THE ABA DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION CENTER CELEBRATES PRIDE MONTH
WHAT IS PRIDE MONTH?

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Pride Month is celebrated each year in June to honor the 1969 Stonewall Riots in Manhattan.

The Stonewall Riots were a tipping point for the Gay Liberation Movement in the U.S. Initially, the last Sunday in June was celebrated as “Gay Pride Day,” but the actual day was flexible. In major cities across the nation the “day” grew to encompass a month-long series of events.

Today, LGBTQ Pride Month celebrations include pride parades, picnics, parties, symposia, concerts etc. that attract millions of participants around the world.

Memorials are held during this month for those members of the community who have been lost to hate crimes or HIV/AIDS. The purpose of the commemorative month is to recognize the impact that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals have had on history locally, nationally, and internationally.
ABA COMMISSION ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION & GENDER IDENTITY

The Commission focuses on developing and supporting initiatives and research to secure full and equal participation by LGBTQQ persons in the ABA and the legal profession. A highlight of key initiatives includes:

• How to Be an Ally Toolkit: A resource for legal actors on how to create customizable LGBTQ Ally training.

• Policy/Advocacy Work: Creates/sponsors resolutions on critical issues e.g., Title VII protections, support for the Equality Act etc.

• CLEs: Featured an award-winning film and lecture on conversion therapy laws during 2019 ABA Midyear Meeting.

Chair: Victor Marquez ~ Staff Director: Skip Harsch

Visit: ambar.org/sogi
On social media: @SOGI_Commission
MIA F. YAMAMOTO
A transgender woman, Mia Yamamoto was born in Poston Relocation Camp, Arizona, 1943. She graduated from Cal State University with a B.S. in government in 1966.

As a young adult, Yamamoto struggled with her gender identity and decided to join the Army, serving from 66-68. She was awarded many medals, such as, the National Defense Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and Vietnam Campaign Medal.

After the army Yamamoto attended UCLA's School of Law, where she co-founded the Asian Pacific Islander Law Student Association. In 1984, she opened her own practice, and has been working as a lawyer ever since.

Yamamoto is a recipient of the 2013 ABA Stonewall Award. See more: ambar.org/sogi.
Harvey Milk (1930-1978) was an American politician and the first openly gay elected official in the history of California, where he was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

Although Milk was the most pro-LGBT politician in the U.S., politics and activism were not his early interests; he was neither open about his sexuality nor civically active until he was 40, after his experiences in the counterculture movement of the 1960s.

Milk served almost eleven months in office, during which he sponsored a bill banning discrimination in public accommodations, housing, and employment on the basis of sexual orientation. The Supervisors passed the bill by a vote of 11-1 and was signed into law by Mayor Moscone. On November 27, 1978, Milk was assassinated.

Despite his short career in politics, Milk became an icon in San Francisco and a martyr in the gay community. In 2002, he was called "the most famous and most significantly open LGBT official ever elected in the United States". 
Bayard Rustin (1912-1987) worked with A. Philip Randolph on the March on Washington in 1941 to press for an end to discrimination in employment.

Rustin later organized Freedom Rides and helped to organize the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to strengthen Martin Luther King Jr.'s leadership, teaching King about nonviolence and later serving as an organizer for the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

Rustin was a gay man, and due to criticism over his sexuality, he usually acted as an influential adviser behind the scenes to civil-rights leaders.

In the 1980s, Rustin became a public advocate on behalf of gay causes and was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2013.
Mark David Agrast is an American lawyer who was a Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the U.S. Dept. of Justice, overseeing criminal and national security matters in its Office of Legislative Affairs.

Agrast was a senior vice president and fellow at the Center for American Progress (2003-2009); held senior staff positions with the U.S. House of Representatives (1992 to 2009); and practiced international law with Jones Day (1985 to 1992).

In October 2014, Agrast became the executive director of the American Society of International Law. He has also served in numerous leadership capacities in the ABA, including as a member of its Board of Governors and its Executive Committee.

Agrast is openly gay, and a recipient of the 2019 ABA Stonewall Award. See more: ambar.org/sogi.
Randa Jarrar is a professor of English at Fresno State University.

Jarrar’s first book, the Arab-American coming of age novel, *A Map of Home*, is now on many college syllabi. It was published in seven languages and won a Hopwood Award and an Arab-American Book Award.

Jarrar’s most recent book, *Him, Me, Muhammad Ali*, won an American Book Award, a PEN Oakland Award, and a Story Prize Spotlight Award, and was named a Key Collection for Fall 2016 by Library Journal and one of Electric Literature‘s 25 best collections of the year. Jarrar identifies as queer.
Tammy Baldwin is the first openly gay politician elected to the U.S. Senate. She is also Wisconsin's first congresswoman.

