“The Fourteenth Amendment requires a State to license a marriage between two people of the same sex and to recognize a marriage between two people of the same sex when their marriage was lawfully licensed and performed out-of-State.”

**OBERGEFELL v. HODGES 576 US _____ (2015)**

In the historic decision, Obergefell v. Hodges, Justice Kennedy stated that there were four principles and traditions that demonstrate the reason marriage is a fundamental right under the Constitution: (1) the right to personal choice inherent in the concept of individual autonomy; (2) the right to enjoy intimate association; (3) safeguards for children and families; and (4) marriage as the keystone of the Nation’s Social Order.

At the time of the decision, fourteen state and three territories prohibited same-sex marriage. This shift in law opens more benefits to all same-sex married couples. Below is a short discussion highlighting some changes in different areas of law, following Obergefell.

**Marriage**

By the time this article is published, it is hoped that same-sex marriage licenses will be offered in all states. It may still take some time for each jurisdiction to issue marriage licenses. Same sex-married couples will be allowed to be listed on death certificates as the surviving spouses. Same sex married couples who wish to legally dissolve their... continued on page 6
Greetings and welcome to the inaugural edition of American Bar Association’s Commission on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) newsletter, *The Equalizer*!

What a great year to be gay!

By now you have had plenty of time to digest and enjoy the results from the United States Supreme Court – recognizing the rights of same-sex couples to marry and have those marriages recognized in every state of the union. With every step we make, our goal of full equality and equal treatment under the law is becoming a reality. It is truly a time to celebrate and thank all of those who have helped us get where we are: Those brave couples who took our cause all the way to the Supreme Court; their advocates, families and supporters; The Court; and our many terrific allies – without whom none of this could have happened.

We still have more that we need to do.

Remember that the LGBT community still faces outright discrimination. In 29 states it is legal to fire someone based on their sexual orientation. In 32 states it is legal to fire someone based on their gender identity. This discrimination extends beyond employment and into the legal system as LGBT citizens can be denied their civic participation on juries because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. This must be stopped.

We still have LGBT bullying, including abusive and discredited “conversion” therapy. We have an obligation to our community to do all that we can to stop this abuse.

Our transgender family continues to face denial of benefits and basic human rights. We must do everything in our power to change this.

This all starts today and continues until we are done.

The SOGI Commission is dedicated to combating these and other issues still facing the LGBT legal community. In this newsletter you will read about just a few of the projects and programs the commission is working on. In addition, here are just some of the other things that are going on that you should know:

Anti-Bullying Initiative: at Annual meeting in Chicago we will be coordinating another roundtable on the topic of school anti-bullying. As we did in Boston and Houston, various stakeholders – from legislators, administrators, educators, students and parents – will spend the afternoon discussing the anti-bullying efforts in Illinois, including in the Chicago school systems.

Model Rules of Professional Conduct: We continue in our efforts to amend the Model Rules of Professional Conduct to include discrimination, including harassment/intimidation as a form of bias. Harassment and bullying of witnesses, employees, and even opposing counsel on the basis of sex, race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, and other protected categories should not be tolerated within the legal profession. We are also working to include gender identity in the groups protected against discrimination.

Law Students: We are continuing our efforts at securing inclusion and recognition of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender law students through revisions to Law School Standard 206. SOGI is working with Commission on Disability Rights to ensure that law schools reflect the ABA’s Goal III.

House of Delegates Resolution: At the Annual Meeting, SOGI will be presenting Report & Resolution 112A—advocating for the elimination of so-called “conversion” therapy. We are honored that the Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities and the Commission on Youth at Risk have joined us as co-sponsors to do away with this abusive and discredited practice.

We on the SOGI Commission are very proud of our accomplishments on behalf of the LGBT community. The SOGI Commission has and will be instrumental in directing policy, leading efforts for full LGBT inclusion and education efforts. Take a look at both the Goal III and Annual Reports for even more information on what is being done within the Commission and the ABA.

