



Birds of a Feather

1972 - 2022

**50th Anniversary of Organized
LGBTQ Law Student Activism**

Commemorating the Emergence of Gay
Law Student Organizations in the 1970s





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What is it about?



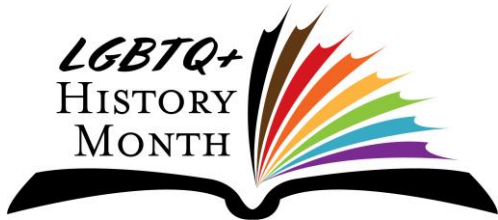
*Birds of a Feather Flock Together** and that is how and why organized LGBTQ law student activism began in 1972 – [first in Los Angeles](#), then in San Francisco, Madison, and Buffalo. That was the same year the American Bar Association held its first forum on gay rights at an annual conference. The nation’s first gay legal organization – the Gay Legal Caucus of the Gay Activists Alliance -- an association of New York lawyers, law students, and legal workers was also created in 1972. Lambda Legal Defense filed incorporation papers that year. Appeals were filed in same-sex marriage cases in Minnesota and Kentucky in 1972.

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of these historic events, we are producing a series of short videos, a memory book, and a webinar. The project serves two purposes: to honor the LGBTQ law student trailblazers and lawyers of the 1970s; to educate the current generation of lawyers and law students about events that helped build the foundation of many of the LGBTQ rights we enjoy today. It took courage to openly advocate for lesbian and gay rights in an era when the full weight of society condemned homosexuality and those “afflicted” with it. We were labeled as criminals, diagnosed as mentally ill, damned to hell by most religions, unwanted by most employers, rejected by the military, and shunned by many families.

*The phrase *Birds of a Feather* was inspired by chapter one of [The Domino Effect](#) book. To view a short video about the formation of the first gay law student association in the nation, [click here](#).



When will it occur?



***Birds of a Feather* commemorative events will occur during LGBT History Month in October 2022.**

Webinar. A webinar will be hosted by the Williams Institute at UCLA Law School. A history professor will discuss the emergence of gay law student organizations in the 1970s. Several live presentations and short video clips will share the experiences of some trailblazers. This will be followed by a presentation on how and when “out” transgender, nonbinary, and law students of color emerged as LGBT rights advocates.

Memory Book. A **book** of LGBT legal history will be published. It will contain historical background of LGBT rights in the 1950s and 1960s and biographies of 1970s trailblazers, with links to historical materials that can be found online.

Videos. Short videos of interviews with some of the living trailblazers will be released on YouTube and through social media during LGBTQ History Month.

+ March 30 Webinar. A one-hour webinar was hosted by the OutLaw LGBTQ student association at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. It included a narrated **PowerPoint** and a short video clip about the advocacy of gay and lesbian law students during the breakthrough year of 1972. **[Click here](#)** for the video.



How Can I Participate?

As a Sponsor. Individuals, businesses, and organizations can make a donation to help defray the costs of the project. Those donating \$1,000 or more will be listed as a major donor and will receive a full page of display space in the memory book. Those who donate \$500 or more will be listed as a benefactor and will receive a quarter page of display space. Individuals who donate \$100 and organizations or businesses that donate \$250 will be listed as supporters of the project. A donation can be made as a gift to someone whose name will be listed or it can be made in memory of a deceased individual. For information on how to donate, go to: <https://spectruminstitute.org/please-donate-today/> or email us at: tomcoleman@spectruminstitute.org. Proceeds in excess of production costs will help fund our Capacity to Love project.

As an Endorser. Organizations that are unable to make a donation but would like to show their support can make a statement endorsing the project. You may send your endorsement to: tomcoleman@spectruminstitute.org

As a Trailblazer. Individuals who have been identified as trailblazers from the 1970s can participate in a variety of ways: become a sponsor; submit a personal essay for the memory book about your experiences in the 1970s and beyond; and/or consent to a video interview. Contact us at: tomcoleman@spectruminstitute.org



Birds of a Feather

1972 - 2022

50th Anniversary of Organized LGBTQ Law Student Activism

An Invitation to LGBTQ Law Student Organizations

With the support of nonprofit organizations, law schools, public officials, and others, Spectrum Institute will be engaging in a series of activities this year to commemorate 1972 as a breakthrough year for LGBTQ law student activism and to honor the students and lawyers who were trailblazers for LGBTQ rights during the entire decade of the 1970s. For more information about the webinar, memory book, and videos that will occur in October which is LGBTQ History month, go to: <https://spectruminstitute.org/50th-Anniversary-Commemoration.html>

