

Co-President's Column



10th Annual THLA Dinner Debrief

By Andrea Kimball

I am very pleased to report that this year's THLA Annual Dinner was another smashing success.

For the second year in a row, THLA held its dinner at the Wyndham hotel. The evening kicked off with a cocktail reception in the foyer where guests schmoozed and swayed to the sounds of jazz guitarist Dan Papi-ala. After a short welcome from THLA Co-President Ted Roberts and a proclamation presented by Leslie Devaney on behalf of the San Diego City Attorney, guests relaxed and chatted over dinner. This year's dinner was a tribute to the life of our namesake, Tom Homann who passed away ten years ago. Tom's good friend and former officemate, Dale Manicom, spoke a few words about Tom and introduced the Homann family who were in attendance.

During dessert, we were entertained by the fabulous song stylings of Anthony Bollotta. After dinner, the presentation of THLA's awards began and assemblywoman Christine Kehoe, a regular at THLA events, was named THLA Legislator of the Year. Assemblywoman Kehoe is the first two-time winner of this award. Deputy District Attorney

Wendy Patrick was honored for her work prosecuting hate crimes in the San Diego District Attorneys Office. Executive Director of the Center, Dr. Delores Jacobs was given one of two THLA Co-Presidents' Award for her contributions to San Diego's GLBT community and for her role in the success of the Center's Public Policy Department.

"Sigler recounted how on one visit to the White House, the security members were afraid to touch the bags of her delegation for fear of contracting HIV."

The other Co-Presidents' award went to the leaders of the GLBT student groups Outlaw, Pridelaw, and USD Pridelaw at Thomas Jefferson, California Western and University of San Diego School of Law. The THLA Service Award was given to community activist and THLA Board Member James Pontes for his tireless efforts organizing our fabulous THLA parties and events!

Next, the Honorable Victoria Sigler took the stage for the keynote address. Judge Siegler is a 2000 Jeb Bush appointee from Florida's Eleventh Circuit. Judge Sigler also served as an appointee to President Clinton's advisory panel on GLBT affairs. In Florida, Sigler is widely known for her brave "self-outing" during a State Bar debate over implementation of protections for gays and lesbians in the courtroom. During her keynote address, Judge Siegler left the crowd in stitches as she described her road to becoming first a GLBT activist and later a judge when she successfully ran for the bench in 1994. Judge Sigler gained nationwide attention as she was the first openly gay or lesbian official elected in the South. Sigler recounted how on one visit to the White House, the security members were afraid to touch the bags of her delegation for fear of contracting HIV. Thanks to Judge Sigler for making THLA's tenth annual dinner such a wonderful evening!

Each year, the THLA Dinner celebrates the past year of THLA service to the community and recognizes those who make a difference to the GLBT community.

TOM HOMANN LAW ASSOCIATION

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Schedule of Events

July 10, 2003, 6 pm:

THLA Board Meeting, Location TBA

All THLA members are welcome! Contact Jonathan Schneeweiss at 619.279.3333 for more information.

July 25-27, 2003:

San Diego Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Transgender Pride Celebration

If you are interested in marching with THLA in this year's Pride parade, please contact James Pontes at pontesjd@tjssl.edu

August 2, 2003, Noon:

Del Mar Racetrack Event— Co-sponsored with the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Bar Association

An afternoon of fun at the Del Mar racetrack. Members will meet at the infield at noon for lunch and social hour, followed by the afternoon's races. Please contact James Pontes to reserve tickets or for more information at pontesjd@tjssl.edu

August 13, 2003, 7 pm:

Seminar on HIPAA, The Center

Co-sponsored by THLA and the Center and will be open to the general public. See more information on page 4 of this newsletter.

August 17, 2003, time TBA:

Multi-Bar Diversity Reception, Cal Western Law School

Student Welcome Reception—(date/time TBA)

THLA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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 JONATHAN SCHNEEWEISS (CHAIR).....619/279-3333

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JAMES PONTES.....PONTESJD@TJSSL.EDU

WEBMASTER

STEVE KAFTAL.....619/865-7798...STEVE@KAFTAL.COM

UCSD LAUNCHES NEW, FREE JOB LISTING SERVICE FOR EMPLOYERS

San Diego area employers are able to post their job and internship positions to recruit UCSD students and alumni on a new, free of charge web-based system inaugurated May 6 by the Career Services Center at the University of California, San Diego. The Center's Web site is <http://career.ucsd.edu/rec/recruiters.shtml>.

