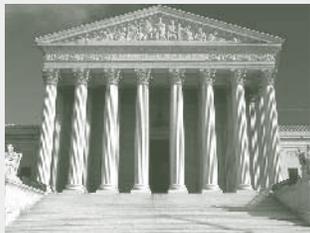


## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



**NCLR Makes Progress at the Federal Level**

Pages 3



**Jennifer and Ellyn: A Love Story**

Page 4



**NCLR Case Prompts Change to Federal Prisons Policy**

Page 6



**NCLR Timeline: Making History for 35 Years**

Page 12



*Early pioneers in the Lesbian Rights Project (later renamed the National Center for Lesbian Rights). Front row: Donna Hitchens and Marian Chapman. Back row: Teresa Friend, Pam Liberty, Linda Barr, and Roberta Achtenberg.*

## NCLR: Celebrating 35 Years of Making History

It was the 1970s, and anti-LGBT sentiments were rampant.

But armed with a law degree and a commitment to justice, NCLR founder Donna Hitchens set out to create an organization that would push the boundaries of the LGBT equality movement, fighting alongside courageous women and men challenging discrimination.

In just a few weeks, NCLR will begin celebrating its 35th year—a milestone in a history that connects the lives of thousands of people, whose courage to stand up for justice has profoundly shaped the legal and political landscape for all.

They're people like Denise Kreps, who in the early 1980s stood up against workplace discrimination at a time when few had the audacity, taking on—and winning—a case against a Northern California sheriff's department that refused to hire her because she was a lesbian.

Or Rebecca Smith and Annie Affleck, a lesbian couple who refused to give up when their petition to jointly adopt their foster daughter was initially denied, and who obtained one of the first same-sex joint adoptions in the country in the late 1980s.

Their joint adoption took on even more meaning in 1991, when Annie died of cancer. If Annie had been the sole legal parent, Rebecca might have lost not only her life partner, but her daughter as well.

Or Artie Wallace, a gay father who fought for custody of his son after his ex-wife kidnapped the boy in the late 1980s, winning one of the country's first custody battles for a parent with AIDS.

Or Sharon Smith, who fought to be permitted to sue

for wrongful death of a loved one after her partner, Diane Alexis Whipple, was mauled to death by their neighbors' dogs in 2001. We won the right for Sharon to be legally recognized as Diane's surviving partner, making history with her.

Then there was Michael Kantaras' case for custody of his children—another landmark case that attracted worldwide media attention. We stood with him during his 2002 trial in which he sought—and won—shared custody of his children, despite his wife's attempt to sever his parental rights simply because he is a transgender man.

NCLR has always been on the cutting edge of legal and social issues, whether it's through history-making cases or setting the course toward equality through our innovative projects. We were the first national LGBT legal organization to launch a project for LGBT youth in the mental health system, schools, foster care, and juvenile detention.

We were the first to create permanent projects for same-sex bi-national couples and LGBT asylum seekers, LGBT elders, transgender people, LGBT farmworkers, low-income LGBT people seeking services from legal aid organizations, and even LGBT athletes and coaches.

There's no doubt we've come a long way in the movement for LGBT equality, and as we look toward the future, we'll continue to be there—fighting alongside courageous individuals, families, and communities to achieve victory.

Read about NCLR's history and founder at [NCLRights.org/DonnaHitchens](http://NCLRights.org/DonnaHitchens).

## Reflecting On Courageous Men and Women Who Made History

**Denise Kreps.** She was a lesbian fighting to be a county sheriff.

**Annie Affleck and Rebecca Smith.** They were a couple wanting nothing more than to be parents, and to adopt a child together.

**Artie Wallace.** He was a gay HIV-positive father battling for custody of his son after his ex-wife kidnapped the young boy.

**Vanessa Adams.** She stood up to the Federal Bureau of Prisons when it denied her medical treatment for her gender dysphoria.

**Mary Ward.** She fought back after a judge took away her daughter because she was a lesbian, and gave her daughter to her ex-husband, who spent eight years in prison for killing his first wife.

**Fernando.** He had the courage to flee Honduras alone after suffering years of torment and violence, seeking asylum in the United States.

**Ebonie.** Tired of being called “it” and “he/she” in school, she—along with five other students at one Minnesota school district—pushed back, challenging their school officials for not doing enough to stop anti-LGBT bullying.

These are some of the people whose fierce determination is woven into NCLR’s

DNA, making LGBT history through their commitment to justice, and setting a course for us to celebrate a major milestone in just over a month—35 years of service to our community.

All of these names, and countless others over the years, belong to amazing individuals who stood up and said: “No more.” You have helped us be their champion and give them a voice. You are why we are here, and how we make a difference.

As we approach our 35th anniversary, we reflect on where we have been, what we have done, and the justice that we hope and dream of achieving in the future.

We have been in every state, and stood by thousands as they fought for justice. We have altered the landscape for every LGBT person in the nation. And we dream of a day where the phone does not ring, or our email inbox sits empty because no LGBT person suffers stigma and loss of hope because of who they are. Your support will help us realize that dream.

In solidarity,



*a message from*

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
KATE KENDELL**

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Sharon Alkire  
Alyssa Babin  
Irene Ross

**Health Policy Fellow**  
Jacqueline Miller

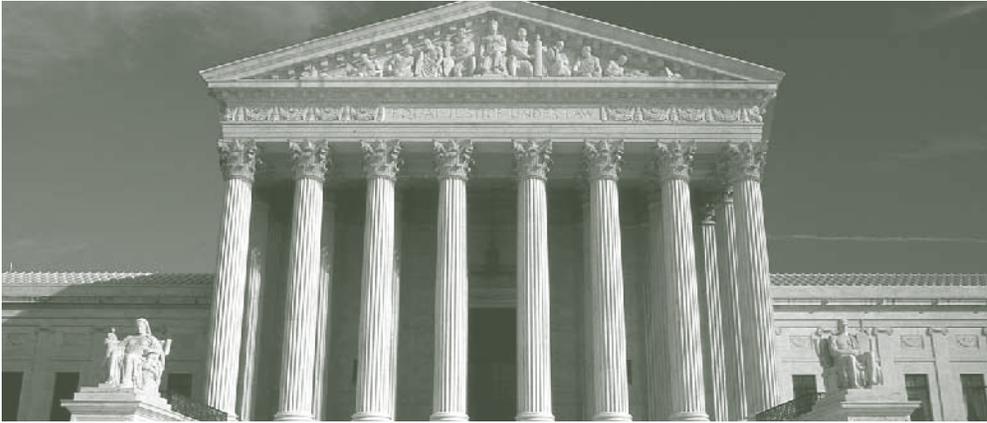
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## NCLR Continues Making Progress Through Federal Policy



Since last April, there have been many exciting opportunities for us to make significant changes at the federal policy level, and we've been thrilled to work with President Obama's administration to increase protection and opportunities for LGBT people and families.

