

LAGBAC NEWSLETTER MAY 2004

Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago, 3712 North Broadway, #415, Chicago, Illinois 60613

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

LAGBAC's Judicial Evaluation Committee is gearing up for associate judge evaluations. Investigations will be conducted in May, and interviews will begin in June. We need volunteers to conduct investigations as well as interviews. However, the immediately pressing need is for investigators.

Investigations are crucial to judicial evaluations. Experience is not required—The Alliance of Bar Associations for Judicial Screening ("Alliance") will be conducting training sessions on May 11 and 12. Experienced investigators will provide an overview of the investigative process, the goal of the investigation, the "how to" of contacting candidate references, and preparation of the final report. Most investigations take no more than 10 hours to conduct. In addition, two investigators are assigned to each candidate.

Judicial evaluations are an excellent means to meet fellow LAGBAC members as well as members of other minority bar associations. Moreover, you will be providing a valuable service to the community, as the Alliance's ratings are published and distributed media outlets. If you are interested in conducting an investigation or in interviewing candidates, please contact Mark DuPont at Mark_Dupont@ca7.uscourts.gov or Cathy Rath at clrath3@netzero.com.

CHICAGO BAR ASSOCIATION TO PRESENT THIRD ANNUAL "BREAKING BARRIERS AND BUILDING BRIDGES" CONFERENCE

The third annual "Breaking Barriers and Building Bridges" Conference is scheduled for **Friday, July 16, 2004** at the Chicago Bar Association building, 321 S. Plymouth Court. The all-day conference is designed to disseminate recent information on the law and the legal profession, create synergies between women and minority lawyers and spotlight the achievements and viewpoints of women and minority attorneys. Topics include: Preaching Beyond the Choir: Building More Effective Alliances on Diversity Issues; Masters at Trial; Balancing Work and Family; Corporate Counsel on How to Get in the Door and Stay In; Rainmaking as Women and Minority Attorneys, and more. Participating bar associations include: American Bar Association Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity, The Chicago Bar Association, CBA Alliance for Women, Chicago Committee on Minorities in Large Law Firms, **LAGBAC**, Cook County Bar Association, Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois, Puerto Rican Bar Association, and Women's Bar Association of Illinois. For more information, contact The Chicago Bar Association at 312-554-2000, or www.chicagobar.org.

LAGBAC CO-SPONSORING *BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION*: REFLECTIONS ON THE PAST, STRATEGIES FOR THE FUTURE

On May 14, 2004, the Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc. will host a panel discussion and luncheon to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the United States Supreme Court's landmark decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*. LAGBAC is a co-sponsor of the event. Tickets for the event are \$65 for members, \$75 for non-members. For further information, contact the Black Women Lawyers' Association at 312-554-2088 or President@BWLA.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

PROGRAM ON ADOPTION

On May 12, 2004, LAGBAC's Law at the Library will be presenting a program on adoption. There is tentatively scheduled for June a program on Same Sex Marriage and Domestic Partnership to be presented by Richard Wilson, a partner at Nottage and Ward (Richard was a panelist at the March 2004 program on "Marriage in Massachusetts: What Does it Mean for Illinois"). The programs are held at the Chicago Public Library, Merlo Branch on Belmont. For further information on this program, or to volunteer to present a program on an area of law, please contact Mark Wojcik at 7wojcik@jmls.edu.

RECEPTION FOR LESBIAN JUDGES

LAGBAC is making preparations for a reception to be held in September honoring lesbian judges elected to the bench, including the most recent additions – Lori Wolfson and Sheryl Ann Pethers. Two members have already graciously volunteered to assist in the planning of this event. However, more volunteers are needed to make this event successful. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Cathy Rath at clrath3@netzero.com.

GAY PRIDE PARADE

It is almost that time of year again when our community's pride shines! Information regarding the annual "meet and greet" at Rehab will be sent to the membership sometime in late May or early June. Check your mailbox for further details.

RECENT LAGBAC EVENTS

MARRIAGE IN MASSACHUSETTS: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ILLINOIS?

On Wednesday, March 10, 2004, LAGBAC sponsored a panel discussion on same-sex marriage. Those participating as panelist included Richard Wilson, a partner at Nottage and Ward, Camilla Taylor of Lambda Legal, and Professor Andrew Koppelman of Northwestern University. These extremely knowledgeable speakers agreed that the landscape and law surrounding the issue of same-sex marriage will be changing and in the news for the foreseeable future.

On April 15, 2004, LAGBAC co-sponsored a program with Outlaw, the gay student organization at Northwestern University School of Law regarding out at work