The past and future success of the SOGI Commission is based on the efforts of our Commissioners and liaisons, but also the ABA’s on-going commitment to diversity and inclusion, a thriving LGBT legal community, and the efforts of our allies within the legal profession and justice system.

As the Chair of the SOGI Commission, I am dedicated to ensuring that we continue to seek out opportunities to collaborate with ABA leadership and others on diversity and inclusion initiatives; advocate for LGBT issues through policy development; be an informational resource on LGBT matters for the legal profession and justice system; and, educate the profession and public about the barriers that LGBT persons face with the legal profession and justice system.

If you are interested in being a part of this very exciting and essential work, please do not hesitate to contact me, any member of the Commission, our liaisons or our outstanding staff.

JIM HOLMES
Chair, ABA Commission on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
Ralph Waldo Emerson once said “our chief want is someone who will inspire us to be what we know we could be.” When looking for a manifestation of Emerson’s reflection, one need not look further than American Bar Association President William C. Hubbard. President Hubbard has led the American Bar Association for the past year, and I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to spend time with President Hubbard, hearing his reflections on the last year, the practice of law, and life in the United States.

President Hubbard and I both hail from the South Carolina—I having grown up and attended college in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains and he having been educated and practicing law in the capital city of Columbia. Our conversation started as most conversations between South Carolinians do: comparing collegiate affiliations. Many are aware of the rivalry between the Clemson Tigers and the University of South Carolina Gamecocks, but I believe President Hubbard would join me in hoping that more people are aware of the fierce dedication the graduates of both schools maintain to making our world a better place. This dedication is all the more present amongst fellow lawyers. Although the president is much too humble to say so himself, I could not help but admire the compelling servant’s heart and the advocate’s spirit that he evidenced from the beginning of our conversation.

Our conversation quickly shifted from small talk and fond memories to President Hubbard’s impressive accomplishments. When discussing his time as leader of the American Bar Association, President Hubbard remarked that the best part is having a powerful platform to address the fundamental issues facing our legal system, both in the United States and internationally. He explained, that among other things, he has focused on the future of the legal profession, criminal justice reform—particularly with regard to sentencing and incarceration—the legal needs of unaccompanied minor children entering the country, and domestic violence. President Hubbard stressed that technological advances give rise to innovative ways in which lawyers can use technology to provide greater legal services to those who need it most. He encouraged young lawyers to get involved with embracing and exploring technology as an innovation rather than a barrier.

President Hubbard and I also discussed the ABA’s Goal III initiatives. President Hubbard expressed that diversity and inclusive are critical to the ABA’s mission. “We have to make sure our democracy remains strong. That depends on the trust of the people and demands the talent of all.” When I asked President Hubbard why inclusiveness was important within the bar, his answer came without hesitation: “Because it’s the right thing to do.” To be certain, President Hubbard emphasized the talents and capabilities of all members within the bar, but he returned to his point that the most significant reason to include all people is not because of any particular advantage that might be gained, but because it is essential to view everyone in light of our “common humanity.” With regard to sexual orientation and gender identity, President Hubbard emphasized that “LGBT rights are important to our justice system.” President Hubbard expressed that it was gratifying to see the progress that has been accomplished in this area, and commended SOGI for being a significant part of the ABA’s mission. He acknowledged “the LGBT community has suffered disproportionately for many centuries. It is time to eliminate this suffering and pain.” Despite his busy schedule, President Hubbard was also kind enough to participate in most of the events that SOGI sponsored at the Midyear Meeting in Houston, Texas. President Hubbard relayed that the anti-bullying roundtable presented a unique and valuable perspective that the Bar could follow to develop cutting edge and effective anti-bullying programs, and that he was gratified to see educators who love and want to protect children. He suggested we continued on page 8
Kate Kendell has been Executive Director of NCLR since 1996. Prior to that she was its legal director after working for the ACLU in Utah. Her work in development of NCLR’s litigation strategy has been instrumental in its success. Kate has led NCLR’s sustained advancement on legal issues important to LGBT rights. NCLR is co-counsel in the Tennessee same sex marriage case pending before the Supreme Court.

