



The Hon. Marcy Kahn, the founding chair of the LGBT Community Center's board and co-chair of the Richard C. Failla LGBTQ Commission of the New York Courts, was honored at a Manhattan retirement party. Justice Kahn served on the Appellate Division, First Department. Front row: Tom Burrows, Hon. Margaret Walsh, Hon. Rosalyn Richter, Hon. Elizabeth Garry, Hon. Paul Feinman and Meredith Miller. Back row: Hon. Joanne Winslow, Judge Kahn, and Matthew Skinner. Photo by Amy Mayes [www.amymayesphotography.com](http://www.amymayesphotography.com)

## Richard C. Failla LGBTQ Commission

Bearing the name of a jurist who pioneered advocacy for LGBTQ rights throughout his career, the Richard C. Failla LGBTQ Commission is dedicated to promoting equal participation and access throughout the court system by all persons regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. In furtherance of that mission, the Commission in 2019:

- Led the effort—in the wake of the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA)—to install restroom access signs statewide confirming that people can use restrooms consistent with their gender identity without interference;
- Proposed amendments to court system attorney registration and juror forms that will give people the option to precisely indicate their sexual orientation and gender identity;
- Played key roles with programs and symposia exploring LGBTQ history and current topics at Fordham University School of Law, St. John's University School of Law and Albany Law School;
- Helped develop a comprehensive timeline of modern LGBTQ legal history for CLE presentations at Nixon Peabody LLP and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York;
- Organized events throughout the state for LGBTQ Pride Month in June, including the first Pride Month events ever in Nassau County, Staten Island, Jamestown and Cooperstown;
- Marked the 30th anniversary of the groundbreaking Braschi relationship recognition decision and collaborated on an event with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit to highlight the 25th anniversary of the nomination and confirmation of U.S. District Court Judge Deborah A. Batts; and
- Organized a Veterans and Families Resources Fair in conjunction with the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs, SAGE and the Office of Policy and Planning.



The Richard C. Failla LGBTQ Commission commemorated the 30th anniversary of the New York Court of Appeals decision in *Braschi v. Stahl Associates Company*, marking the first time an American appellate court gave a same-sex couple legal recognition. Left to right: Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for New York City Courts George Silver; Richard C. Failla LGBTQ Commission Executive Director Matthew Skinner; New York State Bar Association President Hank Greenberg; Staten Island Surrogate Matthew Titone; Miguel Braschi's sister Giannina Braschi; former State Senator Tom Duane; and Harvard Law Professor Bill Rubenstein, who argued the case.