

*The Massachusetts LGBTQ Bar Association is a voluntary professional association of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer lawyers and our allies, providing a visible LGBTQ presence within the Massachusetts legal community.*

## Message from the Co-Chairs

Dear Members of the Mass LGBTQ Bar:

Thank you to so many of you who attended the 2011 Annual Dinner, our largest annual dinner in the history of our organization! We were honored to hear from incoming Supreme Judicial Court Justice Barbara Lenk and were inspired by awardees: the Honorable Margaret H. Marshall, the Honorable Byron Rushing and Laura K. Langley. We were challenged by our keynote speaker Dr. Eliza Byard, Executive Director of GLSEN and witnessed the promise of future attorneys in the awarding of this year's Alec Gray Scholarship to Jared Milrad. Attendees exceeded the Board's \$4,000 matching challenge grant for the Scholarship by pledging over \$9,000 for a one-night total of over \$13,000!

A very special thank you to Annual

Dinner Co-chairs Rolando Medina, Jennifer Collins and Christopher Valente, our Treasurer Dan Levin and the Annual Dinner Committee: Erika Barber, MJ Edwards, Ben Franklin, Daniel Levin, Roger Mahon, Christina Miller, Anthony Puopolo, Dan Shindle, Paul Wagoner and Daniel Werner.

The dinner was a wonderful capstone to an extremely active year. Together, we have:

- launched our new name that reflects the full diversity and inclusivity of our membership;
- supported members in their efforts to become judicial appointees;
- hosted numerous social and educational events, including the revitalization of our monthly Happy Hours;

- joined together with other bar groups and community organizations on joint causes;
- advocated on Beacon Hill for the Transgender Equal Rights Bill and other critical statewide initiatives such as funding for legal services; and
- revamped our mentor program, connecting law students, new attorneys and seasoned attorneys in mentoring circles.



The visibility of our organization within the legal community has grown considerably over the past year, due to the increased participation by many of our members and the dedicated work of our Board of Directors. We would like to take this opportunity to thank out-going Directors Charles Chambers, Polly Crozier, Jane Rothchild, Matt Sample and Lisa Wilson for their dedication and service to the Board.

As we begin to plan for the 2011-2012 year, one critical task is to update our membership list to accurately reflect the growing strength of our organization. In the next few weeks, we will unveil a new website that will streamline the membership process and help

us stay in better touch with you. You will receive an email about how to enter the new website and update your membership profile. Please take the few minutes to complete this important task.

There is much more work to be done! A request for nominations to serve on the Board went out last week. If you have been active in our organization, we hope you will seriously consider running for the Board. If you'd like to get involved, please consider joining a committee and getting involved in one of our current initiatives by:

- supporting the Transgender Equal Rights Bill by signing the [petition](#) and participating in the Transgender Civil Rights

Day at the State House (June 23, 2011);

- contacting your legislators to push for increased funding for our state courts; and
- attending our annual meeting June 22, 2011, where we will introduce the 2011-2012 Board of Directors and celebrate a successful year!

Sincerely,

Polly Crozier  
[polly@kauffmanlaw.net](mailto:polly@kauffmanlaw.net)

Richard Moore  
[richard.moore@ropesgray.com](mailto:richard.moore@ropesgray.com)

## Sign the Petition to Support the Transgender Equal Rights Bill

The Mass LGBTQ Bar Association encourages all members to sign the [Petition for Lawyers/Law Students in Support of the Transgender Equal Rights Bill](#) and to ask your friends to do the same. So far, over 300 lawyers and law students have signed the petition, which will be used to demonstrate the legal community's support for the Bill. In addition to the Mass LGBTQ Bar, the Massachusetts Bar Association, Boston Bar Association, Women's Bar Association, Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts, Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association, South Asian Bar Association – Greater Boston, and Massachusetts Association of Hispanic Attorneys all support this crucial civil rights legislation.

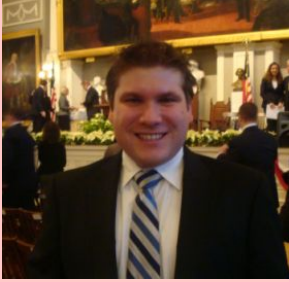
### Mass LGBTQ Bar's 26th Annual Dinner Draws Record Crowd

The Mass LGBTQ Bar's Annual Dinner was held on May 6, 2011 at the Westin Copley Place. The Dinner drew a record crowd of over 400 guests. The Association presented the Honorable Margaret H. Marshall with the Gwen Bloomingdale Pioneer Spirit Award. Laura K. Langley, a lawyer at Bingham McCutchen and the founder of the Mass LGBTQ Bar's Committee on Transgender Inclusion, was given the Kevin Larkin Memorial Award for Public Service. And the Association recognized State Representative Byron Rushing with the Legislator of Distinction award. At the Dinner, the Mass LGBTQ Bar was also delighted to celebrate the recent appointment of the Honorable Barbara Lenk to the Supreme Judicial Court.