There has been much written on the doings of Kate Kendell, as Executive Director of NCLR, one of SOGI’s recent ABA Stonewall Award recipients. On Saturday, February 7, 2015, before the Stonewall Award reception, I had the opportunity to sit down with Kate for the purpose of interviewing her for this profile.

The lighter side of Kate…

AM: So, how’s your family?

KK: [Laughs] Let’s start with the most important stuff, right, yeah! No, that’s really true. I mean my family is the most important thing in my life, and, frankly, I wouldn’t be able to do what I do, and I wouldn’t have been able to do it for as long as I’ve done it, if I hadn’t had the tremendous support of my wife, Sandy, now of 21 years together, and together we have a son, Julian, who’s 18, and a daughter, Ariana, who’s 13, and then my oldest daughter, [Emily], who is very much a part of our family and big sister to our kids, she’s 33 and she married her wife in that window when they first started getting married in Utah, which is where she moved back to after she completed college. So, yeah, when I think of my family I’m immediately flooded with feelings of joy and gratitude that’s what it’s all about.

AM: You’re in San Francisco?

KK: We’re in San Francisco proper, in a neighborhood called “The Excelsior” or “Outer Mission.” I feel very lucky that we got a house in San Francisco, because if we were trying to buy a house now there would be no way we could do it. But, yes, we bought our house when Julian was 2 years old, and we live in what was, and has been, a working class neighborhood, but we can already see the change.

AM: What do you like to do in the neighborhood?

KK: Oh, that is such a great question! Well, a perfect example of what I like to do in our neighborhood, because it is not a destination neighborhood. [One example] was a weekend, I was home, which I love being home on the weekends, and Sandy said, “Why don’t we go down to Doctor’s Lounge for breakfast?” … which is this fabulous, divvy, but really cool bar in our neighborhood, and as long as they’re serving food, minors are allowed. So, we went and had a fabulous breakfast… we walked down five blocks to Mission Street, it’s right on Mission and had breakfast and then walked back. I love finding some of the hidden gems in our neighborhood. Exploring that part of the neighborhood with the family is great, and, on my own, we live a few blocks below McLaren Park, which is truly an ignored gem in San Francisco. I go out mountain biking in McLaren Park and it’s terrific… scary… cause I’m just learning how to mountain bike, so it’s really fun.

AM: So, you haven’t learned to jump yet?!

KK: Oh… No jumping! If I were to jump, the jump would be immediately followed by a fall! [Laughs]

AM: On the subject of same-sex break-ups with children…

KK: The most heart breaking cases we’ve seen are cases involving, mostly lesbian couples, where one of them has all the parenting power. I think that’s the problem. So, my first villain is the law by allowing one parent based only on biology or legal status to completely exclude another parent. This “best interests” standard screws people up… because too many times a parent thinks it is in the best interest of the child for the other parent to never see the child again. Well, that may be in [that parent’s] best interests as the adult, because you loathe this [other] person now, but it is almost never in the child’s best interest to be cut off entirely from their other parent.

INTERVIEWED BY ALYSON MEISELMAN
Liaison, ABA Commission on Domestic Violence
ABA LGBT Advocacy Day

On May 18 and 19, 2015, the American Bar Association (“ABA”), the ABA’s Commission on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (“SOGI”), and the ABA’s Governmental Affairs Office (“GAO”) held the first ever ABA LGBT Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C. The events were co-sponsored by the LGBT Bar.

The first day began with a White House Briefing in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building. Michael Bosworth, Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Counsel to the President gave opening remarks. Then, a panel gave a presentation and responded to questions regarding Federal LGBT laws, rights, and policy. The panel speakers included: Matt Nosanchuk (who is also a former SOGI Stonewall Award recipient), Director for Outreach, National Security Counsel; Jeff Tiller, Special Assistant to the Press Secretary, White House Office of Public Engagement. After a rousing discussion, closing remarks were delivered by the dynamic Pam Karlan, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice (having taken leave from Stanford Law School for this position) and who is also a former law clerk to Justice Blackmun of the U.S. Supreme Court (“SCOTUS”). What’s More, Ms. Karlan not only had the rare experience of having clerked for the U.S. Supreme Court, but also had overseen the submission of briefs. She also attended argument in the matter of United States v. Windsor with a team of Stanford Law students through the school’s Supreme Court Litigation Clinic.

