

Regional Lavender Law®

Regional Lavender Law is the annual conference of the Minnesota Lavender Bar Association. It is a tremendous—and enjoyable—opportunity for members and friends to come together to learn, share, and network with local and national leaders in the field of GLBT civil rights.

Date: Saturday, January 31, 2009

Location: William Mitchell College of Law
875 Summit Avenue, St. Paul

Application will be made for 5.0 CLE credits.

More Information: (612) 822-0127, ext. 530, or
(800) 800-0350, ext. 530 or info@mnlavbar.org

Minnesota Lavender Bar Association

The Minnesota Lavender Bar Association is an organization of legal professionals and students committed to promoting social justice through education and advocacy, focusing on legal and public policy issues affecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. We are dedicated to fostering solidarity, both within the organization and the legal community.



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2751 Hennepin Ave. S., #257
Minneapolis, MN 55408

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Minnesota Lavender Bar Association
presents

Regional Lavender Law® 2009

Saturday, January 31, 2009
William Mitchell College of Law

Co-sponsored by :

Minnesota AIDS Project
National Lesbian and Gay Law Association
OutFront Minnesota
William Mitchell College of Law

*And other generous sponsoring organizations
identified in Lavender Law program materials*

www.mnlavbar.org

9:00am Opening Plenary

The State of our State Courts Eric Magnuson, Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court

The current economic crisis gripping Minnesota, the nation, and the world is having a direct impact on the operation of Minnesota's judicial system at all levels. With an alarming state budget deficit triggering deep analysis of all government spending, how will Minnesota's new Chief Justice lead the judicial branch through this challenging time? How will the judicial branch identify and pursue its priorities, and what role does our community play in this vision?

10:10am Second Plenary

A National Perspective: GLBT-related Litigation Developments in 2009 and Beyond Janson Wu, Esq., Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, Boston

2008 saw marriage litigation victories in California and Connecticut, and favorable adoption-related rulings in Florida. What do national GLBT-advocacy groups see on the courtroom horizon for 2009, particularly regarding family recognition and the rights of transgender Americans? How does Minnesota fit in?

11:20am Morning Breakout Sessions:

Creating our Families: Legal Developments in Assisted-Reproduction Technology in Minnesota Steven Snyder, Esq., Snyder Law Firm

Last year, the Minnesota Legislature considered a proposal to expand legal regulation of surrogacy contracts, favored by many in the GLBT community. While advocates were able to avoid harmful amendments, the bill did not become law. This session will review the status of the law and of prospects for reform.

2009 Public Policy Roundup Amy Brugh, Minnesota AIDS Project; Monica Meyer, OutFront Minnesota; Lee Anderson, Project 515

A Regional Lavender Law tradition, this session features leaders in shaping the public policy agendas of two major organizations in this community working at the Legislature for progressive change. As the 2009 legislative session prepares to get underway, what opportunities and challenges do these advocates see coming our way?

Welcome to the World of Collaborative Law! Jennifer Joseph, Esq. & Judy Sherwood, Esq.

For many reasons — backlogged courts, expense, and stress included — both clients and counsel are increasingly looking for alternatives to tense litigation as a means for solving problems and achieving results. One option, particularly for same-sex couples who are splitting up, is the practice of collaborative law. This session will explore the principles of collaborative law and illustrate how it can be used as a means for effectively and productively addressing legal disputes.

A New Day for the ADA? Celeste Culberth, Culberth & Lienemann

In the wake of judicial rulings narrowing the construction of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Congress has recently enacted various changes to this nearly twenty-year-old law intending to restore and expand its protections for disabled workers. This session will review the rulings and the legislative responses, with an emphasis on exploring their practical application on future ADA-based litigation, particularly involving clients affected by HIV/AIDS.

12:30pm Lunchtime Networking Event

1:30pm Afternoon Breakout Sessions:

Addressing Bias in the Legal Profession through the MSBA David Ahlvers, Lindquist & Vennum; Phil Duran, OutFront Minnesota (*Elimination of Bias credits will be sought*)

During the past several years, the Minnesota State Bar Association (MSBA) has repeatedly taken steps intended to identify and eliminate sexual orientation/gender identity bias in the legal profession and to promote GLBT-inclusive practices and programming (including within its own operations). This session will examine current MSBA efforts to promote a GLBT-welcoming legal profession in Minnesota, as well as broader legal reform.

Foreclosures and Same-Sex Couples Jane Bowman, Housing Preservation Project; Darielle Dannen, Volunteer Lawyers Network

As the crumbling real-estate market feeds an existing move toward more foreclosure filings, same-sex couples are facing unexpected financial and legal challenges. How do foreclosure laws serve, or disserve, same-sex couples, and how can attorneys best look out for their clients' interests?

For more information, please visit: www.mnlavbar.org

Minnesota's New "Transfer on Death Deed" Julian Zweber, Esq.

In 2008, the Minnesota Legislature created the Transfer on Death Deed (TODD), a mechanism that permits the transfer of real property automatically upon death without need for probate. How can this tool be used most effectively for unmarried couples and others as part of a comprehensive estate plan? Are there traps for the unwary? Are further developments expected?

Cognitive Bias and the GLBT Client Jill R. Gauling, Schaefer Law

As instances of explicit workplace bias become less frequent, is implicit, or cognitive, bias taking its place? This session will explore the legal and practical implications of cognitive bias, including the potential implications of cognitive-bias research for GLBT employees and the attorneys who represent them.

2:40pm Afternoon Plenary

GLBT Progress in the 111th Congress—Yes, We Can? U.S. Rep. Keith Ellison, Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus

In the wake of 2008's historic elections, and in light of the fact Congress even has an "LGBT Equality Caucus," there are renewed possibilities for progress on the federal level during the Obama Administration. Against the backdrop of dealing with economic crisis, what issues and strategies are likely to emerge in Congress regarding GLBT concerns? What is our role in these efforts?

Registration Form

Please register me for the Regional Lavender Law® 2009 Conference on Saturday, January 31st, at William Mitchell College of Law.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I am enclosing:

___\$75 MLBA member

___\$100 non-member attorney

___\$15 non-attorney/non-law student

___LAW STUDENTS MAY ATTEND FREE!

Please make checks payable to MLBA.

Send registration and payment to:

MLBA
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