

Wolfson Keynotes Firm Conference on Marriage Equality

Gay marriage has been a prevalent topic in the national media this year, due largely to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' new law allowing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. In January the Firm hosted a panel discussion on the topic of marriage equality, which drew close to 300 guests. Included on the panel were gay rights activist Evan Wolfson, Executive Director of Freedom to Marry, and Patricia M. Logue, Senior Counsel at Lambda Legal and former Jenner & Block attorney.

According to the panelists, Massachusetts will be a bellwether state for determining how marriage equality will be recognized nationwide at the state or federal level. (See page 2)

"Couples who have made a personal commitment in life who are doing the work of marriage in caring for one another, deserve a legal commitment to match, with equality," said Mr. Wolfson. "That's called marriage. To me this is a civil rights question, and the respect or discrimination from state to state is how it will unfold in legal and political battles."



Evan Wolfson, Executive Director of Freedom to Marry, whom *The American Lawyer* described as "the gay rights movement's...Thurgood Marshall."

Ms. Logue agreed with Mr. Wolfson that the marriages resulting from the push for marriage equality in Massachusetts, the site of the most renowned legal battle over the issue, should be given full faith and credit by courts in other jurisdictions.

Mr. Wolfson, whose book *Why Marriage Matters: America, Equality, and Gay People's Right to Marry* was published by Simon & Schuster in August, shared with the audience why the LGBT community should have the freedom to marry, and why he felt it was important for non-gays to get involved as well. In his previous position at Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, Mr. Wolfson was Director of Lambda's Marriage Project and coordinated the National Freedom to Marry Coalition.

Mr. Wolfson, who was named by *Time Magazine* to the "Time 100" list this year as one of the 100 most influential people in the world, likened gay marriage rights to civil rights. He has often drawn parallels between the banning of separate school facilities in *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) and the current litigation over marriage equality.

"Opponents say, 'Why aren't civil unions enough?'" said Ms. Logue. "The real question is, 'Why should we create a whole separate

institution, when we already have one established called marriage?'"

The marriage rights program was moderated by Richard Wilson, a Chicago attorney and Co-Chair of the Chicago Bar Association Committee on the Legal Rights of Lesbians and Gay Men, which co-sponsored the event along with the American Constitution Society. Jenner & Block's Managing Partner Robert L. Graham and Partner Gail H. Morse opened the evening's program with welcoming remarks.

"It's great that Jenner & Block can be the site to provide an open forum for this discussion," said Mr. Graham. "The Firm is a strong supporter of LGBT civil rights, and the fact this conference is going on here says something special about our involvement in the issue."

Teaching *Lawrence*



Partner Paul M. Smith was the featured guest in April at a John Marshall Law School lecture focusing on his successful 2003 argument before the U.S. Supreme Court in *Lawrence v. Texas*. The event, entitled "Teaching *Lawrence*," was attended by law students and professors, and featured Mr. Smith's discussion of the key issues that arise in constitutional law. "*Lawrence* encapsulates all of the major principles that you'd want to talk about in constitutional law," he said.

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Lawrence Legacy

Massachusetts: Same-Sex Marriage is Constitutionally Protected Right

Jenner & Block Partner William M. Hohengarten says that a common misperception in the wake of the landmark *Lawrence v. Texas* decision is that litigating gay couples are seeking “special treatment” in their demands for marriage equality.

On the contrary, “we were arguing in *Lawrence* for equality and the protection of an inalienable civil right. Many attorneys in the subsequent legal battles you see across the country over marriages between gay couples are taking a similar stance,” said Mr. Hohengarten, who was a leader of the Jenner & Block team that helped persuade the Supreme Court in 2003 that a Texas sodomy statute was unconstitutional. Mr. Hohengarten and others are currently engaged in the fight for marriage equality on a number of fronts, including in one case drafting amicus briefs on behalf of the American Psychiatric Association.

“For those on my side of the debate, it’s always been about the legal right to marry, and not about ‘gay marriage,’” he added.

The Massachusetts Supreme Court agreed earlier this year when, in relying heavily on the *Lawrence* arguments, it sanctioned same-sex marriages in that state. *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health*. The Massachusetts high court’s 5-4 majority held that whether and how to establish a family is an individual liberty and a right under the equal protection clause of the Massachusetts Constitution.