After the White House Briefing, SOGI conducted its Spring Business Meeting at the ABA’s D.C. offices. The first day concluded with a reception at the law offices of Baker and McKenzie, which not only provided a warm welcome, but also an unparalleled view of the White House from its D.C. office balcony.

The second day of the ABA LGBT Advocacy Day was packed with House and Senate “Hill” visits by attendees with their local representatives. There were two specific bills presented for discussion: The Jury ACCESS Act (S. 447)/Juror Non-Discrimination Act (H.R. 864) (“Jury ACCESS Act”); and The International Human Rights Defense Act (S. 302/
H.R. 590) (“International Human Rights Act”). First, the ABA supports legislation to prohibit exclusion of potential federal jurors on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity via the Jury ACCESS Act. Specifically, 28 U.S.C. § 1862 already prohibits excluding potential federal jurors on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or economic status. The Jury ACCESS Act proposes to include sexual orientation and gender identity to the existing list of discrete groups who are protected by the Jury ACCESS Act. As an example, the ABA points to the 2014 case of Smithkline Beecham v. Abbott Labs, 740 F.3d 471 (9th Cir. 2014). In Smithkline, the Ninth Circuit Court reasoned that permitting strikes on the basis of sexual orientation perpetuates the indefensible fiction that sexual orientation bears on one’s fitness to serve on a jury, and offends the foundational principle that all citizens should share in this duty and privilege of American citizenship. The ABA believes that the Jury ACCESS Act would ensure that every person’s right and responsibility to serve as a juror is protected.

Second, the ABA Supports legislation to end LGBT discrimination and protect human rights worldwide via the International Human Rights Act. Notably, nearly 80 countries around the world criminalize homosexuality, 10 of which have laws that provide homosexuality can be punished by death. Some of these laws have only recently been enacted. For instance, in 2013, India reinstated criminalization of homosexuality. Similarly, Russia enacted an anti-propaganda law in 2013 to outlaw support of LGBT issues by its citizens. Nigeria and Uganda enacted laws in 2013 and 2014 which make homosexuality punishable by death. The International Human Rights Act would integrate the protection of LGBT people into U.S. foreign policy and would direct a coordinated response to address international violence and discrimination against LGBT persons through a Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBT Peoples. The Special Envoy would operate within the U.S. State Department and advise the Secretary of State on LGBT issues, as well as coordinate international LGBT-related efforts between intergovernmental agencies, the federal government, and other non-governmental agencies. The ABA believes that the International Human Rights Act would build a framework to eradicate violence, human rights violations, and discrimination against LGBT people around the world.

The ABA LGBT Advocacy Day closing reception was held at the law offices of Arnold & Porter. Interestingly, at the reception, attendees learned that Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA) had introduced his Therapeutic Fraud Prevention Act to ban “conversion therapy” just that day while SOGi was on the Hill advocating for equal protection and treatment of all LGBT persons under the law.

The ABA’s first LGBT Advocacy Day was a decided success. SOGi looks forward to continuing to move the ball forward to ensure diversity, inclusion and full and equal participation by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons in the Association, the legal profession and society.

COURTENAY R. DUNN
Liaison, ABA Young Lawyers Division

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Same-Sex Marriage continued from page 1

marriages can file for divorce in all states, subject to state laws.

Children
Experts still recommend that every parent who is not the biological parent should still proceed with adoption or a court judgment of parentage. Not all states recognize a non-biological parent, even when the parents are married. Also, if the parents move or travel, parental rights may differ in each state.

Every state does require that when a married person gives birth, the person’s spouse must be listed as a parent on the child’s birth certificate. Whether this requirement will be respected for all families, after this ruling, is an unanswered question.

