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LeGaL Launches The LGBT Legal Resource Center Online

*Online Initiative Seeks to Provide One-Stop Home for
LGBT Community's Legal Resources*

July 22, 2011 – The LeGaL Foundation is pleased to announce the launch of The LGBT Legal Resource Center, an online initiative that seeks to create a home for many of the LGBT community's publicly available legal resources, with a particular emphasis on the New York area.

The project, which was launched in its beta form today and is available at <http://www.le-gal.org>, already houses links to more than one hundred legal self-help guides, fact sheets and publications aimed at the LGBT community specifically or containing general legal information of relevance to community members. The center also features many of the resources created after the historic marriage equality victory in New York.

“We know first-hand from the hundreds of visitors to our pro bono clinics that members of our community could benefit from a dedicated online resource center for legal information,” said Brad Snyder, LeGaL's Executive Director. “We hope the center will make it easier for individuals to be connected to the help they need.”

Snyder added that visitors to existing clinics run by LeGaL, including a long-standing weekly clinic in Manhattan, a monthly clinic on Long Island and, more recently, a Life Planning Clinic (operated in partnership with the LGBT Law Project at NYLAG), often have questions that could be addressed by existing resources. Simply put, it became clear from such experiences that individuals in need of legal assistance are not always familiar with the diverse array of resources and organizations available to assist them.

The project seeks to change that by easing some of the information burdens experienced by members of the LGBT community who are navigating legal issues.

“We think the project will spur the creation of *new* resources,” added Snyder, who noted that there are subject areas yet to be featured within the resource center in need of LGBT-specific resources. He noted that partner organizations consulted on the project are already working to add resources in some of those areas.

The LeGaL Foundation also continues to publish *Lesbian/Gay Law Notes*, edited and chiefly written by the organization's founder, Professor Art Leonard of New York Law School, which keeps community members and practitioners up-to-date on the latest legal and policy developments affecting the LGBT community.

About LeGaL

LeGaL was one of the nation's first bar associations of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) legal community and remains one of the largest and most active organizations of its kind in the country. Serving the New York metropolitan area, LeGaL is dedicated to promoting the expertise and advancement of LGBT legal professionals while serving the larger community.

Through the LeGaL Foundation, the organization publishes *Lesbian/Gay Law Notes*, the most comprehensive monthly publication summarizing legal and political developments affecting the LGBT community here and abroad, conducts a weekly walk-in pro bono clinic at Manhattan's LGBT Community Center serving hundreds of individuals each year and a monthly clinic on Long Island, sponsors the Dr. M.L. Hank Henry, Jr. Fund for Judicial Internships and, among its many other activities, runs the area's only career fair dedicated to first-year LGBT law students.

For more information on LeGaL, visit <http://www.le-gal.org>.

To contact our Attorney Referral Service, e-mail referral@le-gal.org.