

**Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40: Class of 2013  
Nomination Form**

***Nominee Information***

Name: Peter Renn Date of Birth: 12/20/1980  
Title: Staff Attorney Firm/Organization: Lambda Legal  
Mailing Address: 3325 Wilshire Blvd. #1300 City, State Zip: Los Angeles, CA 90010  
Phone Number: (213) 382-7600 x228 Email Address: prenn@lambdalegal.org

***Nominator Information***

Name: Jon W. Davidson  
Title: Legal Director Firm/Organization: Lambda Legal  
Mailing Address: 3325 Wilshire Blvd. #1300 City, State Zip: Los Angeles, CA 90010  
Phone Number: (213) 382-7600 x229 Email Address: j.davidson@lambdalegal.org  
Relationship to Nominee: Supervisor

**Optional:** To your knowledge, does the nominee identify as any of the following?

☒ Racial or Ethnic Minority ☐ Female ☐ Transgender  
☐ Person with Disability ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

The complete nomination package must be submitted via email to [nominations@LGBTbar.org](mailto:nominations@LGBTbar.org) **no later than 5:00 pm EDT on June 3, 2013**. Please submit the following information:

- Nomination Form
- Statement of Support of Nominee (not to exceed 2 pages). Please include:
  - Details on achievements within their legal field
  - Details on their commitment to LGBT equality
- Current Resume of the Nominee
- Letters of Support

June 3, 2013

Selection Committee for the  
Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40 Class of 2013 Award  
The National LGBT Bar Association  
1301 K Street NW, Suite 1100, East Tower  
Washington, D.C. 20005

**Statement of Support for Nomination of Peter Renn  
for the National LGBT Bar Association's Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40 Class of 2013 Award**

Dear Members of the Selection Committee:

I am delighted to nominate Lambda Legal Staff Attorney Peter Renn for this year's "Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40" award. I have had the distinct pleasure of working closely with Peter for the past three years (and serving as his direct supervisor for the last two) and I have been consistently wowed by his brain power, legal acumen, passion for LGBT civil rights advocacy, dedication, and non-stop hard work. I feel both proud and lucky to count Peter as a colleague and I urge you to recognize the amazing contributions he already has made to our movement by honoring him as one of this year's best LGBT lawyers under 40.

Peter has dedicated almost his entire career to furthering the rights of LGBT people. During college, he worked as a research assistant investigating hormonal influences on the development of sexual orientation, authored a fascinating research paper on "Speech, Male Sexual Orientation, and Childhood Gender Nonconformity," and interned in Lambda Legal's Education and Public Affairs Department in our South Central Regional Office in Dallas. While earning his J.D. *magna cum laude* at Harvard Law School, Peter volunteered and interned during both the school year and his summers at not just one, but three, LGBT legal organizations: in Lambda Legal's New York office, at the ACLU LGBT Rights Project, and at Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders.

After Peter completed a federal district court clerkship and cut his teeth as a litigator at the impressive Munger, Tolles & Olson law firm in Los Angeles (where he continued to do LGBT pro bono legal work), we were excited to be able to hire Peter as a full-time staff attorney based in our Los Angeles office. He has been a star from the get go.

Peter is currently lead counsel in two high-profile cases fighting for the rights of those in same-sex relationships to be free from discrimination. In *Cervelli v. Aloha Bed & Breakfast*, Peter won summary judgment on behalf of a California lesbian couple who were denied accommodations at a Hawaii bed & breakfast due to their sexual orientation, defeating asserted religious freedom, freedom of association, and privacy defenses. In *Harris v. Millennium Hotel*, Peter is representing an Alaska woman seeking survivor's benefits after her long-term partner was shot to death at work. Through this case, he is challenging the state's "Catch 22" of limiting such benefits to spouses at the same time it bars same-

sex couples from marriage. Peter also recently took on representation before the Ninth Circuit of Mia Rosati, a transgender woman whose complaint attacking the unconstitutional refusal of a California prison to provide her needed sex reassignment surgery was wrongly dismissed by a judge before she even was given a chance to serve the complaint. Peter additionally is one of the principal attorneys handling *Sevcik v. Sandoval*, Lambda Legal's federal Equal Protection challenge to Nevada's prohibition on marriage for same-sex couples, which is now pending before the Ninth Circuit. Peter's work on any one of these cases would merit his being honored this year. In his relatively brief tenure at Lambda Legal, however, his cutting edge work has gone much further.

