



OCTOBER 2009

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT FALL EDITION

Dear Members,

It's hard to believe that fall is upon us. We hope you had a great summer. As we turn toward the new school year, LAGBAC is working to bring to its members relevant, substantive programs. Over the next year, you can expect to see more CLEs, partnerships with community organizations, mentorship programs and a whole lot more. One of our first orders of business this fall will be our membership drive. Although LAGBAC has been growing by leaps and bounds, there is still more work to be done in the membership arena. It is our goal that we reach out to every LGBT (and supporter) attorney to become a member in LAGBAC. As history has proven, our strength is in our numbers - and we want to increase our numbers even more. So, please keep your eyes peeled for the membership emails and please forward to anyone and everyone you think would be interested. With your help, we can grow!!!

If you would like to get more information or to get more involved, please contact me directly at jjgottschalk@lagbac.org.

Best, Jeremy

JUDICIAL EVALUATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Members of LAGBAC's Judicial Evaluation Committee are enjoying a bit of a lull in their work as we await the announcement of the Circuit Court's newest Associate Judge appointments and begin preparations to evaluate candidates for the February 2010 primary election. The twenty finalists for the ten Associate Judge vacancies were announced on August 20, and we are happy to report that two of LAGBAC's members and supporters -- Linda Pael and Andrea Schleifer -- are among them. An announcement as to the court's selections is expected in the very near future.

Evaluations of judicial candidates expecting to run in the February 2010 primary will begin in October/November and will conclude in early January. Congratulations to Justice Sebastian Patti and to Linda Pael, who were slated by the Cook County Democratic Party for the Illinois Appellate Court and the Circuit Court of Cook County, respectively.

If you are interested in joining the Judicial Evaluation Committee or have questions about its work, please contact co-chair Mark Dupont at 312-914-0889.

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Chicago, IL 60644-0933
www.lagbac.org

5TH LAWYERS FOR DIVERSITY BBQ A GREAT SUCCESS



LAGBAC President Jeremy Gottschalk and Justice Sebastian Patti at LFD BBQ

The Fifth Annual Lawyers for Diversity Mid-Summer Barbecue was held on July 30th at Sidetrack in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood. Gay and gay-friendly members of Chicago's legal community gathered at this annual networking and fundraising event to benefit the Equality Illinois Education Project, PFLAG, LAGBAC Foundation, and the AIDS Legal Council of Chicago. Adding to a list of notable

past speakers, this year Illinois Appellate Court Justice Sebastian Patti spoke about diversity in the legal profession and encouraged young lawyers to consider joining the bench. Later, guests headed to the private rooftop deck for a barbecue. Lawyers for Diversity was generously sponsored by the following law firms: Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg, Brinks, Hofer, Gilson & Lione, Quarles & Brady, Sidley Austin, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, Arnstein & Lehr, Baker & McKenzie, Greenberg Traurig, Jenner & Block, Latham & Watkins, Marshall, Gerstein & Borun, McDermott, Will & Emery, Perkins Coie, Wildman Harrold, Winston & Strawn and Dykema Gossett.

LAGBAC PARTNERS WITH ISBA AT MARKET DAYS

Market Days 2009 was a great success. This year, LAGBAC was fortunate enough to combined forces to staff an information booth with the Illinois State Bar Association and the Chicago Bar Association. Together, the combined bar groups created a strong presence and the booth had a large number of visitors. Thanks to our volunteers and their friends the booth really became a place to hangout! LAGBAC would like to thank the ISBA, the CBA, and everyone who volunteered this year - especially Skip Harsch, who coordinated the event. We all look forward to an even more successful festival in 2010.

LAGBAC MENTORSHIP PROGRAM GETS BACK IN SWING

After the summer break, LAGBAC's student mentorship program is back in full swing. The aim of the mentorship program is to pair Chicagoland law students with local area lawyers and judges, preferably in areas of law of the law students' choosing. The program has seen great success over the last couple of years and we are excited to have over two dozen law students paired up. The mentors come from a variety of backgrounds, including recruiters, in-house counsel, government attorneys, and private practice lawyers. LAGBAC looks forward to the continued success of the program, but we need your help! If you or any one you know is interested in the program, please check our website and contact Nicole Bashor at nbashor@lagbac.org.

LAGBAC INFORMS FIRMS ABOUT CIVIL UNIONS BILL

What do law schools at Columbia, Drake, Georgetown, Harvard, Rutgers, UCLA, University of Oregon, University of Washington, UNLV and Yale have in common? All are located in states or districts that either establish legal protections for same-sex relationships or recognize such relationships entered into in other states.

By recruiting at these schools, Chicago law firms ask some prospective employees to move to Illinois and relinquish basic rights to make emergency health care decisions for their partners, to visit their partners in hospitals or even to make funeral arrangements after a partner dies.

The Illinois Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Unions Act would correct this situation by granting couples in civil unions the same legal rights afforded to married couples. It would ensure that law school graduates do not give up fundamental legal protections by moving to Illinois. By creating a single standard for determining which employees would be eligible for domestic partner benefits, it also would streamline benefits administration for law firms.

Following up on an earlier round of letters, LAGBAC is informing law firms about the Civil Unions bill and asking them to publicly support it. Since the bill might be considered during the fall veto session, the time is right for law firms to show their support on this important issue.