Many have hailed the *Goodridge* decision as the modern-day “shot heard ‘round the world” for gay couples seeking to legally marry. “Central to personal freedom and security is the assurance that the laws will apply equally to persons in similar situations,” the majority wrote.

Like the sodomy law addressed in *Lawrence*, the Massachusetts marriage law was viewed by the *Goodridge* majority to have been unconstitutionally “rooted in persistent prejudices against persons who are (or who are believed to be) homosexual.” The majority went on to describe the legal definition of marriage as simply “the voluntary union of two persons as spouses, to the exclusion of all others.”

Sosman’s Dissent

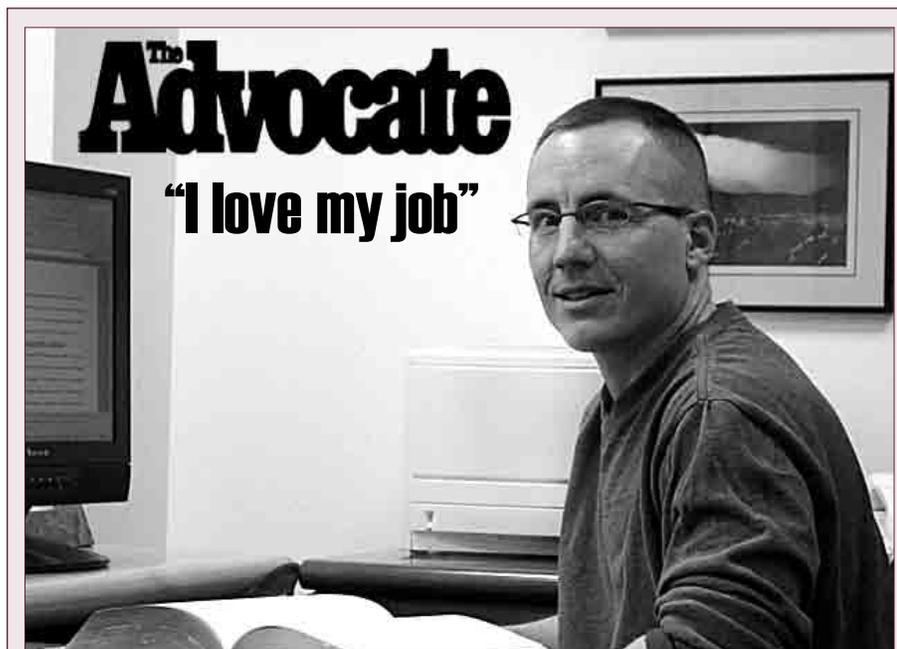
In her dissent, Justice Martha Sosman cautioned that even if Massachusetts law allowed gay marriages, those marriages would still not be fully equal since differences between federal and state laws can be expected to impede the goal of complete equality as envisioned by the U.S. Constitution.

With all the practical differences between straight and gay unions,

Judge Sosman argued, “it is eminently reasonable to give a different name to the legal status being conferred on same-sex couples” by the majority’s decision, thereby suggesting a legal status more akin to what is commonly known as a “civil union,” rather than “marriage.”

Mr. Hohengarten disagrees, as did the *Goodridge* majority.

“The *Goodridge* decision is based on established precedents and traditional notions of equal protection,” he concluded. “The Massachusetts Justices understood what the U.S. Supreme Court had articulated so forcefully in *Lawrence*, that this is about ‘equal treatment,’ not ‘special treatment!’”



Jenner & Block Partner William M. Hohengarten, a leader of the Firm’s *Lawrence* legal team, was recently profiled in *The Advocate* special issue showcasing five openly-gay professionals who “love their job.”

The Road Taken

Jorge Leon Finds a Career that Inspires



Associate Jorge Leon wasn't quite sure what type of law he wanted to practice when he was in law school — or whether

he'd be able to find a law firm that would accept his "out" status.

Then Mr. Leon became a summer associate at Jenner & Block. The complexity of an ERISA assignment piqued his imagination and the Firm itself proved to be gay-friendly.

"I still remember coming across a letter written to my school's LGBT group from an 'out' Jenner & Block lawyer, raving about how open and welcoming the Firm was to gay and lesbian attorneys," Mr. Leon recently said. "That letter was as accurate back then as it is today."

Now an Associate in the Firm's Employee Benefits and Executive Compensation Practice, Mr. Leon's practice focuses on helping companies

keep their retirement or other benefit plans, such as pensions and 401(k) plans, in compliance with ERISA and the Tax Code. This area of law, according to Mr. Leon, is particularly challenging, and yet he's received plenty of help from the Firm in advancing his career.

"You really don't learn much about employee benefits law in school, so you end up learning as you go along," he said. "There's no better experience than being put on the spot by clients and opposing counsel ... and of course, throughout the whole time there are Partners and senior Associates ready to help advise and reaffirm your findings."

Because of this collaboration with law firm mentors and hands-on training, Mr. Leon said, he's been more effective at developing communication and research skills as well as nurturing strong client relationships.

For instance, he explained, a new twist to his practice was added with the passage of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, a significant piece of legislation affecting corporate governance, financial disclosure and public

accounting. Mr. Leon explained that the sheer complexity of this law showed how important it was to proactively identify issues to his clients before they become problematic.

In addition to learning how to handle compliance issues, Mr. Leon has counseled clients on the benefits aspects of various mergers and acquisitions. "The transactions tend to be more fast-paced and require a great deal of team work," he said. "Knowing the intricacies of ERISA and the tax laws is essential to successful completion of all aspects of deals."

When not busy with ERISA or friends and family, the 1998 graduate of the University of Illinois College of Law has taken the time to work with pro bono clients. Mr. Leon is also active in Firm recruiting and serves on the Firm's Diversity Committee and Hiring Committee.

"Jenner & Block has been such a big part of my life," he said, "that I can't help but take the time to help maintain the culture and atmosphere that inspires so many of us."

Firm Continues its Support of Lavender Law

Partner Gail H. Morse and Associate Kathleen R. Hartnett will join the Honorable Sid Galton on the "Out on the Job" panel that is part of Lavender Law 2004 in Minneapolis, September 30-October 2. This is the third consecutive year that the "Out on the Job" panel, with representatives of Jenner & Block, will be featured in the annual conference of the National Lesbian and Gay Law Association (NLGLA).

The always well-attended session discusses current law students' and practicing attorneys' concerns about being out on the job. Additionally, Associate Jorge M. Leon will serve as a Jenner & Block representative with Ms.

Hartnett at Lavender Law's Career Fair.

Each year, Lavender Law attracts some of the country's leading lawyers to head discussions and strategy sessions on some of the cutting edge legal issues affecting LGBT individuals. This year more than 500 practicing attorneys and law professors and 200 law students are expected to attend.

Joni Thome, who chairs the board of the NLGLA, said that the NLGLA's staff and workload has increased as a result of the law firms that sponsor Lavender Law.

"Jenner & Block and our other sponsors are premier law firms," Ms. Thome said. "It's no longer 1990, where

the conference consisted of activist lawyers convening once a year to talk about how they could change the world."

In addition to past financial sponsorships of the conference and representation at the career fair, Ms. Morse has been a frequent presenter at the conference and Partner Paul M. Smith gave the keynote address at Lavender Law 2003.

"Jenner & Block has provided financial support to the Conference consistently, with this year's contribution more than doubling its past support," said Ms. Thome. "We appreciate this commitment and look forward to a long-lasting relationship with Jenner & Block."

Meet Jenner & Block's Openly Lesbian and Gay Attorneys

Partners



CHRISTOPHER C. DICKINSON

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Christopher C. Dickinson is a member of the Firm's Insurance Litigation and Counseling Practice. Mr. Dickinson represents financial institutions and other corporate policyholders pursuing insurance recovery for high-stakes claims in such areas as professional liability, competitive injury, consumer fraud, intellectual property, fidelity and financial fraud, employment practices liability, catastrophic bodily injury, product liability and environmental damage.

Through litigation, arbitration or negotiation he has managed and successfully concluded numerous complex insurance coverage disputes under general liability insurance, directors and officers liability insurance, professional liability insurance and financial institutions bonds, recovering hundreds of millions of dollars for his clients from virtually all of the major insurers in the domestic, London and Bermuda markets. His insurance litigation practice is national in scope, and is marked by particular emphasis on appellate advocacy.

Mr. Dickinson also counsels corporate policyholders in dealings with their insurers outside the dispute resolution context, for example, in claims review and management; review of insurance programs and counseling concerning the design of new programs; and crafting policy language.

Mr. Dickinson is a member of the Board of Directors of the AIDS Legal Council of Chicago. He received his law degree *cum laude* from the University of Wisconsin in 1988.



WILLIAM M. HOHENGARTEN

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William M. Hohengarten is a member of the Firm's Antitrust and Trade Regulation, Appellate and Supreme Court, Telecommunications, and Litigation Practices. Mr. Hohengarten has advised and represented clients in a variety of antitrust and commercial disputes and litigation, including matters under the Sherman Act, the Robinson-Patman Act, and commercial contract, fraud, trade secrets, business torts, and dealer termination litigation. In addition, Mr. Hohengarten has an active appellate and Supreme Court litigation practice, focusing on regulatory appeals, commercial matters, and civil rights and constitutional law.

He has also represented parties and amici curiae in appeals presenting a wide variety of constitutional issues, including sovereign immunity, takings of private property, the census and congressional representation, procedural due process, the death penalty, and the right of privacy.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit appointed Mr. Hohengarten to present arguments as friend of the court in an appeal raising novel questions concerning freedom of religion and qualified immunity.

Mr. Hohengarten received a J.D. in 1994 from Yale Law School, where he was a Notes Editor for the *Yale Law Journal*. Mr. Hohengarten was also selected as a Fulbright Scholar at the Free University Berlin in 1984-1985. Mr. Hohengarten served as a law clerk to Justice David H. Souter of the United States Supreme Court in 1996-1997, and to Chief Judge Jon O. Newman of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in 1994-1995.



GAIL H. MORSE

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Gail H. Morse is a member of the Firm's Tax Practice, heads the Firm's State and Local Tax Practice and is a member of the Firm's Tax Controversy Practice. Ms. Morse also serves on the Firm's Diversity and Pro Bono Committees, and the Women's Forum Steering Committee.

Ms. Morse's state and local tax practice is national in focus and includes issues arising under most state and local tax provisions including income, franchise, gross receipts and sales and use taxes. She counsels multinational and multistate businesses, private and publicly held businesses, tax-exempt entities, and individuals on state and local tax issues arising in business acquisitions, mergers and dispositions, and the day to day operations of business. She also manages and negotiates state tax audits, and works with clients to implement state and multistate audit strategies. She frequently represents clients before state tax administrative agencies, tribunals and state courts; and provides clients assistance in state legislative and regulatory matters.

Ms. Morse was an attorney advisor in the Internal Revenue Service's Office of Chief Counsel and continues to counsel clients on federal tax issues, representing clients before the IRS, the United States Tax Court and federal district and appellate courts.

Ms. Morse serves on a variety of professional associations and community boards whose agencies focus on empowering women and girls and providing services to the LGBT community. She earned her J.D. from the University of San Diego School of Law with honors in 1982 and her Masters of Law in Taxation from the Georgetown University Law Center in 1986. She was a member of the *San Diego Law Review*.

**SUSAN R. PODOLSKY**E-mail: spodolsky@jenner.com

Susan R. Podolsky is a member of the Firm's Litigation Practice. Ms. Podolsky has a nationwide litigation practice and has litigated in federal courts around the country, including the District of Columbia, the Eastern and Western Districts of Virginia, the District of Maryland, the Northern District of Ohio, the Western District of Louisiana, the Middle and Southern Districts of Florida, and the Northern, Central and Southern Districts of California. Of these courts, Ms. Podolsky specializes in cases brought in the Eastern District of Virginia, which has become known as the "Rocket Docket," and has litigated in that district for over ten years.

Ms. Podolsky's practice ranges from litigating large, complex civil commercial cases to advising and counseling clients on internal matters. Her practice has included a variety of subject matters, including telecommunications, employment, contracts, and intellectual property. Ms. Podolsky's litigation experience includes cases for multi-billion dollar clients, on both the plaintiff and defendant sides, and she enjoys working with smaller clients as well.

Ms. Podolsky is a 1986 graduate of the University of Virginia Law School and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. In 2004, she was awarded the Firm's highest distinction for pro bono service, the Albert E. Jenner, Jr. Award, for her work on the pending Baltimore public housing discrimination case, which *The Baltimore Sun* has called "one of the most significant civil rights actions in the city's history." Ms. Podolsky clerked for Albert V. Bryan, Jr., then-Chief Judge of the Eastern District of Virginia, from 1986-88.

**PAUL M. SMITH**E-mail: psmith@jenner.com

Paul M. Smith is the Managing Partner of Jenner & Block's Washington, DC office and a member of the Firm's Management Committee. Mr. Smith is also Co-Chair of the Firm's Appellate and Supreme Court, and Media and First Amendment Practices.