After passing Wisconsin's Board Bar of Examiners in 1989, Baldwin began practicing law in the state. She was elected to Congress in 1998. Representing Wisconsin's 2nd District from 1999 to 2012, and serving on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Baldwin is known for her strong support of LGBT rights and universal health care. Her mantra is to ignore "the naysayers, the cynics, and the keepers of the status quo; [those who say] you can't, you shouldn't or you won't."
Phyllis Randolph Frye is an Associate Judge for the Municipal Courts in the U.S. city of Houston, Texas.

Frye is the first openly transgender judge appointed in the U.S. She devotes her practice exclusively to taking transgender clients -- both adults and minors -- through the Texas courts to change their names and genders on legal documents.

Frye is a recipient of the 2018 ABA Stonewall Award. See more: ambar.org/diversity.
Audre Lorde (1934-1992) was an American writer, feminist, womanist, librarian, and civil rights activist.

As a poet, Lorde is best known for technical mastery and emotional expression, as well as her poems that express anger and outrage at civil and social injustices she observed throughout her life. Her poems and prose largely deal with issues related to civil rights, feminism, and exploration of black female identity.

Lorde famously said, "those of us who stand outside the circle of this society's definition of acceptable women; those of us who have been forged in the crucibles of difference – those of us who are poor, who are lesbians, who are Black, who are older – know that survival is not an academic skill. It is learning how to take our differences and make them strengths. For the master's tools will never dismantle the master's house.”
Marsha P. Johnson (1945-1992) was an American gay liberation activist and self-identified drag queen. Johnson was known as an outspoken advocate for gay rights, and was one of the prominent figures in the Stonewall uprising of 1969. Johnson was also a founding member of the Gay Liberation Front; co-founder of the gay and transvestite advocacy organization S.T.A.R. (Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries), alongside close friend Sylvia Rivera; an AIDS activist with ACT UP; and known as the "mayor of Christopher Street".
SYLVIA RIVERA

Sylvia Rivera (1951-2002) as a Latina American gay liberation and transgender rights activist significant in the LGBT history of New York City and of the U.S. as a whole.

Some claim Rivera, who identified as a drag queen, was a founding member of the Gay Liberation Front. With her close friend Marsha P. Johnson, Rivera co-founded the Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR), a group dedicated to helping homeless young drag queens, gay kids, and trans women.

Along with Johnson, Rivera was one of the leaders of the Stonewall Riots.
SHARON MCGOWAN

Sharon McGowan is the Chief Strategy Officer and Legal Director of Lambda Legal.

Earlier in her career, McGowan was a Staff Attorney with the ACLU's Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender & AIDS Project.

McGowan has repeatedly been recognized by the Department of Justice (DOJ) for her efforts on LGBT issues, including her role in developing the arguments advanced by the U.S. in support of nationwide marriage equality, and in guiding the DOJ to its position that discrimination on the basis of sex encompasses discrimination on the basis of gender identity.

McGowan is a recipient of the 2019 ABA Stonewall Award. See more: ambar.org/sogi.
James Baldwin (1924–1987) was an American novelist, playwright, and activist. Baldwin's essays, as collected in *Notes of a Native Son*, explore intricacies of racial, sexual, and class distinctions in Western societies, most notably in mid-20th-century America.

An unfinished manuscript, *Remember This House*, was expanded and adapted for cinema as the Academy Award-nominated documentary film, *I Am Not Your Negro*. One of his novels, *If Beale Street Could Talk*, was adapted into an Academy Award-winning dramatic film in 2018.

Baldwin's novels and plays fictionalize fundamental personal questions and dilemmas amid complex social and psychological pressures thwarting the equitable integration of not only African-Americans, but also gay and bisexual men, while depicting some internalized obstacles to such individuals' quests for acceptance.
Victor Marquez is a governmental relations specialist and assists both private companies and nonprofit organizations develop mixed-use residential and commercial real estate development projects.

Marquez is a former president of the Hispanic National Bar Association (2007-2008), the first openly gay person to lead the organization. He led the HNBA in developing the Public Interest Law Track and restarting the Voting Rights Section.

Marquez was a pioneer in pushing for the full acceptance and recognition of the LGBT membership by the leadership of the HNBA.

Marquez was a recipient of the 2016 Spirit of Excellence Award. Learn more at ambar.org/spirit.
Abby R. Rubenfeld is an attorney in Tennessee. Her practice includes family law, LGBT and AIDS-related issues, and civil rights cases.

Rubenfeld was founding Chair of the Tennessee Bar Association Section on LGBT Rights. She was also an Adjunct Professor at the Vanderbilt Univ. Law School for seven years, teaching a course on Sexual Orientation and the Law.

Rubenfeld served for seven years on the Board of Directors of the Human Rights Campaign -- largest civil rights organization working to achieve LGBTQ equality, and for many years on the Board of the ACLU of Tennessee.

Rubenfeld is a recipient of the 2016 ABA Stonewall Award. See more: ambar.org/sogi.