



www.lgbtbarny.org

FY 2022-2023

ANNUAL REPORT

Report Highlight

A joint report of the work of the LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York and its companion 501(c)(3) Foundation

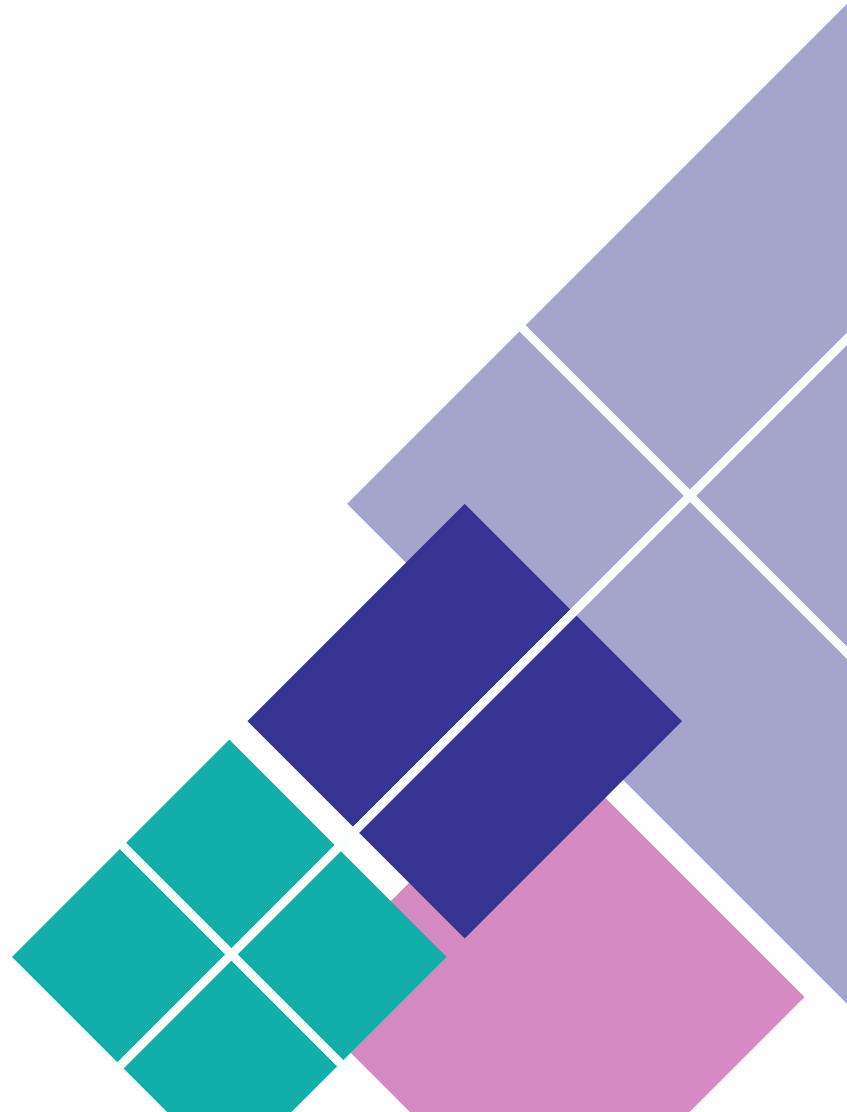
Prepared By:

**Shain Filcher, Esq.
Executive Director**

Prepared For:

**Board of Directors,
Bar Association Members,
Supporters, and Friends**

**DEC.
2023**



ANNUAL REPORT
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EXEC. DIRECTOR MESSAGE

Reflections on a Sapphire Anniversary

It was my honor to be selected in June of 2022 as Executive Director. I first joined the bar association in 2015 by volunteering at our free weekly walk-in legal clinic hosted at The Center in Manhattan. Eight years ago, I never could have dreamt how much our organizations would grow in that time, and how belonging to this bar association would ultimately build both my family and my career.

Given the backdrop of rising attacks against the LGBTQ+ community this year, it is particularly joyful to share the good news of this Annual Report with you. Our Annual Report showcases some of the work of our bar association and foundation during FY 2022-2023, and celebrates the major anniversary milestones we achieved as a bar association and foundation. Our bar association may be turning 45 years old this year, but we are just getting started!

As you read our Annual Report, I hope this will renew your sense of commitment to both of our organizations. Whether you're a volunteer, a supporter, or co-conspirator, you are the heart and soul of who we are and what we do.

Thank you.



A vibrant rainbow ...

"Our sapphire anniversary has reminded us that the diversity of our membership is both the beauty and strength of our bar."

