



NOVEMBER 2005

PO BOX 64933 Chicago, IL 60644-0933

www.chilagbac.org

BOARD ELECTIONS

On page 4 please find information about our candidates for the expanded Board of Directors. Our bylaws now allow for a nine person board of directors – four male, four female, and one “swing” seat. (The current four board members’ terms are set to expire December 31, 2006). **Renewal notices and ballots will be coming in the mail soon – please get yours in today!**

NEW MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

At LAGBAC’s November board meeting, a change was made to the bylaws so that our membership year now runs January 1 through December 31st. Members who have joined since October 1 will have their memberships expire December 31, 2006. All other members are asked to renew as soon as possible. Don’t know when you joined? Contact our President, Dorene Kuffer, at dkuffer@chilagbac.org.

JUDICIAL EVALUATION SEASON STARTING

With another round of candidates for Illinois judicial appointments and elections set to be slated for 2006, LAGBAC’s Judicial Evaluation Committee (“JEC”) is gearing up for a very active season.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

LAGBAC works with nine other bar associations in the Alliance of Bar Associations for Judicial Screening to evaluate dozens of potential judicial candidates. Each candidate requires a thorough screening process. Over the years, our bar association has a well-deserved reputation for providing really strong investigators. This process is crucial to ensure qualified and sensitive candidates make it on the bench. Want to help make this process work?

The Alliance is making preparations to evaluate judicial candidates who will be running in the March 2006 primary election. The Alliance will be investigating those candidates in December, interviewing them in January, and releasing ratings in mid to late February.

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JUDICIAL EVALUATION SEASON STARTING

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For LAGBAC members interested in the judicial evaluation process who are not already members of our JEC this would be an opportune time to get involved. Members of our JEC can choose their own level of involvement. Although many of our members participate in all aspects of the judicial evaluation process -- including investigating candidates, conducting interviews, and deciding how candidates should be rated -- others limit their participation according to their time and interest. Any LAGBAC member who thinks she or he might be interested should please contact Mark Dupont (Mark_Dupont@ca7.uscourts.gov) or Susana Darwin (SDarwin@eb.com).

For persons who think they might be interested in serving as investigators for LAGBAC and the Alliance, the Alliance will be holding a number of investigator training sessions over the next several weeks. These will take place at Noon on Monday, November 14; Thursday, November 17, and Tuesday, November 29, at the Illinois State Bar Association, 20 South Clark Street, 9th Floor. Attendees should plan to bring their own lunch. The training will last approximately 1 hour, and you only need to attend one training session. Anyone interested in attending should please RSVP to Joyce Williams at the ISBA, 312-726-8775 or jwilliams@isba.org. There is a possibility that we may offer a 4th

session on Tuesday evening, November 29th, at 5:15 p.m.; please contact Joyce if you are interested in that evening session.

LAGBAC SPEARHEADS JUDICIAL CANDIDATE TRAINING

LAGBAC is working with other members of the Alliance to create a training session for judicial candidates. We are hoping that such a training session will help candidates understand the process better, make investigations easier, and respond to some of the concerns candidates have had over the years. The push for this training came from members of LAGBAC's Judicial Evaluation Committee. The training is tentatively scheduled to be held on November 30, 2005. Additional details about the training will be on the LAGBAC and Illinois State Bar Association websites soon.

PRIDE EVENT A HUGE SUCCESS

In June, LAGBAC sponsored a reception for judges during the annual Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade. This very successful event was attended by around 60 judges and their families. Hosted at Yoshi's Café, the event drew rave reviews from judges and LAGBAC members alike.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MEET THE BAR NIGHT – join students from all the Chicago law schools in at Sidetrack, at 6 PM on Friday, November 18, 2005. This is a great opportunity to meet lesbian, gay, and transgendered law students, and help answer any questions they have about the practice of law in and around Chicago. Plus they have great slushy drinks!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I begin the second year of my term I want to reach out to all members to make LAGBAC stronger than it has ever been! I am asking you to speak with your colleagues and friends and encourage them to join. I am asking you to become more involved in this organization—become active in a committee, attend a social event, or participate on the Board.

