

**USEFUL RESOURCES FOR ATTORNEYS HANDLING FAMILY LAW MATTERS
FOR UNMARRIED COUPLES AND LGBT COUPLES**

GENERAL RESOURCES FOR UNMARRIED COUPLES

Alternatives to Marriage Project

<http://www.unmarried.org>

Address: PMB 131, 358 7th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11215

Phone: (347) 987-1068

What they do: The Alternatives to Marriage Project (AtMP) advocates for equality and fairness for unmarried people, including people who are single, choose not to marry, cannot marry, or live together before marriage. They provide support and information for this fast-growing constituency, fight discrimination on the basis of marital status, and educate the public and policymakers about relevant social and economic issues.

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Unmarried America

<http://www.unmarriedamerica.org>

Address: P.O. Box 11036, Glendale, CA 91226

Phone: (818) 230-5156

What they do: Unmarried America is a nonprofit information service focusing on the interests and concerns of America's 101 million unmarried adults -- as employees, consumers, taxpayers, and voters. Their educational activities include: providing a searchable database of more than 6,500 pages of economic, political, legal, social, and demographic information about marital status, singles' rights, family diversity, and domestic partner benefits; and, reporting on news, current events, opinions, essays, and commentaries affecting this large and growing population.

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Council on Contemporary Families

<http://www.contemporaryfamilies.org>

Address: MC 312, 1007 West Harrison St., University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL 60607

Phone: (312) 996-3074

What they do: Founded in 1996, with a membership consisting of family researchers, mental health and social work practitioners, and clinicians, The Council on Contemporary Families (CCF) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the national conversation about what contemporary families need and how these needs can best be met.

Family Diversity Projects

<http://www.familydiv.org>

Address: P.O. Box 1246, Amherst, MA 01004-1246

Phone: (413) 256-0502

What they do: Family Diversity Projects, a non-profit organization in Amherst, MA, has created six award-winning traveling rental photo-text exhibits that tour communities nationwide and internationally. By educating people of all ages to recognize, support, and celebrate the full range of diversity, the Family Diversity Projects traveling exhibits are designed to help reduce prejudice, stereotyping, and harassment of all people who are perceived to be “different” from the “norm.”

PUBLICATIONS FOR UNMARRIED COUPLES

Beyond (Straight and Gay) Marriage: Valuing all Families Under the Law, by Nancy D. Polikoff (2008).

Living Together: A Legal Guide for Unmarried Couples, by Attorneys Ralph Warner, Toni Ihara, and Frederick Hertz (2008).

Marriage Proposals: Questioning a Legal Status, Edited by Anita Bernstein (2008).

Principles of the Law of Family Dissolution: Analysis and Recommendations, Chapter 6: Domestic Partners, and Chapter 7: Agreements, published by the American Law Institute (2000).

Unmarried to Each Other: The Essential Guide to Living Together as an Unmarried Couple, by Dorian Solot and Marshall Miller.

LOCAL LGBT LEGAL ORGANIZATIONS

LGBT Bar Association of Maryland

President, Susan Silber (silber@sp-law.com)

Address: 7000 Carroll Ave., Suite 200, Takoma Park, MD 20912

Phone: (301) 891-2200

What they do: The LGBT Bar Association of Maryland (LGBTMD) serves lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender lawyers, law students, and legal professionals in the state of Maryland.

LGBTMD has an active judicial selections committee which interviews and evaluates potential judicial candidates. LGBTMD also works to advance the interests of the LGBT community and promotes LGBT equality through their partnerships with other local advocacy and legal groups.

GAYLAW

<http://www.gaylaw.org>

Address: P.O. Box 34072, Washington, DC 20043

Phone: (202) 842-7723

What they do: Founded in 1990, GAYLAW is an independent, non-partisan bar association serving gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender lawyers, law students, and legal professionals in the national capital area. GAYLAW works to advance the interests of the GLBT community, to be their voice within the legal community, and to improve their professional lives. GAYLAW acts in coalition with other local and national groups dedicated to GLBT concerns.

Whitman-Walker Legal Clinic

<http://www.wwc.org>

Address: 1701 14th St., NW (14th and R Streets), Washington, DC 20009

Phone: (202) 939-7690

What they do: Whitman-Walker Clinic offers free legal services to persons living with HIV/AIDS in the greater Washington metropolitan area, and free legal services to Whitman-Walker Clinic clients regardless of HIV status. In 2007, the legal services program provided services to nearly 1,700 new clients, and referrals for those not eligible for the Clinic's services. In addition, the Clinic engages in legal reform efforts and provides public education, training and technical assistance to other attorneys working on HIV-related cases.

