Greetings and welcome to the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Committee. My name is Matthew Barragan and I am the 2017-2018 Chair of the YLD SOGI Committee. I would also like to introduce Vice-Chair Daniel Hernandez and SOGI Liaison Rachel Blunk.

The YLD SOGI Committee is working hard to help secure full and equal access to and participation in the ABA, the legal profession and the justice system for LGBTQ people through educational efforts, collaboration with leaders in the profession, and other activities, such as CLE programs. Our Committee will strive to bring the voices of LGBTQ people and allies to the ABA and beyond. To stay up to date about the work of our Committee, and upcoming programs and events, I encourage you to visit our website regularly and also join our email list. If you are interested in having a more active role in furthering the mission of this Committee, there are many ways to get involved. You can write an article for the YLD SOGI newsletter, participate as a speaker in a CLE or teleconference, suggest an idea for an YLD ABA resolution, or send me an email with a topic that you would like the YLD SOGI to address. I welcome your participation and comments, and encourage you to communicate with me, or any of the leadership.

In addition, in an effort to advance LGBTQ rights, and encourage others to either get involved, YLD SOGI would like to highlight your work in the community. If you are involved in an organization that works to address issues facing the LGBTQ community, or your state bar has implemented such a program, please let us know. We would like to hear about it! Thank you for your time and your concern for the issues continuing to face LGBTQ people. I look forward to a successful bar year.

Please feel free to contact me at matthew.barragan@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Barragan
2017-2018 Chair,
ABA YLD Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Committee