Mr. Smith has had an active Supreme Court practice for two decades, including oral arguments in eleven Supreme Court cases. These arguments have included, most recently, *Norton v. Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance*, involving the enforcement of affirmative duties to protect potential wilderness areas from impairment by off-road vehicles, *Vieth v. Jubelirer*, a congressional redistricting case, *Lawrence v. Texas*, involving the constitutionality of the Texas sodomy statute, *United States v. American Library Ass'n*, involving a First Amendment challenge to the Children's Internet Protection Act and *Mathias v. WorldCom* (2001), dealing with the Eleventh Amendment immunity of state commissions. His first argument was in *Celotex Corp. v. Catrett* in 1986. Mr. Smith represented a group of congressional interveners in *Department of Commerce v. U.S. House of Representatives*, involving the constitutionality of "sampling" and the census.

He also worked extensively on several other First Amendment cases in the Supreme Court, including *Rubin v. Coors* (1995), dealing with restrictions on beer labeling, *Reno v. ACLU* (1997), involving a challenge to content restrictions for the Internet in the Communications Decency Act, and *Masson v. New Yorker Magazine, Inc.* (1991), a significant defamation case.

Mr. Smith also represents various clients in trial and appellate cases involving commercial and telecommunications issues, the First Amendment, intellectual property, antitrust, and redistricting and voting rights, among other areas. His recent trial work has included several cases involving congressional redistricting as well as the trial in the American Library Association case that ultimately went to the Supreme Court.

Mr. Smith received a J.D. from Yale Law School in 1979, where he served as Editor-in-Chief of the *Yale Law Journal*. The following year, Mr. Smith was a law clerk to Judge James L. Oakes of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. From 1980-81, Mr. Smith was a law clerk to Supreme Court Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr. In 2004, *Chambers USA* named him one of the country's leading lawyers.

Associates

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David W. Austin is a member of the Firm's Litigation Practice. Between 1991 and 1995, he served on the board of the European Council of AIDS Service Organizations (EuroCASO), a network of non-governmental organizations promoting AIDS prevention and care in over 20 different countries.

While earning his J.D. at The John Marshall Law School, Mr. Austin externed for the United States Attorney's Office, the Federal Election Commission, the City of Chicago's Corporation Counsel, the Midwest Immigrant and Human Rights Center, and the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Inc.

In 2003, Mr. Austin completed a two-year clerkship with the Honorable Ronald T. Y. Moon, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Hawaii. Mr. Austin is a member of the Illinois bar.

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Nada Djordjevic is a member of the Firm's Litigation Practice. In the summer of 2002, Ms. Djordjevic worked at Equip for Equality, Inc. as a Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) Fellow. While at Equip for Equality, Ms. Djordjevic assisted clients in the areas of special education, restoration of rights, and eliminating discrimination on the basis of disability in employment, travel and public accommodations.

Ms. Djordjevic received her J.D., *summa cum laude*, from the University of Illinois College of Law in 2002, where she was elected to the Order of the Coif. Ms. Djordjevic also received the 2001 Esther R. Rothstein Scholarship from the Women's Bar Association of Illinois Foundation.



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Kathleen R. Hartnett is a member of the Firm's Litigation Practice. Ms. Hartnett's practice involves a variety of litigation matters, with a focus on appellate and constitutional litigation.

Ms. Hartnett has played an important role in the Firm's representation of the video game industry in its First Amendment challenges to laws seeking to regulate access to "violent" video games. She has also been part of the Firm's representation of the entertainment industry in litigation concerning the interpretation and constitutionality of various provisions of copyright law. In addition, Ms. Hartnett has participated in the briefing and argument of several federal court appeals for MCI involving the local competition provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Ms. Hartnett's pro bono projects have included briefing and arguing an appeal from a second-degree murder conviction, and securing the release of an INS detainee in federal habeas corpus proceedings. She also assists in the Firm's representation of a Georgia death row inmate, who is presently seeking state habeas corpus relief. For these efforts, Ms. Hartnett was awarded the Albert E. Jenner, Jr. Award in 2004, the Firm's highest pro bono honor.

Ms. Hartnett received her J.D., *magna cum laude*, from Harvard Law School in 2000, where she served as treasurer of the *Harvard Law Review*. In 2001-2002, Ms. Hartnett clerked for Justice John Paul Stevens of the United States Supreme Court, and in 2000-2001, she clerked for Judge Merrick B. Garland of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.