Employers may now begin to enter job and internship positions in the new system. The postings are available for viewing by students and alumni as of May 6. Complete details, instructions and employer registration information are at <http://career.ucsd.edu/rec/recruiters.shtml>. The free job listings are for employers who wish to list their jobs only with the UCSD Career Services Center. Employers interested in simultaneously posting job listings with four top California Schools – UCSD, UCLA, U.C. Berkeley, and Stanford University – may do so on the same Web site for a nominal \$60 fee. Employers who wish to list with multiple schools across the country may do so for fees well below the market standard. This also can be done in a single, online transaction through the UCSD Career Services Center Web site. For more information about NACElink and UCSD's other recruiting services for employers, contact Andy Rabitoy, employer relations coordinator at the UCSD Career Services Center, at arabito@ucsd.edu or (858) 534-4501. More details about NACElink are available at <http://www.nacelink.com>

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A big thank you to the THLA Dinner Committee and especially James Pontes, Gary Holt and Ted Roberts. Special recognition was also given Richard Van Cleave who passed away earlier this year. Richard volunteered many hours to make the past two THLA dinners a success.

On a personal note, this will be my last column as co-president of THLA. My term has expired and I am looking forward to new challenges. I will remain an active board member however and encourage you all to get involved with THLA. The majority of THLA's work is done by only a handful of individuals and we need more people willing to commit even only one hour a month to help us with legal research, event planning, newsletter duties etc. Please contact THLA or go to THLA's website (www.thla.org) for more info.

I have been privileged to serve as co-president of such an inspiring organization as THLA. I am proud of what we have accomplished in the past two years including the success of our mentor program and the relationships we have forged with the law schools. In addition, THLA has become an affiliate member of the National Gay and Lesbian Law Association, the folks who put on Lav Law each year. But, most of all, I am proud of what our members do away from their THLA activities. Our members donate countless hours toward pro bono work, volunteer and political activities and GLBT advocacy. Keep it up!

And, finally, as a member of Generation X (or is it Y?), I have had the advantage of others paving the road for me. Those who dared to fight for GLBT rights; who dared to be the first to stand up and say, "this must stop." When I joined the working world I simply expected to be treated equally. Because of the tireless work of others before me, I have been fortunate enough to have never suffered from the discrimination suffered by scores of my GLBT brothers and sisters. However, in San Diego and elsewhere, the battle is far from over and we owe it to those brave visionaries to avoid the temptation of complacency and keep fighting for equality under the law. THLA is here to help you in that fight so get involved!

AB 205

AB 205 will significantly expand the rights and responsibilities currently provided to registered domestic partners and their families to include nearly all the legal rights, benefits, responsibilities, duties, and obligations under state law currently available only to married couples. Those legal protections and responsibilities guide couples through nearly every complex legal situation faced by families such as death, divorce, custody disputes, illness, childbirth, and adoption. They regulate such diverse areas as:

Financial support during and after the relationship, and community property ownership protections

Protection from threats and crimes against the families of public officials

Child custody, visitation, and duties of financial support of children

Anatomical gifts, consent to autopsy and disposition of remains, and burial in family cemeteries

Legal claims dependent upon family status, including claims for victim's compensation

Housing protections, including access to family student housing, senior citizen housing, and rent control protections

Bereavement leave, family care and medical leave, coverage of partners under medical, dental, life, and disability insurance, pension rights, and death benefits for surviving partners of firefighters and police officers

Obligations to make disclosures regarding family relationships and to take other steps to avoid nepotism, conflicts of interest and self-dealing

Mutual responsibility for debts to third parties

Joint filing of state income tax returns, different tax rates, and estate and gift tax exemptions

Government-regulated benefits, including workers compensation, public assistance, transfer of licenses upon death, and the ability to apply for absentee ballots for a partner

Communication privileges, including the right not to be forced to testify against a partner

AB 205 will **not** change the method for entering into domestic partnership.

AB 205 will **not** change the basic criteria for registering as domestic partners.

AB 205 will **not** change the termination procedure for domestic partners who have been together less than five years, and who have no children and no significant joint assets.

AB 205 will **not** make any changes that would require a two-thirds vote by the Legislature, such as laws regulating property tax reassessment upon death of a partner.

More information about the bill can be obtained from the website of CAPE/Equality California:
http://www.calcape.org/ll_work_ab205.html

AB 17

AB 17 PASSES ASSEMBLY FLOOR, 42-32 ... EQCA APPLAUDS EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK VOTE

We did it again! Just hours after passage of AB 205, Equality California's second key Domestic Partner bill, AB 17, assed the Assembly floor last night. It, too, will next be considered in the state Senate. AB 17, the Equal Benefits bill, will ensure that tax dollars are not spent on contracts with companies who discriminate against domestic partners through their company benefits programs. The bill will guarantee that employees of companies who do business with the state will receive equal pay for equal work.