ACLU of Maryland

<http://www.aclu-md.org>

Address: 3600 Clipper Mill Rd., Suite 350, Baltimore, MD 21211

Telephone: (410) 889-8555

What they do: The Maryland ACLU works to ensure that all people (including LGBT) in the state of Maryland are free to think and speak as they choose and can lead their lives free from discrimination and unwarranted government intrusion. Their work is guided by the United States Bill of Rights and the Maryland Declaration of Rights. The Maryland ACLU acts without partisanship to achieve these goals. The Maryland ACLU also handled the same-sex marriage case which was argued in front of the Maryland Court of Appeals.

The FreeState Legal Project, Inc.

<http://freestatelegal.org>

Address: 241 West Chase Street, Suite 307, Baltimore, MD 21201

Phone: (410) 625-LGBT (5428)

What they do: FreeState seeks to provide legal services to the low-income LGBT population, which cannot currently be accessed through existing service providers. FreeState also seeks to educate the broader legal community on LGBT issues, enabling them to better represent pro bono LGBT clients. FreeState will work to build the capacity within the Maryland bar to handle LGBT issues.

NATIONAL LEGAL ORGANIZATIONS

Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund

<http://www.lambdalegal.org>

Address: 120 Wall Street, Suite 1500, New York, NY 10005-3904

Phone: (212) 809-8585

What they do: Lambda Legal is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and those with HIV through impact litigation, education and public policy work.

National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR)

<http://www.nclrights.org>

Address: 870 Market Street, Suite 370, San Francisco, CA 94102

Phone: (415) 392-6257

What they do: NCLR is a non-profit, public interest law firm which litigates precedent-setting cases at the trial and appellate court levels; advocates for equitable public policies affecting the LGBT community; provides free legal assistance to LGBT people and their legal advocates; and conducts community education on LGBT legal issues. NCLR also sponsors the National Family Law Advisory Council (NFLAC) which provides coordination nationally on LGBT family law issues. (Susan Silber is the Maryland attorney on this body.)

National LGBT Bar Association

<http://www.lgbtbar.org>

Address: 1301 K Street, NW, Suite 1100 East Tower, Washington, DC 20005

Phone: (202) 637-7661

What they do: The National LGBT Bar Association is a national association of lawyers, judges and other legal professionals, law students, activists, and affiliates lesbians, gay, bisexual, transgender legal organizations. The LGBT Bar promotes justice in and through the legal profession for the LGBT community in all its diversity.

Service Members Legal Defense Network (SLDN)

<http://www.sldn.org>

Address: P.O. Box 65301, Washington, DC 20035

Phone: (202) 328-3244 or (202) 328-FAIR

What they do: SLDN is a non-partisan, non-profit, legal services, watchdog and policy organization dedicated to ending discrimination against and harassment of military personnel affected by “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” (DADT). SLDN provides free, confidential legal services to all those impacted by DADT and related discrimination. Since 1993, SLDN’s in-house legal team has responded to more than 9,000 requests for assistance. In Congress, SLDN is leading the fight to repeal DADT and replace it with a law that ensures equal treatment for every service member, regardless of sexual orientation. In the courts, SLDN works to challenge the constitutionality of DADT.

National Black Justice Coalition

<http://www.nbjc.org>

Address: 1638 R Street NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20009

Phone: (202) 319-1552

What they do: The National Black Justice Coalition (NBJC) is the only national civil rights organization of concerned Black, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals and their allies. NBJC and its programs address the problem of gay inequality in America with a goal to increase African American support for gay and lesbian equality.

American Civil Liberties Union: Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender & AIDS Project

<http://gbge.aclu.org>

Address: 125 Broad Street, 18th Floor, New York, NY 10004-2400

Phone: (212) 549-2627

What they do: The Project brings impact lawsuits in state and federal courts throughout the country - cases designed to have a significant effect on the lives of LGBT people and those with HIV/AIDS. In coalition with other civil rights groups, the Project also lobbies in Congress and supports grassroots advocacy—from local school boards to state legislatures. Their legal strategies are built on the idea that fighting for civil rights means not just persuading judges but ultimately changing the way people think.

LOCAL NON-LEGAL LGBT ORGANIZATIONS

Equality Maryland

<http://www.equalitymaryland.org>

Address: 1201 S. Sharp Street, Suite 109, Baltimore, MD 21230

Phone: (410) 685-5229

What they do: Equality Maryland works to secure and protect the rights of LGBT Marylanders by promoting legislative initiatives on the state, county and municipal levels. Their team of professional lobbyists and legislative teams work with LGBT allies in the General Assembly to shape and pass positive legislation in Annapolis and to oppose discriminatory legislation.

