

CONTACT:

Kelly Simon

Director of Development & Communications

(202) 637-7661

kelly@lgbtbar.org

The National LGBT Bar Association Joins the American Bar Association for Annual Law Day Celebration

April 26, 2012— The National LGBT Bar Association is proud to join the American Bar Association in acknowledging Law Day. The annual celebration recognizes the nation's commitment to the rule of law. Law Day was first established by President Dwight Eisenhower in 1958 Congress designated May 1 as the date for its official celebration in 1961.

The LGBT Bar promotes justice in and through the legal profession and supports funding for the courts in order to achieve this mission. The organization believes in the power of law to advance equality and help end discrimination due to sexual orientation and gender expression and identity.

Unfortunately, the courts are severely under-funded, limiting the impact that the LGBT Bar can have. Our organization requires full access to the courts in order to advocate for equality and justice. Law Day draws attention to this problem in order to ensure that the courts will be able to get the resources they need to help the LGBT Bar reach its goals.

Recently, the courts have produced some important decisions in favor of LGBT rights. In Boston, *Gill v. Office of Personnel Management* is the first challenge to the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) to reach the United States Appeals Court. In California, Proposition 8, which prohibited the state from legally recognizing same-sex marriages, was declared unconstitutional by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Both cases will likely reach the Supreme Court next year.

While these decisions have helped us make important progress towards our goal of equality for all LGBT individuals, there is still work to be done. Law Day provides an important backdrop against which to acknowledge and support the institutions that have helped the LGBT Bar in its fight for justice.

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.

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