Here is how your student group can participate:

- ▶ **Make a donation** of \$250 to become a sponsor. OutLaw LLS at Loyola in Los Angeles had the school administration make the donation in their name.
- ▶ **Email us your endorsement** of this historic commemoration if you are unable to secure the funds for a donation.
- ▶ **Attend the webinar** in October and encourage other students and faculty to do the same. The noontime webinar (PST) will be hosted by the Williams Institute at UCLA Law School. The date will be announced well in advance.
- ▶ **Hold your own events** during LGBTQ History Month. OutLaws LLS at Loyola will host a reception for LGBTQ students, faculty, alumni and allies in October.

Contact us at: tomcoleman@spectruminstitute.org / (818) 230-5156



Who is involved?

Staffing



Top Row: Tom Coleman, Sheri Kellogg, John DiPietro, Maria Reyes Olmedo

Middle Row: Joseph Reyes, Jenny Coleman, Mike Kiraly, David A. Reichard

Bottom Row: Gurdeep Singh Raina, Kelly Blair, Richard Cox, Sarah Barlow

(Information about these board members and volunteers is found on the last page of the brochure.)



Who is involved?

Sponsors



The Williams Institute is a major donor to the Birds of a Feather commemoration and will host the webinar. It is the leading research center on sexual orientation and gender identity law. It ensures that facts — not stereotypes — inform laws, policies, and judicial decisions that affect the LGBT community.



With representatives from nearly 200 ABA- approved law schools, the [Law Student Division](#) of the American Bar Association is sponsoring the project.



Founded in 1979 as Lawyers for Human Rights, the LGBTQ+ Lawyers Association of Los Angeles is a major donor to the project.



Who is involved?

Sponsors



The David Bohnett Foundation is a major donor of the project in memory of Rand Schrader. Rand was the second openly gay judge in the nation, having been appointed by Governor Jerry Brown in 1980.



Dick Gayer (left) was a trailblazing law student and pioneering lawyer in the 1970s. He is a major donor to the project in memory of his life partner, Chuck Marquis, who passed away in May 2022.



The Tom Homann LGBT Law Association is a benefactor to the project.



California Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins (left) and Senator Christine Kehoe (ret) made a major donation to the project.





Who is involved?

Sponsors



California Legislative LGBT Foundation in partnership with the California Legislative LGBTQ Caucus are major donors to the project. Formed in 2002, the caucus provides a forum for legislators to discuss issues that affect LGBTQ Californians and to further the goal of equality and justice for everyone.



Assembly Members Alex Lee, Christopher Ward, Evan Low, Sabrina Cervantes



Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins and Senators John Laird, Scott Weiner, Susan Talamantes Eggman. Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara is an ex officio member.



Who is involved?

Sponsors



Mel Heifetz is a major donor to the commemoration. Based in Philadelphia, Mel is a real estate developer, philanthropist, and LGBT rights advocate. He is a nationwide supporter of gay rights causes in America. In 2018, he was given the Philadelphia Award.



The David B. and Edward C. Goodstein Foundation became a major donor to the commemoration in memory of David Goodstein (photo). David purchased *The Advocate* in 1975 and transformed it into the nation's premier LGBT news magazine.



The Sentience Foundation is a major donor in memory of Arthur C. Warner (photo). Arthur became a gay rights advocate in the 1950s. He founded the National Committee for Sexual Civil Liberties in 1970 and was a mentor to gay law students and lawyers in the 1970s.



The Bob Ross Foundation is a major donor in honor of trailblazer Tom Horn. Tom was general counsel to the *Bay Area Reporter* for several years and became its publisher after its founder, Bob Ross, died in 2003.





Who is involved? Benefactors

Richard
Carbonaro
& John Adam
DiPietro
are benefactors



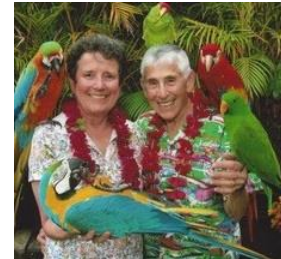
William Breto &
Dr. Fred Brugal
are benefactors



Tom Coleman
& Michael
Vasquez
are benefactors



Marilyn Hedges-
Hiller & Sharon
Hedges-Hiller
are benefactors



Organizational Sponsors



OutLaw is an association of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) students and their allies at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, California.



