

The National LGBT Bar Association Seeks Nominees for TWO Affiliate Co-Chairs for its Board of Directors

The [National LGBT Bar Association](#) is accepting statements of interest from individuals who wish to join the [Board of Directors](#) as co-chairs of the [Affiliate Congress](#). **Nominations must be received by May 15**, and may be submitted by the nominee or by a third party. To nominate yourself or someone else, please send an email to herongreenesmith@gmail.com or to jprotas@marshallip.com, indicating the name and email address of the nominee, and the affiliate group of which the nominee is a member in good standing. It is not necessary for nominees to be the current designated representatives of their respective Affiliate.

The National LGBT Bar Association is an association of lawyers, judges and other legal professionals, law students, advocates, and affiliated LGBT legal and law student organizations. The mission of the LGBT Bar is to promote justice in and through the legal profession for the LGBT community in all its diversity. Similar to other professional associations, the Association provides networking and educational opportunities for its members and supporters. The Association annually appoints the board of its sister organization, the National LGBT Bar Foundation, the entity that sponsors the annual [Lavender Law Career Fair and Continuing Legal Education Conference](#). The Association works within a network of 27 LGBT voluntary bar associations from regions, states and municipalities across the nation, and dozens of LGBT law student associations.

The business and corporate powers of the National LGBT Bar Association are exercised by, or under the authority of, the Board of Directors. The Board is the highest governing authority of the LGBT Bar. In addition, the National LGBT Bar Association Board of Directors appoints members to the National LGBT Bar Foundation Board on an annual basis.

The Affiliate Co-Chairs are elected at the Affiliate Congress by the designated Affiliate representatives in attendance.

Sample Duties

- Attending and chairing the annual Affiliate Congress at the Association's annual meeting.
- Enhancing the reputation of the organization, including promoting positive working relationships and communications with members and Affiliates.
- Enhancing the value to the Affiliates of affiliation with the National LGBT Bar Association.
- Representing the interests and concerns of the Affiliates to the Board of Directors.
- Encouraging the creation of regional organizations that represent the interests and concerns of LGBT legal professionals.
- Participating on, and possibly chairing, the membership committee LGBT Bar.
- Participating on, and possibly chairing, various other committees focused on specific aspects of the LGBT Bar's Strategic Plan.

- Establishing the basic policies of the LGBT Bar and reviewing any proposed changes.
- Shaping, approving and monitoring the strategy and planning of the organization.
- Personal financial support of the LGBT Bar is expected of board members. That support includes giving personal time and money. Board members also help develop donors, members, and supporters. Further, some board members may lead fundraising efforts within the Development Committee. However, all board members are ambassadors and are expected to attend and support events and help maintain accountability to donors and sponsors.
- Attending, by phone or in person, meetings of the Association's Board of Directors and reporting to the Board regarding the status of the Affiliates and of the Affiliate program.
- Assessing and improving the Board's own effectiveness.

Nominations/Election Process and Timeline:

Individuals must be members in good standing of the National LGBT Bar Association and of their local Affiliate organization in order to be considered for the position.

May 1, 2012: Call for nominations.

May 15, 2012: Deadline for receipt of nominations. **Nominations must be submitted to herongreenesmith@gmail.com or to jprotas@marshallip.com by 5:00pm EDT on May 15, 2012.** Candidate questionnaires will be distributed to the nominees at this time.

June 15, 2012: Deadline for nominated individuals to submit materials for consideration. Submitted materials should include the attached Board Applicant Questionnaire and Affiliate Representative Questionnaire. The Candidate Questionnaire must be submitted to herongreenesmith@gmail.com or to jprotas@marshallip.com by 5:00pm EDT on June 15, 2012.

July 1, 2012: The current Affiliate Congress co-chairs will disseminate to the designated representatives of the Affiliates the questionnaires submitted by the candidates.

August 23-25, 2012: Affiliate Congress/Elections. Designated representatives of the Affiliates present at the Congress will elect incoming Affiliate co-chairs.

Commitment:

Generally, each Board Member is elected by the LGBT Bar Board of Directors for a two-year term. However, in this first election, one of the two Affiliate co-chairs will be elected for a one-year term so that the terms of the two co-chairs are staggered. The candidate with the greatest number of votes will be elected for a two-year term. The candidate with the second greatest number of votes will be elected for a one-year term. Affiliate co-chair terms begin and end at the annual Affiliate Congress.

The organization's bylaws require that all Directors provide a financial contribution to the organization. Acceptable forms of contributions include, but are not limited to, personal donations, in-kind gifts, or securing significant sponsorships.

The Board usually has five meetings a year, including three in person meetings. The meetings usually last half a day in length and are held in major cities in conjunction with the ABA Midyear and Annual Meetings, with at least one meeting at the LGBT Bar's Lavender Law® Conference & Career Fair. The remaining two meetings are held by telephone.

All Board Members are encouraged to attend LGBT Bar programs and meetings where applicable, and act as "good will" ambassadors for the organization by interacting in a positive way with employers, other legal professionals and the public.

As time permits, Board Members are also encouraged to participate with local LGBT voluntary bar association in their activities. Board Members are covered by a Code of Conduct, must disclose any conflicts of interest and are subject to a background check by the General Counsel. Board members are covered by D&O insurance in the amount of \$1 million and by indemnification to the maximum extent allowed by law.