

LGBT BAR ASSOCIATION AND
FOUNDATION OF GREATER NEW YORK
ANNUAL REPORT
2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR

Issued Date: February 18, 2026



THE ANNUAL REPORT IS PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT, WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OFFICERS AND BOARD COMMITTEES, AND IS REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

LGBT Bar NY exists to advance access to justice, support legal education, and strengthen the public-facing work of our LGBTQ+ legal community. At a moment when the visibility, rights, and dignity of LGBTQ+ people are under attack, our work is not only vital, but also full of promise and possibility.



Throughout Fiscal Year 2024–2025, both the Association and Foundation continued to fulfill their respective and complementary missions with energy, creativity, and purpose. The LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York, as a voluntary professional organization, remains steadfast in its dedication to improving the administration of the law, ensuring full equality for members of the LGBTQ+ community and a judiciary free from bias. The Association actively promotes judges and judicial candidates who have demonstrated a commitment to the equality of rights for all LGBTQ+ people. And collectively, the Association supports and nurtures the professional advancement of LGBTQ+ legal professionals while serving the broader public through advocacy, professional development, and pro bono initiatives.

The Foundation, as the charitable and educational arm of the Association, advanced these shared goals through the weekly walk-in Legal Clinic, legal advocacy on behalf of the LGBTQ+ community, a robust judicial fellowship program, and its educational publications and programming. This work meets the urgent needs of LGBTQ+ New Yorkers, cultivates future leaders of the bar, and ensures that LGBT Bar NY is at the forefront of important legal developments affecting our community.

We are particularly proud of these accomplishments because they reflect not only the strength of our programs, but the strength of our people. During Fiscal Year 2024–2025, the organizations embraced a transition to a fully volunteer-led model, an evolution that has reaffirmed our community-driven spirit and the extraordinary dedication of our volunteers and Board leadership. We not only continued to operate, we thrived, by adapting our skills and resources to continue to serve the LGBTQ+ community.

None of this work would be possible without the generosity of our donors, sponsors, and partners, whose support sustains our services and fuels our future. On behalf of our Boards of Directors, thank you for your continued partnership and confidence in our mission. Together, we are building a legal system that is more inclusive, more equitable, and more reflective of the communities it serves, and we look ahead with optimism and resolve.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric J. Wursthorn".

Hon. Eric J. Wursthorn

President, LGBT Bar Foundation of Greater New York

WHO WE ARE: DEFINED BY OUR WORK, SERVICE AND IMPACT

Through the LGBT Bar Association

- **Advancing Equality Under Law**
Through advocacy, policy engagement, and public education, including participation in high-impact litigation and amicus briefs
- **Promoting a Fair and Inclusive Judiciary**
By evaluating judicial candidates through our Judicial Ratings Program and fostering accountability and transparency on the bench
- **Strengthening the Legal Profession**
Via CLEs, panels, leadership development, and affinity-based initiatives that support attorneys at every career stage
- **Building Community Across the Bench and Bar**
Through signature events, networking, and collaboration with judges, legal institutions, and allied bar associations

Through the LGBT Bar Foundation

- **Providing Free Legal Services**
Through our Free Weekly Legal Clinic and Legal Referral Network, serving thousands annually for over 40 years
- **Developing the Next Generation of Leaders**
Via the Dr. M.L. “Hank” Henry, Jr. Judicial Fellowship Program and mentorship initiatives
- **Educating the Legal Community and the Public**
Through *LGBT Law Notes* and the Law Notes Podcast, offering nationally recognized legal analysis
- **Sustaining Our Mission**
Through the Annual Gala and donor partnerships that fuel our charitable and educational work

Whom We Serve

- LGBTQ+ individuals and families across New York
- Law students and emerging legal professionals
- Practicing attorneys, judges, and legal institutions
- The broader legal community and the public

How We Make an Impact

- Direct legal services and client advocacy
- Legal education and public information
- Judicial and professional pipeline development
- Community leadership and systemic advocacy

FROM MISSION TO IMPACT: EXPLAINED

The LGBT Bar Association and Foundation of Greater New York translate their shared mission into real-world impact through advocacy, professional leadership, direct legal services, and education. Together, we operate across the entire legal ecosystem, supporting LGBTQ+ legal professionals, protecting communities, and shaping the future of the law.

A Dual Structure, One Unified Purpose

The LGBT Bar Association serves as the professional and public voice of the LGBTQ+ legal community, bringing together attorneys, judges, and allies to promote equality under the law, strengthen the profession, and foster leadership. Through judicial ratings, advocacy, CLEs, events, and coalition-building, the Association ensures that LGBTQ+ voices remain influential across courts, institutions, and policy spaces.

The LGBT Bar Foundation extends this mission outward into the community through direct service and education. As the charitable and educational arm of the Association, the Foundation provides free legal assistance through its weekly clinic and legal referral network, cultivates future legal leaders through fellowships and mentorship, and delivers nationally recognized legal scholarship through LGBT Law Notes and the Law Notes Podcast.

Impact Rooted in Service and Leadership

Together, our programs ensure that:

- Individuals in crisis have access to free, affirming legal assistance
- Law students and emerging attorneys see a pathway into leadership and public service and the judiciary
- Judges and legal institutions are held to standards of fairness, inclusion and anti-discrimination
- The public benefits from a more informed, accountable, and equitable legal system

During Fiscal Year 2024–2025, our organizations deepened their reach and resilience through a fully volunteer-led model, demonstrating the strength, dedication, and shared purpose of our community. This structure has allowed us not only to sustain our work, but to grow and adapt in response to evolving needs.

What Follows in This Report

The pages that follow highlight how this mission comes to life:

- Direct legal services through our Free Legal Clinic and referral programs
- Judicial accountability and advocacy through ratings and amicus participation
- Leadership development through the Hank Henry Fellowship
- Education through Law Notes and CLE programming
- Community-building through events, networking, and our Annual Gala

Each reflects a different dimension of the same commitment: building a legal system that is more inclusive, more equitable, and more reflective of the communities it serves. ♦

LEGAL CLINIC & LEGAL REFERRAL NETWORK



For nearly forty years, LGBT Bar NY has proudly operated a free, weekly, walk-in Legal Clinic dedicated to ensuring that LGBTQ+ New Yorkers and all members of the public have access to legal assistance that is competent, and compassionate, regardless of their ability to pay.

Through the LGBT Bar Foundation, we remain committed to sustaining and expanding this legacy of service.

Our weekly walk-in Legal Clinic, held every Tuesday from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the LGBT Center in

Manhattan, continues to serve as a critical lifeline for individuals facing legal challenges across a wide range of areas, including housing, family law, immigration, employment discrimination, name and gender marker changes, and access to public benefits. Staffed entirely by volunteer attorneys, the Clinic provides free, confidential consultations to anyone in need, many of whom have nowhere else to turn.

In 2025 alone, we estimate that the Clinic assisted more than **1,000 visitors**, reflecting both the extraordinary demand for accessible legal services and the unwavering dedication of our volunteer community. Each consultation represents not only legal guidance, but also dignity, affirmation, and hope for those navigating complex and often intimidating legal systems. In addition to general legal advice, the LGBT Bar Foundation has hosted monthly clinic sessions featuring specialized immigration attorneys in light of the heightened need in the community for such services. These specialized attorneys have been able to advise clinic visitors on various immigration topics including asylum, visas, removal proceedings, and detention.

In addition to direct legal services, 2025 marked the return of our Legal Referral Network, a vital expansion of our impact. Through this program, LGBT Bar NY maintains a vetted list of law firms and attorneys to whom we refer clinic visitors who may benefit from full legal representation. Referrals are made following careful assessment and screening, ensuring that individuals are connected with attorneys equipped to meet their specific legal needs. Thanks

to the dedicated members of the Legal Referral Network over two dozen clinic visitors have been matched with and retained counsel in the past year alone.

The past fiscal year also brought a significant enhancement to our pro bono efforts: LGBT Bar NY was selected to serve as a host organization for the New York State Attorney Emeritus Program (AEP), a statewide initiative that connects experienced attorneys age 55 and older with legal service providers to perform structured pro bono work. As a host organization, we can now engage seasoned Emeritus volunteers in our legal services framework, expanding capacity, deepening expertise, and increasing access to justice for underserved clients. Under the AEP, Emeritus attorneys commit at least 60 hours of pro bono service over two years, contributing their experience to community needs while earning CLE credits and formal recognition from the New York State Unified Court System.

Beginning this past year, LGBT Bar NY has also partnered with Legal Services NY (LSNY) to provide legal name change services as well as assistance with updating all government documents to reflect legal name changes and changes to gender markers. LGBT Bar NY and LSNY provide these services completely free of charge. Dozens of New Yorkers have already taken advantage of this partnership.

Together, the Legal Clinic, Legal Referral Network, and our role in the Attorney Emeritus Program exemplify the Foundation's commitment to advancing access to justice, not only by offering immediate legal assistance, but by building sustainable pathways to legal support and empowering attorneys at all stages of their careers to serve. These programs stand as a cornerstone of our charitable mission and a powerful expression of the legal community's responsibility to serve. ♦



JUDICIAL RATINGS

Judicial Ratings by the LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York plays a vital role in the civic life of the legal community by evaluating judges and candidates for judicial office to ensure their values, experience, and commitment to equality align with the Association's mission. The Association's Judiciary Committee conducts interviews and reviews candidates' records to determine whether they meet rigorous standards of integrity, temperament, and impartiality, and whether they are committed to protecting and advancing the rights of LGBTQ+ people and all marginalized communities. Candidates receive one of four ratings: **"Highly Approved," "Approved," "Not Approved,"** or **"Failed to Appear."**

During the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year, the Judiciary Committee issued ratings for both the **November 5, 2024 General Election** and the **June 24, 2025 Primary Elections**.