Rainbow Families DC

<http://www.rainbowfamiliesdc.org>

Address: 5505 Connecticut Ave., NW, #309, Washington DC 20015-2001

Phone: (202) 747-0407

What they do: Rainbow Families DC is a nonprofit organization for all LGBT parents/prospective parents and allies in the DC Metropolitan region. Rainbow Families DC provides education and support groups for LGBT parents and prospective parents

NATIONAL NON-LEGAL LGBT ORGANIZATIONS

Human Rights Campaign (HRC)

<http://www.hrc.org>

Address: 1640 Rhode Island Ave., Washington, DC 20036-3278

Phone: (202) 628-4160

What they do: As the largest civil rights organization working to achieve equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans, the Human Rights Campaign represents a grassroots force of over 750,000 members and supporters nationwide — all committed to making HRC's vision a reality. Founded in 1980, the Human Rights Campaign advocates on behalf of LGBT Americans, mobilizes grassroots actions in diverse communities, invests strategically to elect fair-minded individuals to office and educates the public about LGBT issues.

Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD)

<http://www.glaad.org>

California office

Address: 5455 Wilshire Blvd, #1500, Los Angeles, CA 90036

Phone: (323) 933-2240

New York office

Address: 104 West 29th Street, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10001

Phone: (212) 629-3322

What they do: The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) is dedicated to promoting and ensuring fair, accurate and inclusive representation of people and events in the media as a means of eliminating homophobia and discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation.

National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF)

<http://thetaskforce.org>

Washington, DC office

Address: 1325 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20005

Phone: (202) 393-5177

What they do: The mission of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is to build the grassroots power of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community. They do this by training activists, equipping state and local organizations with the skills needed to organize broad-based campaigns to defeat anti-LGBT referenda and advance pro-LGBT legislation, and building organizational capacity. The NGLTF Policy Institute, the movement's premier think tank, provides research and policy analysis to support the struggle for complete equality and to counter right-wing lies. As part of a broader social justice movement, NGLTF works to create a nation that respects the diversity of human expression and identity and creates opportunity for all.

Children of Lesbian And Gays Everywhere (COLAGE)

<http://www.colage.org>

Address: 1550 Bryant Street, Suite 830, San Francisco, CA 94103

Phone: (415) 861-5437

What they do: COLAGE is a national movement of children, youth, and adults with one or more lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and/or queer (LGBTQ) parents. They build community and work toward social justice through youth empowerment, leadership development, education, and advocacy. They also have local chapters.

Family Equality Council

<http://www.familyequality.org>

Address: P.O. Box 206, Boston, MA 02133

Phone: (617) 502-8700

What they do: Family Equality Council works to ensure equality for LGBT families by building community, changing hearts and minds, and advancing social justice for all families. They provide support, skills and community needed for LGBT-headed families at all stages of life.

The Family Equality Council also educates members of government, schools, faith-based communities, health care institutions and other social systems about how they can promote family equality for all. They also promote a proactive policy agenda that sets the standard of support for LGBT-headed families in schools, faith institutions, health care and family creation and protection.

National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE)

<http://transequality.org>

Address: 1325 Massachusetts Ave., Suite 700, Washington, DC 20005

Phone: (202) 903-0112

What they do: The National Center for Transgender Equality is a national social justice organization devoted to ending discrimination and violence against transgender people through education and advocacy on national issues of importance to transgender people. By empowering transgender people and their allies to educate and influence policymakers and others, NCTE facilitates a strong and clear voice for transgender equality in the nation's capital and around the country.

LGBT LEGAL PUBLICATIONS

Legal Guide for Lesbian and Gay Couples, by Attorney Denis Clifford, Attorney Frederick Hertz & Emily Duskow, legal editor (2007).

Lesbian/Gay Law Notes

http://www.nyls.edu/centers/harlan_scholar_centers/justice_action_center/publications/lesbiangay_law_notes, a publication of the Lesbian and Gay Law Association of Greater New York, reports nationally on lesbian/gay and AIDS related legal developments. It tracks significant new legislation, reports on new court decisions, administrative rulings, and executive actions, and highlights new publications of interest. In addition, the *Lesbian/Gay Law Notes* serve as an information exchange about new job openings in the public interest lesbian/gay rights legal field, and relay information about conferences and publication opportunities. Its focus is primarily on U.S. law, but it also reports on developments in other countries.

Sexual Orientation and the Law, by Roberta Achtenberg and Karen Moulding (Clark Boardman Callaghan 2008 Supp.). Treatise of LGBT law.

The Other Side of the Closet: The Coming-Out Crisis for Straight Spouses and Families, by Amity Pierce Buxton, PhD (1991, 1994). Dr. Buxton has also founded: Straight Spouse network, <http://www.ssnetwk.org>.

The Unmarried Couple: Rights and Responsibilities Without the Marriage Certificate. The Maryland Institute for Continuing Professional Education of Lawyers, Inc. (May 2009).