Last year LAGBAC sponsored or co-sponsored the following events:

- Meet the Bar nights
- Judicial Reception on Pride Day
- Lesbian Judges Reception
- Lawyers for Diversity
- Vanguard Awards
- All Bar Reception
- 3rd Annual Ethnic Bar Reception

In the next year we will be involved in many of the same events as well as a few more exciting things! Our primary objective for 2006 will be to “kick off”

our Foundation. Last month we were given 501(c)(3) status for the LAGBAC Foundation so we are now prepared to advertise and celebrate.

Each year we award a “Vanguard Award” to an individual who has done much for the LGBT community. Last year we honored Judge Sebastian Patti. The event is held at the

This will be an exciting year for LAGBAC! Become involved. I look forward to seeing you all at one of our events in the future – why not start by attending the November Meet the Bar Night? See you there!

Dorene

PS: You can renew your membership on-line! Tell your friends how easy it is to join now!

**Do you know someone
who should be a member
of LAGBAC and isn't?**

**A membership application
is enclosed in this
newsletter.**

**Or they can join on the
web at
www.chilagbac.org.**

CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Daniel B. Allen - I am a native of Indiana graduating from Loyola University of Chicago in 2000 before moving with my partner to Boston.

After working at a small internet startup company, I started my legal studies at Suffolk University Law School in 2001. After spending a summer as an intern at Harvard University Law School's Legal Services Center working with guardianship and estate planning for low-income AIDS/HIV clients, I decided to focus on estate-planning. After taking a one-year leave of absence from law school to spend time in Italy with my partner, we moved to Chicago where I finished my third year at Chicago-Kent. Recently, I opened LGBT Estate Planning Center, LLC with two other partners. The firm specializes in estate, asset protection, and business succession planning for individuals, families, and business within the community. Recently I joined the newly formed Junior Board of Directors at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago. I live in Hyde Park with my partner and our family of cats and dogs.

Jeremy Gottschalk - Jeremy is a member of Schwartz, Cooper, Greenberger & Krauss' Business and Finance Department. Within this Department, he splits his practice between Intellectual Property and Technology Law and Estates, Trusts and Business Planning. In addition to practicing law, Mr. Gottschalk spends considerable energy on many civic and community organizations. He is on the Board of Equality Illinois; he is the liaison to the Gay and Lesbian Legal Alliance; he is active with the Center on Halsted, and, specifically, coordinates legal seminars with the Center on Halsted; he volunteers as an on-call attorney for First Defense Legal Aid; and he is a member of many other organizations including the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association, where he conducts judicial investigations and judicial interviews for the Judicial Election Committee, Chicago Council of Lawyers, American Bar Association, Chicago Bar Association and the Bar Alliance Judicial Election Committee.

ATTENTION WOMEN!

The Board of Directors of the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago can have up to nine members – by our bylaws, we can have four men, four women, and one “swing” seat of either gender. We have some great candidates for the Board this year, but we need more women! If you are a woman attorney interested in making things better for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered attorneys (and other folks) in Chicago, and you have energy to spare, please consider joining our Board! WE NEED YOU! Contact Dorene Kuffer at dkuffer@chilagbac.org today!

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LAGBAC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Future communication from LAGBAC will be electronic. You MUST provide us with an e-mail address to send future information and newsletters. If you are unable to accept electronic communications, your membership fee will be slightly higher.

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
City, State, Zip _____
Email _____

Annual Dues:

Sustaining Member: \$100 _____
Sponsoring Member: \$75 _____
Supporting Member: \$60 _____
Regular Member: \$40 _____
Student Member: \$20 _____
Snail Mail Surcharge \$5 _____
AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

Law school and graduation date: _____

I would like to help out with the following committees:

- Newsletter
- Judicial Evaluation Committee
- Social Events Committee
- Women's Events Committee
- Nomination Committee
- Awards Committee
- Membership Committee

The best way to reach me about committee activities is by: phone e-mail

If you are interested in further info, please contact us at :

dkuffer@chilagbac.org

**Send to: LAGBAC
P.O. Box 64933
Chicago, Illinois 60664-0933**

**or Visit us and Apply online at
www.chilagbac.org**