



NATIONAL CENTER FOR LESBIAN RIGHTS

Helen Carroll,
Sports Project Director
National Center for Lesbian Rights

Helen Carroll joined NCLR in August 2001 to lead the Sports Project. She is well known in the sports world as an acclaimed national championship basketball coach from the University of North Carolina-Asheville. Carroll has been a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Athletic Director for 12 years, and now devotes all her efforts to fight homophobia in sports.

Carroll plays an instrumental role in NCLR's sports law work, offering her expertise in college athletics and the greater sports community. Such cases include negotiating a settlement on behalf of Merry Stephens, an award-winning teacher and basketball coach with Bloomburg Independent School District in the small rural community of Bloomburg, Texas, who was terminated because of her sexual orientation. Her expertise in the area of women's collegiate athletics was essential in NCLR's representation of former Penn State women's basketball star Jennifer Harris against Lady Lions basketball coach Rene Portland, athletic director Tim Curley, and Penn State University. Additionally, she worked with the University of Florida to create policies and a model training program to educate about harassment and discrimination of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students and athletes.

Carroll works closely with major national sports organizations including the Women's Sports Foundation and the NCAA. She has been a dynamic speaker on panels with the NCAA, the Olympic Committee, Nike, the U.S. Tennis Association, *The New York Times*, the San Francisco 49ers, and many others. She was featured in Dee Mosbacher's award-winning film, *Out for a Change: Addressing Homophobia in Women's Sports*, and author Pat Griffin's book, *Strong Women, Deep Closets*.