



LEGAL

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender
Law Association of Greater New York



Columbia Outlaws



Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Law 2008: *Where Do We Go from Here?*

**Saturday, November 15, 2008
9am - 5pm**

**Columbia Law School
Jerome Greene Hall
435 W 116th Street
New York, NY 10027**

Organized by

The LeGaL Foundation (The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Law Association
Foundation of Greater NY)

Columbia Outlaws &

The Program in Gender and Sexuality Law at Columbia Law School

With the Kind Sponsorship of Skadden, Arps, Meagher and Flom, LLP.,
Kirkland & Ellis, LLP., & McDermott, Will & Emery, LLP

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

8:30 am -9:15 am _____

Registration and Continental Breakfast

Jerome Greene Hall, Front Lobby

9:15 am - 9:30 am _____

Welcome Address

Jerome Greene Hall, Room 104

Remarks: Professor Katherine Franke, Director of the Columbia Program in Gender and Sexuality Law

9:30 am - 10:50 am _____

Plenary Discussion

Reflections on the Election: Where Do We Go From Here ?

Jerome Greene Hall, Room 104

Panelists: Franklin Romeo, Esq., Staff Attorney, Sylvia Rivera Law Project
Glenn Magpantay, Esq., Staff Attorney, Asian American Legal Defense & Education Fund
Matt Faiella, Staff Attorney at the New York Civil Liberties Union

Moderator: Chinyere Ezie, President, Columbia Outlaws

CLE credit: 1.5 hrs*

Topic: *This panel will reflect on the November Election Results and what they mean for LGBTQ legal advocacy at the local and national level. Special attention will be paid to the Obama Presidency, Democratic gains in Congress, and changes to the composition of the Federal Courts.*

11 am – 12:30 pm _____

*****Concurrent Sessions*****

Marriage Equality and Full Faith and Credit

Jerome Greene Hall, Room 104

Panelists: Hon. Daniel O'Donnell, Esq., New York York State Assembly Member
Evan Wolfson, Esq., Executive Director, Freedom to Marry
Tom Prol Esq., Vice Chair, Garden State Equality
Ken Bartschi, Partner, Horton, Shields, Knox, counsel in *Kerrigan*, the CT gay marriage case

Modertor: Laurie Marin, Esq., First Vice President of the LeGaL Foundation

CLE credit: 1.5 hrs

Topic: *This panel will examine the newly instituted ban on gay marriage in California and how it has affected the nationwide movement for marriage equality. The nation's most preeminent experts will be on hand to comment about same-sex marriage and civil unions in MA, CT, and NJ, as well the movement here in New York --- examining Governor Patterson's Executive Order regarding full faith and credit for out of state marriages.*

11am – 12:30 pm (continued)

Transgender Legal Advocacy: From the Grassroots to the Federal Courts

Jerome Greene Hall, Room 103

Panelists: Franklin Romeo, Esq., Staff Attorney, Sylvia Rivera Law Project
Sharon McGowan, Esq., Staff Attorney, American Civil Liberties Union, LGBT Rights Project
Melissa Sklarz, Director, New York Trans Rights Organization

Moderator: Loren Krywanzyk, Public School Educator, Writer and Transgender Activist

CLE credit: 1.5 hrs

Topic: *This panel discusses the legal issues affecting the transgender community, highlighting challenges as well as recent victories. Special emphasis will be placed on direct services work and federal impact litigation -- examining the impact of the recently litigated Schroer case on gender-based employment non-discrimination claims.*

12:30 pm – 1:50 pm

Skadden Lunch

1st Floor Lobby, Jerome Greene Hall

1 pm -1:40 pm **Lunchtime Breakout Sessions**

Session 1: The LGBT Community in Iraq: Between a War and a Hostile Place

Jerome Greene Hall, Room 103

Presenters: Professor Arthur S. Leonard, New York Law School & Editor of Lesbian/Gay Law Notes
George Fesser, Program Coordinator for Immigration Services, LGBT Community Center

Topic: *This one of a kind panel will discuss the continuing plight of LGBT people living in Iraq, including those currently residing in Baghdad "safe houses" secretly being maintained. It will also speak to issues of refuge, asylum and exit -- highlighting ways in which lawyers can help.*

CLE Credit: .5 hrs

Session 2: Advocating for the Rights of LGBT and Same-Gender Loving Seniors

Jerome Greene Hall, Room 105

Presenter: Natalie Chin, Esq., Staff Attorney, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund

Topic: *Seniors are often overlooked in the movement for LGBT equality. This panel will provide an overview of LGBT senior issues and discuss laws that can protect LGBT seniors in areas that include housing, public accommodations, and long-term care. This workshop will arm you with the information you need to help ensure that our movement is making progress in improving the lives of seniors.*

CLE Credit: .5 hrs

2 pm – 3:20 pm

****Concurrent Sessions****

Domestic Violence and Access to NY Family Courts

Jerome Greene Hall, Room 105

Panelists: Sharon Stapel, Esq., Executive Director, NYC Lesbian and Gay Antiviolence Project
Stephanie Nilva, Esq., Executive Director, Day One

CLE credit: 1.5 hrs

Topic: *This panel will discuss the Patterson administration's recent reforms concerning access to family courts, exploring their implications for same - sex victims of domestic violence.*

2 pm – 3:20 pm (continued)

Confronting the HIV/AIDS Epidemic: Mobility & Morbidity

Jerome Greene Hall, Room 103

Panelists: Sean Cahill, Ph.D., Managing Director, Public Policy, Gay Men's Health Crisis
Victoria Neilson, Esq., Legal Director, Immigration Equality
Babatunde Tinubu, Esq., Senior Staff Attorney, Gay Men's Health Crisis

Moderator: Jessica Rodriguez, Community Educator and HIV/AIDS Activist

CLE credit: 1.5 hrs

Topic: *This panel will examine the recent repeal of the ban on HIV+ immigration, mapping its potential impact on gay communities and communities of color at a time where HIV/AIDS infections are sharply on the rise.*

3:30 pm – 4:50pm

Plenary Discussion

LGBTQ Youth and Homelessness: Vulnerability at the Margins

Jerome Greene Hall, Room 104

Panelists: Nancy Downing, Esq., Staff Attorney, Covenant House
Anya Makari-Connolly, Esq., Urban Justice Center

Moderator: Jay Toole, Shelter Organizer, Queens for Economic Justice

CLE credit: 1.5 hrs

Topic: *This panel will highlight the growing problem of homelessness among LGBTQ youth in New York City, discussing vulnerability among the youth population, how social services fail them, and the role that advocates can play.*

5 pm – 7 pm

Closing Reception

Lenfest Cafe, 3rd Floor Jerome Greene Hall

With wine and hors d'oeuvres, and closing remarks by the LeGaL Foundation

***Continuing Law Education (CLE) Credit**

This conference will provide attendees with a maximum of **6.5 hours** transitional and non-transitional Continuing Legal Education Credit which may be applied toward the Areas of Professional Practice requirement under New York Continuing Legal Education (CLE) regulations. Under these regulations, CLE credit will be granted only to those attorneys completing entire sessions; attorneys attending only part of a session are not eligible for partial credit. Attorneys arriving late are welcome to attend the program but will not be eligible for CLE credit. Similarly, attorneys leaving the session early also are also ineligible for CLE credit. Attorneys wishing to receive CLE credit must sign in at the program's attendance register prior to and following the CLE program; once a speaker begins the program, the sign-in sheets will be removed. Columbia Law School is a certified provider of New York State Bar Continuing Legal Education programs.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Kenneth Bartschi, Esq., is a partner with the Hartford firm of Horton, Shields & Knox, P.C., where his practice includes appellate litigation in civil, constitutional, and criminal matters. He began working there as a law clerk in 1995 and joined the firm as an associate in the fall of 1996, becoming a partner in 2000. He is a member of the bars of the State of Connecticut, the State of New York, the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court. Mr. Bartschi is co-author of West's *Connecticut Rules of Appellate Procedure (Annotated)*, the annual Appellate Review for the Connecticut Bar Journal, and the Connecticut Practice Book Annotated (4th Ed.), published by West. In law school, Mr. Bartschi served as managing editor of the *Connecticut Journal of International Law* and authored "Legislative Responses to HIV/AIDS in Africa," which appeared in Volume 11 of the *Journal*. He served as the primary editor of *Civil Unions: What Same-Sex Couples in Connecticut Should Know*, which was published jointly by Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund and the Connecticut Civil Liberties Union.

Mr. Bartschi earned a Bachelor of Music in music education from Potsdam College in 1987 and holds a Masters of Music degree in performance from Arizona State University, which he earned in 1989. He graduated with honors from the University of Connecticut School of Law in 1996.