Boston University School of Law is ranked among the top law schools in the nation. OutLaw is the school's student group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and allied students.



Who is involved?

Endorsements

The following nonprofit organizations and student associations have endorsed the project.



The Rainbow Roundtable of the ALA was the nation's first LGBT professional organization.



**LOS ANGELES
LGBT
CENTER**

Then called the Gay Community Services Center, the Los Angeles LGBT Center was where the first gay law student association in the nation held its meetings in 1972.



With over 900,000 members, Equality California is the nation's largest statewide LGBTQ+ civil rights organization.



Widener Commonwealth Law School's OutLaw student organization provides a safe forum for self-expression and addresses social and legal issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community.



Who is involved?

Endorsements



SacLegal, Sacramento's LGBTQ+ Bar Association, is comprised of attorneys, professionals and legislative advocates affiliated with the County Bar Association.



The History Project documents the history of New England's LGBTQ communities and shares that history with LGBTQ individuals, allies, and organizations as well as the general public.



Founded in 1987, Lambda Archives of San Diego is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization. Expanding its holdings over the years, it is now one of the best-maintained collections of LGBT history in the nation.



While its original focus was on the history of Cleveland and the Western Reserve, the Western Reserve Historical Society now concentrates on the history of Northeast Ohio.



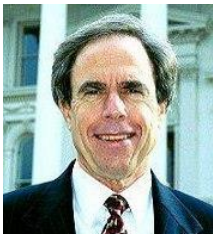
Who is involved?

Individual Supporters

These are some of the individuals who made donations to the project.



Appointed to the bench by Gov. Jerry Brown in 1979, Stephen Lachs was the first openly gay judge in the nation. As a public defender in 1972, he was a mentor attorney to the first gay law student association.



Before his retirement from the bench, Burt Pines was a judge in the Los Angeles County Superior Court. During his tenure as Los Angeles City Attorney in the 1970s, he hired the first openly gay and lesbian attorneys in that office.



Dan Pinello (1975 – NYU Law School) is a LGBT law student trailblazer from the 1970s. A CUNY professor for many years, he is the author of *Gay Rights and American Law* (2003) and *America's Struggle for Same-Sex Marriage* (2006).



Kinna Patel Crocker is the chair of the LGBTQI Law Section of the Sonoma County Bar Association. She was named one of the Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40, Class of 2013, by the National LGBT Bar Association.



Who is involved?

Individual Supporters

These are some of the individuals who made donations to the project.



Arthur Leonard (1977 – Harvard) was a founding member of the New York Law Group in 1977, which is known today as the Bar Association for Human Rights of Greater New York.



Lousene Hoppe is the current president of the National LGBTQ+ Bar Association. She is a litigator at Fredrikson & Byron, P.A. where she represents individuals and corporations in a variety of criminal cases.



Jay M. Kohorn (1974 – UCLA) was a law student in the 1970s who became a trailblazing attorney. In 1983 he won a landmark case in the California Supreme Court voiding mandatory sex registration for consenting adult sex.



Nick Russo (1971 – Case Western) was a founding director of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.



Who is involved?

Individual Supporters

These are some of the individuals who made donations to the project.



Gerald Gerash was a founder of the Gay Coalition of Denver and a trailblazing attorney and political activist for gay and lesbian rights in Colorado.



John Ward (1976 – Boston University) was the founder of Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders and an advocate for justice and equal rights for decades.



Leonard Graff (1975 – Cooley) is a LGBT law student trailblazer from the 1970s. He was the legal director for the National Gay Rights Advocates in the 1980s.

Other donors include: Barry Geenberg in memory of David Rosenbaum; Lisa Knox in memory of Craig Patton; Mark Urbach in memory of Keith Urbach; and attorney Mark Danek.



Who is involved?

Trailblazers – Law Students

These individuals were law students in the 1970s who were involved in LGBT activism as students and/or lawyers during that era and beyond.

