2018 STONEWALL AWARD HONOREES

The Stonewall Award recognizes lawyers, members of the judiciary and legal academia who have effected real change to remove barriers on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in the legal profession, the world, state, state/or locale. The Stonewall Award also recognizes those who have championed diversity for the LGBT community both within the legal profession and impacting the greater human universe.

HON. PHYLLIS RANDOLPH FRYE

Associate judge for the Municipal Courts in Houston, Judge Frye is the first openly transgender judge in the Nation. Born as Phillip Frye, she is an Eagle Scout and was a member of the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps. Frye graduated from Texas A&M University with a B.S. in civil engineering and an M.S. in mechanical engineering. She was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army in 1972, transitioned in 1976 and earned an M.B.A. and J. D. from the University of Houston. In 1992, she convened the first International Conference on Transgender Law & Employment Policy in Houston. In 2010, Houston Mayor Annise Parker appointed Frye as an associate judge for the City of Houston Municipal Courts and the Houston City Council unanimously approved her appointment. Frye retains her senior partnership with Frye, Oaks, Benavidez & O'Neil PLLC, where she devotes her practice exclusively to taking transgender clients - both adults and minors - through the Texas courts to change the clients' names and genders on their legal documents. In 2013, Frye was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Transgender Foundation of America.

EDUARDO JUAREZ

Eduardo is a supervisory trial attorney with the San Antonio Field Office of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, where he litigates individual, class and systemic lawsuits under the federal civil rights statutes prohibiting employment discrimination. In August 2011, he worked on detail as special assistant to Chai Feldblum, the first out lesbian EEOC commissioner. His work in the LGBT legal community led to accolades, including the 2014 EEOC Pride "Chai Feldblum Award" for his significant contributions to the LGBT community. Juarez is a former public defender in Washington, D.C., and began his legal career as an associate with the law firm of Sidley & Austin in Chicago. He received his B.A. from the University of Notre Dame and his law degree from the University of Michigan. Active in various LGBT political and professional organizations, he is a past president and first openly gay Hispanic President of the National LGBT Bar Association and past chair of the LGBT Law Section for the State Bar of Texas.

JENNIFER LEVI

Jennifer is the Director of GLAD’s Transgender Rights Project and a nationally recognized expert on transgender legal issues. She co-edited "Transgender Family Law: A Guide to Effective Advocacy,” the first book to address legal issues facing transgender people in the family law context and provide practitioners the tools to effectively represent transgender clients. Levi has served as counsel in a number of precedent-setting cases establishing basic rights for transgender people. She also has worked on several high-profile family law cases including the Miller v. Jenkins case establishing full parental rights for a Vermont civil union spouse and cases in Connecticut and Massachusetts that established the right of same-sex couples to marry. Levi is a law professor at Western New England University School of Law in Springfield, Mass. She serves on the Legal Committee of the World Professional Association for Transgender Health and is a founding member of both the Transgender Law & Policy Institute and the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition. A graduate of Wellesley College and the University of Chicago Law School, Levi is a former law clerk to Judge Michael Boudin at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit...