

MEMORANDUM

TO: Arthur Fama, GLBT Section Board Liaison
Fred Thrasher, Deputy Director, NALP

FROM: Carlos Dávila-Caballero, GLBT Section Chair

CC: Gihan Fernando, President, NALP

DATE: January 18, 2008

RE: GLBT Section Quarterly Report III

Summary

The report contains the developments of the GLBT Section during the months from November through January.

I. Conference Call – November 16, 2007

The Section conducted its second conference call on Friday, November 16, 2007. The group discussed pending projects, see *infra*, and developments in the industry relevant to NALP and the LGBT Section.

The next conference call is scheduled for Friday, February 29, 2008.

II. Programming: 2008 NALP Annual Conference

The GLBT Section will present two programs at the 2008 NALP Annual Conference.

A. Solomon Amendment: Continuing the dialogue in light of amended regulations, enhanced amelioration initiatives, and support of LGBT rights outside of the military. Presenters – Carlos Dávila-Caballero, Tulane University Law School, Angie Dalfen, Golden Gate University Law School, and Gary Greener, Southwestern University Law School.

B. Strengthening LGBT Recruiting at Law Firms: Developing partnerships between law schools and legal employers to increase law LGBT recruitment in the profession. Presenter Eric Stern, University of California, Berkeley School of Law.

III. Bulletin Articles

The Section will maintain its active involvement regarding publication of articles related to LGBT matters in our profession. Alex Mareiniss at Hunton & Williams continues to coordinate the efforts. The following articles have been published.

A. *Human Rights Campaign Foundation, 2008 Corporate Equality Index (CEI)*, NALP Now!, May 3, 2007, by Skip Horne at Latham & Watkins.

B. *Lavender Law 2007*, November 2007, by Carlos Dávila-Caballero at Tulane University Law School.

New

C. *Resources to Assist in Understanding Transgender Individuals*, January 2008, by Shawn Been at Capital University Law School.

IV. Environmental Scanning

The following communications and updates were disseminated through the discussion list.

A. November 29, 2007: Article, *A New push to roll back 'don't ask, don't tell'* published in the New York Times and communicated to the Section by Carlos Dávila-Caballero at Tulane University Law School.

Synopsis: 28 Generals announced their intent to release a communication to repeal 'don't ask, don't tell'.

Web link:

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/30/us/30military.html?_r=3&adxnnl=1&oref=slogin&adxnnlx=1196469074-8YqhFNTSjnuV1ibcqd0l3w&oref=slogin

B. January 14, 2008: Article, *Partner benefits would let feds replenish work force*, published by Detroit News and communicated to the Section by Eric Stern at the University of California, Berkley School of Law.

Synopsis: Discussion about the potential introduction of federal legislation extending benefits to same sex partners employed by the federal government.

Web link:

<http://www.detnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080114/OPINION03/801140307>

C. January 14, 2008: Article, *Legal clinic for the ignored*, published in the BaltimoreSun.com and communicated to the Section by Carlos Dávila-Caballero at Tulane University Law School.

Synopsis: A group of Maryland lawyers and advocates are raising funds for the FreeState Law Project, an effort to start a law clinic that would provide direct legal services to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Marylanders.

Web link:

http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/baltimore_city/bal-md.ci.clinic14jan14,0,4706253.story

D. January 15, 2008: Article, *Marriages, civil unions collide in court*, published in the Courant.com and communicated to the Section by Eric Stern at the University of California, Berkley School of Law.

Synopsis: Resolution of case pending before the Connecticut Supreme Court may determine whether Connecticut recognizes same sex marriages.

Web link:

http://www.courant.com/news/opinion/op_ed/hc-levin0115.artjan15,0,2269934,print.story

V. Solomon Amelioration Work Group

The work group is preparing for the upcoming workshop to be presented at the Educational Conference in Toronto.

VI. Web Resources Update Work Group

Revisions continue to be made in preparation of the Newcomer's Conference.

VII. Diversity Reception at 2008 NALP Annual Conference

The Section solicited input about including a display table with GLBT resources at the diversity reception. The members favored the idea and five volunteers are willing to execute the idea. The Section is now in discussion with Marcy Cox, NALP's Diversity Section Chair, to ensure the initiative is supported by their members and that it would be of value to all of the attendees.

VIII. Section's Name

The members of the Section discussed whether the name of the Section reflected current practices within the GLBT community as well as legal professional organizations. Over the years, the acronym GLBT has evolved to LGBT and most recently to other names, including ABA's recent announcement in forming a Commission on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. The members discussed at length whether NALP members would support similar new variants, improve internal/external communication of the Section, create confusion among some members –including private firms/affinity groups-, and a series of other considerations. Most members suggested further monitoring of these developments and to revisit the issue if a general consensus is reflected by the legal industry. The Section will maintain the Board apprised of future discussions.