

# The National LGBT Bar Association

An Affiliate of the American Bar Association

LGBTbar.org

## **National LGBT Bar Association Honors Dan Bradley Award Recipient and Gay Rights Pioneer Dr. Frank Kameny**

As the Laying-in-State service for Dr. Frank Kameny gets underway at the Carnegie Library in Washington, DC, the National LGBT Bar Association would like to take the opportunity to recognize the gay rights pioneer and trailblazer for the modern day LGBT advocacy movement. Kameny passed away at his home in Washington, DC on October 11, 2011, at age 86.

Dr. Kameny received the LGBT Bar's highest honor, the Dan Bradley Award, at the 2009 Lavender Law® Conference & Career Fair held in Brooklyn, New York. Kameny's work on behalf of LGBT individuals was unprecedented; he was the only individual outside of the legal profession to receive this prestigious honor.

[View Dr. Kameny's acceptance speech of the 2009 Dan Bradley Award](#)

Dr. Kameny was a true hero for the LGBT community. He helped with lawsuits on behalf of LGBT individuals decades before lawyers would begin that work. In the early days, when lawyers would not dare to take on these cases, Frank had the courage to take the opposition head on. He filed pro se the first gay rights brief to the Supreme Court in 1961 challenging his discharge from the Army Map Service due to his sexual orientation. Kameny was also instrumental in ending the Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) ban on gay and lesbian employees in 1973, and was a driving force behind the American Psychiatric Association's declassification of homosexuality as a mental illness. In 2009, John Berry, the openly gay head of the OPM, issued an apology to Frank on behalf of the U.S. Government. Frank used to jokingly state, "The apology is nice, but back pay would be better."

Please join us in a quiet moment as the LGBT Bar pays tribute to this remarkable leader of the LGBT civil rights movement.

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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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