

GLAD BRIEFS

WINTER '11

G A Y & L E S B I A N A D V O C A T E S & D E F E N D E R S

Keeping *All* Students Safe

All six New England states have school anti-bullying laws. In the wake of several tragic suicides by youth who were perceived to be gay, this past spring both Massachusetts and New Hampshire amended their anti-bullying laws, making them among the strongest in the country. GLAD made suggestions about the language that should be included in these bills and provided information about some of the special issues that arise when bullying involves students who are perceived as LGBT (e.g. reporting the bullying to the parents may out the student, causing the student additional problems).

If you know of any student who is experiencing harassment or discrimination in school, please contact GLAD's Legal InfoLine at 800-455-GLAD (4523).

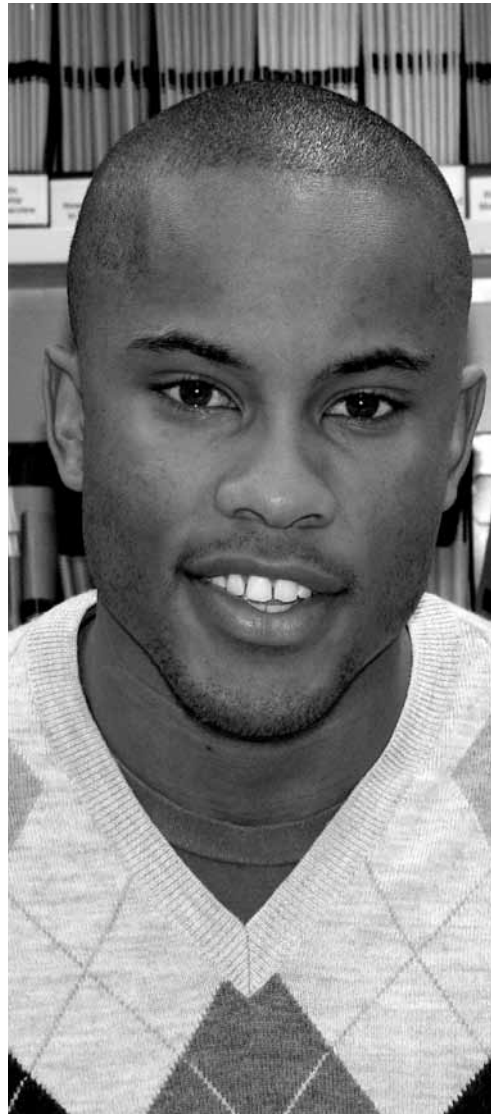
GLAD wants to make sure that the New England laws which protect students from bullying and discrimination are being properly implemented.

In both laws, bullying is defined broadly and includes any repeated written, verbal, electronic or physical acts that cause physical or emotional harm, damage property, disrupt education or create a hostile school environment.

Under both laws, schools are required to:

- Have a comprehensive anti-bullying policy
- Notify parents or guardians
- Train teachers and other school staff on how to handle bullying
- Have a procedure for reporting bullying
- Teach students about bullying

GLAD has several publications on our website that discuss the rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students at www.glad.org/students.



Legal Assistant Jamal Brown shared his experience of anti-gay bullying as a high school student in GLAD's contribution to the *It Gets Better* video project. Watch the video at <http://bit.ly/better-glad>

GLAD
EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW

If You Go to Public School in New England, You Have Rights!

GLAD has produced a special bookmark to let New England students know their rights. Look for yours inside this copy of the *Briefs*, and share it with the student in your life.

For additional copies, contact us at 617-426-1350 or email Noreen@ngiga@glad.org



From the Executive Director

Lee Swislow

InfinityPortraitDesign.com



“You gotta give ‘em hope.” Harvey Milk’s famous words were echoed recently as our community rallied to respond to the tragic loss to suicide of several LGBT young people across the country. As we produced GLAD’s contribution to the *It Gets Better* video project aimed at giving hope to LGBT youth, I reflected on the fact that GLAD’s work – from our victories in the courts, to our policy work, to our educational work that both changes hearts and minds and provides people with tools to advocate for themselves – is about hope.

Hope that we can find that person we want to share our lives with, and have that relationship respected by our community and our government; that if we choose to raise a family, our children will be protected. Hope that we can express our gender identity without fear of violence or discrimination; that we can earn a fair wage and make a contribution to our community. And hope that every young person can grow up to pursue her or his dreams, whatever they may be.

Each one of us has hopes and dreams, and I am so thankful to work at an organization that makes it more possible for people to realize those dreams. On a personal note, GLAD is allowing me to pursue a dream of mine this spring. As a lifelong hiker, I have for years dreamed of testing myself on the Appalachian Trail. Beginning in March 2011, I will be taking a seven month sabbatical to finally make that happen. I can do this because, thanks to the work of GLAD and others, I live in a world where I feel safe and empowered as a woman and a lesbian to make this journey through the woods and mountains of 14 states from Georgia to Maine.

