



APRIL 2008

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www.lagbac.org

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Greetings and Happy Spring! I trust by now most of you are as ready for Spring as I am. As it heats up outside, I am pleased to tell you what we've got cooking inside LAGBAC.

Although it is only the end of March, I am happy to report that LAGBAC membership is stronger than it has ever been. The Board developed and executed a membership drive that has been very well-received by past members and new members, alike. If you have not renewed your memberships, or you are not yet a member, I encourage you to do so. Membership begins at \$50 (\$30 for law students) but the benefits are priceless. Whether enjoying a cocktail with your colleagues at Meet the Bar or being a mentor (or mentee) through the Mentorship Program, membership definitely has its rewards. To become a member, simply go to www.lagbac.org and sign up. As a reminder, you will need to establish a PayPal account and the membership year is January 1 - December 31. As I have said many times before, we are only as strong and vibrant as our membership. So, please consider joining today!

For the second year in a row, LAGBAC, in conjunction with the LAGBAC Foundation, will award scholarships to law students interning over the Summer in a civil rights/LGBT organization. I am happy to announce that this Summer, we will award four \$3,000 scholarships to law students who will be working on diverse projects throughout the LGBT community with several organizations.

For the fourth year in a row, LAGBAC will be a proud beneficiary of Lawyers for Diversity - MidSummer Barbecue. Lawyers for Diversity is a networking and fundraising event to benefit 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. This year, Anita Alvarez, Chief Deputy Cook County State's Attorney will speak on diversity in the legal profession. See the Lawyers for Diversity article in this newsletter for more information!

Last, but certainly not least, I want to remind everyone that remaining Meet the Bar nights are: March 28 (generously sponsored by Wildman Harrold); April 25; and May 30. LAGBAC members enjoy complimentary cocktails from 6-8pm; nonmembers and guests do so for \$5. Please join us at Sidetrack (3349 N. Halsted) for one or more of the remaining Meet the Bars nights!

Please take the time to check out everything that we have in store for you. In addition to these items I have mentioned, we are planning a Professional Responsibility CLE, law student summer associate program and much more!

Best, *Jeremy*

LAGBAC FOUNDATION POISED TO AWARD 2008 SUMMER INTERNSHIP STIPENDS

It's time again for the LAGBAC Foundation to award summer internship stipends to well-deserving law students who will be working to advance LGBTQ civil rights locally. The LAGBAC Foundation solicited applications from law students who will be working for non-profit agencies and who, but for these stipends, would not be paid for their work.

The LAGBAC Foundation received many applications for the 2008 stipends from students who are working for a myriad of great organizations, including AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Equality Illinois, Lambda Legal, and the National Immigration Justice Center, just to name a few.

The Foundation raises funds for these internship stipends at our annual Lawyers For Diversity event every summer. Thanks to the generosity of the sponsors and donors, we will be able to award four stipends in 2008. The 2008 recipients will be recognized at the 2008 Lawyers For Diversity Mid Summer Barbecue on July 31st (6-8pm) at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted Street, Chicago, Illinois. Mark your calendars! Hope to see you there.

OUTLAW COALITION AND LAGBAC TO HOST "BOWLING WITH THE BAR"

The Outlaw Coalition of Chicago and LAGBAC are hosting "Bowling with the Bar" on Thursday, April 17 from 7:00-9:00 PM. The evening will be held at the 10 Pin Bowling Lounge at 330 North State Street. Law students from DePaul University, Loyola University, John Marshall Law School, Chicago-Kent, Northwestern University and the University of Chicago will shake a tail feather and attempt to master the 7-10 split. If you're good at throwing heavy objects or need to warm up with some bumpers, head out and have a few drinks with the Coalition and bowl the night away. Don't fret - the latest and most fashionable bowling shoes will be provided at no extra cost!

WHAT TO EXPECT AS A SUMMER ASSOCIATE OR CLERK

Please join us on April 17th for a panel discussion on what to expect as a Summer Associate or Summer Clerk. The panel will include past Summer Associates, Law Clerks and Directors of law firm recruiting and summer programs. The panel will discuss do's and don'ts as you navigate your way through your summer position. The program will begin at 5:30pm at the law firm of Bell, Boyd & Lloyd LLP (70 West Madison, 2nd Floor Conference Center). If you have any questions or want more information, please contact Mario Sullivan at msullivan@lagbac.org.

