



**JUNE 2009**

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

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### **PRIDE EDITION**

Dear Members,

Spring and Summer are finally here!!! As we welcome the change in seasons, we want to welcome our newest LAGBAC Board Members. Joining the current Board Members are Tracy Braun, Stephen Komonytsky and Adam Sorkin. Welcome Tracy, Stephen and Adam! We are also welcoming back Jeremy (me) and John Litchfield. Tracy, Stephen and Adam (and Jeremy and John) join current Board Members Mario Sullivan, Toby Eveland, Greg Zinkl, Emma Ruby-Sachs, Nicole Bashor, Skip Harsch and John Richards. Welcome everyone!

LAGBAC is also celebrating the change of seasons with some excellent events. Starting this month and going all the way through August, the calendar is chocked full of events that have been designed for LAGBAC members. This month, you can check out the Roller Derby event happening this weekend (May 30th). In June we celebrate Pride, complete with the installation of officers to the newly-formed Alliance of Illinois Judges (June 24th) and the annual LAGBAC Judge's Pride Reception at Yoshi's (June 28th). In July, we will come together for the Fifth Annual Lawyers for Diversity (July 30th). And, in August, LAGBAC will join forces with the ISBA and CBA in a booth for Market Days (August 1st and 2nd). Please join us for one or more of these events.

We look forward to seeing you out and about this Summer!!! If you would like to get more information or to get involved with any of these events, please contact me directly at [jgottschalk@lagbac.org](mailto:jgottschalk@lagbac.org).

*Best, Jeremy*

## ALLIANCE OF ILLINOIS JUDGES INSTALLATION & RECEPTION

The Alliance of Illinois Judges (AIJ) was formed by the Lesbian and Gay Judges of the Circuit Court of Cook County. The AIJ hopes to be a resource for other Judges and the legal community, and to be mentors for LGBT law students. Join the AIJ on Wednesday, June 24 from 5-6:30pm for the inaugural reception during Gay Pride Week at the Chicago Bar Association, 321 S. Plymouth Ct, Chicago. The new Officers and Board of Directors will be sworn in and numerous members of the judiciary, including Illinois Supreme Court Justices, are expected to be in attendance. To make a reservation, you can print the form which is enclosed, or check out [www.theaij.com](http://www.theaij.com). Please join our lesbian and gay judges for this historic occasion.

## PRIDE!

### LAGBAC's Annual Judges Reception at Yoshi's

SAVE THE DATE--SUNDAY, JUNE 28. LAGBAC will once again host the annual Judge's Pride Reception at Yoshi's on Halsted, 3257 N. Halsted (on the corner of Aldine and Halsted) beginning at 11:30am. With the formation of the Alliance of Illinois Judges, we will have that much more to celebrate on Pride Sunday. Mark your calendars to come out and mingle with our fine judges and fellow LAGBAC members. Join us for fantastic food, drinks and conversation. You will also have a great view of the parade from the PRIVATE ROOM with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. LAGBAC members receive a discounted price so RSVP to Jeremy Gottschalk at [jgottschalk@lagbac.org](mailto:jgottschalk@lagbac.org) and plan to attend! If you are coming, please make sure you are also on the east side of Halsted well before the parade as it has been hard to cross the street in recent years.

### LAGBAC Will Be In The Pride Parade! Come March!

The Illinois State Bar Association and LAGBAC have combined forces for the 2009 Chicago Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade (June 28), and Market Days (August 1 & 2). For the Pride Parade, the ISBA will have its mobile billboard tribute to Abraham Lincoln, along with banners for ISBA and LAGBAC members to carry during the Parade. The Parade is a great opportunity for both organizations to unite in a message of diversity and inclusiveness, and we encourage LAGBAC members to walk in the Parade. For more information, and to sign up, please contact Toby Eveland at [wteveland@arnstein.com](mailto:wteveland@arnstein.com). See inside for more details about Market Days!

## JUDICIAL EVALUATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

LAGBAC's Judicial Evaluation Committee has just completed screening of the candidates who are seeking to become Associate Judges on the Circuit Court of Cook County. Approximately 50 of the 278 applicants in the current pool were investigated, interviewed and rated by LAGBAC and the other nine members of the Alliance of Bar Associations for Judicial Screening; the remaining candidates had been seen previously and had valid ratings.