It’s also possible because I know I am leaving GLAD in extremely capable hands. Our Legal Director and former Executive Director Gary Buseck, along with our strong leadership team of senior staff and board members, will continue to steer the course for GLAD in my absence. I know that when I return from my personal journey next fall, GLAD will have taken us further down the trail to full equality, justice – and hope – for all.

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Keeping the Pressure On: A New Challenge to the Defense of Marriage Act



Mary L. Bonauto introduces the plaintiffs at a press conference in Hartford, November 9.

This summer brought us one step closer to ending the harm that the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) does to families. Federal District Court Judge Joseph L. Tauro ruled July 8 that section 3 of DOMA – which limits the marriages the federal government will respect to those between a man and a woman – is unconstitutional with respect to the claims brought by the Massachusetts married couples and widowers in GLAD's case *Gill v. Office of Personnel Management*. The government will appeal the ruling.

While *Gill* continues to work its way through the courts, we are keeping the pressure on with a second case on behalf of couples in Connecticut, Vermont, and New Hampshire. In *Pedersen v. Office of Personnel Management*, filed November 9 in Federal District Court in Connecticut, we represent five

married same-sex couples and a widower who have all been denied federal rights and protections simply because they married a person of the same sex.

"DOMA must fall. In 1996, when Congress passed DOMA, the stated goal was to harm gay people and same-sex families, and sadly, it has succeeded," says Civil Rights Project Director Mary L. Bonauto. "Married gay and lesbian couples fall through the federal safety nets that exist for other married people. We have to keep the pressure on and get DOMA off the books before it does even more harm."

In *Pedersen* as in *Gill*, GLAD argues that DOMA Section 3 violates the federal constitutional guarantee of equal protection, and that it is an unprecedented intrusion by the federal government into the law of marriage, always considered the province of the states.

Each of our plaintiffs qualified for and applied for a spousal benefit or protection like other spouses, and was denied because of DOMA.



Joanne Pedersen & Ann Meitzen of Connecticut have been together for 12 years, and were married in 2008. Ann has a serious chronic lung condition and her health would benefit from being able

to cut back at work. But because of DOMA Joanne – a retiree from the Department of Naval Intelligence – is unable to put Ann on her health insurance, so Ann must continue to work full time.

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The Latest Myth From Marriage Equality Opponents: The Gay Goliath

Mary L. Bonauto & Gary Buseck



Photo: InfinityPortraitDesign.com

Mary L. Bonauto and Gary Buseck with Bishop Gene Robinson at the 2010 Spirit of Justice Award Dinner.

The opposition to marriage equality is surely feeling their oats following the November elections. There was their stunning, if outrageous, victory in removing from office the three judges of the Iowa Supreme Court who were up for retention votes. They may also see progress toward their goal of rolling back marriage equality in New Hampshire, where Republicans regained control of both houses of the legislature with veto-proof majorities.

While we need to muster every ounce of energy to retain marriage equality in New England and advance transgender equality legislation, there are some longer-term strategies of our opponents that also need careful attention.

Seemingly unable to persuade the public on the dangers of marriage equality for same-sex couples – even admitting in California litigation that marriage would be good for same-sex couples and their children – our opponents have turned to different tactics – cultural memes, if you will – designed to scare our fellow citizens. Number 1: Marriage equality means that schools will become a hotbed of gay propaganda, and children will be indoctrinated with the view that LGBT folks are OK. Number 2: Marriage equality means that religious liberty will be jeopardized because objections to marriage equality will become illegal, even criminalized, with countless consequences for religious people.

Most recently, the opposition has been developing a third cultural theme to distract from the real issue and instill fear and animosity in Americans. You might hardly have noticed it, but if you start looking you will see that it is now a pervasive talking point – the powerful, gay Goliath is engaged in a

coordinated, nationwide campaign of threats, intimidation and harassment against good American Davids who “do nothing more” than express their disapproval of gay people. As a result, it is anti-gay folks – ordinary Americans – who need protection from us – the dangerous others who, after all, define bad behavior.

Funny, and we thought the LGBT community has suffered a pervasive history of powerful discrimination in this country. Guess not.

This whole twisted narrative – that the oppressors are truly the oppressed (a not uncommon theme in the history of any minority’s march to equality) – came to GLAD’s attention in a very powerful way as we saw the Right working to insinuate this new theme into the minds and hearts of judges, particularly the justices of the United States Supreme Court.