We are planning for summer! Stay tuned for news about Market Days, the Pride Parade reception and more!

LAGBAC gives 2008 Vanguard Award to founder Mark Dupont! Details inside...

Not a member yet? There's a membership application inside!

Check out
www.lagbac.org!

UPCOMING PROGRAMMING

LAGBAC is in the process of developing an Ethics MCLE on "Workplace Diversity: Why Your Firm Should Include Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity In Its Diversity Statement." This program will be held in May. Time and date for this program will be announced in a future newsletter, or check out our webpage, www.lagbac.org.

LAVENDER LAW 2008

Mark Your Calendars! Lavender Law 2008-San Francisco Conference, September 4-6. NLGLA is celebrating its 20th anniversary of Lavender Law. Lavender Law 2008 will be held September 4-6 in San Francisco, CA. The conference includes a career fair and features two dozen workshops on cutting-edge legal issues affecting LGBT individuals and the community. Topics covered in past conferences included practical litigation and transactional skills, constitutional law developments, estate planning and drafting, employment discrimination, HIV/AIDS, immigration, domestic violence, the Solomon Amendment and other LGBT law student group management issues, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and other military matters, and issues affecting out legal practitioners in the profession from solo practice to large firms. We are pleased to share that we have received great support from many organizations and law firms. Additional information is available at: <http://www.lavenderlaw.org/schedule.html>.

CBA LGBT PROGRAMMING

CBA Committee on the Legal Right of Lesbians and Gay Men next meeting is April 1, 2007, which will be a presentation on "Employment discrimination: LGBT issues in the work place". The Committee meets at 12:15 p.m., Chicago Bar Association, 321 S. Plymouth Court.

LGBTQ STUDIES EVENT/ BOOK SIGNING

Nancy Polikoff, Professor of Law at American University, will give a book discussion at the DePaul Loop Campus Barnes and Noble on Thursday, April 24 at 5 PM. Professor Polikoff will be discussing her book "Beyond Straight and Gay Marriage: Valuing All Families Under the Law" (Beacon 2008).

Professor Polikoff has offered to meet with LGBTQ Studies or law courses before the event. She can be contacted directly at npoliko@wcl.american.edu.

For further details, you can also contact Thomas A. Foster, professor of History at DePaul, at 773 325-4169

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: AIDS LEGAL CHECKUP

The HIV Legal Check-Up program is ready to begin accepting volunteers. After an extensive vetting process, the HIV Legal Check-Up program has cleared the final hurdles and is ready to be implemented in the local community. Community members will be able to take advantage of this free service through the combined volunteer efforts of law students and practicing attorneys. The program will help provide interested community members with important information regarding the legal ramifications of a positive HIV/AIDS status. If you are a law student or attorney interested in volunteering for this important and innovative program, or if you would like additional information, please contact info@lagbac.org.

CALLING FOR LAWYERS FOR DIVERSITY SPONSORS!

Lawyers for Diversity is a networking and fundraising event that benefits many of Chicago's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community organizations. Each year, the legal community participates in Lawyers for Diversity in an effort to support various LGBT community organizations. The organizations that have benefited from Lawyers for Diversity have been the Center on Halsted, Equality Illinois Education Project, the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago (LAGBAC) Foundation and Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). We are calling on the law firms to once again support the LGBT community through sponsorship. And, while this event benefits Chicago's LGBT organizations, it is an event for the entire legal community and, therefore, requires support from the entire community. This year, Anita Alvarez, Chief Deputy Cook County State's Attorney will speak on diversity in the legal profession.

As the mission of these organizations is to level the playing field for LGBT persons and the LGBT community, law firms can show their support for achieving that equality by participating in Lawyers for Diversity through sponsorship. Three levels of participation are offered for this event:

* **Gold sponsors**, those firms that contribute \$5,000, are specially recognized at the event, in the program, and in each organization's newsletter and e-mail blasts recognizing them as Gold sponsors of Lawyers for Diversity;

* **Silver sponsors**, those firms that contribute \$2,500, are recognized at the event and in the program and will be recognized by the organizations in a newsletter or e-mail blast;

* **Bronze sponsors**, those firms that contribute \$1,500, are recognized in the program.