Sean Cahill, Ph.D. is Managing Director for Public Policy, Research and Community Health at Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) in New York. Recently his focus has been on repealing the U.S. HIV entry ban and promoting prevention and research targeting gay/bi men through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. Dr. Cahill directed the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute from 2001 to 2007. He is the author of *Same-sex marriage in the United States: Focus on the Facts* (2004: Lexington), and co-author of *Policy issues affecting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender families* (2007: University of Michigan), as well as many articles and book chapters. Dr. Cahill has an M.A. and Ph.D. in political science from the University of Michigan and a B.A. in international political science and French from Middlebury College.

Natalie Chin, Esq., is a Staff Attorney for Lambda Legal, the oldest and largest national legal organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and people with HIV. Natalie is actively involved in Lambda Legal's full range of casework, with a focus on LGBT senior issues. Since joining the organization in January 2008, Chin has worked as co-counsel in *Doe v. Montgomery County Board of Elections*, representing 12 plaintiffs in a challenge to invalidate a referendum petition seeking to overturn a law that adds gender identity as a protected characteristic in Montgomery County's anti-discrimination ordinance.

Prior to joining Lambda Legal, Chin worked for MFY Legal Services in New York where as a staff attorney, she represented individuals with mental health disabilities and the elderly. She previously was an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the New York City Law Department where she litigated cases in state and federal court. Prior to attending law school, Chin worked as a journalist in California and South Africa. Chin received her bachelor's degree in journalism from Boston University and her J.D. from George Washington University.

Nancy Downing Nancy Downing joined Covenant House New York Advocacy/Legal Department as a Senior Staff Attorney in May 2007, and recently became the Director of the Advocacy/Legal Department. Nancy has fifteen years of experience as an attorney working on civil rights, fair housing, homelessness, and poverty law issues. Prior to coming to Covenant House Sr. Downing was the Executive Director of an immigrant women's center, MCIF Center, in Brooklyn, NY. Other previous positions include: Staff Attorney at New York Legal Assistance Group, representing clients with chronic & serious illnesses; Legal Services Coordinator for STEPS To End Family Violence; and Executive Director of the Connecticut Fair Housing Center. In a prior career life, Sr. Downing worked for a major insurance company overseeing complex litigation involving civil & constitutional rights violations, serious personal injury, and other matters. She obtained her undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Southern Maine, and her law degree from Western New England College. She is licensed to practice law in New York and Connecticut. She is also a religious sister in the Congregation of Notre Dame.

Chinyere Ezie is a second year student at Columbia Law School and President of Columbia Outlaws. Chinyere received a Bachelors degree in Sociology and International Studies from Yale University, where she published her thesis in the Yale Journal of Sociology. She is also a recipient of the J. William Fulbright Fellowship, which carried her to the little known island of Mauritius, where she researched industrialization and migrant labor. As an activist, Chinyere straddles the line between human rights and civil rights advocacy -- equally passionate about civil rights, gender and sexuality law, and issues such as fair trade and sustainable development in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Matt Faiella, Esq., joined the NYCLU as a staff attorney in 2007. He focuses his work on LGBT issues, as well as police surveillance and other civil liberties and constitutional issues. Prior to joining the NYCLU's staff, Faiella worked as a staff attorney at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit in Atlanta. He earned his B.A. from Boston University and J.D. from Cornell Law School.

George Fesser is the Coordinator of Immigration Services at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center in New York City. He has a bachelors degree in Social Welfare from Barry University and is an MSW Candidate at the Columbia University School of Social Work. He has a background in HIV/AIDS Prevention and adolescent psychology and has been working with LGBT immigrations for over five years. His specialty is providing therapy for LGBT asylum seekers who are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder due to the oppression in their home countries. He uses Narrative Therapy, Brief Motivational Interviewing and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy to enhance his clients' resilience and quality of life.

Loren Krywanczyk is a 6th grade English teacher at a public middle school in Brooklyn, NY. After graduating from Yale University in 2006 with degrees in English and in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, he received his Master's of Education from Pace University in 2008. He has published essays on queer pedagogy in *Radical Teacher* (Aug 2007) and the *Queer Studies Journal of Finland* (SQS, October 2008) and occasionally documents his experiences transitioning in his school on the Safe Schools Coalition blog, online at <http://safeschoolscoalition.blogspot.com>.

Loren founded the annual speaker series Trans Week at Yale six years ago and continues to be involved in it as a frequent panel moderator and organizer. He is a member of the Transgender Health Initiative of New York and a volunteer at the Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund, and he has presented workshops on LGBTQ issues in public schools at the True Colors Conference in Connecticut the past two years.

