, mentees have an opportunity each semester to network with other mentors at a special activity. LAGBAC has received great support for the program from area law schools, who will introduce law students to the opportunity early in their law school experience. To become a mentor or mentee, see the application on the LAGBAC website or email [jjohnson@lagbac.org](mailto:jjohnson@lagbac.org).

# LAGBAC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS SPEND SUMMER WORKING ON LGBT ISSUES AT LAMBDA

The LAGBAC Foundation awarded two \$4000 scholarships this year to Todd Kolb and Malcolm “Skip” Harsch. Todd and Skip are interning at Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. The Foundation is extremely proud and excited to report that our faith in these two individuals is well - deserved.

Todd is a self - described “Rising 3L” at Chicago-Kent College of Law. He is primarily doing research for Lambda attorneys working on the *Timmerman v. Waite & Urias* case. In that case, a university student was brutally attacked by two men because he is gay. *Timmerman* is especially significant because it is the first time a state hate crime law is being used to recover civil damages for a hate crime victim.

Skip is also a 3L who attends DePaul University College of Law. He is doing a myriad of assignments surrounding the Iowa same-sex marriage case, including research and writing. He describes this work as “educational and personal.” He has learned how “the differences in federal and state laws can have a huge impact on personal liberties, rights and freedoms.”



*Scholarship winners Kolb and Harsch with LAGBAC President Jeremy Gottschalk*

Both Todd and Skip attend regular department meetings and work at the Lambda Legal Help Desk. The Help Desk has had a profound impact on both gentlemen. Todd says that “it is one thing to read about discrimination in the news or a casebook, but quite another to hear the stories directly from the victims themselves. This experience makes injustice that much more personal and provides even more motivation for me to work for LGBT/HIV rights.” For Skip, working at the Help Desk “has given [him] a greater understanding of the constant struggle that the LGBT community faces,” and has “opened [his] eyes to the immediate needs of the LGBT community.”

Congratulations to both Todd and Skip. LAGBAC is proud and honored by the work they are doing. We know that this is the first of many great things to come for both of them and from them, for our community.

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## MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

LAGBAC is excited to announce a new student mentorship program for LGBT law students. LAGBAC’s Law School Committee will oversee the program by matching students with attorneys in their field of interest. 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 LGBT 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. Additionally, the Law School Committee plans on organizing an event each semester that will bring together all mentors and their mentees. For more information about the program, please contact Jason Johnson, Co-Chair of the Law School Committee, at [jjohnson@lagbac.org](mailto:jjohnson@lagbac.org).

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*The members of the LAGBAC Board of Directors would like to thank our President, Jeremy Gottschalk, for his continuing hard work and dedication to the organization.*



MARK  
YOUR  
CALENDARS

July 31, 2007  
6-8 PM

Lavender Law  
2007 Chicago  
Kickoff  
Reception

CENTER ON  
HALSTED

September 6-8,  
2007

Lavender Law  
2007 Chicago  
Conference

CHICAGO HILTON

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

LAGBAC is honored and excited to be a huge support and resource for this year's Lavender Law Conference. For the first time since 1992, Chicago has the distinct honor of hosting Lavender Law 2007, from September 6th to 8th, at the Chicago Hilton. LAGBAC's has been working hard to insure that we will have a strong presence of our Chicago legal, policy, advocacy and law school communities. We want to show everyone how a conference is done Chicago style.

So, to get things started, you are invited to our Chicago Kick Off Reception hosted by NLGLA and LAGBAC on July 31 to see first-hand what a comprehensive conference Lavender Law 2007-Chicago has in store for you. All you need to do is RSVP with Mario Sullivan at [msullivan@lagbac.org](mailto:msullivan@lagbac.org).

Call for Volunteers: Want to be a part of Lavender Law Chicago and show them how it's done. LAGBAC needs your help in insuring that Lavender Law 2007-Chicago is a great success. We need you to be a volunteer at the conference, please contact Mario Sullivan at [msullivan@lagbac.org](mailto:msullivan@lagbac.org).

Lavender Law is the perfect place to make valuable connections, share your visions with others, and renew your commitment to equality in the legal profession and LGBT advocacy. For more conference information please visit <http://www.LavenderLaw.org>.



**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 \_\_\_\_\_  
Supporting Member: \$60 \_\_\_\_\_  
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  
Chicago, Illinois 60664-0933  
or apply online at [www.lagbac.org](http://www.lagbac.org).