Peter was the lead author of amicus briefs to the District Court and then the Ninth Circuit in the *Perry v. Schwarzenegger* case that were submitted on behalf of Lambda Legal, NCLR, the ACLU, and Equality California opposing attacks on Judge Walker's hearing the Proposition 8 case due to the judge being a gay man in a same-sex relationship. Peter also authored key amicus briefs to the District Court (on behalf of Lambda Legal, HRC, OutServe, Knights Out, and the Anti-Defamation League) and to the Ninth Circuit supporting the *Log Cabin Republicans v. U.S.A.* challenge to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." He further authored amicus briefs submitted in four California state court appeals of lewd conduct convictions arising out of discriminatory prosecution of gay men in Palm Springs, which briefing was so extraordinary it led counsel in all of those cases to yield their time to Peter to argue the appeals.

Peter's advocacy additionally has helped preserve the privacy rights of Californians living with HIV, the rights of Idaho students to form Gay-Straight Alliances, the visitation rights of the same-sex partner of a man in a Southern California nursing home, and the right of an Arizona transgender woman to obtain a divorce from the man who knew she was transgender when they married but still sought to void the marriage. Peter also has assisted in the development of widely-read educational materials regarding the tax treatment of same-sex spouses and domestic partners in community property states. He has spoken eloquently about LGBT rights at conferences, legal trainings, community educational programs, and on television and radio.

Both the breadth and depth of Peter's expertise and accomplishments are hard to overstate. He is a lawyer's lawyer – insightful, careful, dogged, creative, and indefatigable. If I needed a lawyer, he's who'd I'd want on my team.

As a past recipient of the National LGBT Bar Association's Dan Bradley Award and as someone who has worked with a number of past "40 under 40" honorees, I know how meaningful it is to be recognized by our bar association for contributions to the LGBT community. Peter is incredibly deserving of that recognition, and I urge you to select him as one of this year's class of best and brightest young LGBT members of the bar.

If there is any further information I can provide about my gem of a colleague Peter Renn, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon W. Davidson", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jon W. Davidson  
Legal Director

# PETER RENN

3325 Wilshire Blvd., #1300 • Los Angeles, CA 90010  
prenn@lambdalegal.org • 213-382-7600

---

## EDUCATION

### Harvard Law School, June 2006

Honors: *magna cum laude* (top 10%)  
Activities: *Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review*, Executive Editor  
Lambda, Co-President  
Asian Pacific American Law Students Association, Member

### University of Texas at Austin, B.A. in Psychology & Plan II, May 2003

Honors: *summa cum laude*  
Distinguished Dedman Scholar (Four-Year Merit Scholarship)

## EXPERIENCE

### Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc.

Jun. 2010 - Present      Staff Attorney      Los Angeles, CA  
Responsible for impact litigation advancing the civil rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people and those living with HIV in 11 western states. Participate in and oversee all aspects of litigation, including fact investigation, discovery, motion practice, depositions, expert reports, trial preparation, and oral argument. Extensive experience in matters involving marriage, relationship recognition, employment and public accommodation discrimination, youth and schools, government misconduct, and discrimination against transgender people and those living with HIV. Identify and prepare new potential matters, including opportunities for *amicus* participation. Communicate with media, present at conferences, and speak at development events.

