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## **National LGBT Bar Association Recognizes the Legal Department of Wells Fargo with Out & Proud Corporate Counsel Award**

March 9, 2012 - The National Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Bar Association will present the legal department of Wells Fargo with the Out & Proud Corporate Counsel Award. The LGBT Bar is proud to honor attorneys and corporations that advocate for LGBT equality within the legal sphere through the Out & Proud Corporate Counsel Awards program.

“Wells Fargo supports diversity both in and out of the office,” said D’Arcy Kemnitz, executive director of the LGBT Bar. “The company’s impressive outreach efforts create a feeling of inclusion and acceptance for the LGBT community.”

In 2011, *DiversityInc* ranked Wells Fargo among its Top 10 Companies for LGBT Employees and Top 50 Companies for Diversity. The organization’s advocacy extends beyond the company to community outreach, as the company invested 219 million dollars in 19,000 nonprofits nationwide, including prominent LGBT organizations. Wells Fargo has participated in many Pride Parades and LGBT celebrations throughout the country.

The Law Department at Wells Fargo maintains the same commitment. One of its recent initiatives involved expanding the diversity data sought from firms that regularly serve as outside counsel to Wells Fargo. Outside counsel are encouraged to self-report LGBT-identified attorneys and that information, along with other information about diversity characteristics, is made available to attorneys in the Law Department when choosing outside counsel for its legal matters.

Internally, Wells Fargo has created a supportive environment for its employees, which includes Team Member Networks specifically for LGBT employees and benefits for domestic partners. The company’s PRIDE Network boasts career development programs and provides opportunities for members to plan and participate in LGBT community outreach. Wells Fargo received a perfect score of 100 percent on the Human Rights Campaign’s Corporate Equality Index, which rates companies on LGBT equality.

Jim Strother, General Counsel for Wells Fargo Bank stated, “We are interested in providing a fair and inclusive environment for all of our legal professionals. We actively participate in many organizations that seek the same goals, including those serving the LGBT community. It’s not only the right thing to do, it’s good for business.”

The Out & Proud Corporate Counsel Award will be presented on Thursday, June 14, 2012 at a reception in San Francisco. Please contact Kelly Simon at (202) 637-7661 or [Kelly@LGBTbar.org](mailto:Kelly@LGBTbar.org) for tickets and additional information.

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

Wells Fargo & Company (NYSE: WFC) is a nationwide, diversified, community-based financial services company with \$1.3 trillion in assets. Founded in 1852 and headquartered in San Francisco, Wells Fargo provides banking, insurance, investments, mortgage, and consumer and commercial finance through more than 9,000 stores, 12,000 ATMs, the Internet ([wellsfargo.com](http://wellsfargo.com) and [wachovia.com](http://wachovia.com)), and other distribution channels across North America and internationally. With more than 270,000 team members, Wells Fargo serves one in three households in America. Wells Fargo & Company was ranked No. 23 on *Fortune*'s 2011 rankings of America's largest corporations. Wells Fargo's vision is to satisfy all our customers' financial needs and help them succeed financially.

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