NCLR continues to play a lead role in federal housing policy with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), including:

- Assisting in the development of a groundbreaking equal access rule that will protect many more LGBT people against housing discrimination.
- Training senior HUD staff on housing discrimination and domestic violence in the LGBT community and issues affecting the transgender community.
- Representing the interests of LGBT people in an exclusive roundtable meeting with Secretary Shaun Donovan and other HUD leadership and in a day-long convening on HUD priorities.
- Co-hosting a summit on housing issues for LGBT elders with HUD and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) this coming December.

NCLR has also been busy working with HHS and others to ensure equal access to high quality health care for LGBT patients and their families, including:

- Ensuring that regulations implementing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will include non-discrimination protections for LGBT patients.
- Leading the charge on successful efforts to encourage HHS to adopt unprecedented rules that require

nearly every hospital in the country to protect the visitation and medical decision-making rights of LGBT patients and their families.

- Partnering with the National Women's Law Center and the Law Students for Reproductive Justice to educate policymakers about reproductive justice and the LGBT community.

We have also been outraged by the recent spate of violence against the LGBT community, particularly transgender women of color in Washington D.C. We have taken action on this issue by:

- Collaborating with the White House Council for Women and Girls to ensure that all relevant federal agencies are educated about violence against transgender women and working to stop it.
- Working with the D.C. Mayor's Office to require local law enforcement to address violence against LGBT people.
- Providing compelling analyses about how to stop this violence in high-profile publications including The Huffington Post and The Root.
- Working with the Department of Justice (DOJ) to educate DOJ staffers on this issue and develop best practices for prosecuting hate violence against LGBT people.

## News & Announcements

### Send Us Your Photos!

We're celebrating the NCLR 35th Anniversary Celebration, set for May 5, 2012 in San Francisco, with photos of you—the people who have stood by us, and stood with us for 35 years.

Our work to change the legal landscape for all lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in this country wouldn't be possible without you.

Through March 31, 2012, we would like you to submit your pictures—your portraits, snapshots, and special moments—with a homemade poster or sign in which you fill in the sentence, "I am NCLR, and I am ..." telling us how you reflect our groundbreaking work.

Read more about the campaign at [NCLRights.org/IamNCLR](http://NCLRights.org/IamNCLR).



### Stay Up-To-Date with NCLR!

NCLR is committed to fighting for your rights, and keeping you informed of all the legal decisions and key policies that impact your lives, as well as the lives of your family and friends.

As always, our legal team provides you with comprehensive analysis of important legal developments, breaking down and interpreting complicated issues for you, and, in the process, answering your questions about how issues affect your lives.

Log on, sign up for our email list, and stay tuned-in to all of our latest work and LGBT news.

 [NCLRights.org](http://NCLRights.org)

 [Facebook.com/NCLRights](http://Facebook.com/NCLRights)

 [Twitter.com/NCLRights](http://Twitter.com/NCLRights)

### Support NCLR Through eScrip!

Looking to support the National Center for Lesbian Rights in even more ways? Have a fixed budget with no wiggle room? Want to get the merchants at which you shop to donate to NCLR too?

All you have to do is register your credit/debit cards and ATM cards with eScrip—then any time you use one of them to shop with a participating merchant, the merchant will donate up to 8% of the purchase amount to NCLR.

Sign up at [www.eScrip.com](http://www.eScrip.com) to make all your regular purchases at over 150 merchants go to work for NCLR.



**NCLR's group name:**  
"National Center for Lesbian Rights" or "NCLR."

**NCLR's group identification number:** 500022336.



## Album

*Ellyn (left) and Jennifer (right) on their wedding day in 2006. Below, photos of Ellyn and Jennifer from their personal photo album.*



## Jennifer and Ellyn: A Life Interrupted

They had planned a family together. A baby. Maybe two. They'd spend hours talking about their future, often getting so lost in conversation at night they'd forget about the time until the sun was about to rise the next morning.

Sarah "Ellyn" Farley used to say she was "courting" Jennifer Tobits—not just dating her, as she knew their connection would lead them down the aisle.

A year into their relationship, Ellyn asked Jennifer to be her wife. The two soon traveled from their home in Chicago to Toronto for what Jennifer calls a "methodically planned wedding that was about our love and starting our life together."

Jennifer never could have imagined then that only six years later, she'd find herself where she is now—a widow at 37, in mourning, and fighting her in-laws, who have challenged their marriage and sought control of Ellyn's estate, as well as the death benefits provided by her employer.

"How could I fathom something like this?" asked Jennifer, who lost Ellyn in September 2010 after a four-year battle with an aggressive form of cancer that the two fought together through the very last days of Ellyn's life.

Jennifer, who is represented by the National Center for Lesbian Rights, Jerner & Palmer, P.C., Lewis, Feinberg, Lee, Renaker & Jackson, P.C., Prather Ebner LLP, and Kirkland & Ellis LLP, is now defending her right to be recognized as Ellyn's wife in two cases in separate states.

"No one should ever have to experience the pain of watching the person they love more than anything die, and then immediately face hostility from their loved one's parents, who don't want to acknowledge that their child was gay and married," said Jennifer, who works for a Chicago art restoration and preservation gallery.

She and Ellyn had several mutual friends, and for years, those friends suggested that they meet. But it wasn't until an unplanned meeting at a 2004 summer street fair in Chicago that the two set eyes on one another.

Their connection was instant, beginning the courtship that brought out the romantic in both of them. Sundays were their days to spend together, and the two

would often make their way to the Foster Beach along Lake Michigan for picnics.

A year to the date after they met, Ellyn planned an elaborate marriage proposal. Jennifer didn't know that Ellyn was going to ask for her hand in marriage. All she knew was that she was spending a day with the woman with whom she wanted to spend the rest of her life.

That day, Ellyn took her to five different places around Chicago, each of which had played a significant role in their courtship. At each location, Ellyn presented Jennifer with a card that told her when she knew she loved her, and how much she meant to her, and that she knew she was the one.

Ellyn handed Jennifer the fifth card along their favorite Lake Michigan beach where the two normally picnicked. It was already dark out when Jennifer began to read the final letter, and Ellyn asked: "Will you marry me?"

Jennifer said yes. They decided to get married in Canada, largely because Ellyn, an attorney, wanted their marriage to be legal, and not tied up in the court system, as marriages of same-sex couples had been in the United States in several regions.

Their wedding in Toronto was small, but they celebrated their nuptials with an elaborate reception in Chicago. Sadly, Ellyn's mother directed her not to tell the rest of her family. After their wedding, Ellyn visited her doctor after experiencing some blurred vision. The diagnosis: A rare form of eye cancer known as ocular melanoma.

Ellyn and Jennifer fought the cancer side-by-side, spending countless hours researching and studying, trying to do everything possible to find a cure for the disease, and praying the cancer wouldn't spread.

But by late 2007, the cancer had metastasized, spreading to Ellyn's liver—a prognosis that no one before her had ever been known to survive. In early September 2010, Ellyn's liver began to fail. Finally acknowledging that she would soon die, Ellyn began fearing her parents would make

things hard for Jennifer after she was gone.

In an attempt to pacify her parents, and to protect Jennifer from them, Ellyn made her parents the beneficiaries of her life insurance policy, worth nearly half a million dollars.

But it turns out Ellyn was correct that her parents would make things difficult anyway. When Ellyn was hospitalized during her final days, Jennifer contacted Ellyn's parents. From the moment Ellyn's parents showed up at the hospital, their intimidation was relentless.

While Ellyn lay in her hospital bed, weak and close to death, her father repeatedly asked to see her will. He insisted that he and Ellyn's mother take the bed in Ellyn's room and told Jennifer she could have a chair "for the time being."

Ellyn's parents also attempted to usurp Jennifer's role as Ellyn's chosen medical decision maker. And hours before she died, they pressured Ellyn to name them the beneficiaries of the profit-sharing plan at her law firm.

Jennifer gets choked up when she thinks about the last five years. But she looks to memories—and the time that she and Ellyn shared—for strength.

She remembers the street fair. Their connection. Their late night talks. Sunday beach days. The marriage proposal.

Sometimes, she flips through a scrapbook that chronicles their life together, and the many cards Ellyn gave her. A handwritten card from Ellyn always stands out. Ellyn wrote it on February 17, 2010—their fourth wedding anniversary, and seven months before her death.

It says: "Thank you for marrying me and for staying married to me! I love you dearly. All my love, Ellyn."

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Read a personal story written by Ellyn about her relationship and love for Jennifer at [NCLRights.org/WithLoveEllyn](http://NCLRights.org/WithLoveEllyn).

Read more about the cases at [NCLRights.org/JenniferandEllyn](http://NCLRights.org/JenniferandEllyn).

## NCLR's Case Wins Major Change in Federal Bureau of Prisons Policy

Thanks to NCLR client Vanessa Adams, the Federal Bureau of Prisons in September announced major changes to its transgender medical policy.

Adams, an inmate at FMC Butner in North Carolina, is a transgender woman who was forced to sue the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) in order for her identity to be respected and to receive medically necessary treatments for her gender dysphoria. Adams' challenge to BOP's treatment of transgender prisoners has resulted in BOP ending its so-called "freeze frame" policy in which treatment for any transgender person is kept at the level provided at the time he or she entered the federal prison system.

In Adams' case, this meant that because she had not received treatment for her gender dysphoria before being incarcerated, BOP refused to provide her with medically necessary care even though its own doctors confirmed that she is transgender and needed care.

When the suit was filed on February 24, 2009, Adams was at a federal prison in Florida. There she was being denied medically necessary hormone therapy and prevented from otherwise expressing a female gender identity because she had not received this treatment prior to her incarceration. In a June 7, 2010 ruling, Federal District Court Judge Joseph L. Tauro rejected



BOP's argument that Adams' claim was moot because BOP had finally started Adams on hormone therapy.

Citing BOP's consistently callous conduct toward Adams, the fact that BOP could stop her treatment at any time, and that BOP did not disavow its policy, Judge Tauro sent the case to mediation. Under the settlement, the parties jointly agreed to end the case.

The change in policy was outlined in two memos, dated May 31, 2011 and June 15, 2010, from BOP's Medical Director to all BOP's chief executive officers. The memo also states

that "current, accepted standards of care will be used as a reference for developing the treatment plan."

The memos have been distributed to all individuals in the prison system who have been diagnosed with gender dysphoria, as well as to the medical staff treating these prisoners.

In addition to NCLR, Adams was represented by Florida Institutional Legal Services (FILS), Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD), Bingham McCutchen LLP, and Allyson Kurker.

## NCLR Deputy Director to Lead Pride Foundation



*Current NCLR Deputy Director Kris Hermanns*

NCLR Deputy Director Kris Hermanns will be leaving the organization after six years to become the executive director of a foundation that funds LGBT nonprofits in the Pacific Northwest.

Hermanns, who leads NCLR's development department as well as the organization's day-to-day operations, will join the Pride Foundation, based in Seattle, Washington, in January 2012, replacing outgoing Executive Director Audrey Haberman.

"When Kris first started as our development director, she told me she could make a two year commitment," said NCLR Executive Director Kate Kendall. "The fact that we have benefited from her leadership, skills, and commitment for six years has to leave me feeling more lucky than disappointed. Kris has been an incredible and invaluable asset to NCLR, and NCLR is a better organization because of her. Clearly, we know why the Pride Foundation wants her—she's truly one of the best. And while we're sad to see her go, we're happy that her visionary leadership

will continue to inspire and guide the LGBT community."

Before joining NCLR, Kris served as director of special funds and was a program officer with The Rhode Island Foundation, which is comprised of more than 850 individual funds. There she created Equity Action, a field-of-interest fund for LGBT concerns, and developed the grantmaking program for the Women's Fund of Rhode Island.

Prior to the Rhode Island Foundation, she worked for Brown University's Howard R. Swearer Center for Public Service, which builds links between the university and local nonprofits by developing partnerships that address community-identified needs.

Learn more about the open deputy director position at

[NCLRights.org/DeputyDirectorSearch](http://NCLRights.org/DeputyDirectorSearch).

# NCLR Active Cases

## U.S. SUPREME COURT

### Christian Legal Society v. Wu

 **Victory!** | California

Like many public schools, the University of California - Hastings College of the Law requires funded student groups to comply with Hastings' policy on non-discrimination. In 2004, the Christian Legal Society (CLS) filed a lawsuit arguing that the policy violated its First Amendment right to discriminate against LGBT and non-Christian students. NCLR and Paul Smith of Jenner & Block LLP, represented Outlaw, the LGBT student group at Hastings, which intervened to defend the University's policy. On June 28, 2010, the United States Supreme Court held that colleges and universities can enforce non-discrimination policies, thereby ensuring that schools across the country can continue to protect LGBT students.

### Doe v. Reed

 **Victory!** | Washington State

Anti-gay groups asked the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn a court order disclosing the names of individuals who signed petitions supporting an anti-gay ballot initiative in Washington State. NCLR, Lambda Legal, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), the Human Rights Campaign, and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force filed an amicus brief defending open government laws—which typically require public disclosure of individuals who support state ballot initiatives. The brief powerfully refuted the false claim that people who support anti-gay initiatives have been intimidated and harassed, showing that instead, it is LGBT people who suffer serious violence, harassment, and discrimination. On June 24, 2010, the United States Supreme Court rejected the anti-gay groups' challenge to the disclosure requirement.

## PARENTING

### Charisma R. v. Kristina S.

 **Victory!** | California and Texas

After being together for six years, Charisma R. and Kristina S. had a child. Kristina gave birth in 2003, and Charisma was the primary caretaker. When their child was only a few months old, Kristina abruptly separated from Charisma, taking the child with her. After several years of litigation and appeals, in 2006, the California Family Court held that Charisma is a legal parent and awarded her visitation. The Court of Appeal upheld this decision, and the U.S. Supreme Court refused review. Kristina moved

to Texas and tried to challenge the California rulings there, but the Texas court denied Kristina's petition. Charisma is represented pro bono by Deborah Wald, with assistance from NCLR. In Texas, Charisma was represented pro bono by Debra Hunt and Connie Moore. Charisma was previously represented by Amy Rose of Squire Sanders & Dempsey, LLP, Amanda List, Algera Tucker, and Rachel Catt.

### Ex Parte A.R.R.

 **Pending** | Puerto Rico

A.R.R. and C.C.V. are a lesbian couple who have been together for more than twenty years. They had a child together through assisted reproduction, and have raised their daughter together. A lower court held that Puerto Rico's adoption statute did not permit the couple to obtain a second-parent adoption to protect A.R.R.'s relationship with their daughter.

NCLR and the ACLU of Puerto Rico filed an amicus brief with the Puerto Rico Supreme Court arguing that the statute discriminates against same-sex couples and unconstitutionally disadvantages children with unmarried same-sex parents by denying them a legal relationship with both their parents.

### Florida Department of Children and Families v. M.J.H.

 **Victory!** | Florida

V.A., a lesbian who lives in Florida with her partner, has been raising a baby boy, E.L.A.—a relative of V.A.'s—since nine days after he was born. She applied to adopt E.L.A., but the state withheld its consent solely because Florida law prohibited “homosexuals” from adopting. The trial court granted the adoption, holding that the adoption ban violates Florida's Constitution and the state appealed. With pro bono help from Cristina Alonso at the law firm of Carlton Fields, NCLR submitted an amicus brief to the Court of Appeal arguing that the ban is unconstitutional. On October 28, 2010, the Court of Appeals affirmed the trial court's decision allowing V.A. to adopt E.L.A.

### Debra H. v. Janice R.

 **Partial Victory** | New York

Debra H. and Janice R. were a same-sex couple living in New York who planned to have a child together and entered a Vermont civil union. After Janice gave birth, Debra and Janice parented the child together for over two years. After the couple separated, Janice cut off contact. NCLR, joined by LGBT advocacy

organizations from around the country, wrote an amicus brief, and Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati assisted with the brief pro bono. New York's highest court, the Court of Appeals, held on May 4, 2010 that Debra is a legal parent because New York must recognize the Vermont civil union for purposes of determining parentage, but said that without a civil union or marriage, non-adoptive and non-biological parents cannot seek custody or visitation.

### Karen Atala Riffo v. Chile

 **Pending** | Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

On May 31, 2004, a Chilean court ordered Karen Atala, a judge in Chile, to relinquish custody of her three children to her estranged husband because she is a lesbian living with her partner. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (the Commission) in Washington, D.C. determined in 2009 that Chile “violated Karen Atala's right to live free from discrimination” when it revoked Atala's custody. The case is pending before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in Costa Rica to determine Chile's liability under the American Convention of Human Rights. NCLR and numerous other organizations filed amicus briefs in support of Atala, written by Morrison and Foerster LLP.

### Adar v. Smith

 **Loss** | Louisiana

Oren Adar and Mickey Smith adopted their son, who was born in Louisiana, in 2006 in New York. The Louisiana State Registrar refused to issue an amended birth certificate reflecting the adopted parents' names even though Louisiana law requires the Registrar to provide amended birth certificates to all adopted children. Lambda Legal filed suit on behalf of parents Adar and Smith. A three-judge panel of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the lower court, finding that the Registrar had to issue the family an amended birth certificate. On April 12, 2011, the full Fifth Circuit reversed, holding that the Registrar could refuse to issue accurate birth certificates only to children adopted by unmarried parents. Lambda Legal asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review the case, and NCLR and Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP filed an amicus brief on behalf of professors of family law, constitutional law, and conflict of laws and drafters of uniform laws, urging the Supreme Court to review the case. On October 11, 2011, the Court decided not to review the case.

## Latham v. Schwerdtfeger

 **Victory!** | Nebraska

Teri and Susan were a same-sex couple who had a child together. Susan gave birth to their son, who they raised together. After the parents separated when their son was five, they co-parented for several years, until Susan began reducing Teri's visitation time and stopped allowing any contact in late 2009. Teri asked the court for shared custody and visitation as a person *in loco parentis* (a person acting as a parent), but the court dismissed her case. NCLR filed an amicus brief arguing that Teri should be permitted to seek shared custody and visitation, represented by Kelle Westland of Raynor, Rensch & Pfeiffer. On August 26, 2011, the Nebraska Supreme Court ruled that Teri can seek custody as a person *in loco parentis*.

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### MARRIAGE & RELATIONSHIP RECOGNITION

## Cozen O'Connor, P.C. v. Jennifer J. Tobits, et al. and Estate of Sarah Ellyn Farley

 **Pending** | Pennsylvania & Illinois

Jennifer Tobits lost her wife, Sarah "Ellyn" Farley, to cancer in 2010. After Ellyn's death, Ellyn's parents challenged their marriage, seeking control of Ellyn's estate in Illinois and directing Ellyn's employer, a law firm based in Pennsylvania, to pay her death benefits to them rather than to Jennifer. In Illinois, Jennifer, represented by NCLR, Prather Ebner LLP, and Kirkland & Ellis LLP, successfully argued before the probate court that she is Ellyn's heir based on their marriage. In Pennsylvania, Ellyn's law firm filed suit in federal court to determine whether Jennifer is entitled to Ellyn's benefits under the terms of the firm's benefits plan. NCLR, with Jerner & Palmer, P.C., and Lewis, Feinberg, Lee, Renaker & Jackson P.C., represents Jennifer in the case, which is pending before the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

## Jackson v. D.C. Board of Elections and Ethics

 **Victory!** | Washington, D.C.

NCLR is part of the Campaign for All D.C. Families, a diverse coalition working to achieve marriage equality for same-sex couples in the District of Columbia. Covington & Burling represents the Campaign. In 2009, the D.C. City Council passed a law permitting same-sex couples to marry. Mayor Adrian Fenty signed the measure, which took effect on March 3, 2010. Anti-gay groups tried to put the new D.C. marriage law to a popular vote, but the D.C.

Board of Elections stopped them, ruling that the D.C. Human Rights Act does not permit minority rights to be up to a popular vote. The District's highest court upheld that ruling on July 15, 2010. The initiative's backers asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review the decision, but on January 18, 2011, the Supreme Court denied their request—thereby ensuring that same-sex couples will continue to have the right to marry in D.C.

## Perry v. Schwarzenegger

 **Victory! Appeal Pending** | California

On May 22, 2009, two same-sex couples filed suit in federal court challenging Proposition 8, which amended the California Constitution to strip the right to marry from same-sex couples. On August 4, 2010, Judge Vaughn Walker ruled that Proposition 8 violates the federal Constitution's guarantees of due process and equal protection. In early 2011, the Ninth Circuit asked the California Supreme Court to clarify whether California law gives ballot initiative sponsors the power to override the litigation decisions of the state's Attorney General and Governor not to pursue an appeal. The California Supreme Court heard oral argument on that question on September 6, 2011. Additionally, on April 25, 2011, Proposition 8's sponsors filed a motion seeking to vacate Judge Walker's decision, arguing that because he is gay and in a long-term relationship, he was unfairly biased. District Court Judge James Ware ruled on June 14, 2011 that it would be improper to bar all gay judges from deciding cases that affect LGBT rights. NCLR, the ACLU, and Lambda Legal have filed amicus briefs throughout the litigation and the appeal.

## Reynolds and McKinley

 **Pending** | Cherokee Nation

NCLR represents Kathy Reynolds and Dawn McKinley, a same-sex couple who are members of the Cherokee Nation. In May 2004, Reynolds and McKinley obtained a marriage certificate from the Cherokee Nation and married shortly thereafter. The next month, another member of the Cherokee Nation sought to invalidate Reynolds and McKinley's marriage in court. NCLR successfully defended Reynolds and McKinley before the Cherokee high court. In December 2005, the high court dismissed a second challenge to their marriage. In January 2006, the Court Administrator, who is responsible for recording marriage licenses, filed a third lawsuit challenging the validity of the marriage. NCLR is now defending Reynolds and McKinley's marriage against this third challenge. NCLR asked the court to dismiss the case and is waiting for a ruling.

### ELDER LAW

## Greene v. County of Sonoma et al.

 **Victory!** | California

Clay Greene and Harold Scull lived together for 20 years. They had executed mutual powers of attorney for medical and financial decisions and had wills naming each other as beneficiaries. In April 2008, County employees separated the couple after Scull fell outside their home. County officials then ignored the couple's legal documentation, unlawfully auctioned their possessions, terminated their lease, and forced Greene into an assisted living facility against his will. In August, 2008, before the partners could be reunited, Scull passed away. In August, 2009, Greene and the representative of Scull's estate filed a lawsuit against the County. The case settled on July 22, 2010. In addition to agreeing to pay more than \$600,000, the County has changed or modified a number of important policies in its Public Guardian's Office. NCLR represented Greene and the estate of Scull along with The Law Office of Anne N. Dennis and Stephen O'Neill and Margaret Flynn of Tarkington, O'Neill, Barrack & Chong.

## Jamie Wyatt

 **Victory!** | Federal

NCLR client Jamie Wyatt applied for Medicare Part A and qualified for coverage. Because she is a transgender woman, the Social Security Administration delayed her benefits for months while it debated whether it would recognize her pre-transition marriage for purposes of qualifying for benefits. During the delay, Ms. Wyatt had to pay over \$300 per month out of her fixed income. NCLR advocated on her behalf with Medicare officials, arguing that Ms. Wyatt clearly qualified for benefits, her marriage should be recognized, and that she deserved both premium-free Medicare and a full reimbursement of the money she paid. In February 2011, the Social Security Administration awarded the benefits.

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### ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

## Ghiotto v. City of San Diego

 **Partial Victory** | California

After being ordered to drive a fire engine in the 2007 San Diego LGBT Pride Parade as paid employees, a group of firefighters sued the City for sexual harassment and violation of their rights to free speech because they objected to the message of inclusion and support for LGBT rights. The firefighters lost on their freedom of speech claim but prevailed on the sexual harassment claim in

the trial court. NCLR filed an amicus curiae brief in the California Court of Appeal to defend the importance of Pride parades and to make clear that public employees do not have a constitutional right to refuse needed emergency services to LGBT people or to refuse to participate as representatives of the city to promote goodwill between city departments and the LGBT residents they serve. On October 14, 2010, the Court of Appeal affirmed the trial court's ruling rejecting the firefighters' free speech claims, but upheld the judgment against the city on the sexual harassment claims.

### Doe v. Jindal

 Pending | Louisiana

In Louisiana, people accused of solicitation of oral or anal sex for money can be criminally charged under the Crimes Against Nature by Solicitation (CANS) statute. Prior to August 2011, a CANS conviction subjected people to far harsher penalties than conviction under the general prostitution statute, including mandatory sex offender registration. In February 2011, the Center for Constitutional Rights filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of nine individuals who had to register as sex offenders after being convicted under CANS, arguing that the discriminatory registration requirement is unconstitutional. On June 21, 2011, NCLR, the Sylvia Rivera Law Project, Lambda Legal, and Breakout!, a project of the Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana, filed an amicus brief in support of the plaintiffs. On September 7, 2011, the court denied defendants' motion to dismiss in part, and granted it in part. The case is currently in active litigation.

