From the Chair of the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Commission American Bar Association

The American Bar Association’s Commission on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI), along with the National LGBT Bar Association, is pleased to present the publication of *Out and About*, a compilation of stories about the experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender attorneys, academics and jurists in the profession, through their own words.

SOGI is proud of this collaborative effort with the National LGBT Bar Association. Both of our groups are working to support the LGBT legal community. The SOGI mission is to promote full and equal participation in the legal profession by persons of differing sexual orientations and gender identities. Our commission focuses on trying to change the fact that the LGBT legal community faces significant barriers and challenges that discourage their full acceptance and participation in their chosen fields of legal expertise.

In an effort to fulfill the SOGI Commission’s responsibility as a source of information for the ABA, the LGBT Bar, current and future practitioners and society at large, *Out and About* was designed with two goals in mind. One is to educate the legal profession and the general public about the LGBT legal community, its contributions and its unique struggles; the other is to provide a resource for identification, inspiration and education to the LGBT legal community on how to deal with situations they may face.

I personally want to thank all of the members of the SOGI Commission and the National LGBT Bar Association for their excellent work on putting this publication together. I also want to thank the brave individuals who trusted us with their stories. May their experiences provide guidance, enlightenment and courage to all who read them.

Jim Holmes, Chair
American Bar Association’s Commission on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity