

LESBIAN AND GAY BAR ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO
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AUGUST 2004 NEWSLETTER

SECOND ANNUAL ETHNIC BAR RECEPTION TO BE HELD

On Thursday, September 9, 2004 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., the Filipino American Bar Association and the John Marshall Law School will host the Second Annual Ethnic Bar Reception. The theme for the event is "Building Bridges: Recognizing Differences, Encouraging Cooperation." The primary purpose of the event is to facilitate an ongoing cooperation among the ethnic bar associations, including the sponsorship of joint events to alleviate low attendance and budgetary concerns that are challenging for smaller organizations.

Included as part of the reception is a symbolic swearing-in of the presidents of the participating organizations. Chief Judge Timothy Evans has agreed to administer the oath, and Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Mary Ann McMorrow has agreed to give a keynote address. In addition, Alderman Ed Burke and Dean Patricia Mell will also deliver remarks.

LAVENDAR LAW CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN MINNEAPOLIS

The next Lavender Law conference will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota on September 30, 2004 through October 2, 2004. For further information, please visit the National Lesbian and Gay Law Association website at www.nlqla.org. For those of you who like to plan ahead, the conference will be held in San Diego in 2005.

WE ARE VOTING ILLINOIS SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

We Are Voting Illinois ("WAVI") is a nonpartisan, non-profit organization which seeks to register 20,000 new Illinois voters by October 4, 2004 by i) maximizing the efficiency of existing voter registration programs and training a new core of motivated street volunteers, ii) educate voters on the importance of voting through a coordinated effort, and iii) demonstrate the political presence of GBLT voters and allied communities to elected officials across the partisan spectrum. If you are interested in volunteering for WAVI, please contact Michael T. McRaith at mmcraith@mcguirewoods.com.

17TH ANNUAL CREATING CHANGE CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN ST. LOUIS

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is holding its annual conference on November 10-14, 2004 at the Millennium Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri. Plenary speakers include Matt Foreman, the Executive Director of the NGL Task Force, Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin, long time community activists, and Clarence Patton, Acting Executive Director of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs and Director of Community Organizing and Public Advocacy at the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project. There will be numerous Pre-Conference Institutes with topics ranging from racism to health care to aging. Special events include a poetry workshop and a cabaret performance by Cris Williamson, among others. For further information and to register online, visit www.creatingchange.org.

BOARD ELECTIONS ARE FAST APPROACHING

The time is fast approaching for Board elections. If you are interested in serving on LAGBAC's Board of Directors, please contact Board President Mark Wojcik at 7wojcik@jmls.edu by September 21 so that your name can be included on the ballot. In addition, you should forward a brief biography to be included with the ballot. Ballots will be mailed with renewal reminders by the end of September with voting to be completed by the end of October. In addition, please remember to provide an email address as LAGBAC would like to transition to electronic notices of future events and newsletters.

JUDGE'S RECEPTION

Plans are now being finalized for the judges' reception to honor recently elected judges Lori Wolfson, Noreen Love, Colleen Sheehan, and Sheryl Ann Pethers. Judge Nancy Katz has graciously agreed to serve as honorary chair of the event. The date is tentatively scheduled for late October. All current members of LAGBAC will receive invitations to attend this gala event. Therefore, please do not tarry in returning your renewals and ballots! To those members who offered their help earlier this spring, expect a call from Treasurer Cathy Rath in the near future to help with invitations and site selection.

RETENTION CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS ARE SET

The Alliance of Bar Associations for Judicial Screening has commenced the associate judge retention process. In an effort to make the process more effective, it has been suggested that the association's members review the list of retention candidates posted at the association's website and report to Mark DuPont (markdupont@earthlink.net) or Mark Teague (TeagueMark@msn.com) and information deemed relevant to the candidate's professional abilities. All comments will be held in the strictest confidence. The association's website is www.chilagbac.org.

UPCOMING FALL SOCIAL AND AWARDS PRESENTATION

Check the LAGBAC website for information regarding the upcoming Fall Social and Awards presentation to be hosted by LAGBAC at Sidetracks – date to be announced. At the event, Mike Quigley will receive the Outstanding Advocacy Award. The award is given to an individual who has been instrumental in legally advocating on behalf of the LBGT community.