### SPORTS

#### Apilado v. North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance

 Pending | Washington State

NCLR clients Steven Apilado, LaRon Charles, and Jon Russ had played in the San Francisco Gay Softball League and attended the Gay Softball World Series with their team, D2, for years. At the 2008 World Series in Seattle, they made it to the championship game for the first time, but another team challenged D2's eligibility based on a rule limiting each team to no more than two straight players. In a hearing, five D2 players were forced to state whether they were "predominantly attracted to men" or "predominantly attracted to women," without the option of answering that they were attracted to both.

The predominantly white panel voted that Steven, LaRon, and Jon—all bisexual men of color—were not gay, but that the other two players, both white—one of whom had given the same answers as Jon—were gay. The committee therefore took away their team's second-place win. After the league refused to change its rules, NCLR and Suzanne Thomas and Peter Talevich of K & L Gates LLP filed a lawsuit in federal court on behalf of the three players. On May 31, 2011, the Court ruled that NAGAAA is subject to Washington anti-discrimination laws as a "place of public accommodation." Trial is set for December 2011.

### TRANSGENDER LAW

#### Adams v. Federal Bureau of Prisons et al.

 Victory! | Massachusetts

Vanessa Adams is a transgender woman who was diagnosed by Federal Bureau of Prison (BOP) medical professionals with gender dysphoria in 2005 while she was incarcerated in a BOP prison. Over the next few years, she made at least 19 written requests asking for medical treatment for her gender dysphoria, which the BOP denied based on its "freeze frame" policy in which treatment for any person with gender dysphoria is kept at the level provided at the time he or she entered BOP custody. Because Adams had not received treatment for her gender dysphoria before being incarcerated, BOP would not treat her for it. As a result, she attempted suicide multiple times and engaged in other avenues of self-treatment. In February 2009, NCLR, Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, Florida Institutional Legal Services, and Bingham McCutchen LLP filed a lawsuit against the BOP on Adams' behalf. On September 29, 2011, the parties reached a settlement, in which BOP agreed to end its gender dysphoria "freeze frame" policy. Instead, individuals in BOP custody nationwide will receive an individualized assessment and treatment plan based on current accepted standards of care for gender dysphoria. BOP also agreed to provide Adams with appropriate treatment for her gender dysphoria, including hormone therapy and other medically necessary care.

#### In re M.

 Victory! | California

M. is a transgender man with physical disabilities that prevent him from cleaning, preparing food, and other life activities. He

applied for services to help him around his home, but was denied those services after he came out as transgender. NCLR represented him in his appeal and won full benefits for him.

### YOUTH

#### In re D.B.

 Victory! | Ohio

In Ohio, a 12-year-old boy was charged and prosecuted for statutory rape—a first degree felony—for intimate conduct with an 11-year-old male friend. After finding that D.B. and his friend had engaged in voluntary conduct, the court sentenced D.B. to indefinite probation, prohibited him from any contact with his friend, and ordered that he attend counseling and group therapy for sex offenders. If he violated any of these conditions, he could be incarcerated until age 21. NCLR, the National Juvenile Defender Center, and the Juvenile Law Center filed an amicus brief in August of 2010 arguing that it was unconstitutional to apply this law to a child under 13—a member of the very class the law was designed to protect. The brief argued that giving prosecutors discretion to bring such charges was unfair and could be used to target youth who are perceived as gay. The brief also argued that the consequences of a conviction as a sex offender are severely disproportionate to the conduct. On June 8, 2011, in a unanimous decision, the Ohio Supreme Court agreed that the law was unconstitutional as applied to any child under 13, and reversed D.B.'s conviction.

#### Doe v. Anoka-Hennepin School District and E.R. v. Anoka-Hennepin School District

 Pending | Minnesota

NCLR represents a group of current and former students from the Anoka-Hennepin School District in Minnesota who experienced pervasive verbal and physical harassment based on their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender expression. On July 21, 2011, we filed suit against the district and school officials on behalf of five students in federal court. The lawsuit asserts that the district's policies—including a policy that prevents teachers and other staff from talking about LGBT people—and its failure to protect LGBT students from harassment violated the students' rights under the United States Constitution, Title IX, and the Minnesota Human Rights Act. On August 9, 2011, NCLR filed an additional lawsuit on behalf of a sixth student. Our co-counsel in the case are

the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), Faegre and Benson LLP, and Culberth and Lienemann, LLP. The case is currently in settlement discussions under the supervision of the magistrate judge.

### Shelton v. Anoka-Hennepin School District

 **Victory!** | Minnesota

Desiree “Dez” Shelton and Sarah Lindstrom were girlfriends and seniors at Champlin Park High School in the Anoka-Hennepin School District, north of Minneapolis. They were elected by their classmates to the royal court for their school’s winter formal dance in January 2011 and they planned to walk together in the procession just like any other couple. Days before the event, school officials told the girls that they could not walk together because other students might be “uncomfortable.” NCLR, the Southern Poverty Law Center, and the Minnesota law firm of Faegre & Benson LLP sent a demand letter outlining the district’s violations of the girls’ rights under the First Amendment, the Equal Protection Clause, and the Minnesota Human Rights Act. When the district would not change its decision, NCLR and our co-counsel filed an emergency petition asking the court to order the school to allow the girls to participate as a couple at the event. The judge scheduled a mediation the next day, during which the district agreed to allow Dez and Sarah, and any other same-sex couple, to walk together in the procession.

### Doe v. Vermilion Parish School Board

 **Settled** | Louisiana

In the fall of 2009, the Rene A. Rost Middle School in Vermilion Parish, Louisiana implemented mandatory sex-segregated classes, without offering equivalent co-ed classes. The ACLU sued the school district, arguing that the mandatory single-sex classes violated Title IX, the federal law against sex discrimination in education. The district court ruled for the school, and the plaintiffs appealed to the Fifth Circuit. NCLR joined an amicus brief in support of the plaintiffs written by the National Women’s Law Center and Morrison and Foerster LLP. The brief argued that the school’s mandatory sex-segregation policy discriminated against students based on sex and reinforced gender stereotypes. On April 6, 2011, the Fifth Circuit affirmed the district court’s denial of a preliminary injunction but remanded the case to the district court for further consideration of plaintiffs’ claims. The ACLU announced on

October 13, 2011, that it had settled the case, with the school district agreeing to halt all sex-segregated classes through the 2016-17 school year.