It turns out that as our opponents were raising money to push Prop 8 in California and reverse marriage equality in that state, they also wanted to prevent the identification of their donors as required by state law.

This fight is not over. The mantra that gay people are a sinister mob out to persecute religious believers is going to be with us for some time to come – because our opponents know that it can work for them.

Keeping the Pressure On

Continued from page 3

They sued in 2009 in federal court, and their rationale for avoiding transparency was the alleged gay juggernaut of orchestrated intimidation.

Next, they succeeded in stopping the limited video-streaming of the trial in the California marriage case, *Perry v. Schwarzenegger*, with an order from the U.S. Supreme Court in January 2010. In support of its order, the Court included a reference to witness fears and “substantiated concerns” about incidents of harassment (citing submissions in the federal lawsuit mentioned in the preceding paragraph).

Then, in the State of Washington, there was Referendum 71 on the so-called “everything but marriage” law; and, again, proponents sued to prevent disclosure of the names of the signers of the petition to put repeal on the ballot. That case made it to the U.S. Supreme Court, and a main focus of the proponents’ brief was gay intimidation.

In support of this narrative, The Heritage Foundation prepared a Backgrounder, written by Thomas Messner and titled, “The Price of Prop 8.” (<http://bit.ly/priceofprop8>). The document purports to catalogue:

Supporters of Proposition 8 in California hav[ing] been subjected to harassment, intimidation, vandalism, racial scapegoating, blacklisting, loss of employment, economic hardships, angry protests, violence, at least one death threat, and gross expressions of anti-religious bigotry. (“The Price of Prop 8”, pg. 1)

Recognizing that the Supreme Court was being deliberately and repeatedly fed a story designed to influence their views on issues of importance to the gay community, GLAD spearheaded a process – along with the other LGBT legal groups – to unmask the vile calumny against our community. GLAD examined every single incident of alleged harassment cited in every state, categorized it and put it in a chart on our website, see www.glad.org/does-v-reed, and cited it in our groups’ *amicus* brief to the Court so the Justices could see reality for themselves. Suffice it to say that that reality is far removed from the rather hyperbolic allegations of our opponents. To get a sense for yourself, you should look at our *amicus* brief, also at www.glad.org/does-v-reed.

You will see, for example, one woman’s claim of “intimidation” in that her gay brother would “no longer speak to” her after she said she might vote for Prop 8 and of an “ugly and inflammatory email” from her brother’s partner because he wrote “[y]our views, among others, on proposition 8 has placed you in the camp of opposition to civil rights.” (*Amicus* Brief, p. 31).

Ultimately, the Supreme Court did not side with the petition signers on a right to anonymity. Perhaps most sweetly, Justice Scalia stated his view that receiving harsh criticism can be a price of self-governance and that hiding “does not resemble the Home of the Brave.”

Although a victory, make no mistake. This fight is not over. The mantra that gay people are a sinister mob out to persecute religious believers is going to be with us for some time to come – because our opponents know that it can work for them. And we must be prepared – in the courts and in our daily lives – to engage this issue openly, honestly and fearlessly so that people, especially judges, understand that it is simply a lie. ■



Vermonters **Raquel Ardin & Lynda DeForge** have been together for over 30 years, and were married in 2009 by Raquel’s 89-year-old father, who lives with them. Because of DOMA, Lynda, a postal employee, was denied family medical leave to care for Raquel, who needs regular and painful injections into her neck because of an injury she sustained while serving in the military.



Suzanne & Geraldine Artis of Connecticut, together for 17 years and married in 2009, are raising three school-aged sons. They pay at least \$1500 more in income taxes each year because of DOMA, money they could use for their kids’ education or daily expenses.



Retired New Hampshire schoolteachers **Janet Geller & Jo Marquis** have been together for 31 years and were married in May 2010. Jan is unable to receive a health benefit from Jo’s retiree plan because of DOMA, which places additional financial burdens on them during their retirement.



Connecticut resident **Jerry Passaro** lost his partner of 13 years, Tom Buckholz, just two months after the couple were finally able to marry in 2008. While still grieving, Jerry discovered that because of DOMA, Tom’s employer could not provide him survivor benefits on Tom’s pension – benefits that would make a big difference in Jerry’s quality of life.



Bradley Kleinerman & Flint Gehre have been together for 19 years, married in 2009, and are raising three sons in Connecticut. Because of DOMA, their family is burdened by at least \$1500 more in income taxes every year.

“Every day that DOMA stands, it arbitrarily divides married couples into two categories,” says Legal Director Gary Buseck. “And the extra burdens that DOMA has imposed on Massachusetts families since 2004 are now being endured by families like these in Connecticut, Vermont and New Hampshire.”