Our past firm sponsors include: Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP; Neal Gerber and Eisenberg LLP; Jenner & Block LLP; Kirkland & Ellis LLP; Latham & Watkins LLP; Quarles & Brady LLP; Katten Muchen Rosenman LLP; Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw LLP; Vedder Price; Lord, Bissell & Brook LLP; Wildman, Harrold, Allen & Dixon LLP; Perkins Coie LLP; Schwartz Cooper Chartered; DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary US LLP; Winston & Strawn LLP; McDermott Will & Emery LLP; Ross, Dixon & Bell, LLP; Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP; Foley & Lardner LLP; Holland & Knight; Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP; Peck, Bloom, Austriaco & Mitchell, LLC; Brinks Hofer, Gilson & Lione; Marshall, Gerstein & Borun LLP; and, Chapman and Cutler LLP.

Lawyers for Diversity is scheduled for July 31, 2008, on the private roof deck of Side-Track, which is located at 3349 North Halsted. The event begins at 6 p.m. and valet parking is available. In order to have your firm listed in all future correspondence and marketing materials, please contact Jeremy by April 11, 2008 by phone at 312-807-4401 or by email at jgottschalk@lagbac.org.

LAGBAC HOLDS SUCCESSFUL SPEEDNETWORKING EVENT

LAGBAC would like to thank Loyola University of Chicago School of Law for co-sponsoring the speed networking event on February 26. Thank you also to the LGBT attorneys who took time out of their busy schedules to attend the event. Around 20 attorneys and 20 law students participated in the activity, which provided the students the chance to meet attorneys from various practice areas. Based on the excellent turnout, LAGBAC plans to hold the event next year and will need the support of attorneys just as this year. For more information on becoming involved with LAGBAC's Law School Committee, please contact Jason Johnson at jjohnson@lagbac.org.

LAGBAC GIVES 2008 VANGUARD AWARD TO CO-FOUNDER MARK DUPONT

LAGBAC is pleased to announce that we are giving the 2008 Vanguard Award to LAGBAC co-founder Mark Dupont, who is a career clerk for Judge Ilana Diamond Rovner, US Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit. The Vanguard Award honors the institution and lawyers who have made the law and legal profession more accessible to and reflective of the community at-large.

Dupont earned his B.A. in History from Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa in 1983. While an undergraduate at ISU, he served as President of Gays and Lesbians of Ames and chaired its Speakers Bureau, leading an effort to bring frank and constructive discussion of LGBT issues into college classrooms and community forums.

He received his J.D. from Stanford Law School in 1986. While at Stanford, he was president of the Stanford Gay and Lesbian Law Students Association and served on the steering committee of the university-wide Gays and Lesbians at Stanford.

Upon graduation from law school, Dupont joined the law firm of Jenner & Block, becoming (along with the Hon. Patricia Logue) one of its first openly gay associates. He left Jenner in 1989 to become a law clerk for then-U.S. District Judge Ilana Diamond Rovner. He later became a career clerk for Judge Rovner, who in 1992 was elevated to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

In 1986-87, Dupont co-founded LAGBAC, among the first LGBT bar associations in the country. He served on LAGBAC's Board of Directors for more than 10 years, and was its President for multiple terms.

Dupont served on the Illinois State Bar Association's Special and Standing Committees on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity from 2001 to 2007. He chaired the committee in 2004-05. He is currently a member of the ISBA's Judicial Evaluation Committee. He is also a past member of the Chicago Council of Lawyers' Judicial Evaluation Committee, and currently serves on the Council's Board of Directors. Dupont is a past chair of the Zoning and Land Use committee for Buena Park Neighbors in Uptown, and a past member of 46th Ward Alderman Helen Shiller's Wilson Yard Advisory Task Force.

In 1992, he helped to spearhead LAGBAC's effort to begin evaluating judges for their sensitivity to LGBT issues. LAGBAC became one of the ten member bars of the Alliance of Bar Associations for Judicial Screening in 1999. Dupont currently serves on the Alliance Executive Committee, which he co-chaired from 2003 to 2005. In 2006-2007, the Alliance evaluated over 300 candidates for judicial office in Cook County. Today, he co-chairs LAGBAC's Judicial Evaluation Committee. In this role, he has been a tireless advocate, ensuring LAGBAC has a voice in evaluating hundreds of candidates for election or appointment to the state bench. Other Alliance members have frequently commented on his unwavering commitment to the judicial evaluation process.