Arthur Leonard, Esq., is Professor of Law at New York Law School, Editor of Lesbian/Gay Law Notes, and Contributing Writer at Gay City News. He is a graduate of Cornell University and Harvard Law School, and practiced labor law for five years in New York City before joining the faculty of New York Law School in 1982. Among the issue he has covered in Law Notes and Gay City News are cases involving asylum claims by LGBT refugees seeking to stay in the United States legally.

Glenn D. Magpantay, Esq., is the current Political Chair and former Co-Chair of the Gay Asian & Pacific Islander Men of New York, a political, educational, social, and peer-support group for gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning Asian and Pacific Islander men in the Greater New York Metropolitan Area. He is currently spearheading a national federation of Asian American South Asian, and Pacific Islander lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender organizations, the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA). He organized the first ever testimony before The White House Initiative on Asian Americans & Pacific Islander in 2000. He was named as one of *Instinct Magazine's* "25 Leading Men of 2004," in the magazine's Nov. 2004 power issue. In 1994, he spoke at the National March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation.

Professionally, Glenn is a Staff Attorney at the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund where he practices voting rights law. AALDEF has filed briefs with federal and state courts in support of same-sex marriage and civil rights of lesbians and gays. He has written on the intersection of gay rights and traditional civil rights law in a number of law reviews and public reports. Glenn attended the State University of New York (SUNY) at Stony Brook on Long Island, and as a beneficiary of affirmative action, graduated *cum laude* from the New England School of Law, in Boston.

Laurie Marin, Esq. is an associate court attorney to Housing Court Judge Bruce E. Scheckowitz in Kings County. An authority on housing court proceedings, she has published articles in The Landlord Tenant Practice Report. Laurie is also the first person elected to serve as Vice President of the LeGaL Foundation, and has chaired LeGaL's Women's Committee. Laurie takes special interest in the marriage equality movement because she and her partner obtained a civil union in Massachusetts.

Sharon McGowan, Esq., joined the ACLU Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender & AIDS Projects as a Staff Attorney in 2004. Sharon is the lead attorney in *Schroer v. Billington*, in which a federal district court in D.C. recently ruled that discrimination against a transgender woman due to her gender transition and her perceived gender non-conformity violated Title VII's prohibition on sex discrimination. She is a co-author of the fourth edition of the ACLU book, *The Rights of Lesbians, Gay Men, Bisexual and Transgender People*, and has published other articles regarding employment discrimination issues in various law journals. Before joining the ACLU, Sharon was a litigation associate at the Washington D.C. law firm, Jenner & Block, where she was part of the litigation team on *Lawrence v. Texas*, in which the Supreme Court struck down all remaining sodomy laws in 2003. Sharon clerked for Judge Norman H. Stahl of the First Circuit and Judge Helen G. Berrigan of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. She graduated with honors from the University of Virginia and Harvard Law School, where she was editor in chief of the *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review*.

Anya Mukarji-Connolly, Esq., is a graduate of the City University of New York School of Law where she received her law degree and a graduate of the State University of New York at Stony Brook, where she received her B.A. She is also a former Equal Justice Works fellow. Anya is an advocate for low-income and homeless lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning (LGBTQQ) youth who are struggling to survive on New York City's streets, and in its foster care, juvenile justice and shelter systems. In 2002, she joined the Peter Cicchino Youth Project (PCYP) as a staff attorney. PCYP is the only legal services program in the country specifically dedicated to serving poor and homeless LGBTQQ youth. Anya sits on the Steering Committee of the New York City Association of Homeless and Street-Involved Youth Organizations, a coalition of youth-serving organizations working with at-risk youth who fight for systemic change on behalf of the city's most vulnerable youth. From 2004 until 2006, Anya sat on the Board of Directors of FIERCE!, a community organizing project for Transgender, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Two Spirit, Queer, and Questioning youth of color in New York City.

Victoria Neilson, Esq. is the Legal Director of Immigration Equality, a national organization fighting for equal immigration rights for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and HIV-positive community. Ms. Neilson runs Immigration Equality's pro bono asylum project and provides technical assistance and mentoring on LGBT and HIV immigration issues to attorneys around the country. She is the primary author of The LGBT/HIV Asylum Manual, a comprehensive guide for attorneys, and she has published extensively on legal issues facing LGBT and HIV-positive immigrants and refugees. Ms. Neilson received her law degree from the City University School of Law and her bachelor's degree from Harvard University. Ms. Neilson is co-chair of the New York City Bar Association's Committee on AIDS and an active member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. She is the former Litigation Director at the HIV Law Project in New York.