Co-operating counsel on this case include Sullivan & Worcester LLP (Boston), Jenner & Block LLP (Washington, DC), and Horton, Shields & Knox (Hartford). ■

For more information about the case, including video of all the plaintiffs, visit www.glad.org/doma

Docket Highlights

Adams v. Bureau of Prisons: GLAD, in conjunction with the National Center for Lesbian Rights, Florida Institutional Legal Services, and Bingham McCutchen LLP, is challenging a federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) policy that prohibits medical care for transgender inmates who come into the BOP without a treatment plan for transition. In an initial victory, our client Vanessa Adams has now been allowed to begin hormone therapy and is doing better. GLAD and co-counsel opposed the BOP's motion to dismiss the case, however, in order to ensure continued proper treatment for Vanessa as well as challenge the Bureau's other denials of transition-related medical care and the policy itself. Federal District Court Judge Joseph L. Tauro denied two motions brought by BOP to dismiss Ms. Adams' claims. The case has been ordered to mediation as the discovery and pre-trial process proceeds.

Freeman v. Denny's: GLAD represents a transgender woman in Lewiston, Maine who was denied the use of a women's restroom at a Denny's restaurant. The trial court denied Denny's motion to dismiss the case on May 27, 2010. GLAD spent several months this summer and fall deposing Denny's employees and is now preparing for trial.

Miller-Jenkins v. Miller-Jenkins: On October 29, 2010 the Vermont Supreme Court issued a unanimous decision affirming a Family Court order granting our client, Janet Jenkins, sole physical and legal custody of her daughter. The Family Court issued the transfer order in November 2009, finding that the ongoing refusal of Janet's former civil union spouse, Lisa, to allow visitation between Janet and their daughter warranted a modification of parental rights and responsibilities in the child's best interest. The transfer was set to take place January 1, 2010, but Lisa failed to appear. While the October 29 ruling is an important legal decision that affirms there is no gay exception in Vermont family law, the whereabouts of Lisa and the child remain unknown.

Amicus Work

In re: A.M.B.: GLAD filed an *amicus* brief with the Maine high court in support of a transgender man who was denied a name change by Cumberland County Probate Court. The Court remanded the case for a rehearing and the individual's name has now been changed.

Patino v. Birken Manufacturing Co.: GLAD and the Connecticut Employment Lawyers Association filed an *amicus* brief in the Connecticut Supreme Court on behalf of Luis Patino who was awarded \$95,000 by a jury after he was subjected to years of antigay slurs by his co-workers, including "faggot," "fag," "homo" and "pato" (a Spanish language slur with the same meaning). GLAD responded to the defendant's appeal by arguing that courts frequently minimize the impact of prejudice and harassment based on words alone in the absence of physical threats or assault and highlighted the scientific literature demonstrating that incidents of discrimination can lead directly to profound mental and physical harm. The brief, which included discussions of sexual orientation, race, sex and disability discrimination, was joined by the Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission, the Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association, the Connecticut Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, the Center for Disability Rights, Connecticut Alliance for Business Opportunities, Connecticut TransAdvocacy Coalition, and Triangle Community Center. The plaintiff is represented by Jon L. Schoenhorn of Hartford.

Perry v. Schwarzenegger: In this challenge to overturn Proposition 8 in California, GLAD filed an *amicus* brief at the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in conjunction with Lambda Legal, the ACLU and the National Center for Lesbian Rights. Oral argument on both the merits of the case and the question of whether the interveners have standing to appeal took place December 6.

Our Wish List for 2011:

- **Victories in our federal DOMA challenges**
- **Transgender rights bills in New Hampshire and Massachusetts**
- **Marriage equality in Rhode Island**
- **Solid enforcement of the new Massachusetts and New Hampshire anti-bullying bills and safer schools for LGBTQ youth**
- **Your generous financial support.**

You can have an impact on the law and make a real difference in people's lives.