For the 2024 general election, the Judiciary Committee evaluated judges and candidates for elective judicial office in New York City and several New York State Supreme Court districts, providing detailed ratings that helped inform voters and uphold standards of fairness and inclusion on the bench.



Announcing our Ratings for the 2024 General Election

October 31, 2024 – In advance of the November 5, 2024, general election, The Judiciary Committee of the LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York (LeGaL) is pleased to announce its ratings of all candidates: (i) for elective judicial office in New York City; (ii) for New York State Supreme Court in 9th Judicial District (comprising Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, and Westchester Counties); and (iii) for New York State Supreme Court in the 10th Judicial District (Nassau and Suffolk Counties). Candidates were eligible to receive the following ratings: "Highly Approved," "Approved," "Not Approved," or "Failed to Appear."

In order to obtain an "Approved" rating, the Panel must be satisfied that the candidate, once on the bench, will: 1) demonstrate a commitment to the equality of rights for all lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people; 2) possess the integrity, intellect, experience, and temperament required of judicial office; and 3) perform judicial duties without bias or prejudice against or in favor of any person and will not permit discrimination against any minority in his or her courtroom.

In order to obtain a rating of "Highly Approved," the candidate must possess all of the characteristics required for an "Approved" rating to an outstanding degree, and in addition must have demonstrated a commitment to the equality of rights for all lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.

JUSTICES OF THE NEW YORK STATE SUPREME COURT

Supreme Court — First Judicial District (New York County)

Cynthia S. Kern — Highly Approved
Gerald Lebovits — Highly Approved

Supreme Court — Second Judicial District (Kings County)

Keisha Alleyne—Approved
Sharen D. Hudson—Approved
Lisa Lewis—Approved
Inga O'Neale—Highly Approved
Adam D. Perlmutter—Approved
Christopher J. Robles—Failed to Appear
Jeffrey S. Sunshine—Failed to Appear

In June 2025, the Committee again rated candidates on the ballot for judges of the New York City Civil Court, applying the same careful standards to assess candidates' commitment to equality and legal excellence. These ratings reflect the Association's ongoing commitment to supporting a judiciary that is competent, fair, and reflective of the diversity and values of the communities it serves.

Through this work, LGBT Bar NY's Judicial Ratings continue to educate voters, elevate qualified candidates, and strengthen public confidence in the judiciary. ♦



judiciary@lgbtbarny.org | www.lgbtbarny.org

For Immediate Release

Announcing our Ratings of Candidates for Judges of the New York City Civil Court on the Ballot for the June 24, 2025 Primary Elections

June 17, 2025 – The Judiciary Committee of The LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York (LeGaL) is pleased to announce its ratings of candidates in the contested primary elections for the five counties of New York City for the office of Judge of the New York Civil Court.

Candidates were eligible to receive the following ratings: "Highly Approved," "Approved," "Not Approved," or "Failed to Appear."

In order to obtain an "Approved" rating, the Judiciary Committee's Rules require that the Judiciary Committee be satisfied that the candidate, once on the bench, would: 1) demonstrate a commitment to the equality of rights for all lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people; 2) possess the integrity, intellect, experience, and temperament required of judicial office; and 3) perform judicial duties without bias or prejudice against or in favor of any person and will not permit discrimination against any minority in his or her courtroom or office.

To obtain a rating of "Highly Approved," the Judiciary Committee's Rules require that the candidate demonstrates that they possess all the characteristics required for an "Approved" rating to an outstanding degree and, in addition, must have a demonstrated commitment to the equality of rights for all lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.

Kings County:

Civil Court—Countywide

Janice Chen—Approved
Marisa Arrabito—Failed to Appear
Susan Lieberman—Approved
Janice P. Purvis—Approved

Bronx County:

Civil Court— Countywide

Shekera Anessa— Failed to Appear
George M. Santana— Failed to Appear

NETWORKING AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Throughout Fiscal Year 2024–2025, the LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York hosted a vibrant slate of events designed to foster community, advance professional development, and build meaningful connections across the legal profession. From substantive CLE programs to social mixers and signature receptions, these gatherings reflected the Association’s commitment to creating inclusive spaces for education, networking, and community-building.

Annual Judicial Reception

One of the Association’s signature events, the Annual Judicial Reception brought together members of the bench and bar in an evening of recognition, respect, and professional fellowship. The reception highlighted the importance of connection among legal professionals and celebrated the contributions of LGBTQ+ and allied jurists.

Ethics of Authenticity CLE

This engaging Continuing Legal Education (CLE) program explored the concept of authenticity in professional life, with a particular focus on ethical considerations for LGBTQ+ attorneys and allies. Participants examined how authenticity intersects with professional identity, client representation, and ethical obligations, gaining valuable insights into navigating complex ethical landscapes with integrity.

Volunteer Thanksgiving

Each November, LGBT Bar NY pauses to honor the heart of our work, our volunteers, at our annual Volunteer Thanksgiving celebration.

This signature event brings together volunteer attorneys, law students, committee leaders, and community partners to recognize all of the



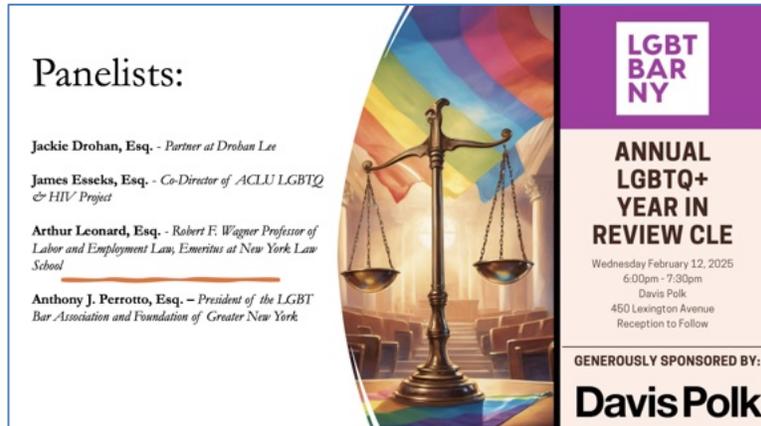
extraordinary contributions that sustain both the Association and Foundation’s pro bono efforts. At the 10th Annual Volunteer Thanksgiving on December 5, 2024, we were delighted to honor four exemplary volunteers whose dedication exemplifies the spirit of service: **Madeline Muniz**, **Stevie Yu**, **Lily Brower**, and **Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP**, for their outstanding pro bono commitment. The evening of appreciation, generously hosted by **Latham & Watkins LLP**, highlighted the indispensable role of volunteer leadership in advancing access to justice and supporting our community.

2024 Wintry Holiday Mixer

A festive end-of-year gathering welcoming members, friends, and colleagues for seasonal celebration and community connection. The holiday mixer underscored the Association's role in fostering camaraderie and joy within the LGBTQ+ legal network.

Annual LGBTQ+ Year in Review CLE

At LGBT Bar NY's Annual Year in Review CLE program, legal experts featuring our founder, **Professor Arthur Leonard**, Board Member **James Esseks, Esq.** and **Jackie Drohan, Esq.**, presented on the most significant developments impacting the LGBTQ+ community in 2024. The



session offered a comprehensive review of case law, legislative changes, and regulatory trends, helping attendees stay current on critical issues shaping practice and policy.

Pathways to LGBTQ+ Parenthood

This informative program focused on the legal and practical considerations for LGBTQ+ individuals and couples pursuing parenthood. Attorneys and subject-matter experts provided guidance on reproductive law, assisted reproduction, adoption, and related family legal issues, helping demystify complex processes for attendees.

Maximizing Your Client Relationships: What It Really Takes

A professional development workshop that examined strategies for building and sustaining strong attorney-client relationships. Speakers addressed communication, trust-building, and client-centered practice skills, offering practical takeaways for attorneys seeking to elevate their practices.

Transgender & Gender Non-Conforming Attorney & Law Student Mixer

A dynamic networking event designed to bring together transgender and gender non-conforming attorneys, law students, and allies. This mixer provided a supportive, social space for attendees to build community, share experiences, and strengthen professional relationships across career stages. ♦

AMICUS BRIEFS & ADVOCACY

Throughout Fiscal Year 2024–2025, the LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York played an active role in national advocacy through strategic participation in amicus briefs and coalition-based litigation efforts, advancing legal arguments that protect LGBTQ+ rights, public health, and access to justice.

Advocacy in Action: *U.S. v. Skrametti* and Transgender Rights

LGBT Bar NY took a prominent and principled stand in national civil rights litigation by joining a coalition of leading legal organizations in submitting an amicus brief to the Supreme Court of the United States in *United States v. Skrametti*. The case arose from state laws banning medically necessary gender-affirming care for transgender minors, laws that families and advocates challenged on equal protection grounds, arguing that they inflict profound harm on transgender youth and their families while denying them access to essential health care solely because of who they are.

LGBT Bar NY's participation alongside the American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders, and other civil rights allies, reflected the Association's deep commitment to protecting LGBTQ+ rights through thoughtful, coalition-based legal advocacy. The brief urged the Court to recognize that laws singling out transgender youth for disparate treatment in access to health care are inherently discriminatory and incompatible with constitutional guarantees of equal protection.

While the Supreme Court ultimately upheld the challenged law, a deeply disappointing outcome for transgender youth, their families, and the LGTBQ+ community at large, the Association's involvement in *Skrametti* underscores the importance of sustained engagement in the highest levels of legal advocacy. Even in moments of setback, LGBT Bar NY remains steadfast in its role as a voice

No. 23-477

In the Supreme Court of the United States
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Petitioner,

v.
JOHNATHAN THOMAS SKRAMETTI, ET AL.,
Respondent.

On Writ Of Certiorari To The United States
Court Of Appeals For The Sixth Circuit

**BRIEF OF THE KENTUCKY PLAINTIFFS, GLAD,
AND LGBTQ+ ADVOCATES AS AMICI CURIAE IN
SUPPORT OF PETITIONER**

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for equality, ensuring that the lived experiences of LGBTQ+ people are brought before the nation’s highest court and that discrimination is met with principled and persistent challenge.

Advocacy for Access to HIV Prevention Medication

In addition to its advocacy on transgender health care, LGBT Bar NY also took action to protect access to life-saving HIV prevention medication. In February 2025, the Association joined a coalition of national HIV, LGBTQ+, and health care organizations, including the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors, in submitting an amicus brief in connection with the U.S. Supreme Court’s consideration of *Kennedy v. Braidwood Management*. The case challenged whether requiring insurance coverage for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), a cornerstone of modern HIV prevention, violated the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

LGBT Bar NY’s participation underscored its commitment to defending equitable access to essential health care that has transformed the fight against HIV and saved countless lives, particularly within LGBTQ+ communities disproportionately affected by the epidemic. Although the litigation placed this critical public health protection in jeopardy, the Association’s advocacy ensured that the real-world consequences of restricting access to PrEP were squarely before the Court.

Together with its advocacy in *United States v. Skrmetti*, these efforts demonstrate LGBT Bar NY’s role as a national voice for the LGBTQ+ legal community in high-impact litigation. Through its amicus participation, the Association continues to shape legal discourse, protect vulnerable communities, and affirm that discrimination, whether in health care, public policy, or the courts, demands principled and persistent challenge. ♦

No. 24-316

IN THE
Supreme Court of the United States

ROBERT F. KENNEDY, JR., SECRETARY OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, *et al.*,
Petitioners,

v.

BRAIDWOOD MANAGEMENT, INC., *et al.*,
Respondents.

ON WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES
COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

**BRIEF OF AMICI CURIAE
NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF STATE
AND TERRITORIAL AIDS DIRECTORS
AND OTHER HIV, LGBTQ, AND
HEALTHCARE ORGANIZATIONS
IN SUPPORT OF PETITIONERS**

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[Additional Signatures On Inside Cover]

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THE DR. M.L. “HANK” HENRY, JR. JUDICIAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM



In 2025, LGBT Bar NY proudly continued its Judicial Fellowship Program, an initiative designed to expand pathways into judicial careers for LGBTQ+ law students and allies by providing meaningful exposure to the New York State court system and the work of the judiciary.

The Fellowship is named in honor of Dr. M.L. “Hank” Henry, Jr., whose groundbreaking work as Executive Director of the Fund for Modern Courts helped ensure that openly gay and lesbian candidates were considered for appointed judicial positions at a

time when such representation was rare. Dr. Henry’s legacy continues to inspire LGBT Bar NY’s commitment to fostering a more diverse and inclusive judiciary.

Applications for the program opened in February 2025 and drew an exceptionally strong and competitive pool of more than 40 applicants from law schools across the region. The depth and quality of the applicant pool reflected both the growing interest in judicial careers among LGBTQ+ law students and the increasing recognition of the Fellowship as a meaningful professional opportunity.

Following a careful and thoughtful selection process, we were pleased to name two outstanding law students as our 2025 Judicial Fellows: **Linda Harvey** and **Matthew Zucker**. Both Fellows distinguished themselves through their academic achievements, commitment to public service, and demonstrated interest in the courts and the administration of justice.

The 2025 Hank Henry Fellowship Program consists of a 10–12 week paid summer internship that offers Fellows the unique opportunity to rotate among multiple LGBTQ+ and ally judges at various levels of the New York judiciary. Through this immersive experience, Fellows gain an insider’s understanding of the judicial system and work closely with openly LGBTQ+ judges



and their colleagues. Depending on their placements and the needs of participating judges, Fellows may complete one to two substantive written assignments, including draft judicial decisions and legal memoranda, providing invaluable hands-on exposure to judicial writing and decision-making.

The Hank Henry Fellowship Program was chaired by Current LGBT Bar NY President, **Judge Eric J. Wursthorn**, and the 2025 Fellows were selected by a distinguished committee comprised of:

- **Associate Judge Anthony Cannataro**, New York State Court of Appeals
- **Acting Justice James G. Clynes**, New York State Supreme Court, Civil Term
- **Acting Justice Josh Hanshaft**, New York State Supreme Court, Criminal Term
- **Judge Seth M. Marnin**, New York State Court of Claims
- **Judge Javier E. Vargas**, New York State Court of Claims
- **Professor Meredith R. Miller**, Touro University Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center

We thank LGBT Bar NY Past President Meredith Miller and all of the Judges and Justices who served on the selection committee, many of whom hosted the Fellows during Summer 2025. Special thanks also to **District Court Judge Pamela Chen** of the Eastern District of New York, **New York State Family Court Judge Karen Lupuloff**, and **Acting Supreme Court Justice Laurence Busching**, who also hosted the Fellows this summer.

LGBT Bar NY wishes the Fellows continued success in law school and beyond! 

LGBT LAW NOTES AND PODCAST

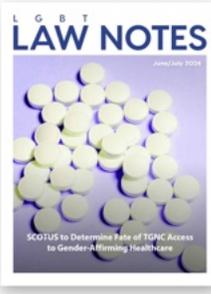
Like many things at LGBT Bar NY, Law Notes and the Podcast saw a transition as well during Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Beginning with the June/July 2024 Issue released shortly after the organization's fiscal year began, several more monthly editions of both LGBT Law Notes and the Podcast were released through the end of the 2024 calendar year.

2025 however saw great change in terms of the sheer volume of developments on LGBTQ/HIV issues. As a result, under Editor-in-Chief and LGBT Bar NY Founder **Professor Arthur Leonard's** direction, LGBT Law Notes now appears quarterly, offering curated coverage of the most important appellate decisions, trial rulings, and legislative and regulatory developments.

Two quarterly editions of Law Notes released in the first half of 2025. Meanwhile, LGBT Bar NY's popular podcast went on hiatus in 2025, and we hope to bring a revamped version back in 2026. ♦

L G B T
LAW NOTES



JUNE/JULY 2024 LAW NOTES: SCOTUS Conclusion, PrEP Access, and Trans Rights Win

June/July 2024 Issue
SCOTUS to Determine Fate of TGNC Access to Gender-Affirming Healthcare

Cover Story:
Supreme Court Grants Review in *U.S. v. Skremetti* to Consider Whether States Can Ban Gender-Affirming Care for Transgender Minors

[Read here](#)



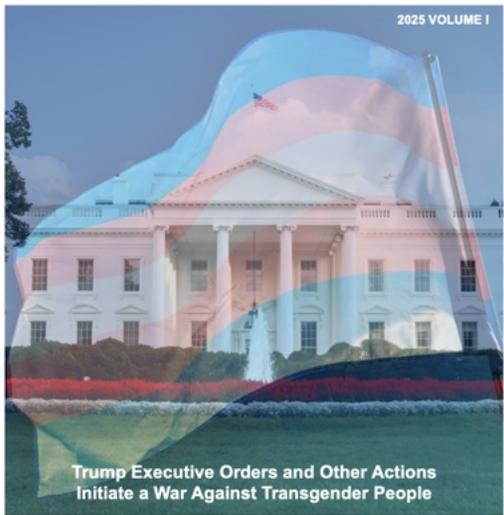
JUNE/JULY 2024 LAW NOTES: SCOTUS Conclusion, PrEP Access, and Trans Rights Win

LGBT Bar NY Podcast
June/July Law Notes 2024: SCOTUS Conclusion, PrEP Access, and Trans Rights Win

Shain Filcher (they/he/she), Executive Director of the LGBT Bar of NY, and **Professor Emeritus Art Leonard** (he/him) of New York Law

L G B T
LAW NOTES

2025 VOLUME I



Trump Executive Orders and Other Actions Initiate a War Against Transgender People

L G B T
LAW NOTES

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If you are interested in becoming a
 contributing author to LGBT Law Notes,
 please contact info@lgbtbar.org

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- 17 States Challenging Biden Administration's Revised Title IX Regulations Win Summary Judgment
- 18 Montana Supreme Court Affirms Preliminary Injunction Against State's Ban on Gender-Affirming Care for Minors
- 20 En Banc 5th Circuit Holds SEC Should Not Have Approved NASDAQ's Board Diversity Rule
- 21 Alabama District Court Blocks City of Prattville's Ban on LGBTQ Organization's Participation in Christmas Parade
- 22 The Right to Band Wins Again: U.S. District Court Permanently Enjoins Arkansas Book Ban Law
- 24 Federal District Court Upholds Florida's "Fairness in Women's Sports Act" Amid Equal Protection Challenge
- 27 Transgender Plaintiffs in Idaho Lose Preliminary Injunction Seeking Medication Coverage of Hormone Treatment for Minors
- 28 Teacher Who Refused to Follow School Board's Guidelines Regarding Transgender Students Denied Injunctive Relief
- 30 Louisiana Appellate Court Affirms Denial of Sex-Change Birth Certificate Over Heated Dissent
- 31 West Virginia Appeals Court Rules State Anti-Discrimination Law Excludes Sexual Orientation Protections
- 33 Lithuania's Anti-LGBTQ Minors Protection Law Held Unconstitutional

ANNUAL GALA AT HALL DES LUMIÈRES



On May 20, 2025, LGBT Bar NY proudly hosted its Annual Gala at the stunning **Hall des Lumières** in Lower Manhattan, an evening that brought together members of the bench, bar, and broader LGBTQ+ community in celebration of leadership and service.

The evening honored two extraordinary legal luminaries whose careers exemplify courage, excellence, and a deep commitment to justice. We were privileged to recognize the **Honorable Adam Silvera**, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge of the New York City Courts, for his trailblazing judicial career and steadfast advocacy for diversity and inclusion within the New York State court system. Judge Silvera's leadership continues to shape a more equitable

judiciary and inspire future generations of legal professionals.

We also honored **Chase Strangio, Esq.** the first openly transgender attorney to argue a case before the United States Supreme Court in *Skrmetti*, for his historic impact on constitutional law and civil rights. Through his advocacy, scholarship, and fearless litigation, Mr. Strangio has transformed the legal landscape for transgender people nationwide and has become a defining voice for equality under the law.

The 2025 Gala was not only a celebration of these remarkable honorees, but also a vital fundraising event supporting the charitable and educational mission of the LGBT Bar NY Foundation, including our pro bono legal clinics, educational programming, and judicial fellowship initiatives. The evening served as a powerful reminder of what our community can achieve when we come together in shared purpose and pride. ♦



Cocktail Hour Venue



Dinner and Ceremony Venue



Pictured below: Judge Seth Marnin, Chief Administrative Judge Joseph Zayas, Deputy Chief Admin. Judge Edwina Richardson, Deputy Chief Admin. Judge Adam Silvera



MORE ABOUT OUR HONOREES



Chase Strangio, Esq.

Co-Director of the ACLU's LGBT & HIV Project

Chase Strangio is Co-Director of the ACLU's LGBT & HIV Project as well as a nationally recognized expert on transgender rights. Chase's work includes impact litigation, as well as legislative and administrative advocacy, on behalf of LGBTQ people and people living with HIV across the United States.

Prior to joining the ACLU, Chase was an Equal Justice Works fellow and the Director of Prisoner Justice Initiatives at the Sylvia Rivera Law Project, where he represented transgender and gender non-conforming individuals in confinement settings. In 2012, Chase co-founded the Lorena Borjas Community Fund, an organization that provides direct bail/bond assistance to LGBTQ immigrants in criminal and immigration cases. Chase is a graduate of Northeastern University School of Law and Grinnell College.

Chase was counsel in the ACLU's challenge to North Carolina's notorious HB2, *Carcaño, et al. v. Cooper, et al.*, the ACLU's challenge to Trump's trans military ban, *Stone v. Trump*, and the case of *Aimee Stephens, R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes v EEOC*, which resulted in a landmark 6-3 ruling from the Supreme Court finding the 1964 Civil Rights Act's prohibition on sex discrimination in employment extended to discrimination against LGBTQ workers.

On December 4, 2024, Strangio presented oral arguments on behalf of the private plaintiffs in *U.S. v. Skrametti*, a landmark Supreme Court challenge brought by three families and a medical provider against a Tennessee law banning gender-affirming medical care for transgender youth.

Hon. Adam Silvera

Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for the New York City Courts

The Honorable Adam Silvera was appointed as Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for the New York City Courts effective August 27, 2024. The appointment was made by Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas with the consultation and approval of Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson and in consultation with Appellate Division Presiding Justices Dianne T. Renwick and Hector D. LaSalle. Justice Silvera had been serving as Administrative Judge for the New York State Supreme Court - Civil Term in New York County (Manhattan) prior to his appointment as Deputy Chief Administrative Judge.

Justice Silvera was first elected to the New York City Civil Court in 2014, initially serving as a Family Court judge in Kings County (Brooklyn). He was subsequently assigned to the Civil Court bench in Kings County, where he presided over a dedicated consumer credit and self-represented part. He later served on the Civil Court in New York County, handling consumer credit and other matters. He was named an Acting Supreme Court Justice in 2017 and assigned to the Integrated Domestic Relations Part in Family Court in New York County, handling Family Court matters as well as matrimonial cases filed in New York County Supreme Court. In 2018, Justice Silvera was elected to New York County's Supreme Court-Civil Term, presiding over a motor vehicle part and later serving as the New York City Asbestos Litigation Coordinating Judge. He was subsequently elevated to the Appellate Term, First Department, hearing appeals in cases originating in New York City's Civil Court and Criminal Court, and in January 2022 was named Administrative Judge of the New York County Supreme Court's Civil Term.

Justice Silvera has presented on Continuing Legal Education topics including child custody law, motor vehicle accidents, no fault, toxic tort asbestos, as well as settlement techniques for various bar associations.