Adoption
If there is a marriage and one of the parents is the child’s only legal parent, the other parent should now be able to get a stepparent adoption. The other parent will need to meet the requirements under state law for stepparent adoption.

Federal Benefits
Federal benefits, such as Social Security or veterans benefits, should be available immediately. However, it is important to note that benefits may have marriage duration requirements before one can apply. For individuals who were denied veterans benefits prior to this decision, because of the location of the person’s residence when the right accrued (place of residence standard), further guidance will likely
be issued as to how to reapply for the benefits.

Similarly, for those who were denied Social Security benefits prior to the ruling while living in a non-recognition state, further guidance will likely be issued.

Retirement Benefits
If the retirement plan is through a private employer, federal law required recognition of same-sex married spouses by December 31, 2014. There are US Department of Labor and IRS rulings and guidance on these matters.

For federal government employees, the Office of Personnel Management required recognition of same-sex married spouses.

For state or local governments, the plan may or may not have recognized same-sex spouses. These plans should now be required to respect same sex marriages and treat same sex spouses equally.

For church or other religious organizations, the question is much more complicated and the issue is whether or not their plans are subject to federal law. It is recommended that these plans be reviewed by an attorney if there are any questions.

There may also be marriage duration requirements in the plans before the same sex spouse becomes eligible.

Health Insurance
If the employer offers health insurance to those of different sex spouses, it will be required to offer health insurance to same sex spouses.

Income Taxes
Since United States v Windsor (570 U.S. ___ (2013), same sex married couples have been required to file as “married filing jointly” or “married filing separately” on the federal returns. Now under state law, couples should be allowed to file jointly. For state taxes, married couples should review their filing status and claimed allowances and withholdings.

Trust and Estate Planning
After Windsor, many trust and estate planning options exist on the federal level under the Internal Revenue Code, including its provisions for estate taxes, as well as those for gift taxes. Trust and estate planning opportunities, including for estate taxes and gift taxes, now also exist at the state level. Further, on the state level there is an expansion of spousal recovery under intestate succession laws, unlawful death statutes, and interment rights.

While the Obergefell decision is a big first step, there are still many areas in which LGBTQ persons need to battle for equal rights. As we saw immediately after the Obergefell decision, many state court house clerks were still refusing to issues marriage licenses. The battle will continue to have equal rights for all persons.

Please note that the IRS stated that those who are in civil unions or domestic partnerships were not considered married for federal filing status.

Property rights
In states that have communi- ness property, same sex married couples should review their holdings to see what property may be subject to those rules. Additionally, same sex married couples can also choose to hold property as joint tenancy by the entirety in states that allow it.

No union is more profound than marriage, for it embodies the highest ideals of love, fidelity, devotion, sacrifice, and family. In forming a marital union, two people become something greater than once they were. As some of the petitioners in these cases demonstrate, marriage embodies a love that may endure even past death. It would misunderstand these men and women to say they disrespect the idea of marriage. Their plea is that they do respect it, respect it so deeply that they seek to find its fulfillment for themselves. Their hope is not to be condemned to live in loneliness, excluded from one of civilization’s oldest institutions. They ask for equal dignity in the eyes of the law. The Constitution grants them that right.
ABA President Hubbard
continued from page 3

also include a concise guide for
teachers and parents to use in the
event that they observe or become
aware of bullying.

President Hubbard added that
the ABA’s involvement with the
Stonewall Reception—honoring
those who have made significant
contributions in the area of LGBT
rights and equality—sends a pow-
erful signal. He regarded his atten-
dance at the reception to be “such
an exciting time,” and he was glad
to see SOGI work to raise aware-
ness of LGBT issues. Reflecting
upon the award recipients, Presi-
dent Hubbard remarked that he ad-
mired the accomplishments made
when it was a more challenging,
harder, and dangerous time in
equality advocacy. He commended
the recipients for having devoted
their time and talents in a sus-
tained and powerful way to make
life better for everyone. He hopes
that the ABA will learn from the
courage and example of the Stone-
wall award recipients, because “it
has certainly inspired me.”