Shain Filcher, Esq. (they/he/she)
Executive Director



OUR MISSION

Find your chosen family and your career

Focused on the greater New York metropolitan area, the LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York is dedicated to improving the administration of the law, ensuring full equality for members of the LGBT community, promoting the expertise and advancement of LGBT legal professionals, and serving the larger community.

OUR VISION

We envision a world where being a member of the LGBTQ+ community in and of itself will not subject someone to additional legal barriers to creating a family, accessing healthcare, and working in one's chosen profession.



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Website
www.lgbtbarny.org



Office Address
**120 Wall Street, 19th Floor,
New York, NY 10005**

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



Groundbreaking CLEs

Keeping legal professionals up to speed on the latest legal news



Amicus & Legislative Advocacy

Fighting for LGBTQ+ equality in all spaces of public life



35 Years of Clinic Assistance

Helping low-income LGBTQ+ New Yorkers get legal assistance



Judiciary Screening

Educating and evaluating potential judicial candidates

LGBTQ+ and allied attorneys helping LGBTQ+ people

The Association and Foundation work in tandem to the benefit of LGBTQ+ attorneys and the community at large. The work of our foundation is supported by one of the oldest and largest LGBTQ+ bar associations in the entire country, providing a core of volunteer attorneys who reflect the communities they serve.

MEET TIFFANY & ANGEL

Multi-year battle over the perfect wedding outfit leads to a win for our clients and respect for LGBTQ+ community

Victory at NYC Commission on Human Rights

After searching for over a year for just the right wedding outfit, Angel eventually found a white jumpsuit being sold online by a New York City designer. The designer refused to sell Tiffany the jumpsuit, stating that she “wouldn’t be able to make a piece for a same-sex wedding. It goes against my faith” and then told the lesbian couple to “reconsider” their marriage plans. LGBT Bar NY’s Legal Director, Brett Figlewski, was able to take the case on thanks to a partnership with law firm, Cooley LLP, as lead counsel.

After nearly two years, a hearing was held. On September 28th, Judge Protano issued a decision and proposed order, which found that the designer unlawfully discriminated against Tiffany on the basis of her sexual orientation when the designer refused to provide her with a jumpsuit for her same-sex wedding. Judge Protano rejected the designer’s First Amendment claim, finding, among other things, that the New York State Human Rights Law was not an unreasonable interference with the designer’s religious freedom, and that the designer’s refusal to sell an already designed jumpsuit for a same-sex wedding was not protected under the First Amendment as an “expressive statement.”

Protecting our Families

Per the terms of the decision and proposed order, Tiffany and Angel will be awarded \$5,000 in compensation for emotional distress, and the designer will be required to pay \$20,000 in civil fines and penalties.



ANNUAL REPORT

LAW NOTES & PODCAST

Over 40 years in reporting legal developments impacting LGBTQ+ people

Podcast Lifetime Downloads >200,000

Trailblazing legal journalism

Since 1980, LGBT Bar NY continues to publish LGBT *Law Notes*, thanks to our Founder and Editor-in-Chief, Professor Emeritus Arthur Leonard of New York Law School. *Law Notes* is the most comprehensive monthly publication summarizing the latest legal and legislative developments affecting the LGBTQ+ community in the U.S. and abroad.

Total Podcast Episodes >175

This year, select historical excerpts of Law Notes were invited to join the permanent collection of the Digital Transgender Archive, a free online portal seeking to increase accessibility of transgender history.

Number of Countries Tuning in 90

Our podcast has provided a platform for longer conversations about LGBTQ+ legal issues and interviews with LGBTQ+ and allied attorneys. Our podcast is available on Apple Music, Spotify, Podbean, Google Podcasts, and on our website, www.lgbtbarny.org.

First Year of Podcasting 2011

Most popular FY 22-23 Episode AUG. 2022 LAW NOTES

ANNUAL REPORT

CLINIC AT 35

In September 2022, our Foundation's Flagship Walk-In Clinic in Manhattan celebrated its 35th anniversary providing *free* legal services to LGBTQ+ New Yorkers

Do you need legal assistance for problems regarding housing, employment, welfare, police brutality, family law, HIV/AIDS and other issues? Are you being discriminated against?

Then come to the LeGal free advice and referral clinic held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 6:00 PM at Community Voices Heard (CVH), 170 E. 116th St. suite 1E between Lexington and 3rd Ave. Spanish translation available. Please call **(212) 969-0309** for more information. Sponsored by LeGal, the Lesbian and Gay Law Association of Greater New York with generous grants from Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields and the Stonewall Community Foundation.