#### IMMIGRATION

### In re Maria G.

 **Pending** | Mexico

Maria G. is a lesbian from Guerrero, Mexico who suffered constant verbal and physical abuse by her father and male siblings because of her gender non-conformity and perceived sexual orientation. In one incident, at the age of 8 or 9, her father threw her against the wall so hard that she lost consciousness. As she grew older, school mates, relatives, strangers, and gang members verbally and physically abused her as well. In one vicious attack, gang members stabbed her after being ordered to “get rid of the dyke in town.” After this horrendous attack, Maria G. fled to the United States. In the U.S., Maria was at a party with her partner and friends when a stranger started harassing her girlfriend. To avoid further problems, they left the party but were followed by the man and his friends, who attacked Maria outside. The police then arrested Maria and her attackers. Although she was the victim and no charges were filed against her, ICE picked her up and detained her. She was released under the Intensive Supervision Appearance Program and was referred to Immigration Court. NCLR helped her apply for asylum in February 2010 and her hearing is scheduled for December 2011.

### In re Fernando

 **Victory!** | Honduras

Fernando is a young gay man from Honduras. His first memories of his life are of relatives calling him derogatory names. His mannerisms made him an easy target at school where he was isolated, humiliated, and beaten. When he was 11 years old, his mother moved to the United States to earn money to support her three children. After his mother left, Fernando was constantly beaten and belittled at home. One evening, he witnessed several men savagely attack a gay man in his neighborhood. The police later told the victim he was beaten because he was a “fag.” Fernando fled to the United States in 2006. After four years in the U.S., Fernando returned to Honduras because his grandmother was terribly ill. He remained in Honduras for a short period of time and returned to the U.S. in February 2010 after experiencing more violence. NCLR filed his asylum application in February 2011 and asylum was granted in March 2011.

### In re P.T.

 **Victory!** | Mexico

P. T. is a transgender woman from Mexico. Due to her feminine appearance and behavior, she was verbally and physically abused at home, in school, and out on the streets. Her stepfather also sexually abused her for years and her mother did nothing to protect her. In high school, male students constantly beat and harassed her. When she confronted her mother as an adult about the sexual abuse she had suffered, her mother became very angry and told her she never wanted to see her again. She fled to the United States in September 2002. Upon arriving to the U.S., she entered an abusive relationship that lasted many years. She was constantly belittled, isolated, and beaten. She found support at the Tom Waddell Clinic. NCLR submitted her asylum application in January 2011 and her asylum was granted August 2011.

### In re Izel R.

 **Victory!** | Mexico

Izel, a transgender woman, faced constant discrimination, harassment, and violence because of her gender identity and sexual orientation. From a very young age, she was rejected at home and school because she did not behave like a typical boy and suffered verbal, physical, and sexual abuse. She was once jailed by the police because someone accused her of stealing a dress that she had simply touched. She was only around 11 years old, yet was put in a cell with adult males who harassed her. When her sister came to pay her bond, the officers did not want to release her. Her sister had to plead with the chief of police to release her. As she grew older, the abuse and violence increased. When her father attempted to kill her with his machete, Izel fled to the United States. In 2010, she found the El/La Para Trans Latinas program in San Francisco and found the support there that she had never before received. El/La referred her to the Tom Waddell Clinic where she started hormonal treatment. NCLR helped her file an asylum application in January 2011 and it was granted in August 2011.

### In re V.R.

 **Victory!** | Guatemala

V.R. is a Guatemalan gay man who was relentlessly taunted as a child. As he grew older, he was often isolated from his group of peers and frequently beaten. V.R. studied to become a teacher, but when his parents started spreading rumors about his sexual identity, he was fired from his job. In 1995, he fled to the U.S. to seek refuge, but had to return in 2000 when his father fell gravely ill. Upon his return to Guatemala,

he found that things had not changed in his country. He had several encounters where the police refused to help him and his friends because of their sexual orientation. While walking on the street one night, V.R. and his friends were verbally harassed and savagely beaten by a group of men. V.R. fled to the United States. In 2009, V.R. landed in ICE custody after a police encounter. NCLR collaborated with the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights' pro bono attorney David Tsai in representing V.R. His asylum application was submitted in August 2009 and after two hearings, his asylum was granted in July 2011.

### In re G.R.

#### Victory! | El Salvador

G.R. is a transgender woman from El Salvador who experienced serious verbal and physical abuse from her family and community. After her father attempted to drown her, G.R. cut off all communication with him. When she was 15, she became involved in youth groups through her church and obtained a religious visa to enter the United States. She attended high school in the U.S. and wanted to pursue a career in nursing. As she started presenting herself more as a female, it became harder and harder to obtain employment. She eventually became homeless and, in late 2009, arrived in San Francisco. The El/La Program for Trans Latinas put her in touch with Lyon-Martin Health Services for hormonal treatment, and she was later referred to NCLR for legal help. NCLR helped her file for asylum in October 2010 and her asylum was approved in February 2011.

### J.G. v. Holder

#### Victory! | Mexico

J.G. is a gay man from Mexico who suffered repeated sexual and physical assaults because of his sexual orientation. He fled to the United States in 1999. In 2004, after a notario offered to get him a work permit, J.G. found himself in an interview with an asylum officer. When the officer asked him if he was gay, he admitted that he was, but he was so unprepared and anxious that he did not mention the serious abuse he suffered in Mexico. His case was then referred to the immigration court, and he found an attorney to represent him. That attorney failed to make several basic arguments or introduce key evidence about his eligibility for asylum, and then resigned from practicing law without notifying J.G. He eventually found his way to NCLR's Immigration Project. NCLR filed a motion to reopen his case based on the ineffective assistance of his previous counsel. On March 30, 2011, the Board of Immigration

Appeals granted the motion and remanded his case back to the immigration court to restart the asylum proceedings.

### In re S.K.

#### Victory! | Pakistan

S.K. is a gay and HIV-positive Pakistani man. Under Pakistani law, being gay is punishable by death. The Immigration Judge denied his application for asylum, holding that S.K., who was in a committed relationship with a man in Minnesota, could avoid persecution by hiding his sexual orientation and marrying a woman. The Immigration Judge also failed to recognize that S.K.'s traumatizing diagnosis of HIV understandably delayed his filing. The Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) originally upheld the Immigration Judge's decision, and S.K. appealed. After NCLR submitted an amicus brief to the Eighth Circuit, that court asked the BIA to clarify its decision. NCLR helped to organize other LGBT, HIV/AIDS, and immigrant-rights groups to submit a joint amicus brief to the BIA in July 2008. In May 2009, the BIA remanded the case to the Immigration Judge to reconsider the original ruling, instructing the judge to assume that S.K. would not hide the fact that he is gay. The hearing on remand is currently scheduled for May 15, 2013.