As one of the many high notes of
his presidency, President Hubbard
was proud to be counsel of record
on the amicus brief the American
Bar Association filed in the Oberge-
fell v. Hodges marriage equality case,
pending before the Supreme Court
of the United States. President Hub-
bard recognized the brief to be an
integral part of the ABA’s duty to be
involved in such a historic event,
and he praised the brief drafters
for presenting a compelling argu-
ment that highlighted the practical
significance of the issue of mar-
riage equality. He expressed his
optimism that the Court will side
with extending the full rights of
citizenship to all, to include the
right to marry. Looking ahead,
President Hubbard believes the
next challenge will be to confront
implicit and unconscious biases
that exist throughout society so
that we can learn to work together
and focus more on our commonal-
ity that our differences.

Personally, I am encouraged
to know that ABA leadership is
concerned and dedicated to the
missions of diversity and inclu-
sion throughout the association’s
ranks, the legal profession, and
the larger world community. I was
honored to have the opportunity
to speak to a lawyer whose profes-
sional and personal dedication
to legal practice and community
service speaks for itself. Surely,
President Hubbard inspires us all
to not only be what we know we
can be, but to also exceed our own
expectations in the pursuit of a
more perfect union.

INTERVIEWED BY
JOHN T. RICE
Liaison, ABA Young Lawyers Division
LGBT representation in the ABA YLD

The ABA Young Lawyers Division (“YLD”) is the largest young lawyer organization in the world, serving over 160,000 members and 300 affiliates. As the largest organization of its kind, the YLD is strongly committed to ensuring that the Division reflects the community it serves and provides the tools and opportunities that young lawyers need to succeed in their profession and beyond.

In furtherance of that commitment, Mario Sullivan, during his tenure as ABA YLD Chair, recognized a need for stronger LGBT representation in the ABA YLD. He, therefore, conceptualized and advocated for a Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (“SOGI”) Committee, which would pair and work closely with the ABA’s Goal III SOGI Commission. This relationship has been highly effective, due in part to the YLD’s two liaisons to the SOGI Commission, Courtenay Dunn and John T. Rice. Ms. Dunn and Mr. Rice have been virtual powerhouses behind the scenes, exploring new projects and programs and assisting the committee in implementing new ideas and diversity initiatives.

One such initiative was the YLD’s annual Diversity Dialogue at the mid-year meeting in Houston, TX. This event was co-sponsored by the ABA Section of Litigation and all ABA Goal III entities, including the SOGI Commission. The Dialogue brought together individuals representing ABA leadership, young lawyers, and the YLD Diversity Scholars to have a conversation about important diversity-related issues facing the legal profession. This year’s dialogue, entitled “Combatting Implicit Bias in the Legal Profession,” focused on identifying implicit biases and how to eliminate them from our professional, as well as daily lives. Sheryl Axelrod, who has been a strong advocate for diversity and the committee’s mission, delivered the keynote address.

The YLD SOGI Committee also participated in the YLD Committee Showcase at the mid-year meeting, where each of the Division’s committees sets up a table to sell their mission to new members, and any other passersby. At the Showcase, the YLD Committee gained an additional 25 new members. To no one’s surprise, the SOGI Committee’s membership in its first year has jumped from a handful of members to a total of approximately 90 members! As word of the new Committee spreads, membership and involvement will, no doubt, continue to increase. The Committee’s ability to attract so many new members so quickly only reiterates the timeliness of the Committee’s creation, which was long overdue.

In April, the SOGI Committee also hosted and presented a webinar entitled “Best Practices for Introducing and Effectuating LGBT to Your Bar Association and Community.” This well-attended webinar, moderated by SOGI Liaison John T. Rice, discussed how to create LGBT committees and programming at the local bar level. Collin Cooper, the panelist and Vice-Chair of the YLD SOGI Committee, shared some of his personal stories combatting implicit and explicit bias during his inaugural year as Chair of the North Carolina Bar Associations Young Lawyers Division’s LGBT Committee, which was newly created this year. He also shared his take on the ‘business case’ for diversity and best practices for selling the need for LGBT support at the local bar level.