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LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE (FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025)

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LGBT Bar NY Board Members at the Annual Gala on May 20, 2025



FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Combined Financial Position (Balance Sheet)

As of June 30, 2025

Category	Association (501c6)	Foundation (501c3)
Total Cash & Bank Accounts	\$7,359.95	\$164,800.01
Total Accounts Receivable	\$16,837.20	\$0.00
Due From/To Affiliate	\$6,246.08 (Asset)	(\$6,246.08) (Liability)
Total Assets	\$30,443.23	\$164,800.01
Total Liabilities	\$0.00	\$137,947.13
Total Equities	\$30,443.23	\$26,852.88
Net Assets	\$30,443.23	\$164,800.01

Combined Operating Activity (Profit & Loss)

For the Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Category	LGN Association (501c6)	LGN Foundation (501c3)
Total Revenue	\$35,282.60	\$396,211.42
Direct Fundraising Costs (COGS)	\$1,612.34	\$214,844.45
Operating Expenditures	\$12,109.56	\$191,066.72
Net Income (Loss)	\$21,560.70	(\$9,730.69)

Disclosures

- All Association and Foundation revenue is **unrestricted**.
- **Assets Held in Trust:** Neither the Association nor the Foundation held or received any assets in trust during this fiscal period.
- **Significant Liabilities:** As of the end of this fiscal period, the Foundation carries a long-term loan of **\$127,686.23**, which represents the primary liability for the organization.

Strategic Insights & Operational Transition

While the Association maintains a highly liquid position with zero debt and a healthy net gain for the period, the Foundation has undergone a significant structural transformation. During the 2024-2025 fiscal period, the Foundation successfully transitioned from a staffed model to a volunteer-led board organization.

This strategic shift involved the elimination of two full-time employee positions, effectively removing annual salary and benefit obligations from the Foundation's recurring operational liabilities. By adopting this volunteer-led structure, the Foundation has significantly enhanced its long-term financial sustainability and reduced its total liability exposure, ensuring a greater percentage of future revenue can be directed toward its charitable mission.

LOOKING AHEAD

In Fiscal Year 2025–2026, the LGBT Bar Association and Foundation of Greater New York will continue to grow as a dynamic, volunteer-driven legal organization by expanding programs, deepening impact, and strengthening our role as a leading voice for LGBTQ+ equality within the legal profession and beyond.

Expanding Access to Justice

The Foundation will prioritize the continued growth and modernization of its **Legal Clinic**, building on more than 40 years of service. We will explore opportunities to offer virtual clinics to broaden our reach, increase volunteer capacity, broaden subject-matter coverage, support our volunteers through education and training, and further enhance intake and referral systems to better serve the growing number of individuals seeking assistance.

Building on the successful relaunch of the **Legal Referral Network**, the Foundation will focus on expanding its network of vetted attorneys and firms, ensuring that more clients can move seamlessly from brief consultations to sustained legal representation when needed. We will also continue to integrate the **Attorney Emeritus Program**, engaging experienced attorneys in structured pro bono service and expanding the depth and reach of our legal services.

Developing the Next Generation of Leaders

The Foundation will strengthen its pipeline and educational initiatives, including further development of the **Hank Henry Judicial Fellowship Program** and deeper engagement with law schools and judicial partners. We will also bring back our **Law Student Mentorship Program**. These efforts will reinforce our commitment to diversifying the legal profession while providing meaningful, hands-on professional development for future LGBTQ+ legal leaders and allies.

Advancing Legal Education and Public Understanding

Our educational mission will continue to be advanced through **LGBT Law Notes**, with a focus on curating high-impact legal developments and expanding digital accessibility for a broader national audience. We also look ahead to revitalizing the **Law Notes Podcast**, expanding the ways in which practitioners, judges, students, and the public engage with evolving LGBTQ+ legal issues.

Strengthening the Profession and Community

At the same time, the LGBT Bar Association will deepen professional engagement and community leadership by expanding its slate of **CLE programs**, panels, and affinity-based initiatives, strengthening mentorship and leadership development opportunities, and enhancing collaboration with allied bar associations and legal institutions. The Association will continue to foster dialogue among the bench, bar, and community, ensuring that LGBTQ+ legal professionals remain visible, supported, and influential across all sectors of the profession.

We will also continue to elevate our role in advocacy and judicial accountability, including through **amicus** participation and **judicial ratings**.

Ensuring Long-Term Sustainability

Finally, both the Association and Foundation will invest in deeper donor, sponsor, and member engagement, strengthening corporate and law firm partnerships, enhancing stewardship practices, and growing support for the Annual Gala and year-round fundraising and membership efforts. These initiatives will ensure that our organizations remain financially resilient while expanding our ability to serve.

Through these strategic priorities, the LGBT Bar Association and Foundation of Greater New York will continue building a more just, inclusive, and equitable legal system, **meeting urgent needs today while shaping the future of the profession for years to come.** ♦

VERIFICATION

Pursuant to N-PCL § 519 and Article III, Section 3.6 of the Association By-Laws and Section 3.6 of the Foundation By-Laws, we, the undersigned, do hereby verify that the information contained in this Combined Annual Report is true and accurate as of the end of the fiscal period terminating June 30, 2025.



Hon. Eric J. Wursthorn, *President*

Date: February 16, 2026



Ryan Bravata, Esq., *Treasurer*

Date: February 17, 2026