



A
Message
From The
President

Oxtail spring rolls, melon and pruscitto, Mexican pizza, pasta salad and sushi! Three different scrumptious desserts. Add in some sun, a little rain, a long and colorful parade, almost 100 people and some beverages and you have PRIDE 2006.

Our most successful Judge's Reception ever was held on Sunday, June 25, 2006 at Yoshi's Café. While the day began looking horrible, the rain subsided by the kick off of the parade and the sun managed to peek through the clouds around 1:30. If you have never been to a LAGBAC Pride Reception, you are really missing a good time. This is one of the few Judges' events where the judges both get to hang out with friends and get entertained. The responses from the judges this year were more positive than in years past. And, of course, our own Nancy Katz, Sherry Pethers, Sebastian Patti, Tom Chiola and Coleen Sheehan were all in the parade.

There was a suggestion that LAGBAC should enter the parade next year – look for more information and discussion about that during the coming year.

As commented on in our last newsletter, LAGBAC is becoming a more active organization. We are co-sponsoring the legal seminars at the Chicago Public Library with Howard Brown and the Center on Halsted. This fall we plan on conducting resume and interview help for law students at a local law school. Also, this summer the Foundation is a co-sponsor of Lawyers for Diversity. In addition to hosting the event, the Foundation is one of the organizations which will benefit from the generosity of the law firms.

The Foundation will distribute its first scholarships this next school year. The scholarships will pair students with organizations working on LGBT issues. In return for working for the organizations, the students will be given a scholarship. The Foundation will be actively fundraising for those scholarships – any money you donate to the Foundation is tax deductible, pursuant to the rules for 501(c)(3) organizations. We make it easy to donate - you can donate when you renew your membership on the website or by mailing a check (with the designation that it is money for the Foundation) to our mailing address.

I ask all of you to get involved in LAGBAC – attend the events, come to a Board meeting, and volunteer to give a legal seminar or to be on the Board! I look forward to seeing you! Have a good summer!

-- Dorene

Calling all women lawyers

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.

LAGBAC is doing a lot of amazing stuff these days... and we're poised to do even more. If you are a gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, or supportive straight lawyer in Chicagoland, LAGBAC is the organization taking care of your business. Our Board of Directors is working to make the organization better than ever. As you can see throughout this issue, we have a lot going on.

However, our Board of Directors is way too... male.

Other than our President, it's just a bunch of boys, and none of us are happy about it. We ran this ad in our last newsletter in the hopes that we could get some of our female members to step up to the challenge and join the Board. Now, instead of asking -- we're begging! As a diversity-focused organization, it's really important that the Board of Directors be as diverse as it possibly can be.

So if you're reading this, and you're a LAGBAC member or about to become one... please give some thought to joining the Board. It's a great group of people doing exciting, important work. Law schools are graduating more females than males these days... the face of the profession is ever-changing and women are a critical part of that. They are a critical part of LAGBAC. So c'mon, ladies... join us!

Judicial Evaluation Committee update

LAGBAC's Judicial Evaluation Committee (JEC) has just completed interviewing seventy sitting judges who will be seeking retention in the November 2006 election. Ratings are expected to be finalized later this month. LAGBAC will be strategizing with the other members of the Alliance of Bar Associations for Judicial Screening (Alliance) in an effort to disseminate our ratings more widely and have more of an impact on voter choices.

In the meantime, the Alliance has begun to interview candidates for the office of Associate Judge on the Circuit Court of Cook County. Associate Judges are appointed rather than elected, and the attorneys seeking such appointments tend to be a diverse and interesting group of candidates. Between now and October, the Alliance expects to interview approximately 130 Associate Judge candidates. The Alliance now comprises eleven bar associations representing a wide cross-section of attorneys in the Chicago area.

For those LAGBAC members who are interested in joining the JEC, now is an excellent time to explore that possibility, as there will be abundant opportunities to interview and evaluate judicial candidates in the forthcoming months. The JEC chair, Mark Dupont, would be glad to discuss with you how the committee operates. If you've expressed an interest in working with the JEC, you will be contacted soon to learn how you can help. 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, our JEC chair, at 312-435-3001 if you would like further information about the JEC.

