



Out & Proud Awardee Proves as a Leading Fortune 500 Company on LGBT Issues

For the first time, the National LGBT Bar Association video recorded one of its Out & Proud Corporate Counsel Award Receptions. The LGBT Bar was honored to present the award to Microsoft's General Counsel and Executive Vice President, **Brad Smith**, who accepted the award on behalf of Microsoft's Legal and Corporate Affairs Department. The Seattle Corporate Counsel Reception took place at the Columbia Tower Club on Thursday, October 27, 2011.

[Video of Out & Proud Corporate Counsel Award Reception: Seattle](#)

Microsoft joins the ranks of many law firms and corporations who are beginning to support their LGBT employees who are burdened by federal taxes. Starting January 1, 2012, Microsoft will begin to reimburse their LGBT employees whose same-sex domestic partnerships are not recognized by the federal government and have to pay extra taxes.

[Read the full New York Times article here.](#)

Out of the 138 recruiters at the 2011 Lavender Law® Career Fair, 25 adjust their employees' salaries to offset the tax burden; an **11% increase** from the 2010 Career Fair in Miami Beach.

The LGBT Bar applauds Microsoft for taking this step towards workplace equality and is honored to recognize their important progress.

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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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