More pictures from the Dinner will soon be on our Facebook fan page, Massachusetts Lgbtq Bar Association.

## Mass LGBTQ Bar Welcomes New Board Member



Omar  
Gonzalez-  
Pagan  
joined the  
Mass LGBTQ

Bar's Board of Directors in April 2011. He is currently an Assistant Attorney General with the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office and a Special Assistant District Attorney with the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office. Originally from Puerto Rico, Omar obtained a Bachelor's in Biology from Cornell University, and a Master's in Environmental Studies and a Juris Doctor from the University of Pennsylvania, where he served on the Board of the Law School's Lambda Association. While not practicing law or advocating for LGBT rights, Omar enjoys traveling, following college hockey, playing softball in the Beantown Softball League, and spending time with friends. He is very excited for the opportunity to serve on the Mass LGBTQ Bar's Board of Directors. You can email Omar at [omar.gp@gmail.com](mailto:omar.gp@gmail.com).



## Sitting on the Bench

If you have ever considered pursuing a career as a member of the judiciary, now might be a good time to stop considering and start taking action. With the retirement of Judge Nancy Gertner, and Judge Michael Ponser's transition to senior status, there are two vacancies on the federal bench in Massachusetts. We encourage our members to apply for these positions. There are also vacancies at the state court level, including on the Superior Court for the seat currently occupied by Justice C. Brian McDonald (application deadline is May 18<sup>th</sup>) and on the Nantucket District Court for the seat currently

occupied by Justice Roxana E. Viera (application deadline is May 20<sup>th</sup>). In addition, four more seats on the state court bench will open up in the next few months. Information and application deadlines can be found at [www.mass.gov/jnc](http://www.mass.gov/jnc). Among the services the Mass LGBTQ Bar provides to its members is support for nominees for judgeships. Our Nominations Committee, chaired by Tim Lynch, is available to assist you through the process of applying. We also sponsor or co-sponsor educational programs concerning the judicial nominating process; provide judicial mentors to give advice and encouragement through the

selection process; and endorse qualified candidates seeking appointment to the bench after conducting due diligence and with the approval of the board of directors.

On Wednesday, May 12, 2011, the Mass LGBTQ Bar co-sponsored an event with the Massachusetts Association of Women Lawyers about the Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC) and the judicial appointment process. At the Social Law Library, practitioners gathered to hear from Marilyn Lyng O'Connell, Executive Director/Deputy Legal Counsel of the JNC, E. Macey Russell, chair of the JNC, and the Honorable Katherine Field of the Probate and

Family Court. For two hours, the speakers explained the details of the process step by step, from how to complete the application to how a slate of potential nominees makes its way to the Governor's Office. The speakers encouraged lawyers to submit applications and answered many questions from the audience, from what type of writing sample is helpful to when do you know it is time to throw your hat in the ring. For those interested in becoming a judge, the Executive Order that outlines the process as well as the judicial application are available on the JNC's website - <http://www.mass.gov/>.



## Candidates Sought for Annual Board of Directors Election

It's time for the Mass LGBTQ Bar Board of Directors election. The Board is a 16 person working Board, where each director is responsible for various initiatives and committees of the association.

This year, seats are open for 4 female-identified directors, 3 male-identified directors, and one transgender/genderqueer director. Transgender men and women may of course run for an open seat corresponding to their gender identity, or for the open transgender/genderqueer seat.

If you are interested in running for an open seat on the Board, please send (a) the seat for which you are running and (b) a Candidate Statement of no more than one page regarding your qualifications and why you would like to serve on the Board to Richard Moore at [richard.moore@ropesgray.com](mailto:richard.moore@ropesgray.com).

*Nominations close May 23.*

### Mass LGBTQ Bar Presents Training at GLSEN Conference

CTI members Alex Coleman, Caitlin Cardozo Muto and Erika Rickard led a workshop at a recent GLSEN conference discussing the new Massachusetts anti-bullying legislation. The workshop focused on the legislation's impact on transgender and gender non-conforming youth. Approximately 25 conference attendees participated, including students, teachers, after-school service providers, and social workers. In the workshop, the trainers conducted an activity to address how gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation bias can play out in bullying, presented the fundamentals of the law, and broke into small groups to discuss concrete scenarios highlighting the resources and challenges youth encounter when responding to incidents of bullying.