The Vanguard Awards Luncheon is tentatively scheduled for May 15, 2008, 11:30 p.m., please check the Chicago Bar Associations website for update date and time, and to purchase tickets.

Congratulations, Mark!

LAGBAC MEMBER DIRECTORY RELAUNCH

LAGBAC is in the process of developing the LAGBAC Member Directory. The LAGBAC Member Directory provides membership information on a volunteer basis among LAGBAC members and the public, and is available to the public through LAGBAC's website, located at www.lagbac.org. The Directory is a benefit to LAGBAC's members, providing them with a unique and significant opportunity to develop clients through the website from people who are seeking counsel in particular areas of expertise. LAGBAC's website has a significant and increasing amount of traffic, and much of it is from individuals looking for a LGBT lawyer in the Chicago area, and often a referral to a lawyer in a particular field. Any LAGBAC member is entitled to participate. To participate, complete and return the form posted on the website. Upon receipt of the form, the lawyer's name, contact information and area of practice or expertise will be posted to a separate page on LAGBAC's website devoted to the Directory, and readily accessible to searches on the web, as well as from within the website. Members interested in participating should complete the form, available under "Legal Resources" on our website www.lagbac.org.

MEET THE BAR NIGHTS CONTINUE

The 2008 Meet the Bar Schedule is as follows: Friday, March 28 (sponsored by Wildman, Harrold, Allen & Dixon) Friday, April 25 (sponsorship available); and Friday, May 30 (sponsorship available). We want to thank our sponsors to date and encourage you and your law firm to consider sponsoring an upcoming Meet the Bar. Sponsorship of Meet the Bar is a great way to show your commitment to LGBT diversity and an even better way to reach out to law students and the LGBT community. Sponsorship of Meet the Bar supports the efforts of the LAGBAC Foundation, which awards scholarships for law students interning at LGBT/Civil Rights organizations. Please contact Jeremy at jjgottschalk@lagbac.org about sponsoring an upcoming Meet the Bar.

March 27: CELEBRATING DIVERSITY RECEPTION

The John Marshall Law School Gay and Lesbian Legal Alliance cordially invites you to attend the Celebrating Diversity Reception. This reception is being held in conjunction with JMLS Diversity Week. The reception will be held on March 27, 2008 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., 315 South Plymouth Court, 2nd Floor, Sargis-Miner Student lounge. Please RSVP to Aminah Bhatti at 5bhatti@stu.jmls.edu ****Business Professional Attire****

April 1: PANEL DISCUSSION: AIDS IN URBAN AMERICA

The Outlaw Coalition Chicago (OCC) and Loyola University Chicago are excited to be hosting a panel discussion entitled "AIDS in Urban America" on Tuesday, April 1st at 5:30pm. The discussion topics will range from the effects of AIDS on the indigent and those on Medicaid, the legal services available to impoverished individuals living with HIV, and the successes or failures of the legal system in protecting the rights of these individuals. Panel participants include Professors Ruqaiyah Yearby, J.D., M.P.H. and Marguerite Angelari, J.D. of Loyola University, Justin Hayford of AIDS Legal Council of Chicago, and David Ernesto Munar of AIDS Foundation Chicago. Please join the students of OCC and Loyola University for what will prove to be an enlightening discussion! It will be held Tuesday April 1, from 5:30 to 7:30 PM at the Loyola University Chicago School of Law, Room 205, 25 East Pearson Street! Pizza and refreshments will be served; no RSVP required.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Quarles & Brady LLP seeks an attorney with at least four years of experience to join the Intellectual Property team in the Milwaukee or Madison, Wisconsin offices. Applicants should have solid technical skills and a bachelor's degree and/or advanced degree in Biotechnology. The successful candidate must be extremely motivated to join our national Intellectual Property group. We are looking for an individual who has the skills, enthusiasm, personality, and commitment to become a partner. Please submit your application your cover letter, resume, law school transcript and two writing samples to:

Michelle Bigler, Manager, Attorney Recruiting
Quarles & Brady LLP
411 East Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 2040
Milwaukee, WI 53202
E-mail: mbigler@quarles.com

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR LAGBAC MEMBER- SHIP FOR 2008?

Renew your membership now by going to 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: _____