150 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Do you need legal assistance for problems regarding housing, employment, welfare, police brutality, family law, HIV/AIDS and other issues? Are you being discriminated against? Then come to the **LeGal free advice and referral clinic** held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 6:00 PM at Community Voices Heard (CVH), 170 E. 116th St. suite 1E between Lexington and 3rd Ave. Spanish translation available. **Please call (212) 969-0309 for more information.** Sponsored by LeGal with generous grants from Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields and the Stonewall Community Foundation.

735

AVISOS PUBLICOS LEGALES

¿Necesita asistencia legal con relación a vivienda, empleo, asistencia pública, brutalidad policiaca, problemas de familia, VIH/SIDA y otros asuntos?. ¿Está usted siendo discriminado/a? Si es así, asista a la **clínica legal gratuita** que se lleva a cabo los 1er y 3er martes de cada mes en Community Voices Heard (CVH) en la 170E-116th St. suite 1E entre Lexington y la 3ra Ave. en Manhattan. Tenemos traducción en español. **Favor de llamar al (212)969-0309 para más información.** Auspiciada por LeGal, con generosas donaciones de la Presidenta del Condado de Manhattan C. Virginia Fields y la Fundación de la Comunidad Stonewall.

LeGal

Lesbian and Gay Law Association of Greater New York, Inc.

¿Necesita asistencia legal con relación a vivienda, empleo, asistencia pública, brutalidad policiaca, problemas de familia, VIH/SIDA y otros asuntos?
¿Está usted siendo discriminado/a?

Si es así, asista a la **clínica legal gratuita** que se lleva a cabo los **1er y 3er martes** de cada mes en **Community Voices Heard (CVH)** en la **170 de la calle 116 este, suite 1E** entre Lexington y la 3ra Ave. en Manhattan. Tenemos traducción en español.

Favor llamar al 212.969.0309 para más información.

Auspiciada por LeGal, la Asociación Legal Lesbiana y Gay de Nueva York, con generosas donaciones de la Presidenta del Condado de Manhattan C. Virginia Fields y la Fundación de la Comunidad Stonewall.

FREE LEGAL ADVICE & Referral Clinic, Monday 12/18, 5:30pm. Attorney will answer your questions about public benefits, housing, police brutality & misconduct, family law, HIV/AIDS & other issues. LeGal clinic Community Voices Heard, 170 E 116th St. Spanish translators provided. Sponsored by LeGal, the Lesbian & Gay Law Association of Great New York. For info, call (212) 969-0309.

Founded in response to the height of the AIDS epidemic, our weekly Manhattan walk-in legal clinic continues to meet the LGBTQ+ community's legal needs through today. The walk-in legal clinic offers a safe space for low-income LGBTQ+ people to meet with a LGBTQ+ volunteer attorney and discuss whatever legal issue they may be facing. The most common legal inquiries pertain to preventing eviction, obtaining asylum, recognition of parental rights, employment discrimination, and obtaining a court-ordered name change/corrected gender marker.

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SAPPHIRE GALA HONOREES

Honoring those individuals who have demonstrated a deep-seated commitment to equality

Community Vision

New York State Governor Kathy Hochul

Community Excellence

- Kate L. Doniger, Esq.,
Partner at Kaplan Hecker & Fink LLP
- Hon. James L. Hyer, J.S.C.,
Justice of the Supreme Court, 9th Jud. District
- Taylor D. James, Esq.
Staff Attorney at The Legal Aid Society



Special Honoree

Arthur S. Leonard, Founder LGBT Bar NY & Professor Emeritus at New York Law School



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SAPPHIRE GALA SPONSORS

We are grateful to this year's Sapphire Gala sponsors and patrons for their continued support and partnership.

Sapphire

Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP

Platinum

Proskauer Rose LLP

Gold

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
Cooley LLP
Elefterakis, Elefterakis, & Panek
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Morrison Foerster LLP
Seyfarth Shaw LLP
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Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz

Silver

Allen & Overy LLP
Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP
Barclay Damon LLP
Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
Cornerstone Research
Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP
Foley Hoag LLP
Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver
& Jacobson LLP
Friedman Kaplan Seiler Adelman
& Robbins LLP
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

Harris Beach PLLC
Jenner & Block LLP
Kaplan Hecker & Fink LLP
Katten uchin & Rosenmann LLP
Latham & Watkins LLP
Mayer Brown LLP
MetLife, Inc.
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Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison
Selendy Gay Elsberg PLLC
Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
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The Kurland Group
Lise Law & Mediation PLLC
Shanies Law Office

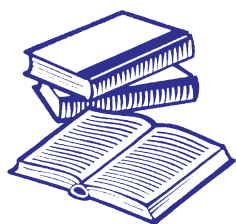
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ADVANCEMENT OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS



As a New York State accredited CLE provider, we host and co-sponsor courses to not only help lawyers stay licensed but also to educate the larger legal community about the unique needs of LGBTQ+ clients and colleagues.

