

The National LGBT Bar Association would like to invite you to a national call in that will discuss the recent Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) challenge. Mary Bonauto, Maura Healey and Bill Eskridge will discuss the DOMA case in Boston that was recently heard by the U.S. First Circuit Court of Appeals, referred to as *Gill v. Office of Personnel Management*. The current case is a consolidation of three previous cases. The first involves U.S. Postal Worker Nancy Gill and her wife, Marcelle Letourneau, who have been denied federal health benefits that all other married couples receive. The second, filed by the Massachusetts Attorney General, also challenges section 3 of DOMA, which defines marriage as “a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife.” *Gill v. Office of Personnel Management* will be the first DOMA challenge to go before the U.S. Appeals Court and could possibly reach the Supreme Court next year.

[Click here to RSVP](#)

Friday, April 13, 2012

12:00pm-1:00pm EST

Speakers include:

- Mary Bonauto, a lawyer for Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders in Boston, filed the initial lawsuit against the Office of Personnel Management. She has advocated against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity for more than 20 years and in four different states. In 1999, she won the case *Baker v. State of Vermont*, in which same-sex couples were granted all of the benefits and protections of civil marriage, prompting Vermont’s legislature to enact the state’s first civil unions law.
- Maura Healey was recently promoted to chief of the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Bureau of Public Protection and Advocacy. Previously she was the section chief for the Attorney General’s Office of Civil Rights. Healey famously advocated for the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network in the 2006 case *Cook v. Rumsfeld*, that challenged the constitutionality of the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy.
- Bill Eskridge is the John A. Garver Professor of Jurisprudence at Yale Law School. He drafted an amicus brief in *Lawrence v. Texas*, that struck down the sodomy law in Texas and ultimately made sodomy laws in all U.S. states and territories illegal as well. His most recent book is entitled *Gay Marriage: For Better or For Worse?*

These speakers will hold a short colloquium to discuss this paramount case and the myriad issues surrounding DOMA. We hope that you will join us for this live discussion.