It is expected that a committee of Circuit Judges will begin to interview these applicants in June and that appointments will be made by the end of the summer. With the completion of the Associate Judge evaluation process, members of the Judicial Evaluation Committee will be enjoying some well-earned time off until late this year, when we will begin to evaluate judicial candidates planning to run for election in the February 2010 primary. If you are interested in joining the committee or have any questions about its work, please contact co-chair Mark Dupont at 312-435-3001 or [markdupont@earthlink.net](mailto:markdupont@earthlink.net).

## MEET THE BAR

Please join us for the last Meet the Bar of the semester, this Friday, May 29th from 6-8pm at Sidetrack (3349 N. Halsted). LAGBAC members enjoy complimentary cocktails; nonmembers and guests do so for \$5.

## LAWYERS FOR DIVERSITY 2009

The Fifth Annual Lawyers for Diversity Barbeque is scheduled for July 30, 2009, from 6-8 at Sidetrack (3349 N. Halsted). Lawyers for Diversity is a networking and fund-raising event that benefits some of Chicago's largest Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community organizations. Each year, Chicago's top law firms participate in Lawyers for Diversity in an effort to support these LGBT community organizations. The AIDS Legal Council of Chicago, Center on Halsted, Equality Illinois, the LAGBAC Foundation and PFLAG are just a few of the organizations that Lawyers for Diversity has benefitted over the years.

Past speakers and guests of Lawyers for Diversity include Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan, City of Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White, Illinois Supreme Court Justice Charles Freeman, State Representative Sara Feigenholtz, State Senator Carol Ronen, Illinois State Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke, and Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez.

So mark your calendars to attend. LAGBAC members and guests of sponsoring firms attend free; nonmembers and guests attend for \$25. Come meet, greet and eat. For more information, or if you or your firm is interested in sponsoring Lawyers for Diversity, please contact Jeremy Gottschalk at [jgottschalk@lagbac.org](mailto:jgottschalk@lagbac.org).

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## MARKET DAYS 2009

Mark your calendars for Market Days August 1st and 2nd. LAGBAC will once again have a booth at the two-day festival. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Skip Harsch at [mharsch@lagbac.org](mailto:mharsch@lagbac.org).

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## BREAKING BARRIERS CONFERENCE POSTPONED

The CBA Breaking Barriers / Creating Change conference scheduled for 6/5 has now been postponed to October 9. Details coming soon - watch this space!

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## ROLLER DERBY MAY 30 - LAST CHANCE!

Join us on Saturday, May 30th for Roller Derby at the UIC Pavilion - the Windy City Rollers. We will meet at T's (5025 N. Clark Street) beginning at 4pm. Buses leave from T's to the UIC Pavilion at 5:30pm. Buses will return to SoFo (4923 N. Clark Street) around 10pm. The cost for LAGBAC members (admission to game and bus transportation to and from game) is \$15 and \$25 for nonmembers and guests. Mentors, bring your mentees out for what promises to be a good time. To RSVP, please email Jeremy at [jgottschalk@lagbac.org](mailto:jgottschalk@lagbac.org). When you RSVP, please indicate the number of tickets and name of your guests. We look forward to seeing you there!!!

## MEET THE NEW LAGBAC BOARD MEMBERS!

Three new Board members have been elected to serve on the 2009-2010 LAGBAC Board. We had more open spots than candidates, so a formal election was not necessary.

First, **Tracy Braun** is a 2004 graduate of Boston University School of Law and specializes in the area of intellectual property. Tracy is currently earning a graduate degree from the University of Illinois and provides part-time law library reference assistance at Northwestern University's law library. Her research interests include the copyright issues faced by academic libraries and information policy in general, and she plans to work in higher education after she completes her degree. Tracy's articles were recently published in the Houston Journal of Health Law and Policy and the Food and Drug Law Institute's Update magazine.

Tracy is enjoying being a newlywed after her recent wedding in Boston, Massachusetts, and currently resides in Lakeview with her partner and her very outgoing puppy.

**Stephen Komonytsky** is a real estate and finance attorney most recently employed with Levenfeld Pearlstein, LLC in their Real Estate practice group, where he represents lenders and commercial real estate investors in a variety of transactions ranging from simple land acquisitions to loan workouts and restructuring. He graduated from Chicago-Kent College of Law in 2005.

He has been a member of LAGBAC for the past year and helped represent the organization last year during Market Days. Stephen sees LAGBAC as the type of organization not only where he can begin to discover how to make a meaningful contribution to our vibrant community, but where he can also do so with a group of dedicated and professionally like-minded individuals.