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Jorge M. Leon is a member of the Firm's Employee Benefits and Executive Compensation Practice. Mr. Leon counsels clients on a wide range of issues relating to employee benefits and executive compensation, including the benefit aspects of corporate transactions, executive and equity compensation and qualified and non-qualified retirement plan issues. He has consulted on ERISA litigation issues, Taft-Hartley trusts and stock option plans for Internet and traditional companies, as well as on a variety of Internal Revenue Code/ERISA compliance issues. He also frequently counsels clients on the securities law and tax aspects of equity-based retirement and equity incentive plans.

Mr. Leon obtained his J.D., *magna cum laude*, from the University of Illinois College of Law in 1998.



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Duane Pozza is an associate in Jenner & Block's Washington, DC office. He is a member of the Firm's Litigation Practice.

Mr. Pozza graduated with distinction from Stanford Law School in 2002, and served as Submissions Editor on the *Stanford Technology Law Review* in 2000-2001. He clerked for the Honorable Roslyn O. Silver in the District of Arizona from 2002 to 2003. Prior to law school, he received his bachelors degree with honors in Plan II and Government from the University of Texas at Austin in 1998, where he was Phi Beta Kappa and a Dedman Distinguished Scholar. He is a member of the State Bar of California.



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Margaret J. Simpson is a member of the Firm's Antitrust and Trade Regulation and Litigation Practices. Ms. Simpson concentrates her practice in antitrust and commercial litigation and antitrust counseling. In the antitrust area, Ms. Simpson has represented clients in a number of antitrust cases, involving allegations of price-fixing, patent litigation with substantial antitrust issues, and antitrust challenges to distribution arrangements. Ms. Simpson has also represented parties in government antitrust investigations, and has extensive experience counseling corporate clients on antitrust issues including distribution arrangements, joint venture arrangements, settlement of patent litigation, and Robinson-Patman Act issues.

Ms. Simpson received her M.S. and Ph.D. in economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She received her J.D., with honors, from the University of Chicago.



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Scott B. Wilkens is a member of the Firm's Litigation Practice. He practices primarily in the areas of commercial and appellate litigation. His recent work includes commercial litigation involving aerospace equipment and mortgage lending and appellate litigation before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Prior to his legal career, Mr. Wilkens worked as an engagement manager with the management consulting firm McKinsey & Company, where he specialized in financial services. Before joining McKinsey, Mr. Wilkens worked as a Henry Luce Scholar at the Centre for Comparative and Public Law at the University of Hong Kong.

In 1995, Mr. Wilkens received his Masters Degree in International Relations from the London School of Economics, where he studied as a Fulbright Scholar. Mr. Wilkens earned a J.D. *cum laude* from Harvard Law School in 2002, where he was editor of the *Harvard Law Review*. From 2002-2003, he served as law clerk to the Honorable Raymond C. Fisher, United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Jenner & Block Plays Key Role in *FAIR*, *Burt v. Rumsfeld*

Partners William M. Hohengarten, Daniel Mach and Paul M. Smith represent the American Association of Law Schools as amicus in an effort to overturn the controversial law that requires universities to open their career services facilities to military recruiters or risk losing federal funding. *The Forum for Academic and Institutional Rights (FAIR) v. Rumsfeld*.

FAIR is now on appeal to the Third Circuit and was originally filed in federal court in New Jersey on behalf of a coalition of law schools

opposed to the federal Solomon Amendments. The Solomon provisions require full access to law school recruiting programs for military recruiters, even if the law school disagrees with their policies regarding gays in the military. Mr. Smith argued on behalf of the many amici in the Third Circuit in June.

The Firm's legal team also represents the American Association of University Professors as amicus in *Burt v. Rumsfeld*, currently pending in the federal district court of

Connecticut. The plaintiffs in *Burt*, many members of the Yale Law School faculty, are likewise challenging the Solomon Amendments, with particular emphasis on their application to Yale University.

"In each case the arguments are primarily based on the First Amendment," said Mr. Smith. "Faculties should have the right to exercise their educational function through policies demanding nondiscrimination, particularly before employers can use campus facilities on an equal basis."

Firm Receives Two Awards for its Commitment to LGBT Civil Rights

Jenner & Block celebrated two honors from the LGBT community in early 2004, when it received the Legal Services Award from the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago (LAGBAC) for its precedent-setting work in *Lawrence v. Texas*, and the Human First Award by Horizons Community Services/Center on Halsted in Chicago for its unwavering commitment to "equal rights for everyone," and its ongoing commitment to LGBT civil rights.