NETWORKING

Fun Events to Connect

Grow your professional network while meeting your peers in the legal community through a wide variety of events, including our first-ever Bi+bations mixer, an evening celebrating the m-spec (ex. bisexual, pansexual) community members

Innovative and Timely CLE Programming

Here's a few examples of some of the courses LGBT Bar NY offered this year -

2022 Year in Review CLE:

Examining the major cases and legislative developments impacting LGBTQ+ people

How Deeply Rooted are LGBTQ+ Rights?

Where We Stand post-*Dobbs*

The Library is Officially Closed:

The Rise of Book Bans and Threats against Drag Story Hours

VOLUNTEER THANKSGIVING

Each November, we celebrate all of our volunteers and highlight some of our most stalwart volunteers who lead our Foundation's pro bono efforts.



Richard E. Weber Award for Outstanding Student Dedication

- Syd Sanders
- Joe Saperstein



Outstanding Dedication Award

- Yefren Rojas
- Michael Kutner
- Karen Levit



Law Firm Leadership Award - Cooley LLP

With Special Recognition of

- Kathleen Hartnett,
- Katelyn Kang,
- Kaitland Kennelly,
- Valeria Pelet del Toro, and
- Ian Shapiro

ANNUAL REPORT

STRENGTHENING THE PIPELINE

Developing the current and next generation of LGBTQ+ legal professionals

Law Student Mentorship

56 law students were paired with a mentor

Judicial Candidate Screening

The Judiciary Committee, Chaired by Janice Grubin, Esq., and Michael Weiner, Esq., interviewed 35 candidates seeking elective judicial office.

The Federal and State Appointed Candidates Sub-Committee continued to be active.



Congratulations to the Honorable Seth Marnin

On June 9, 2023, Governor Kathy Hochul appointed Seth M. Marnin to the New York Court of Claims. His historic selection marks not only the first time an openly trans man has taken the bench in New York but also nationwide.

Marnin was one of three LGBTQ+ judges selected to join the Court of Claims, alongside David Fried of Rockland County and Brian Haak of Albany County.



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STAFF AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS*

Staff

Shain Filcher, Esq., *Executive Director*
Brett Figlewski, Esq., *Legal Director*
Leah Harper, *Director of Communications*

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James Esseks
Law Student Liaisons: Ashton Hesse; Jeff Szulc

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Will Lopez
Malikah Fulton
Cameron Smith
Michael Weiner
Law Student Liaisons: D'Andre Gordon; Cory Epstein

*Given the recent organizational transition from calendar year to fiscal year, not all Staff and Directors listed herewith served the entire 22-23 FY



Calendar Year 2022 and 2023 Board of Directors and Staff



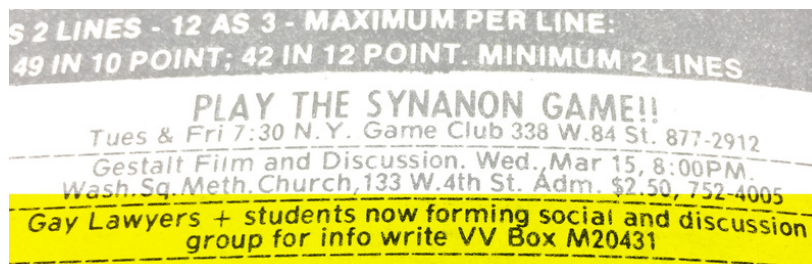
ANNUAL REPORT

SALUTE TO OUR FOUNDER

Arthur S. Leonard, Professor Emeritus NY Law School

We are grateful for the courage and the vision of our founder, Art Leonard, for his tireless commitment to LGBTQ+ equality.

A bar association that began as an ad in the *Village Voice* ...



ENDORS wanted: Gramercy Pk Shopping Promenade. Booth
vail all types sm business. Ideal for desk space 777-3006/2997

...is now a leading LGBTQ+ advocacy organization in New York State and nationwide!



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance Sheet July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Support and Revenue **\$592,049**

Donation Revenue	\$417,049
Donated Professional Services	\$175,000

Expenses **\$715,793**

Legal Programs and Services	\$149,088
Management and General	\$388,730
Fundraising	\$2,975
Donated Professional Services	\$175,000

Net Assets

Beginning of the Year	\$340,428
End of the Year	\$153,915

THANK YOU



WE'RE PROUD TO HAVE YOU IN THE FAMILY