Living Trailblazers (52):

Roberta Achtenberg (1975 - U of UT); Ron Albers (1976 – U of Wisc.); Paul Albert (1971 – Stanford); Rick Angel (1974 - Loyola, L.A.); Jack Baker (1971 – U. of MN); Robert Blaustein (1975 - Loyola, L.A.); Bob Brosius (1973 – SUNY Buffalo); Patricia Cain (1973 - U of GA); Andrew Chirls (1981 – Boalt Hall); Thomas F. Coleman (1973 - Loyola, L.A.); Thomas J. Coleman Jr. (1980 - Tulane); Matt Coles (1977 – Hastings); Barry Copilow (1973 - USC); Thomas DePriest (1976 - U of VA); Katharine English (1978 – Northwestern); Rodney Eubanks (1971 – Case Western); Georgia Garrett-Norris (1980 – Western State); Don Gaudard (1977 – People’s College); Richard Gayer (1975 – Hastings); Leonard Graff (1975 - Cooley); Donna Groman (1979 - American University, WA); Donald Hall (1978 – NYU); Marilyn Hedges-Hiller (1977 – Hastings); Fred Hertz (1981 – Boalt Hall); Donna Hitchens (1977 - Boalt Hall) Thomas E. Horn (1971 –UCLA); Nan Hunter (1975 - Georgetown); Jay Kohorn (1974 – UCLA); Barbara Kritchevsky (1980 - Harvard); Linda Krieger (1978 – NYU); Arthur Leonard (1977 - Harvard); Step May (1975 – Peoples College) Jerel McCrary (1977 - Hastings); Mary Morgan (1972 - NYU); Terence O’Brien (1972 - Loyola, L.A.);); Jodie O’Connell (1975 - U of Georgia); John O’Loughlin (1972 - UCLA); Daniel Pinello (1975 – NYU); David Piontkowsky (1981 - Wayne State); Nancy Polikoff (1975 - Georgetown); George Raya (1980 - Thomas Jefferson); David A. J. Richards (1971 - Harvard); Rosalyn Richter (1979 - Brooklyn Law School); Ruthann Robson (1979 – Stetson); Abby Rubenfeld (1979 – Boston U.); D. Nicholas Russo (1971 – Case Western Reserve); John Sanchez (1977 - Boalt Hall); Donald Solomon (1975 – Harvard); Tim Stearns (1974 – Golden Gate); Michael Sonberg (1971 – Harvarad); Katherine Triantafillou (1975 – Suffolk); John Ward (1976 - Boston U); Jim Yeadon (1975 – U of Wisconsin).

In Memoriam (24):

Barbara Bryant (1980 – Golden Gate); Leonard Ebreo (1980 – NYU); Robert Eimers (1974 - Hastings); Claudio Frias (1975 - Rutgers); Jose Gomez (1981 – Harvard); Ron Grayson (1975 - Peoples College); Ray Hatler (1975 - Southwestern); Tom Homann (1978 - Western State); Marshall Jacobson (1972 - Loyola, L.A.); Margot Karle (1973 – Brooklyn Law); Steven Kelber (1976 - UCLA); Robert Lynn (1972 – California Western); Susan McGreivy (1977 – Western State); Bruce Nickerson (1979 – Golden Gate); Craig Patton (1971 - Ohio State); Shepherd Raimi (1971 – Harvard); David Rosenbaum (1973 - Southwestern); Robert Roth (1975 – Fordham); Marjorie Rushforth (1978 - Western State); Rand Schrader (1973 - UCLA); Matt St. George (1979 - Loyola, L.A.); Tom Steel (Hastings - 1975); Tom Stoddard (1977- NYU); Paul Freud Wotman (1976 – Boalt Hall)



Who is involved?

Trailblazers - Lawyers

Although 36 of these individuals attended law school before the 1970s, and one after, they all were legal advocates for LGBT rights during that decade.

Sheldon Andelson (Los Angeles); Walter Barnett (New Mexico); B.J. Beckwith (San Francisco); Jerry Berg (San Francisco); E. Carrington Boggan (New York); David Clayton (San Francisco); Herb Donaldson (San Francisco); Mary C. Dunlap (San Francisco); William H. Gardner (Buffalo); Gerald Gerash (Denver); David Goodstein (San Mateo); George Haverstick (San Diego); Renee C. Hanover (Chicago); Paul Hunter (Denver); William B. Kelley (Chicago); Harris Kimball (Orlando); Barry Kohn (Pennsylvania); Barry Kohn (Los Angeles); Donald Knutson (San Francisco); Jerold Krieger (Los Angeles); Stephen Lachs (Los Angeles); Michael Lavery (1966 – U of Pittsburgh); Larry Long (San Francisco); Henry J. McCluskey Jr. (Dallas); Janet A. Metcalf (Portland); Michael Miller (New York); Pauli Murray (New York); William Reynard (Denver); Rhonda Rivera (Ohio); Rick Stokes (San Francisco); William Thom (New York); John Vaisery (1969 – UCLA); John Eshelman Wahl (San Francisco); Leroy S. Walker (Los Angeles); Arthur C. Warner (Princeton); R. Michael Wetherbee (Minneapolis); G. Keith Wisot (Los Angeles).