Please make a year-end gift to GLAD today: www.glad.org/challenge

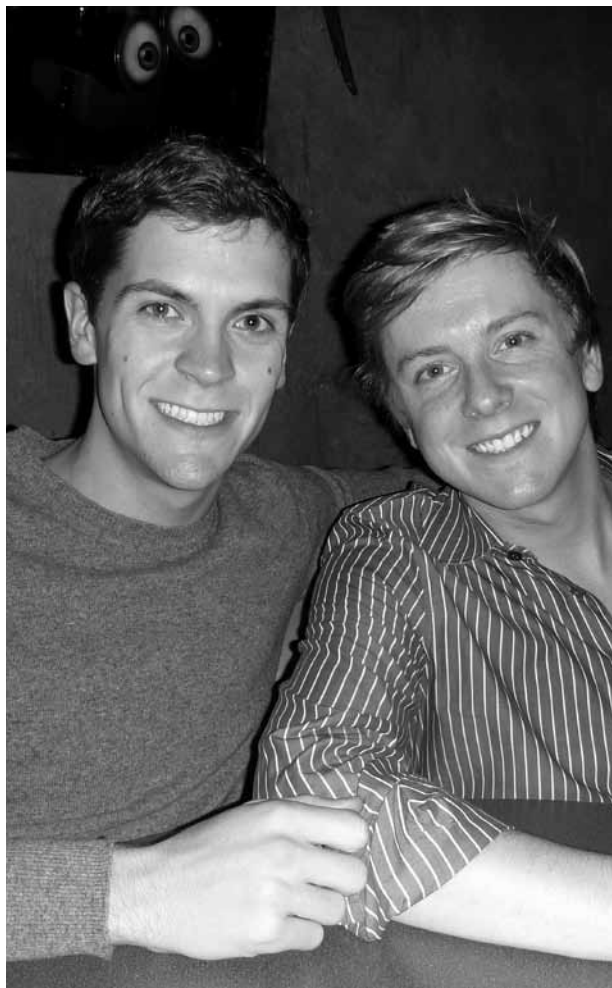
The Social (Justice) Network Facebook co-founder Chris Hughes and Freedom to Marry's Sean Eldridge 'Friend' GLAD

As the architect of the online organizing campaign, MyBarackObama.com, that powered the president's historic election in 2008, Chris Hughes has graced magazine covers and been the subject of endless media profiles. His role as a co-founder of Facebook was immortalized in "The Social Network," a critically-acclaimed film now playing at a multiplex near you. But what most folks don't know is that before he was a social networking legend, Chris assisted people struggling to make sense of their legal rights as LGBT and HIV positive people as a GLAD Legal InfoLine volunteer.

Chris worked the InfoLine for two semesters while studying at Harvard, a year or two before he and classmates Mark Zuckerberg, Dustin Moscovitz and Eduardo Saverin launched the social media revolution known as Facebook in 2004.

"I knew that I wanted to volunteer for an organization that was working for GLBT equality," Chris recalls. "I thought [the InfoLine] was really interesting because I would have an impact on people who were struggling with so many of the issues of what can and cannot be done as a GLBT citizen in New England or even nationally. It was exciting. I felt like I had a really tangible effect on people who were struggling with important problems."

Despite the high-profile turns of his professional life, Chris continues to actively support LGBT equality. It's something of a family business these days, given that his partner of five years, Sean Eldridge, is the political director for Freedom to Marry, a national organization with which GLAD works closely. To leverage their commitment, Sean and Chris, who call New York City home, have generously pledged a year-end \$50,000 donation to GLAD with a challenge that we match that with \$50,000 from other donors before the ball drops on New Year's Eve.



Sean Eldridge and Chris Hughes

Their gift stems from Sean's belief that winning full equality for LGBT Americans requires a three-pronged strategy of legislation, public education and litigation, and that GLAD's work is integral to that strategy.

"GLAD has proven to do incredibly smart, effective litigation that has really moved the ball forward," he says. "When we think about the litigation element of the work, GLAD is the first group that we think of and we feel indebted to the work that you've done and the work that you continue to do."

Having helped catapult Barack Obama to the White House, Chris turned his attention this year to a new social networking venture: Jumo – which means "come together" in the West African language of Yoruba – which aims to help social

justice and philanthropic organizations better engage with their supporters and one another to accomplish their goals.

"I think that there hasn't been a single technology or platform that's emerged that has made it easy for either organizations or the people who are likely to support them to engage with one another," Chris observes. "So what we're trying to build with Jumo is a network that helps everyday people find, follow and then support the causes that are important to them, and that includes LGBT civil rights and marriage equality."

Speaking of social networking, what does Chris Hughes think of the movie that purports to reveal the genesis of Facebook? He offers a mixed review – on one hand he says it's cool that Hollywood made a film about the beginning of Facebook. On the other hand, he's frustrated that it didn't really get the story straight, calling the film "by and large fiction."

For Chris, "The Social Network's" one redeeming quality is its potential to inspire young entrepreneurs to pursue their dreams.

"One of the few things that comes through in the movie that I think is actually true is that Facebook was really born out of a college dorm room between Mark, Dustin

and myself in our tiny room at Harvard. What emerged was this social network that now powers over 500 million people's interactions on a daily basis. That part of the story really came through and I hope that is an inspiration to entrepreneurs and people who are starting their own projects today."

Likewise, Chris hopes that his and Sean's year-end donation challenge inspires more giving to GLAD.