**Adam Sorkin** is currently an associate at the law firm of Schiff Hardin LLP and the chair of the firm's LGBT Diversity Task Force. Beginning in late June, he will be transitioning to the public sector, as an assistant regional counsel at the Office of the General Counsel of the Social Security Administration, where he will have time to get involved in LAGBAC, since he will no longer have to bill all of those hours! Adam graduated from Harvard Law School, where he was active with HLS Lambda, the LGBT organization, serving as Treasurer his 2L year, and President his 3L year.

**John Litchfield** returns to the Board as a practitioner at Foley & Lardner. John previously served as a Law Student Board Member and was very active at Loyola. **Jeremy Gottschalk**, our esteemed Board President was also re-elected to another term on the Board. Welcome all! As you can see, LAGBAC will be well served by a rich tapestry of individual accomplishments and experiences.

## ABA YLD SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The American Bar Association's Young Lawyers' Division Scholarship Program is designed to encourage the participation of minority, solo/small firm, government, private sector, and military service attorneys in the Young Lawyers Division. A priority will be given to those applicants who express a desire to become actively involved with the ABA YLD and require financial assistance.

Scholars will receive:

- > Partial funding to attend the Fall Conference, ABA Midyear Meeting and Spring Conference: round-trip airfare up to \$350; \$20 ground transportation; and \$100 per diem (for two days)
- > Appointment to and active participation in one of the YLD committees.
- > Mentoring by the sponsoring YLD Entity.

For more information and application, visit:  
<http://www.abanet.org/yld/scholarships/>

## 2009 CAREER FAIR AND CONFERENCE

The National LGBT Bar Association presents the 2009 Career Fair and Conference (formerly "Lavender Law"). It will be held at the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge September 10-12, 2009. Registration is now open. Check out [www.lgbtbar.org](http://www.lgbtbar.org) for details.

Check out [www.lagbac.org](http://www.lagbac.org)!

## LAGBAC MEMBER DIRECTORY

A resource for members, the LAGBAC Member Directory provides contact and practice related information on its members through the website, on a voluntary basis. It is available to LAGBAC members only, and is designed to provide current and specific information about the member's area of practice, firm, specialties, whether or not the member's firm or practice is LGBT friendly, and whether the member is open to accepting referrals. The Directory is updated and kept current based upon member-submitted data, on a regular basis. The LAGBAC Member Directory is for informational purposes only. The directory is available on LAGBAC's website, at [www.lagbac.org](http://www.lagbac.org). To become a participating member of the Directory, please complete the LAGBAC Member Directory Form, and return it to: LAGBAC Member Directory, by regular mail to: c/o LAGBAC, P.O. Box 64933, Chicago, Illinois 60664-0933, or pdfs by e-mail to [jgottschalk@lagbac.org](mailto:jgottschalk@lagbac.org).

## ARE YOU A MEMBER OF LAGBAC?

Join 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 & 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...

Future communication from LAGBAC will be electronic. You MUST provide us with an email address to receive future information and newsletters. If you are unable to accept electronic communications, please note that on this form and add \$10 to your dues. Membership runs January 1-December 31.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

### ANNUAL DUES:

\_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining Member \$100  
\_\_\_\_\_ Sponsoring Member \$75  
\_\_\_\_\_ Regular Member \$50  
\_\_\_\_\_ Student Member \$30 (*valid through December 31 of graduating year*)  
*If applying for Student Membership, please indicate law school/graduation date:* \_\_\_\_\_

**The Alliance of Illinois Judges (AIJ)**  
was formed by the Lesbian and Gay Judges of the  
Circuit Court of Cook County.

The AIJ invites you to celebrate our founding  
And to witness the installation of our officers and  
directors

on

Wednesday June 24, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

Chicago Bar Association

Phillip H. Corboy Hall

321 S. Plymouth Court

Chicago, Illinois

We hope to be a resource for our fellow Judges and the legal  
community, and to be mentors for LGBT law students. Please read  
our Mission Statement at [www.TheAIJ.com](http://www.TheAIJ.com).

Please RSVP by June 17th by completing and returning form below

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*Please reserve \_\_\_\_ at \$30.00 per ticket (includes drinks and light hors d'oeuvres).*

*Please make checks payable to Alliance of Illinois Judges.*

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

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

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return this form and payment to Alliance of Illinois Judges,  
321 S. Plymouth Ct. Chicago, IL 60604*