Vanguard Award Presented to Senator Carol Ronen

On April 18, 2006, LAGBAC presented 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 were 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 Conference

On May 12, 2006, the Chicago Bar Association sponsored the Breaking Barriers and Building Bridges Conference. LAGBAC and the other Chicago minority bar associations assisted in planning the conference at CBA's request. The conference and the thought-provoking workshops throughout the day were well attended. Along with its goals of disseminating information on the law and legal profession, creating synergies between minority attorneys and spotlighting achievements of women and minority attorneys, this year's conference also included the CBA's Diversity Initiative. The initiative commits all signatories to fostering diversity in the legal profession and defines diversity as an inclusive concept and encompassing race, color, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, and many other aspects of diversity. Signatories to the initiative, including all the minority bar associations and several large Chicago firms, were recognized at the Conference Luncheon where keynote speaker, Professor Charles J. Ogeltree, Jr. of Harvard Law School, spoke on issues facing minorities in 2006, years after *Brown v. Board of Education*.

LAGBAC helps you with your legal quandries! Come learn!

Legal issues outside our fields of expertise crop up in our daily lives on a regular basis. The ins and outs of these issues can be confusing at best, incredibly frustrating at worst. Well, there's no need to fear, LAGBAC is here!! We have joined with the Chicago Public Library, the largest public library system in the world, the Center on Halsted and Howard Brown to present a series of seminars on various legal topics tailored especially to the LBGQT community. Each seminar will be given by a GLBTQ legal luminary who is an expert in his/her field. The topics are varied, from Landlord/Tenant issues to Employment Discrimination. Dates, Topics, and Locations are listed in the Membership article on page 4. All sessions begin at 6:30 p.m. See you there!

Check out the new
[chilagbac.org!](http://www.chilagbac.org)

Our website is where you connect with LAGBAC. Catch our newsletter, find out about upcoming events and Board meetings, see our judicial candidate evaluations before elections, and more! Plus you can join LAGBAC online! Go to <http://www.chilagbac.org> today!

**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.**

Call For Membership

The Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago (LAGBAC) is bigger, better, and stronger than ever and now is the best time to join!!! As Chair of the Membership Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to become a member of LAGBAC, renew your LAGBAC membership, or encourage others to become a member. Simply go to www.chilagbac.org and become a member today! Here's why...

Partnerships

First, LAGBAC has developed many new programs and forged many great partnerships. In conjunction with the LAGBAC Foundation, a scholarship program has been set up to award summer internship stipends to law students focusing on LGBT/civil rights issues in the Chicagoland area. The scholarship program is a great way to give back to the community and the LAGBAC Foundation is leading this effort. The scholarship applications will be available next fall and will be awarded beginning the summer 2007. Scholarships are available to LAGBAC members only, so sign up now! Along these lines, LAGBAC has joined forces with the Center on Halsted, the Chicago Public Library and Howard Brown Health Center on a comprehensive legal seminar series. The seminar series is being presented on topics such as employment discrimination, residential landlord/tenant issues, adoption and custody, residential real estate, securing and protecting LGBT relationships, and estate planning and advance directives. Seminars began on June 21, and will be held either at Howard Brown, 4025 N. Sheridan Road, or the Chicago Public Library Merlo Branch, 644 W. Belmont.

