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DESTROYING TG STEREOTYPES
PLUS LEGAL / POLITICAL ISSUES
WHAT DOES A TRANSGENDER BABY LOOK LIKE?
(Or, how is the brain wired?)
5 years old with my first dog, ~1953

I already knew that something was different
Probably 3rd grade, ~1957, probably 9 years old

I had already been secretly crossdressing for over a year.
1962, 14 years old.
Eagle Boy Scout,
God & Country Award,
Order of the Arrow –
Brotherhood Level, and
Senior Patrol Leader

Successful? YES!
But I would rather have
been in Girl Scouts
1966 Senior at San Antonio Jefferson, ROTC Cadet Colonel, Rifle Team (2 letters), Senior Play, and graduated with A+ average. Also while in high school on yearbook staff and in A Capella Choir

Successful? YES!
But I would rather have been in Pep Squad or a Cheer Leader
January 1970
Senior Boots and all
Graduated BS in Civil Engineering and
2\textsuperscript{nd} LT, REGULAR commission.
Ordered to remain in school for
MS Mechanical Engineering.
August 1972 “pushed” out of Army for merely \textit{thinking} trans but held out for an Honorable Discharge
1974

With son by first marriage.

My facial hair was one last attempt at being a guy.
October 1979
Leading Texas Section at 1\textsuperscript{st} March on Washington for Gay Rights
Summer 1980 - LGBT Pride Parade. OUT in law school and founder of “Law Students, Friends of Gays*.”

In August 1980, won the repeal of Houston Crossdressing Ordinance and began my 3L student internship at District Attorney’s Office. Before my May 1981 graduation, I had UH place Christian Legal Society on probation for discrimination.
May 1981, I received notice of passing the Bar on same day as my graduation.

The following Monday, I was sworn-in by Judge Joseph Guarino.
DONAHUE SHOW 1989 “Disowned by Families”

“Phyllis you was great! You was really great!
With gratitude
For almost two decades I was known as the lawyer who wore the hats.

A former prosecutor friend told me recently that the Assistant DA’s called me “THE HAT.”
October 1995, addressing the 2nd National Transgender Lobby Days in DC
SOMETIMES YOU GET A PICTURE THAT YOU LIKE.

I LIKE THIS PICTURE, SO HERE IT IS.
November 2010

The first OUT, transgender Judge in the USA (and possibly – no one has disputed it yet – in the world).
PLEASE PARDON THIS ASIDE THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH BEING TRANSGENDER.

BUT AS YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED FROM GOING THROUGH THE PREVIOUS PHOTOS, I WAS PUTTING ON THE WEIGHT AS THE LAST TWO PHOTOS WILL CLEARLY SHOW.

– 240#, women’s size 22 with 44” waist --
2016.
I lost 75 pounds from Nov 2012 to Nov 2014.

By rigorous and frequent exercise, eating less, and daily recording of weight.

(from 44” waist to 32” waist, and from size 22 down to size 14)
In 2015 I became a Life Member Of the National Eagle Scout Association (54 years later)
Pictured with fellow Eagle Scout, Judge Charles Spain
Hopefully, with stereotyping put to rest, we next consider law and policy.

In order to understand non-discrimination law and policy *in re* the LGBTI community, you must understand the next 3 terms!
Sexual Orientation 

not the same as

Gender Identity 

not the same as

Gender Expression
Transgender Issues of Concern Since 1970’s:
-- Anti-Crossdressing Criminal Laws and Ordinances
-- Keeping or getting a job during or after transition
-- Name-Gender ID change without needing surgery
-- Trans-Children and bullying in schools
-- Public Restroom usage by transgenders
-- Health Insurance Coverage
-- Trans-Military Service and Trans-Veterans
-- Housing and Shelter for Trans-Homeless
Brief Commercial about my law firm

Frye and Benavidez, PLLC

www.liberatinglaw.com

Six Lawyers Practicing in the Following Areas across the State of Texas
--- For Small Businesses and Start-ups

As an Employer: Compliance and Defense, and Diversity Training

Immigration: Corporate (non immigrant and immigrant visas) and Individual

Commercial Contracts, Real Estate, Oil & Gas Lease negotiations, and Business Law

Tax: Controversies and Estate Planning
--- PRIVATE CLIENT:

Family Law (divorce; child custody, support, visitation),
Wills, Trusts and Probate, also power of atty,
disposition of remains, guardianship,
Social Security Disability,
Employment and Discrimination Issues,
Transgender Documents for Children and Adults,
Entertainment Law (trademark, copyright, licensing)
Criminal Defense (DUI, POM, white collar)
PHYLLIS PERSONAL COMMENT FOR A BETTER SOCIETY:
If you truly believe in diversity and inclusion, then you must, beginning today, get off the fence and speak out each time you see or hear of injustice and bigotry.

When you hear among friends or neighbors or co-workers or at family gatherings, someone make an ugly or demeaning comment about Jews and you are not a Jew, or about Muslims and you are not a Muslim, or about Blacks or Browns or Arabs or LGBTs or whomever – and you are not ...
... one of those – then you must gather within yourself the social courage to say ... NO! WHAT YOU SAY IS MEANSPIRITED AND ILL-INFORMED, AND I WILL NOT HEAR IT.”

Will such a public stand by you be inconvenient? Yes! Will such a public stand make you less popular? Yes! But, if you believe in fostering diversity and inclusion for your group, then you must gather within yourself the social courage to “get off the fence” by denouncing such ugly and demeaning conversation each and every time.
Gender Infinity and those attending this workshop have my permission to post or share or make copies of this power point.

Whatever it takes to educate yourselves, your family members, neighbors, co-workers, and friends on the issues that transpeople face during and after their transition.
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