"GLAD is a phenomenal organization, [that] is working on and prioritizing the issues that are important to both Sean and me," he says. "[W]e couldn't be any happier to support you guys." ■

Maine: Keeping the Conversation Going

A LIFETIME COMMITMENT

Steve Ryan and John Estlin have been together for more than 34 years. But it took 10 to 15 years to get together. They run a successful real-estate property management company serving the community in northern York where they live. When John was diagnosed with prostate cancer, Steve said, "I can't let him like any other spouse would be... they are soul partners in life and in the business. But if one of them dies, the surviving partner would have a hard time making decisions for the other."

TOGETHER FOR 34 YEARS

THROUGH GOOD TIMES AND BAD
OUR NEIGHBORS. OUR FAMILIES. OUR COMMUNITIES.

Maine Speakers Bureau for Equality

TRAINING MANUAL FOR SPEAKERS

A LIFETIME COMMITMENT
THROUGH GOOD TIMES AND BAD

OUR NEIGHBORS. OUR FAMILIES. OUR COMMUNITIES.

LIKE ALL PARENTS, how often do you hear residents and parents of children with disabilities say, "I wish my child could get married." It's a common sentiment, and it's one that's often overlooked. If you're a parent, family member, or caregiver, you know the challenges of making sure your child has the same opportunities and choices as everyone else. It's time to change that. We're here to help you do it.

Together for 12 years

Last November's painful loss at the ballot – when Maine's voters rejected the state's new marriage equality law – told GLAD and our partners that we needed to do more talking *and* listening about marriage equality.

With the tremendous boost of a \$600,000 grant from a generous donor, GLAD has devised a plan, staffed by four experienced Maine-based educators, to keep the conversation going with Mainers who are still undecided about marriage equality.

Matt McTighe, formerly of MassEquality, came on board this past summer and quickly hired Diane Gilman, Ryan Brown, and Ian Grady. Their plan centers on communicating with Mainers using methods both new and old: speaking engagements, direct mail, e-communications, and campus organizing are all part of the mix. Measurement and evaluation are key to all components of the plan.

Speakers Bureau: Headed by Diane Gilman, the goal is to talk with audiences and in venues that are not the usual suspects – places where we might find opponents and undecideds rather than supporters. Diane has already trained several sets of speakers on how to tell their own stories and explain their own support for marriage equality, as well as answer questions from potentially skeptical audiences.

Coalition-Building: Ryan Brown is focused on expanding the coalition that has worked on marriage equality for years, and achieved legislative success in 2009. Beyond gay and social justice groups like GLAD, EqualityMaine, the Maine Civil Liberties Union, the Maine Women's Lobby, the Religious Coalition against Discrimination, and EngageMaine, Ryan's work is to add labor and business partners and find ways to intensify everyone's involvement.

Stories Website: Ryan is also rapidly setting up a story website, where Mainers can both tell their own story, and read the stories of others who are affected by the lack of marriage equality in Maine. The site will be an organizing tool as well as a resource for the coalition when looking for people to testify, talk to reporters, write letters to the editor, or volunteer.

Reaching Young Men: Ian Grady, a native Mainer and a recent graduate of the University of Southern Maine, is concentrating on reaching college-aged men, a group that supports marriage equality at much lower rates than do college-aged women. In addition to campus-based organizing, his work includes social media and other non-traditional means of communication.

GLAD will also do opinion research and continue to produce materials – like two recent mailers telling the stories of several Maine couples who want to marry – to support the field work of EqualityMaine. Working together, we hope to gain enough support to bring the marriage question before Mainers again, and win. ■

New England Legislative Update

The Republican tidal wave that swept the country on Election Day wasn't a referendum on LGBT issues, but it could certainly have negative consequences for our community in Maine and New Hampshire.

The developments in those states stand in stark contrast to Rhode Island, which is closer than ever to enacting marriage legislation with the election of Governor Lincoln Chafee, an independent who has promised to work proactively on marriage legislation, unlike his predecessor, who actively worked against LGBT rights. Chafee will have an ally in openly gay House Speaker Gordon Fox, who has also pledged to be a leader in the effort to pass a marriage bill.

Maine's legislative and executive branches are in Republican hands for the first time in more than 40 years, and Governor-elect Paul LePage made clear his staunch opposition to marriage equality during the campaign. He also advocated a rollback of the state's LGBT-inclusive Human Rights Act. Although passage of another marriage equality bill is unlikely with this legislature, GLAD and our coalition partners are working together on a broad public education program. We hope to gain enough support to bring the marriage question before Mainers again, and win.