AIDS RUN/WALK

LAGBAC will be teaming up with the Legal Assistance Foundation's HIV/AIDS Project once again this year for the 2009 AIDS Foundation Chicago 5K Walk/Run on October 3, 2009! LAF's HIV/AIDS Project helps HIV/AIDS infected and affected Cook County residents whose income is under 300% of poverty with a range of legal problems, including public benefits, social security, family law, bankruptcy and other consumer matters, employment, housing, and disability discrimination. All of the money we raise through registration and donations will go directly to LAF's legal work on behalf of the HIV/AIDS Project clients. In 2008, our combined efforts raised almost \$7000 ! If you've never participated in this event before, you're in for a treat! If you have a mentee, this would be a great opportunity to get together with them to make a difference in Chicago. Please join us this year on the morning of October 3, 2009 for the 2009 AIDS Walk/Run! To sign up for the LAF and LAGBAC team, simply go to <https://afc.aidschicago.org/NetCommunity/SSL-Page.aspx?pid=780&tab=2>. When you get to the "join" options, make sure to choose team Legal Assistance Foundation. If you have any questions, please contact John Litchfield at jlitchfield@lagbac.org.

JUSTICE SEBASTIAN PATTI HONORED

Our very own Justice Sebastian Patti, newly appointed to the Illinois Appellate Court, will be honored at the 15th Annual Puerto Rican Bar Association Gala & Banquet, which will take place on Wednesday, October 21, 2009, from 5:30 - 9pm at the Union League Club of Chicago (65 West Jackson Blvd). Chief Judge Evans will be the Guest of Honor and Keynote Speaker. In addition to Justice Patti, Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez and Judge Sandra Otaka (posthumously) will be honored.

Tickets are \$150 each or \$1,350 per table. For more information, or to order tickets, contact Edwin Reyes by phone at 773-450-9584 or by email at ereyes@briskmanlaw.com.

MEET THE BAR!

Fridays: September 25, 2009 * October 23, 2009 *
November 20, 2009

TGIF! Start your weekend out right by joining LAGBAC members and guests on a Friday, September 25th, October 23rd, and November 20th from 6pm-8pm for Meet the Bar. This month will feature a special Meet the Bar with a wine and food tasting, hosted by Ted Allen from "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy." Our monthly Friday evening gathering is a great opportunity to network, catch up with old friends, make new ones, and meet fellow LGBT attorneys and future lawyers. This highly popular gathering of practitioners, judges, and the students of The John Marshall Law School, DePaul University College of Law, Loyola University Chicago School of Law, Chicago-Kent College of Law, University of Chicago Law School, and Northwestern University School of Law takes place in the casual setting of Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted Street, Chicago, Illinois, 60657 (Roscoe and Halsted). LAGBAC members get two free drink tickets, and guests can purchase two drink tickets for \$5. Your firm can also sponsor a Meet the Bar Night by contacting Jeremy Gottschalk at jgottschalk@lagbac.org.

LAVENDER LAW UPDATE

Lavender Law – Career Fair and Conference 2009, held in Brooklyn, NY from September 10-12, was another huge success with over 130 recruiters, over 1,000 attendees, and a lot of substantive programming. The National LGBT Bar Association (“LGBT Bar”) is a national association of lawyers, judges and other legal professionals, law students, activists, and affiliated lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender legal organizations. Each year LGBT Bar presents Lavender Law, an LGBT Conference, presenting panel discussion, CLE programs, and events focused on current legal issue affecting the LGBT Community. Lavender Law attendees networked with LGBT practitioners and law students and discussed substantive legal issues while dedicating themselves to improving the standard of LGBT legal practice. For more information, go to <http://lgbtbar.org/annual/>. Lavender Law 2010 will be held in Miami, Florida August 26-28.

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT AT ABA

The ABA held its annual meeting this past July. Resolution 112 was debated and passed both the ABA Young Lawyers Division Assembly and the ABA House of Delegates. Resolution 112 requests that Art. 1 Sec. 7 of the Defense of Marriage Act be repealed. Art. 1 Sec 7 defines marriage as between one man and one woman for federal benefits, which denies marital benefits and protections to lawfully married same-sex spouses.

Check out 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. 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.

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF LAGBAC?

Join 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: _____

LAGBAC is happy to be a sponsor of this year's Breaking Barriers Building Bridges conference, taking place on Friday, October 9.

THE CHICAGO BAR ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

BREAKING BARRIERS, BUILDING BRIDGES

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2009

9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M./5:00 P.M. NETWORKING RECEPTION

Only \$99 For A Full Day.

See the complete program agenda by visiting www.chicagobar.org.

To register, visit www.chicagobar.org or call CBA Ticketing at 312-554-2056.

Earn up to 6 hours of IL MCLE, including IL ethics/professionalism credit!

Breakouts include:

- Diversity in Leadership
- Reviving the Economy
- Impact of the US Supreme Court Decision in Ricci v. DeStefano
- The Post Madoff Era: Lessons Learned
- Transitioning in the Current Economy
- Strengthening the Voices of Arab Americans
- Role of Lawyers in the Green Economy
- Business Opportunities and the 2016 Olympics
- Having Difficult Conversations
- Ethics 2010: Illinois' New Approach to Ethics

Featured Speakers:

- Has Diversity Been Put on the Back Burner During the Economic Downturn?
- Diversity in the Era of President Obama

Luncheon Keynote Speaker:

Carol A. Robles-Roman, Deputy Mayor for Legal Affairs
and Counsel to the Mayor, New York City

A SPECIAL THANKS TO:

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CBA TICKETING AT 312-554-2056.