Summer 2004      Legal Intern      New York, NY  
Provided legal research and analysis in a wide variety of matters, including relationship recognition, medical malpractice, HIV discrimination, and products liability.

Summer 2003      Education and Public Affairs Intern      Dallas, TX  
Created a comprehensive directory of LGBT organizations, development contacts, and attorneys for south central region of the U.S. Developed public education materials in connection with *Lawrence* decision.

### Munger, Tolles & Olson, LLP

Oct. 2008 - Jun. 2010      Litigation Associate      Los Angeles, CA  
Substantial litigation experience in federal and state court, with a focus on employment discrimination and consumer class actions. Conducted fact investigation, prepared and responded to written discovery, took and defended depositions, drafted dispositive motions, prepared for jury trial, participated in settlement negotiations, and handled client relations. Coordinated defense of multiple class actions pending in various federal district courts alleging RICO violations against homebuilder arising from collapse of housing market. Obtained dismissal of class action against internet service provider regarding downloads speeds. Handled *pro bono* cases involving constitutional torts and LGBT rights.

Summer 2005      Summer Associate      Los Angeles, CA  
Provided legal research and analysis for commercial litigation and *pro bono* matters.

### The Honorable Lawrence K. Karlton, U.S. District Court

Sept. 2006 - Aug. 2008      Law Clerk      Sacramento, CA  
Drafted orders and bench memoranda. Assisted judge in civil pre-trial and trial matters.

## **ACLU LGBT Project**

Summer 2005                      Legal Intern                      New York, NY  
Researched potential legal challenges to state constitutional amendment barring marriage for same-sex couples. Developed novel statutory claim in employment discrimination case brought by transgender woman against federal government. Provided legal analysis regarding adoption by same-sex couples.

## **Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders**

Spring - Fall 2005                      Legal Intern                      Boston, MA  
Drafted *amicus* brief regarding scope of employee benefit coverage for same-sex couples. Researched equal protection claim in marriage equality case. Prepared testimony for hearing on statewide nondiscrimination bill. Provided legal analysis regarding infertility coverage mandate.

Fall 2003 - Spring 2004      Legal Hotline Volunteer                      Boston, MA  
Provided legal information to callers regarding LGBT issues in New England.

## **University of Texas at Austin, Department of Psychology**

Fall 2000 - Spring 2003      Research Assistant                      Austin, TX  
Investigated the role of prenatal hormones in the development of sexual orientation and the evolutionary origins of judgments of attractiveness. Assisted in writing and editing of manuscripts and preparation of figures. Supervised and trained other research assistants. Conducted data collection, entry, and analysis.

**BAR ADMISSIONS:** California State Bar, Central and Northern Districts of California, Ninth Circuit

The National LGBT Bar Association  
1301 K Street NW, Suite 1100, East Tower  
Washington, DC 20005

June 3, 2013

Re: Letter of Support for the Nomination of Peter C. Renn for the National LGBT Bar Association's Best Lawyers Under 40 Award

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strongest support for the nomination of Peter C. Renn for the National LGBT Bar Association's Best Lawyers Under 40 Award. Although I have met many impressive lawyers working on LGBT issues over my seven years of working at Lambda Legal, Peter's longstanding commitment to advancing the civil rights of our community stands out as exceptional. Peter devoted himself to the cause early in his legal career. He is one of the very few individuals I know who interned with the ACLU LGBT Project, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, and with Lambda Legal (twice), showing an early focus and zeal for this work that few others could match. Peter solidified that commitment by joining Lambda Legal as a Staff Attorney in 2010, and has worked tirelessly to advance the goals of the movement since then.