The New Hampshire Legislature also flipped from blue to red, and state Rep. Bill O'Brien, who wants to amend the state constitution to ban marriage equality and opposes transgender rights, was just elected House speaker. Bills for a constitutional amendment and to repeal New Hampshire's marriage equality law have already been introduced. And while Gov. John Lynch has vowed to veto such legislation, Republicans also now hold a veto-proof majority. However, we know there are Republican legislators who support marriage equality. We will be working with our partners in New Hampshire to identify pro-equality legislators from both parties in what will be a fight to preserve marriage. Sadly, though, with this legislature, chances for advancing transgender non-discrimination legislation are very slim.

But the news out of the two states wasn't all bad. Gov. Lynch won re-election, despite relentless attacks from the National Organization for Marriage (NOM) which sunk millions into defeating him. In Maine, our partners at EqualityMaine worked successfully to re-elect pro-equality state Rep. Jeff McCabe – another NOM target – and defeat an anti-equality state senator. Additionally, five pro-equality Republicans all won re-election to the legislature.

Elsewhere in New England, Massachusetts re-elected Gov. Deval Patrick, the most pro-LGBT governor in the state's history. And Connecticut Governor-elect Dan Malloy – the first Democratic governor in 20 years – has pledged to sign transgender non-discrimination legislation into law. ■

Voices Carry Trans People Tell Their Stories

We know that sharing our personal stories helps win hearts and minds in support of LGBT rights. That's why we're working to raise the profile of transgender people in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, two states where bills to add protections based on gender identity and expression to state non-discrimination laws failed this year.

On Nov. 14, the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition (MTPC) kicked off an unprecedented public education campaign called "I AM: Trans People Speak," a collection of recorded stories that aims to challenge stereotypes and misconceptions of transgender people by highlighting the realities of their lived experience. The project is significant because it provides the first forum dedicated solely to providing a space for trans people to tell their stories. The stories will be used to help educate the public about the joys and challenges of transgender lives, while also rooting the storytellers in their broader communities. Visit TransPeopleSpeak.org to hear the stories of people like Mick, a social worker for LGBT youth and Michelle, a marathon runner who works at State Street.

GLAD was proud to be involved in getting I AM: Trans People Speak off the ground, providing staff and technical advice and promoting the project in the media.

In New Hampshire, GLAD is a founding member of the New Hampshire Coalition for Transgender Equality (NHCTE), which aims to advance public education and understanding about the transgender community. We've already enlisted a host of transgender Granite Staters and allies willing to share their stories publicly. On Nov. 20 we held our inaugural public event, a vigil to mark the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance, at Grace Episcopal Church in Manchester. More than 50 people turned out, including state Reps. Fran Potter and Bob Thompson, who spoke at our post-vigil reception. ■



GLAD Attorney Janson Wu and TransGender New Hampshire Director Joelle Ruby Ryan attended the inaugural Transgender Day of Remembrance vigil in Manchester November 20



*Visit TransPeopleSpeak.org to hear stories from Mick, Michelle and others - and share your own!
Photos: Jesse Begenyi*



Welcome New Board Members

Samuel Bickett

Samuel, an associate at Ropes & Gray, LLP, earned his JD degree from the University of North Carolina School of Law. While in North Carolina, he worked for The Hodgman Law Firm, the UNC Center for Civil Rights, Ropes & Gray, LLP and GlaxoSmithKline. Samuel spent a year at GLAD on a fellowship from Ropes & Gray, LLP where he concentrated on youth-related issues, providing counsel, drafting statutory language, and testifying in favor of the Massachusetts anti-bullying legislation which was signed into law in May 2010.

Amit Dixit

Amit served on the board of Massachusetts Asian & Pacific Islanders for Health from 2000 to 2006 and has served on the steering committee of Massachusetts Area South Asian Lambda Association since 1998. In 2005, he joined the board of The History Project, and in 2009 became Chief of Operations of the Boston LGBT Film Festival. A longtime project manager at Microsearch Information Technology and Services, Amit is now pursuing opportunities in marketing and communications. Since 1994, he has been fighting the stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS in the community at large and in the South Asian community in particular.

Scott D. Pomfret

Scott is a director in the Financial Services Regulatory Practice at PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP. An attorney at Ropes & Gray, LLP from 1999 – 2003, Scott was a cooperating attorney with GLAD in a Supreme Judicial Court case challenging the constitutionality of the Massachusetts sodomy laws. From 2003-2010, he worked for the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Scott is co-publisher and co-author with his partner, Scott Whittier, of *Romantics*, a line of gay romance novels. His 2008 memoir, *Since My Last Confession*, though well-reviewed, resulted in his being asked to leave his lay minister post at Saint Anthony Shrine in Boston.

