



## We started as pioneers. And we still are.

Thirty-eight years ago, a brave and determined woman—fresh out of law school and eager to make a difference—decided to put her knowledge to good use. As a legal scholar, Donna Hitchens saw the courtroom as a place to change the world. As a lesbian, she had experienced frustrations and fears—both personal and professional—and didn't want others to suffer the same. And as a future parent, she knew she would face even more challenges ahead.

With this foundation, the National Center for Lesbian Rights was born.

That was in 1977. Today, that pioneering spirit and unwavering commitment to advance the civil and human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people continues. Each year, through litigation, public policy advocacy, and public education, NCLR helps more than 5,000 LGBT people and their families nationwide. And the ripple effect of our work benefits thousands more, establishing legal precedents, policies, and laws that recognize and protect our families and our right to equality under the law. For more than three decades we've fought and won hundreds of historic cases, and today we are still trailblazing in pursuit of justice, fairness, and legal protections for all LGBT people.

At NCLR, we're bold enough to take a stand and dedicated enough to see it through. We know we can't wait for justice to come to us; it's something we work toward – actively and passionately – every day. Winning doesn't come easy, and we're not always victorious the first time around. But we never lose sight of our goals.

### In the past year alone, the National Center for Lesbian Rights:

- ✓ Won the freedom to marry for couples in Florida, Idaho, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming—and the federal precedent that requires marriage equality in every state in the Ninth and Tenth Circuits.
- ✓ Launched BornPerfect, a national campaign to end the harmful practice of anti-LGBT conversion therapy in the next five years.
- ✓ Drafted a groundbreaking New Jersey law protecting LGBT youth from conversion therapy and then successfully defended that law in court, winning a precedent-setting victory in the Federal Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.
- ✓ Drafted and sponsored the first law in the country, enacted in California, that requires schools to give transgender kids equal access to sports, bathrooms, and all other school programs and activities.
- ✓ Won multiple new federal agency policies that protect LGBT people, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Education, the Social Security Administration, and the Department of Labor.
- ✓ Partnered with the USDA to launch Rural Pride, a national campaign to highlight the needs of LGBT people in rural areas.
- ✓ Ensured that the 2013 Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) included explicit protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity for all VAWA services and resources, including access to domestic violence shelters.
- ✓ Won a case eliminating the decades-old Medicare ban on medical treatments for gender transition, thereby ensuring Medicare coverage for thousands of transgender people nationwide.
- ✓ Took a leadership role in the Alliance for Justice Coalition to ensure that the needs of LGBT people are front and center in the current push to reform



the immigration system.

- ✓ Convened a meeting at the U.S. Olympic training grounds in Colorado Springs to develop strategies and resources for LGBT athletes competing in the 2014 Olympics in Russia.
- ✓ Successfully represented the first openly transgender mixed martial arts fighter, helping her win the right to fight as a female.
- ✓ Won legal protections for non-biological LGBT

parents in California, Delaware, Florida, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Utah.

- ✓ Provided expert legal assistance in more than 100 family law cases across the country and trained more than 300 attorneys and judges on LGBT family law issues.
- ✓ Provided legal assistance to well over 1,250 LGBT immigrants, and represented 55 LGBT individuals who were persecuted because of their sexual orientation or gender identity in their countries of

All this doesn't even include more than 2,000 helpline calls we fielded from across the country, 65 cases we litigated, and thousands of media interviews our staff and board members participated in over the past year.

We are making a difference and a sustained impact. But we are far from finished. In some ways, the road ahead will be more challenging because the remaining issues—beating back discriminatory religious exemptions, implementing marriage equality in conservative states, securing genuine acceptance for LGBT children in schools and families, protecting LGBT elders, winning basic protections for transgender and gender non-conforming people, ensuring that LGBT people have equal access to assisted reproduction, and protecting LGBT immigrants and asylum seekers—will be particularly resistant to change. At every step, our opposition will be there to push back on our gains. But we will build on our 38 years of audacious and fierce leadership. We will never cease our work until all LGBT people live free from stigma and shame, fully embraced and supported for who they are.

You help us realize that promise—by believing in our mission, supporting us financially, telling others about our work, and, often, working alongside us to achieve our shared goals.

Thank you for being part of our NCLR family.

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# THE AUDACITY TO FIGHT FOR JUSTICE

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