Since gaining Peter as a colleague at Lambda Legal, I have come to know him as one of the most insightful and hardworking attorneys in the movement. I have had the privilege of working closely with him as co-counsel in *Sevcik v. Sandoval*, -- F. Supp. 2d --, No. 2:12-cv-00578-RCJ-PAL (D. Nev. Nov. 26, 2012), *appeal docketed*, No. 12-578 (9th Cir. Dec. 4, 2012); *petition for cert. before judgment filed*, No. 12-689 (U.S. Dec. 5, 2012). *Sevcik* may be the next marriage equality case to be decided by a Circuit Court, and the case is well-prepared for appellate review because of his energetic and unflagging contributions to every aspect of the litigation. He not only worked hard to make sure that the nuts and bolts of the case were meticulously done -- from preparation of our plaintiff class to working with our experts -- but persuaded the team to modify our approach to presenting some of the evidence in the case, such as the immutability of sexual orientation. His suggestions were astute, and have raised the bar for how we will present such arguments in the future.

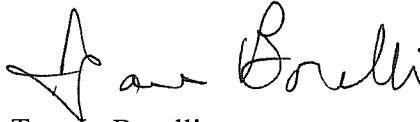
Peter's dedication to the movement is marked by the breadth and depth of his cases. Peter's enthusiasm for this work led him to quickly develop an active and diverse docket, and he has taken particular care to resource issues that are challenging and communities that are underserved. I will allow others and Peter's resume to describe the extent of his legal accomplishments, and will provide just two examples that are particularly noteworthy: First, discriminatory prosecution of gay men for lewd conduct inflicts a devastating problem on the men who are discriminatorily subjected to arrest, criminal punishment, and in some instances, lifetime sex offender registration. When the police in Palm Springs, California engaged in precisely such discriminatory targeting of our community, Peter tackled the issue by providing

amicus briefing and oral argument on behalf of the arrested men. Despite the stark harms inflicted on these men, the issue remains challenging to litigate, and Peter brought his characteristic creativity in crafting innovative arguments on their behalf. Second, Peter most recently has assumed representation at the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals for a female transgender prisoner in dire need of transition-related medical care (and who was subjected to horrifying efforts to re-attach body parts after the prisoner attempted to remove them through self-surgery). Although this area of the law is nascent, Peter recognized the enormous need for such services in prisons and enthusiastically stepped forward to take on the challenge.

Notwithstanding the fact that Peter keeps a very demanding pace for himself, he is incredibly generous with his time and has been an invaluable sounding board for his colleagues in Lambda Legal's Western Regional Office. His modesty would never lead him to take credit for that role, but I have relied on his wise counsel again and again and believe that our office's work is more effective because of it. Peter's tireless commitment to advancing LGBT equality, along with his impressive expertise and work ethic, make him one of the LGBT movement's most effective assets. I can think of no one more deserving of the National LGBT Bar Association's Best Lawyers Under 40 Award. I offer my strongest recommendation that Peter receive this recognition, which he richly deserves.

Very truly yours,

LAMBDA LEGAL DEFENSE AND  
EDUCATION FUND, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tara L. Borelli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tara" being more prominent and the last name "Borelli" written in a similar style.

Tara L. Borelli  
Staff Attorney



June 3, 2013

Selection Committee  
Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40  
The National LGBT Bar Association  
1301 K Street NW Suite 1100  
East Tower  
Washington, DC 20005

**Re: Nomination of Peter Renn for Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40**

Dear Committee Members,

I met Peter Renn ten years ago. I was the only attorney in Lambda Legal's regional outpost in Dallas. During an interview for a policy internship Peter sat down in my office and calmly informed me that he was going to take my job. Seven years later he did just that.

It was the summer of 2003 and all of us at Lambda were eagerly awaiting the Supreme Court's decision in *Lawrence v. Texas*. At the time Peter was studying psychology at the University of Texas, performing some fascinating research on speech patterns among gay men. Although Peter had no prior experience with the law, he quickly brought himself up to speed on sophisticated legal arguments that most law students and young lawyers would struggle to grasp. Peter's commitment to the cause, keen intellect, and legal reasoning abilities were evident from the moment he began his internship at Lambda.