Stephanie Nilva, Esq., Executive Director of Day One, has been working in the domestic violence field throughout her legal career, practicing family and matrimonial law, specializing in relationship abuse. She launched Day One as the local office of a national organization in 2003; Day One is now an independent organization serving the five boroughs of New York City. Immediately following law school, Stephanie was the recipient of a New York State IOLA Legal Services Fellowship. Following her work in New York at both Legal Services for New York – Brooklyn Branch and New York Legal Assistance Group, Stephanie became the Acting Director and Managing Attorney at Community Law Center (now Law Center for Families) in Oakland, California.

Stephanie returned to New York and became the Executive Director of Legal Information for Families Today (LIFT), an organization devoted to helping individuals navigate the New York City child welfare and family court systems. Stephanie is admitted to the State Bars of New York, New Jersey and California. She is the Secretary of the Domestic Violence Committee of the New York City Bar and a member of the Lawyers Committee Against Domestic Violence. She has published two articles on representation of young people in

domestic violence proceedings. Stephanie graduated from Hamilton College with a Bachelor of Arts; she received her juris doctorate degree from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, where she received the Jonathan A. Weiss Award for Public Interest.

Daniel O'Donnell, Esq., elected to the 69th Assembly District in 2002, is the first openly gay man in the New York State Assembly. Born in Queens and raised in Commack, Long Island, with his four brothers and sisters, he worked his way through college and law school, graduating with a B.A. in Public Affairs from George Washington University and a law degree from CUNY Law School.

Throughout his life in public service, O'Donnell has fought to bring positive change to his community, which includes Manhattan Valley, Morningside Heights, and the Upper West Side of Manhattan. He was a founding member of the New York City Chapter of Citizen Action and the Morningside Heights Historic District Committee. He also held a leadership role as the former chair of the Community Board 9 Housing and Land Use Committee and was president of a local political club on the Upper West Side. For seven years, he served as a public defender in the Brooklyn office of the Legal Aid Society before opening his own public interest law firm on the Upper West Side of Manhattan— a community practice that included tenant representation as well as civil rights litigation on issues ranging from employment discrimination to the First Amendment. He continues to be a progressive voice for the West Side who advocates for fair and sensible legislation in the State Assembly.

Mr. O'Donnell currently serves as the Chair of the Subcommittee on Criminal Procedures and is a standing member of the Codes, Education, Judiciary, Environmental Conservation, Arts and Tourism, and Oversight, Analysis & Investigation Committees. He resides in Morningside Heights with his partner of 27 years, John Banta.

Thomas H. Prol, Esq., is an attorney at the law firm of Scarinci and Hollenbeck, LLC. where he specializes in Environmental & Land Use and Public Law. Mr. Prol presently serves as vice-chair and counsel to Garden State Equality, New Jersey's leading LGBT advocacy organization; and is a member of the New Jersey State Bar Association (NJSBA) Board of Trustees. He is also an Adjunct Professor of Legal Reasoning and Writing at New York Law School, and a frequent lecturer for the New Jersey Institute of Continuing Legal Education. Mr. Prol has authored numerous articles about the environment, development and LGBT issues. He has been recognized as one of NJ's leading attorneys on the *New Jersey Law Journal's* "40 Under 40" list; as one of the *New Jersey Lawyer's* "magnificent seven" lawyers who made a difference in the state, and as the NJ State Bar Association's "2004 Young Lawyer of the Year."

Mr. Prol graduated from New York Law School where he received the Daniel Finkelstein Commencement Award. Prior to law school, Mr. Prol earned a Master's Degree in Public Health from Emory University concentrating in environmental and occupational health, and served two years in the U.S. Peace Corps in the Himalayan Kingdom of Nepal where he directed sanitation units in four government district water and sewage offices that included Mount Everest.