## Court Budget: Call Your Legislators

The House of Representatives FY12 budget debate has begun. The proposed \$30.45 billion budget severely affects the system of appointed private counsel and the Trial Court. Please call your state representative and voice your support of the following items.

### Bar Advocates/ Committee for Public Counsel Services:

The House Budget as proposed by the House Ways and Means Committee provides \$151 million for the Committee for Public Counsel Services and seeks to add 200 staff attorneys while capping hours of assigned private counsel at 1500, down from the current cap of 1800 hours per year. The MBA has considered the issue and stated that the cost savings alleged by such a change—away from the private bar to full-time state employees—is illusory when you take into consideration the tremendous and unforeseen start-up costs associated with hiring 200 new state employees. Costs such as: office space, support staff, salary and training will not only

have short and long term implications to our state's struggling economy, but will also greatly affect the quality of advocacy. The MBA urges you to call your local legislator to ask them to reject this plan, and to advocate for greater indigence and cost controls while maintaining the existing private system that has been recognized as a national model. *The Wall Street Journal* reported earlier this month that most states with public defender systems are struggling because of a lack of funding along with burgeoning caseloads and escalating costs to the public.

### Trial Court:

No branch of government has been harder hit throughout this fiscal crisis than the judiciary. FY11 funding for the Trial Court is \$544.1 million (down \$39.6 million from FY09). The courts are faced with a continuing hiring freeze and are down 1,071 positions since July 1, 2007. Court leadership continues to aggressively pursue every avenue where cost savings

can be achieved. Rank and file judges have forsaken pay by voluntarily participating in a pay furlough. In another devastating blow, the House Ways and Means Budget would fund the judiciary's FY12 budget at \$537.7 million (\$518.7 million for the Trial Court and \$19 million for the Supreme Judicial Court and Appeals Court). This is \$26 million less than this year's FY11 Trial Court appropriation.

Amendment No. 331 filed by Rep. John Keenan (D-Salem) would reinstate the court's retained revenue account, allowing the courts to keep \$26 million of projected probation supervision fees.

The House of Representatives will take up the FY 12 budget next week. Your immediate assistance is needed. Please call your state representative in the House and voice your support for these important budget items. The House of Representatives main number is (617) 722-2000.

## Upcoming Events

### Phone Bank for Transgender Equal Rights Bill

Tuesday, May 24, 2011, 6:00 to 9:00 PM, MassEquality, 262 Washington St., Floor 7, Boston

The Legislative Committee has organized this phone bank in support of the Transgender Equal Rights Bill currently pending on Beacon Hill. To RSVP, email [barusch@gmail.com](mailto:barusch@gmail.com).

### May Happy Hour in Conjunction with GLADHour

Wednesday, May 25, 2011, 6:00 to 8:30 PM, Mantra, 52 Temple Street, Boston

Happy Hours are the perfect opportunity to meet your mentor, network with other MLGBTQ lawyers, students and judges, or simply catch up with colleagues.

### Annual Meeting and Happy Hour

Wednesday, June 22, 2011, 6:00 to 9:00 PM, Club Café, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston

Please join us for our June Happy Hour at Club Cafe, which will be held in conjunction with our Annual Meeting and Board of Directors elections. We will be revealing the new members of the Board and welcoming summer associates from all Boston law firms, while continuing this valued monthly tradition.

### Party to Celebrate End of Mentoring Program Year

Tuesday, July 12, 2011, 6:00 to 8:00 PM

If you are a Mentoring Program participant, please save the date for a party to celebrate the conclusion of the mentoring program year. Details to follow.



Mass LGBTQ Bar members at the March 2011 bowling event.



Mass LGBTQ Bar members at the Walk to the Hill for Legal Aid.



Coming Out in the Workplace panel at the BBA.



Committee on Transgender Inclusion Winter Party.

To see more upcoming events, as well as career and volunteer opportunities, visit us online at [www.masslgbtqbar.org](http://www.masslgbtqbar.org). We also now have a Facebook fan page – Massachusetts Lgbtq Bar Association. Check it out and “like” us!

Massachusetts LGBTQ Bar Association, c/o. Boston Bar Association, 16 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108.

Visit us online at [www.masslgbtqbar.org](http://www.masslgbtqbar.org).