The SOGI Committee has many exciting events upcoming at the ABA Annual meeting in Chicago, IL this year as well. First and foremost, the Committee is sponsoring a CLE program entitled, “From Surviving to Thriving: LGBTQ in the Workplace.” Our panelists will include Mark Wojcik, Professor at The John Marshall Law School; D’arcy Kemnitz, Executive Director of the LGBT Bar, and Takeia Johnson, Law Clerk at the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. The panelists will discuss the laws, rules and practical issues that confront LGBTQ professionals in their careers. The program is designed to run the gamut from what it takes for LGBTQ to survive at work, what LGBTQ have successfully done to thrive professionally, and finally the ‘business case’ for diversity and why it’s important for employers to recognize its relevance.

Finally, the SOGI Committee has sponsored and drafted a resolution to be heard at the YLD Assembly. The resolution is intended to address...
The 2015 Stonewall Awards Reception

The Stonewall Award is the first award in the ABA’s 135-year-old history dedicated exclusively to the LGBT community, our history, our work, and highlighting our issues. The SOGI commissioners and liaisons are extremely excited to present the Award to three distinguished and outstanding members of the legal profession who have been pioneers in advocating for LGBT human and civil rights: Lise Iwon, Kate Kendell, and Rep. Brian Sims have each dedicated their professional and personal lives to the betterment of the LGBT community and I could not be happier to honor each of them with this distinguished award.

From left to right: Kate Kendell, ABA President William Hubbard, Lise Iwon, SOGI Chair Jim Holmes, ABA President-Elect Paulette Brown and Rep. Brian Sims
The SOGI Commission also wishes to recognize and thank our donors for their generous financial contributions and support. We commend all our donors’ efforts to help achieve full and equal participation in the legal profession by persons of differing sexual orientations and gender identities and applaud their commitment to diversity and inclusion.

If you like and support our work, please make an ABA Funds for Justice and Education contribution to the Commission.

All amounts, great or small, are welcome and greatly appreciated.

Thank you in advance for your support and generosity.

To donate online please visit the Commission’s new FJE page: https://donate.americanbar.org/sogi

To donate by check, please make payable to the FJE and enter “SOGI Commission” in the memo section.

MAIL PAYMENT TO:
American Bar Association
321 N. Clark Street
Attn: Skip Harsch
Chicago, IL 60654
LGBT Calendar of Events

Thursday, July 30, 2015
From Surviving to Thriving: LGBTQ in the Work Place (CLE)
3:15 – 4:15 p.m.
Swissotel, 1st Floor, Event Centre, Zurich Ballroom B
Sponsor: ABA Young Lawyers Division

Saturday, August 1, 2015
The Ethical Implications of Bias & Discrimination in the Legal Profession and the Justice System (CLE)
8:00 – 9:30 a.m.
Hyatt Regency Chicago, East Tower, Gold Level, Columbus Hall G/H
Sponsor: Commission on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

A Toast to Equality! The National LGBT Bar’s Allies for Justice Award Reception & SOGI Commission Toolkit and Book launch
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Hyatt Regency Chicago, Gold Level, West Tower, Acapulco
Sponsor: Commission on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

Sunday, August 2, 2015
Same Sex Marriage on the Cusp: Remaining Issues and a Look into the Future (CLE)
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Hyatt Regency Chicago, Gold Level, East Tower, Columbus Hall K/L
Sponsor: Section of Real Property, Trust and Estate Law

SOGI Annual Business Meeting
2:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Hyatt Regency Chicago, Silver Level, West Tower, Field
Sponsor: Commission on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

August 5-8, 2015
Lavender Law® Conference and Career Fair
Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile, Chicago, IL
Sponsor: The National LGBT Bar Association

September 16, 2015
ABA Section of Business Law’s Diversity Networking Reception
Hyatt Regency Chicago, Chicago, IL 60601