Who is involved?

Summer Interns



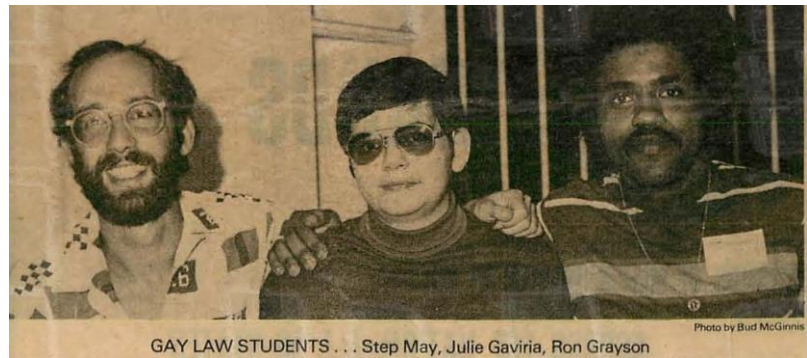
Maria Reyes Olmedo will participate as a summer intern to develop a paper on the emergence of transgender, nonbinary, and students of color as activists for LGBTQ rights. Maria will speak on this topic at the October webinar and in a breakout session at the annual conference of the National LGBTQ Bar Association in July if our proposal is accepted. Maria attends Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. María was born in Guanajuato, Mexico, and they are a non-binary Mexican immigrant and first-generation higher education student.



Students of color participated as interns with the [Gay Rights Summer Project](#) of the National Lawyers Guild in 1975.

From Left: Darryl Kitigawa, Marilyn Hedges, John Sanchez, Al Gordon, Claudio Frias, Tom Coleman

[People's College of Law](#) enabled more women and minorities to attend law school. These LGBT students attended the Los Angeles school in 1974. ([The Advocate Newspaper](#))



2022 summer internship applications are welcomed from journalism, law, history, and filmmaking students. [Click here](#) for information.

CAPACITY TO LOVE

A Campaign of Spectrum Institute



Proceeds from donations to the Birds of a Feather project in excess of production costs will be used for the *Capacity to Love* campaign.

Capacity to Love is a campaign to protect the social and sexual rights of adults with mental or developmental disabilities regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. This includes adults living alone or with a roommate, spouse or family members; those under an order of conservatorship or guardianship; and those living in licensed settings such as nursing homes or group homes.

Love has many dimensions. Everyone, including adults with disabilities, has a capacity to love – whether through a family relationship, friendship, romance, sexual relationship, or marriage. The right to express love through social or sexual interactions is protected by constitutional and statutory provisions of law. Restrictions on such rights, if supported by compelling circumstances, should be narrowly tailored.

Capacity to Love promotes the education of adults with mental or developmental disabilities about their social and sexual rights and responsibilities. It also promotes the education of guardians, conservators, and service providers of their legal duty to respect these rights – appropriately considering freedom of choice and freedom from abuse.

Tens of thousands of adults of all ages – from young adults with developmental disabilities to seniors with cognitive disabilities – will benefit from the activities of the *Capacity to Love* campaign.



Who is involved?

Staffing Details

Identification of volunteers, interns, and staff with photos on page 6.

Top Row:

Tom Coleman is the director of the project.

Sheri Kellogg is social media advisor for the project.

John DiPietro is the associate director of the project.

Maria Reyes Olmedo is writing a chapter in the Memory Book.

Middle Row:

Joseph Reyes is an attorney writing biographies of pioneering lawyers.

Jenny Coleman is website designer and webmaster for the project.

Mike Kiraly is a research advisor for the project.

Prof. David A. Reichard is writing the preface in the Memory Book

Bottom Row:

Gurdeep Singh Raina is an outside strategic advisor for the project.

Kelly Blair is a research associate with the project.

Richard Cox is copy editing and proofreading biographies of trailblazers.

Sarah Barlow is editing videos of interviews of webinar presenters.

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VISA



DISCOVER