### Doe v. Gonzales

#### Victory! | Egypt

John Doe, a gay man from Egypt, applied for asylum based on anti-gay persecution he suffered in Egypt, where gay men are frequently arrested and subjected to brutal physical mistreatment for private, consensual adult sexual conduct. The Immigration Judge and Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) denied his application. NCLR and the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission filed an amicus brief with the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in support of Doe's eligibility for withholding of removal and relief from removal under the U.N. Convention Against Torture. In December of 2007, the Third Circuit reversed the rejection of Doe's application for asylum and remanded the case to the BIA to fully consider the relevant facts. The court directed the BIA to consider whether the treatment of gay citizens in Egypt has deteriorated since 2001. In March of 2010, Doe was granted withholding of removal.

### In re Emily

#### Victory! | Mexico

Emily is a transgender woman who suffered physical, verbal, and sexual abuse since a very young age in her home country of Mexico.

She lived a life of poverty and since the age of eight helped her mother financially by selling homemade food, newspapers, and gum in the streets of her hometown. The violence she encountered due to her gender identity and sexual orientation forced her to flee her home and move closer to the border where she fended for herself for three years. When her mother married a US citizen and applied for green card for all her children, Emily was able to enter the US as a permanent resident at the age of sixteen. After living in Southern California for many years, Emily moved to San Francisco in 1997. In 2010 she was arrested due to problems caused by being in an abusive relationship and detained by ICE. Emily had been in detention at the Sacramento County Jail since May 2011 when her mother and brother called NCLR. They had exhausted all other means of obtaining legal representation as they did not have the means to pay for legal costs. With the expertise of Chelsea Haley Nelson and Cara Jobson, NCLR's Immigration Project took this case on as Emily's last hope. An application for asylum and withholding of removal was submitted on her behalf in Immigration Court and Emily was granted withholding of removal in September 2011.

### In re Carlos

#### Victory! | Mexico

Carlos is originally from Mexico and from a very young age was subjected to taunting, humiliations, beatings, and mistreatment by relatives, schoolmates, and strangers. Although he knew that he was gay, he married a woman and became a father to two children so that his relatives and his parents in particular would stop pressuring him. When he confessed the truth about his identity to his wife, his wife and her family threatened to kill him if he ever told anyone about his true feelings. He was told to leave or bear the consequences. Carlos came to the United States, where he became an activist with young labor workers. He became the spokesperson for tenants who were going to be unjustly evicted, and helped them win their case. When the judge found in their favor, the landlord threatened to call immigration. Within three days, Carlos was arrested on false charges and placed in detention. Without legal representation or money to post bond, Carlos accepted voluntary departure to Mexico. After only a few days in Mexico, he suffered a beating at the hands of police due to his sexual orientation. Fearful, he returned to the United States. With the pro bono assistance of Chelsea Haley Nelson, Carlos was granted withholding of removal in August 2011.

1970s



1980s



1990s



2000s



## NCLR TIMELINE: A GLANCE AT HISTORY

- 1977** Lesbian Rights Project founded (re-named National Center for Lesbian Rights in 1989)
- 1980** NCLR wins landmark victory in California for Denise Kreps, denied a job as county sheriff because of her sexual orientation
- 1986** NCLR represents Annie Affleck and Rebecca Smith as they become one of the first same-sex couples to jointly adopt in the U.S.
- 1987** NCLR wins one of the first second-parent adoption cases in the country and begins promoting second-parent adoption as a legal strategy for protecting same-sex parent families
- 1988** NCLR wins one of the nation's first court custody battles for a parent with AIDS on behalf of Artie Wallace, a gay dad whose son was kidnapped by his ex-wife
- 1993** NCLR is the first national LGBT legal organization to launch a groundbreaking advocacy program on behalf of LGBT youth
- 1994** NCLR launches its Immigration Project, becoming the first national LGBT legal organization to do so
- 1996** NCLR represents a lesbian mother in Florida in a precedent-setting case holding that courts must not base custody decisions on stereotypes about lesbian and gay parents
- 1999** NCLR is the first LGBT legal organization to launch a permanent Elder Law Project
- 2001** NCLR becomes the first national LGBT legal organization to launch a Transgender Law Project
  - ➔ NCLR is the first national LGBT organization to tackle the rampant homophobia and transphobia in sports with the launch of its Sports Project
  - ➔ NCLR wins a landmark wrongful death lawsuit on behalf of Sharon Smith against the owners of two vicious dogs who killed Sharon's life partner, Diane Alexis Whipple
- 2002** NCLR represents Michael Kantaras, a transgender dad in Florida, in a landmark custody and divorce case televised on Court TV
- 2003** NCLR wins first school harassment case involving lesbian and gay students who were subjected to years of harassment
- 2005** NCLR wins the first round of the California marriage battle when the San Francisco Superior Court rules that excluding same-sex couples from the right to marry violates the California Constitution
- 2006** NCLR launches the Family Protection Project to improve access to family law services for low-income, same-sex parent families, with a focus on serving families of color
- 2007** In the first lawsuit to shine a spotlight on pervasive homophobia in women's sports, NCLR represents Jennifer Harris, a former college basketball star, in a discrimination case against Penn State and former coach Rene Portland
  - ➔ NCLR represents a gay couple in a landmark victory against an internet adoption business that discriminates against same-sex couples and single parents
  - ➔ NCLR and California Rural Legal Assistance launch another first-of-its-kind project, Proyecto Poderoso / Project Powerful, to improve legal services for low-income LGBT farm workers and people in rural California
- 2008** NCLR is lead counsel in the historic case in which the California Supreme Court rules the state can no longer exclude same-sex couples from marriage, including holding that LGBT people are entitled to the highest level of constitutional protection—the first time any high court has ever done so
- 2010** NCLR wins U.S. Supreme Court case upholding the right of colleges and universities to enforce non-discrimination policies that protect LGBT students
- 2011** NCLR client Vanessa Adams settles with Federal Bureau of Prisons, establishing major changes in transgender medical policy for those in federal facilities

Read NCLR's Complete Timeline at [NCLRights.org/NCLRTimeline](http://NCLRights.org/NCLRTimeline).

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The National Center for Lesbian Rights is a national legal organization committed to advancing the civil and human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their families through litigation, public policy advocacy, and public education.

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