All sessions begin at 6:30 pm; dates of upcoming seminars:

June 21 - Employment Discrimination, Chicago Public Library, Merlo Branch, 644 W. Belmont

July 12 - Residential Landlord/Tenant Issues, Howard Brown, 4025 N. Sheridan Road

August 2 - Adoption and Custody, Howard Brown, 4025 N. Sheridan Road

August 23 - Residential Real Estate, Chicago Public Library, Merlo Branch, 644 W. Belmont

September 13 - Securing and Protecting LGBT Relationships, Chicago Public Library, Merlo Branch, 644 W. Belmont

September 27 - Estate Planning and Advance Directives, Howard Brown, 4025 N. Sheridan Road

Out at Work

Second, LAGBAC has expanded the Out at Work program, which explores, advises and offers information relative to 'outing' yourself on your resume. The three part series is designed to prepare law students and young lawyers for the future with: Resume Writing and Interviewing Tips on August 31, 2006, followed by Mock Interviewing from September 1 through 13, and topped off with an LGBT Networking/Career Reception on September 14, 2006. The Program is designed to offer guidance on the following questions: Should I out myself on my resume? How should I list my LGBT activities on my resume? If I do, will that affect my chances of receiving an interview? How should I handle questions pertaining to those activities?

Perks...

Third, LAGBAC members receive discounted and complimentary admission to many events, including the annual judge's Pride Reception during LGBT Pride weekend and Lawyers for Diversity. This year, LAGBAC hosted almost 100 judges, attorneys and guests at Yoshi's, all the while watching the Pride Parade on Halsted. It was the biggest and best Pride Reception to date and members received reduced admission. Also, this year, members of LAGBAC receive complimentary admission to Lawyers for Diversity, which is held annually to raise money for Chicago-area LGBT organizations. Once again, SideTrack will host 18 of Chicago's largest law firms on July 27, 2006 to benefit the Center on Halsted, Equality Illinois Education Project, Parents, Friends, and Family of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) and the LAGBAC Foundation. The money raised on behalf of the LAGBAC Foundation will go to fund the scholarship program mentioned above. While admission for law firms and sponsorship starts at \$1,000, LAGBAC members attend for no charge. LAGBAC members are also invited to the monthly Meet the Bar events, which are now sponsored by LAGBAC and the LAGBAC Foundation. The Meet the Bar events are held at SideTrack (Halsted & Roscoe) generally on the third Friday of each month from 6-8pm. Members are offered complimentary drinks and a great way to meet other LGBT law students, judges, practitioners and our supporters.

...and more!

There are many more reasons to become a member of LAGBAC. For instance, LAGBAC continues to participate in the Judicial Evaluations through its Judicial Evaluation Committee. Law students and practitioners, alike, can participate in investigating, interviewing and evaluating Cook County judges. Additionally, LAGBAC awards the Vanguard Award annually to a supporter of the LGBT community at the Vanguard Awards Luncheon.

To become a member, either fill out the form at the back of this newsletter and send it in or go to www.chilagbac.org today. If you have any inquiries, please direct them to my attention at 312-807-4401 or by e-mail at jgottschalk@bellboyd.com. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Best, *Jeremy*

Lawyers for Diversity Event

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. LAGBAC members are welcome to attend but MUST RSVP to Jeremy Gottschalk at jgottschalk@bellboyd.com by Friday, July 21, 2006.

As noted in the article to the right, in the fall LAGBAC is going to be sponsoring the Out at Work program for new LGBT lawyers and jobseekers.

We will be providing resume tips from an expert panel, including William Chamberlain (Assistant Dean, Northwestern University Law School), Sarah Schriber (ACLU) and others. We're also going to be giving students an opportunity to participate in mock interviews, and will be holding the first ever LGBT-focused career fair.

If you're interested in helping with the mock interviews or would like your firm to participate in the career fair, please contact Mario Sullivan at marioasullivan@yahoo.com!

Attention new LGBT lawyers and jobseekers

Should I out myself on my resume? How should I list my LGBT activities on my resume? If I do, will that affect my chances of receiving an interview? How should I handle questions pertaining to those activities? Want to know the answers to these questions and more.

LAGBAC cordially invites you to take advantage of a three part series to prepare you for the Future: Resume Writing and Interviewing Tips on August 31, 2006, at The John Marshall Law School, Mock Interviewing from September 1 through 13, and LGBT Networking/Career Reception on September 14, 2006. For more information, contact Mario Sullivan at marioasullivan@yahoo.com.



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