

# The National LGBT Bar Association

An Affiliate of the American Bar Association

LGBTbar.org



**The American Constitution Society for Law and Policy and  
the National LGBT Bar Association**

invite you to participate in a national conference call to discuss:

## **DOMA, the Department of Justice, and Congress: A Conversation About the Road Ahead**

Monday, March 28th | 12:00-1:00pm EDT

Please [RSVP](#) to receive dial-in information.

In a February 23, 2011 letter to House Speaker John Boehner, Attorney General Eric Holder announced the Obama Administration's position that Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is unconstitutional and would no longer be defended in court by the federal government. Subsequently, Speaker Boehner announced his intent to have the House of Representatives step in to defend DOMA in court. Many questions remain.

- What exactly did the letter from Attorney General Holder mean?
- How is that letter squared with the general presumption that the federal government will defend laws that remain on the books?
- How does the letter fit within the context of historic examples of exceptions to the duty to defend?
- What is the difference between the federal government's duty to defend laws and its duty to enforce laws while litigation is pending?
- What is the process going forward for the various pending cases?
- What are the ramifications of the government's views on heightened scrutiny for classifications involving sexual orientation?

Two legal scholars with extensive federal government experience will discuss these and other issues, along with answering audience questions, on a national conference call, Monday, March 28, at 12:00pm EDT.

Featured Speakers:

**Nan Hunter**, Professor of Law, Georgetown University Law Center and Legal Scholarship Director, Williams Institute for Sexual Orientation Law and Policy, UCLA Law School

**Peter Shane**, Jacob E. Davis and Jacob E. Davis II Chair in Law, The Ohio State University  
Michael E. Moritz College of Law

Listeners are encouraged to submit questions before and during the call to  
[DOMA@LGBTbar.org](mailto:DOMA@LGBTbar.org).

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The National LGBT Bar Association is a national association of lawyers, judges and other legal professionals, law students, activists, and affiliated LGBT legal organizations. The association promotes justice in and through the legal profession for the LGBT community in all its diversity.

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