To read more about the vote: <http://www.eqca.org/pressreleases>

Newsletter Submissions Welcome

THLA encourages all members to submit articles, ideas, upcoming events or announcements to the THLA newsletter! Please submit to the Newsletter Chair, Jonathan Schneeweiss, at SchneeweissJ@aol.com or by calling him at (619)255-4620.

Send us your articles!!

HIPAA Seminar at The Center

You are invited to a HIPAA seminar on August 13, 2003 at 7pm. Come learn about the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 and the recent changes in the law. Cocktails and mixer to follow. This event is co-sponsored by THLA and the Center and will be open to the general public. RSVP to Jonathan Schneeweiss by calling 619.279.3333 or email at JonathanS@coldwellbanker.com.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

GENERAL COUNSEL, SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS

Salary: \$8,735.12 to \$11,179.39, Announcement closes: June 27, 2003

Full benefits (district pd premiums for employee and qualified dependents) + PERS and Soc. Sec retirement + 14 pd holidays + sick leave and vacation. Active license to practice law in the state and federal courts of CA. Six years of experience in the practice of law, including substantial responsible experience as counsel for a public jurisdiction; Experience in education law and directing and managing legal staff in a legal office is highly desirable. Please provide a copy of your active license with application. For further info, visit www.sandi.net/employment and scroll to the Classified Job Postings button to review management and non-teaching employment opportunities. Request an application packet by telephone 619-725-8195, e-mail jobs@mail.sandi.net (specify title), or visit 4100 Normal St., Annex 9, San Diego. All required application information must be received at the above address no later than 4:30 p.m. on the closing date indicated.

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GAY & LESBIAN ADVOCATES & DEFENDERS STAFF ATTORNEY

Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), New England's public interest legal organization, seeks a full-time Staff Attorney to litigate lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and HIV-related civil rights and discrimination cases throughout New England. Position to commence August 1, 2003. Qualified candidates have 5-10 years of litigation and/or appellate experience and a commitment to and familiarity with legal issues relating to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities and relating to HIV and AIDS. New England bar admission preferred. Salary depends on experience; excellent benefits. Send confidential resume, cover letter and writing sample to Gary D. Buseck, Esq., GLAD, 294 Washington Street, Suite 301, Boston, MA 02108-4608 or by email to gbuseck@glad.org. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis until June 30 or until the position is filled.

KUDOS

Congrats to our new Bar Passer!
Develyn Watson

And word from an anonymous submitter...

Those who think lawyers are not sexy should check out page 71 of the June 2003 issue of "Instinct" magazine for a profile on THLA member and director Drew Woodmansee, one of Instinct's featured eligible bachelors. Gee, Drew... not even a plug for THLA?

Human Rights Campaign
Source of article: www.hrc.org

Department of Justice Partially Reverses Ban on Gay Pride Celebration

The Human Rights Campaign welcomed news on June 10, 2003 that the Department of Justice is reversing its decision to ban its annual gay pride event. However, the event will not enjoy the sponsorship of the department as it has in the past, and as other events currently do. Officials at DOJ Pride, the department's voluntary group of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender employees, were told last week that they would be prohibited from holding their annual pride event at the department. HRC joined several other GLBT advocacy groups and Sens. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., and Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., in decrying the discriminatory ban. "We are pleased that the DOJ has reversed their decision of the all-out ban on the on-site gay pride event," said HRC Political Director Winnie Stachelberg. "However, the new policy

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is still a step backward as DOJ Pride is being treated differently than it was in the past, and unequally from other agency groups who have the full sponsorship of the department. This policy marginalizes the department's GLBT employees." Last year's DOJ Pride event featured a department-sponsored speech by Deputy Attorney General Larry Thompson to roughly 150 employees in the Great Hall. DOJ officials claimed that this year's event would be disallowed because the White House had not issued a proclamation acknowledging gay pride month. There was no proclamation from the president prior to last year's event either.

"Attorney General Ashcroft promised in his confirmation hearing that he would not discriminate against DOJ Pride when it was politically expedient, but he made a very serious attempt to go back on his word in canceling this celebration," said Stachelberg.

During Attorney General John Ashcroft's nomination hearing to head the department, Feingold asked him if he planned to discriminate against gay and lesbian employees or DOJ Pride. "I would not tolerate discrimination against any employee at the Department of Justice based on sexual preference," said Ashcroft. "I have no intent to ... treat this group differently than any other."

In a letter sent to the attorney general today, Feingold called on Ashcroft to honor his word. "Congress and the American people expect the Attorney General to ensure equal treatment and equal protection for all Americans," wrote Feingold. "I urge you to reverse the Department's decision immediately and allow DOJ Pride to use Department facilities to hold meetings and events." Other federal agencies, including the State Department, which is headed by Secretary of State Collin Powell, are holding similar pride events that enjoy full departmental support.