Jessica Rodriguez is an educator, writer, and HIV/AIDS advocate. A native to Philadelphia, Jessica has been involved with sexuality education and HIV advocacy for the past nine years. Jessica started her work as a community educator in high school in a peer education program. Jessica Rodriguez worked at the Mazzoni LGBT Health Center in Philadelphia, where she served as Coordinator of their community health education program for two years. Jessica is currently working on an oral history project documenting the twenty-year history of ACT UP Philadelphia, a diverse, inter-generational, multi-ethnic, multi-gendered organization led by people living with HIV. Jessica Rodriguez recently moved to New York City to begin work as a public high school Spanish teacher. Jessica Rodriguez is an alumni member of ACT UP Philadelphia (AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power) and a current member of CHAMP/NYC. Jessica Rodriguez obtained her Bachelors degree in Latin American Studies from Temple University, and her Masters in Education from Pace University.

Franklin Romeo, Esq., is a staff attorney at the Sylvia Rivera Law Project (SRLP), a non-profit legal organization that works to guarantee that all people are free to self-determine their gender identity and expression, regardless of income or race, and without facing harassment, discrimination, or violence. His work focuses on public benefits, identity documents, and immigration. Prior to joining the SRLP staff, Franklin was a

Blackmun Fellow at the Center for Reproductive Rights and a Kirkland & Ellis Fellow at Lambda Legal. He graduated from Columbia Law School in 2005.

Melissa Sklarz became the first transgender person elected to office in New York in 1999 when she was elected Judicial Delegate from the 66th Assembly District. In 2004, Melissa became the first transgender person from New York to be part of the state delegation at the Democratic National Convention, by being appointed to the Credentials Committee. She again represented New York when she was appointed to the Rules Committee for the 2008 Convention. She helped bring civil rights to transgender people in New York City when INT 24 became law in 2002 and has been a lobbying leader for GENDA (Gender Expression Non Discrimination Act), passed by the NY State Assembly in June 2008.

In 2003, Melissa was elected to the executive board of the National Stonewall Democrats and has served 6 years on the Executive Board of Gay and Lesbian Independent Democrats (GLID) in Manhattan and served 5 years on Community Board #2 in Greenwich Village. This past year, Melissa was a co-chair for Obama Pride NYC, helping to organize the LGBT community for the campaign. She also serves as Director of the New York Trans Rights Organization (NYTRO). In 2005, Melissa appeared in a featured role in the film TRANSAMERICA.

Babatunde Tinubu, Esq., is a Senior Staff Attorney at Gay Men's Health Crisis Legal Services, Immigration Unit. Mr. Tinubu attended the University of Ife, Ile-Ife, Nigeria and graduated from the Nigeria Law School, Lagos and was admitted to Nigeria Bar in 1986. After immigrating to the United States, Mr. Tiubu pursued further graduate study at Long Island University, where he received an MA and an MPA, and at Touro Law School, where he received an L.L.M.

Jay Toole is a 56 year-old lesbian who battled addiction for 37 years, during which time she was homeless for 25 years, and often lived in the NYC shelters. In 1999, she became clean and sober and has remained so ever since. That same year, 1999, at age 50, she completed her GED. She also received an award from the organization *Women in Need* for completing their HIV/AIDS prevention program. That same year, she also began volunteering for *the Coalition for the Homeless* as a Shelter Monitor, which she continues to do. Since 2001 she has worked part-time at *the LGBT Community Center*. In 2002, she became a founding member of *Queers for Economic Justice*, where she continues to serve on the Board of Directors. In 2003, she graduated from *the Resource Group*, as an alcohol and substance abuse counselor, where she received an award and prize for leadership in education. In 2004, she earned a certificate of completion from *the Recovery Coalition*. In 2004, she was hired as the Shelter Organizer for *Queers for Economic Justice*.

Evan Wolfson, Esq. is Executive Director of Freedom to Marry, the gay and non-gay partnership working to win marriage equality nationwide. Before founding Freedom to Marry, Evan served as marriage project director for Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, was co-counsel in the historic Hawaii marriage case, and participated in numerous gay rights and HIV/AIDS cases.

Evan previously served as Associate Counsel to Lawrence Walsh in the Iran/Contra investigation, and as an Assistant District Attorney in Brooklyn, New York. Between Yale College and Harvard Law School, Evan spent two years with the Peace Corps in West Africa.

Citing his national leadership on marriage equality and his appearance before the U.S. Supreme Court in *Boy Scouts of America v. James Dale*, the National Law Journal in 2000 named Evan one of "the 100 most influential lawyers in America."

In 2004, Evan was named one of the "Time 100," Time magazine's list of "the 100 most influential people in the world." Evan Wolfson's first book, *Why Marriage Matters: America, Equality, and Gay People's Right to Marry*, was published by Simon & Schuster in July 2004.

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