Welcome New Staff

Ashley Dunn, Staff Attorney

Ashley Dunn joins GLAD as a legal fellow from the New York law firm Dewey & LeBoeuf, LLP. She received her JD from Harvard Law School in May 2010, where she was technical editor for the Journal of Law and Gender. Ashley received BSBA degrees in Economics and Finance at Clarion University of Pennsylvania in 2007 and worked for the Office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania and the Department of Economic Development in Allegheny County.

Diane Gilman, Speakers Bureau Manager for Marriage Equality in Maine

Diane comes to GLAD with a background in corporate Human Resources and Management plus 15 years of non-profit management experience as the Director of National Coalition Building Institute International/Maine. She is an expert trainer and facilitator and has worked with hundreds of public and private sector groups to raise awareness about diversity.

Ian Grady, Maine Public Education Coordinator

Ian's focus is on college and university outreach. Before joining GLAD, he was the Finance Director for the re-election campaign of Massachusetts State Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz. Previously, Ian held various roles at MassEquality, including a position as lead organizer for Maine, and worked on marriage equality efforts in California, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

Matt McTighe, Director of Public Education for Maine

Matt joins GLAD after a three-year tenure as the Political Director for MassEquality. Prior to that he spent three years as a lobbyist for the Human Rights Campaign and has served as a government relations advocate and political strategist for some of the country's leading trade associations and labor unions. Matt has a degree in journalism from George Washington University, and began his career covering politics in the Political Unit of CBS News.

Elizabeth E. Monnin-Browder, Staff Attorney

Elizabeth joins GLAD through a fellowship sponsored by Ropes & Gray, LLP. She is a member of the Steering Committee for the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition and of the Mass. LGBTQ Bar Association Committee on Transgender Inclusion. Elizabeth helped found Massachusetts Transgender Legal Advocates, and was a senior editor for the Boston College Law Review, an executive board member for BC's Coalition for Equality, and president of BC's Health Law Society.

Rachel Rapoza, Development Assistant

Rachel is a graduate of Hamilton College with a degree in Classics. At Hamilton, she was involved in the school's LGBT alliance, Classics Club, and served as the captain of the varsity ice hockey and softball teams. Rachel comes to GLAD with previous development experience through an internship with the Human Rights Campaign.

Matt Redovan, Legal Assistant

Matt holds a bachelor's degree in religious studies from Brown University and a master's degree from Harvard Divinity School, where he focused his studies on the intersection of religion, ethics, and politics. He volunteers with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization and is excited to learn more about LGBT and HIV related issues and to direct his energy toward advancing GLAD's mission.

Spirit of Justice Award Dinner

October 29, 2010

Thanks to everyone who attended this year's dinner honoring Bishop Gene Robinson. You helped us raise a record-breaking \$586,000 to fight for justice and equality! ■

Photos by Susan Symonds, InfinityPortraitDesign.com



Executive Director Lee Swislow, dinner Co-chairs Pete Dziejdzic and Marianne Monte, Honoree Bishop Gene Robinson, Judy Mencher and Nicole Polaski



The day after the dinner, Bishop Robinson joined Reverend Irene Monroe and Legal Director Gary Buseck for an insightful community discussion, "Keeping the Faith: Religion and the Future of LGBT Equality in America."



Michelle Davis-Igwe, Johnny Dixon, Board Member Jo Davis and Gary Bailey



Adam Edgerton, Honoree Bishop Robinson and Board Member Samuel Bickett



Gill v. O.P.M. plaintiffs Mary Ritchie, Kathy Bush, Melba Abreau and Beatrice Hernandez



Allison Bauer, Robert Lewis, Jr. and Brianna Boggs of the Boston Foundation with State Rep. Carl Sciortino and Pem Brown

GLAD File Photo



Mary L. Bonauto with Professor George Chauncy (left) and John Treat, Chair of LGBT Studies at Yale

Civil Rights Project Director Mary L. Bonauto Receives Brudner Prize

The James Robert Brudner '83 Memorial Prize at Yale University is awarded annually to an "accomplished scholar or activist whose work has made significant contributions to the understanding of LGBT issues or furthered the tolerance of LGBT people." As GLAD's Civil Rights Project Director, for more than twenty years Mary L. Bonauto has won legal protections for LGBT people across New England – from employment protections and rights for students, to adoption rights and marriage equality. As the announcement of the award describes, she has played, "a key role in making New England's laws, regulations and policies the most gay-friendly in the nation."

As recipient of the 2010 Prize, Mary presented two lectures entitled "*Perry, Gill and the Right Wing Challenges to Defeat Us*," at Yale Law School in New Haven December 1 and at the Yale Club of New York December 2, where she was introduced by past Brudner Prize winner Professor George Chauncey, co-director of the Yale Research Initiative on the History of Sexualities. ■