Peter and I remained friends after he finished his internship. Peter asked for my advice on how to become a gay rights lawyer. I told him that there were very few jobs in the field and it was a terrible mistake to go to law school with the belief that he would ever get a position with an LGBT legal group. Peter ignored me. He was not going to let anything get in the way of taking my job.

After graduating from law school Peter accepted a job with a law firm so prestigious that most attorneys would never want to leave. But Peter continued to insist that, someday, he was going to get my office.





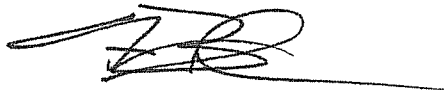
I had since transferred to the Los Angeles office of Lambda Legal. I eventually left Lambda and, when the organization began its search for someone to fill that position, Peter approached me for advice on how to obtain my old job.

I told Peter that he should stay at his high-paying, prestigious law firm at least until he had paid off his student loans and had established himself. But, much to the benefit of the LGBT community, Peter ignored me again. Peter accepted a position with Lambda, making good on the threat to take my job that he made when he was still a junior in college. Peter now sits in my old office, with my old job title, proving that when he says he is going to do something it is a good idea to take him seriously.

Many others will write about the great service Peter has provided to the community. I have watched with admiration, and a slight touch of jealousy, as Peter has built an impressive track record of important cases and victories that would be astonishing for an attorney with twice his experience. The longevity of Peter's commitment, his passion for serving all LGBT people, and his selflessness in using his gifts to help others all make Peter eminently deserving of recognition by the LGBT Bar Association.

Thank you for the opportunity to recommend Peter for this honor.

Sincerely,



Brian Chase  
General Counsel  
Found Animals Foundation, Inc.

# Henry H Doering III



556 S Calle Palo Fierro • Palm Springs, CA 92264 • Phone: 760-537-1438 • Fax: 541-595-7267  
E-Mail: slhank3@gmail.com

June 3, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

I write this letter in support of the nomination of Peter Renn as one of the National LGBT Law Association's 2013 Best Gay Lawyers Under 40.

Peter, who is a Staff Attorney for Lambda Legal in Los Angeles, came to my attention when he served as amicus counsel on an appellate matter, *In re Warm Sands Cases*, which had been filed in the Appellate Department of the Superior Court of Riverside County, California. This case sought to overturn the misdemeanor convictions of several gay men who had been the victims of a Palm Springs Police Department lewd conduct sting operation in the Warm Sands gay resort area of that city. I am former deputy public defender in San Francisco, with over 20 years of courtroom experience, and was asked by Jon Davidson at Lambda to be one of the individuals who assisted Peter in preparation of his oral argument.

I was initially impressed, even before meeting Peter, with the quality of his written work on this case. His brief was extremely well-written and the analysis cogent and persuasive. He was dealing with an extremely difficult record from the trial court level, as there was a finding of fact by the trial judge that wounded appellants' case. Peter handled that situation with skill and advanced valid arguments that the appellate court definitely could have used to overturn the case, should it have desired.

Peter proved that he was also an excellent oral advocate. He worked collegially and well with me and the other attorneys who were mooting the case with him. When it came time for his argument before a three-judge panel, which I was privileged to attend, Peter displayed considerable ability in fielding the judges' questions while keeping on track with his argument. His poise, strong advocacy and grace under fire were all the more impressive when put in the context of his relatively limited prior courtroom experience. It was clear to me that Peter has a brilliant future in the courtroom, should he wish to pursue it.

As a long-time board member, and 1997-98 co-chair, of your predecessor organization, NLGLA, I have known many of the great LGBT lawyers of the last 30 years. I believe Peter Renn is a worthy successor to those attorneys, and that we've only just begun to see the greatness of which he is capable. I hope you will honor Peter with this award and vote of confidence from his peers in the LGBT legal community. I know it will mean a lot to him.

Sincerely,

Henry H. Doering III  
Attorney at Law