Firm Alumna Joins ACLU Project

Sharon McGowan, a former Associate who left the Firm in 2003 to join the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) as the William J. Brennan First Amendment Fellow (see Fall 2003 *Equal Time: LGBT Community Service*), has recently joined the ACLU's Lesbian & Gay Rights and AIDS Projects as a Staff Attorney. While at the ACLU, Ms. McGowan has continued working on high profile cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, including *Ashcroft v. ACLU II*, in which the Court struck down the "Child Online Protection Act" as an unconstitutional attempt to censor free speech on the Internet.

"Although I miss my friends at Jenner & Block, I am extremely excited about my new position with the ACLU," she said. "In light of Jenner & Block's tremendous commitment to LGBT equality, I anticipate that there will be many opportunities for me to work with my colleagues at Jenner & Block in the future."



Partner William M. Hohengarten (left), accepting the Human First Award on behalf of the Firm, with Modesto Tico Valle, Acting Executive Director of Horizons Community Services.



Presiding Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County Timothy Evans (far left) and John Marshall Law School Professor Mark Wojcik (far right), President of LAGBAC, with Associate Nada Djordjevic (middle left) and Partner Joseph G. Bisceglia (middle right), who accepted a commemorative plaque on behalf of the Firm for its unwavering advocacy for "equal rights for everyone."

Morse, Graham Lead Bon Foster Dinner

Partner Gail H. Morse and Managing Partner Robert L. Graham gave the opening remarks to the annual Lambda Legal Midwest Region Office's Bon Foster Civil Rights Address dinner and art auction on April 22. The two also served as the Bon Foster Civil Rights Address Co-Chairs, a role which Ms. Morse will repeat in 2005.

"It's important to stage evenings such as this at such a critical time in the gay civil rights movement," said Ms. Morse.

During the event, which was the largest and most successful of any in the history of the dinner with over 300 attendees, Lambda Legal welcomed its new Legal Director, Gary Buseck.

The Bon Foster Address traditionally places the lesbian and gay civil rights movement within the broader spectrum of civil rights struggles taking place



across the nation. Named in honor of Bon Foster, a former Jenner & Block Associate who died of AIDS in 1991, and whose generosity aided creation of Lambda's Midwest Regional Office, the event draws

representatives from the area's major law firms, community organizations, and other supporters of the LGBT community and those living with HIV/AIDS.

"We look forward to building on the success of this year's event, our most successful ever," Ms. Morse concluded.

Attorneys Help Nonprofit with Fundraising and Legal Counsel

This spring, a Jenner & Block team of volunteers raised over \$30,000 for the not-for-profit organization Vital Bridges as part of its "Croquet for Hollywood" fundraiser on June 6. More than 300 Chicagoans joined a squad of over forty Jenner & Block attorneys at the outdoor festival and garden party, which featured a group croquet tournament and other activities.

The funds raised at the event support the organization in its mission to help people cope with HIV and AIDS throughout the metro Chicago area. On a lean budget, Vital Bridges provides more than 800,000 meals, 55,000 nights of shelter, and 10,000 counseling sessions per year, all focused on helping clients improve their health and build self-sufficiency. "This fundraising effort translates to nearly 18,000 meals for the non-profit organization," said Partner Gail H. Morse, who organized the Firm's participation in the event.

According to Debbie Hinde, CEO of Vital Bridges, one of the biggest challenges for any nonprofit is obtaining legal counsel from a service provider with the knowledge and experience needed to meet their complex needs and challenges. But part of the burden has been eased, she said, thanks to the ongoing financial and volunteer support of Jenner & Block.

"Because of Jenner & Block's involvement, we have saved thousands of dollars in legal fees," said Ms. Hinde, "and these are dollars that we can redirect into food, shelter and support for our clients."



Taking a Time-Out at "Croquet for Hollywood:" Partner Gail H. Morse; Summer Associates Dawn Duffy, Melissa Calvo, Stephanie Reinhart, Justin DeRose, Rina Scates; and Partner Charlotte L. Wager.

Vital Bridges is the result of a 2002 merger of three AIDS service organizations: Open Hand Chicago, HIV Coalition and Community Response. "There have been many times when we needed legal advice. From helping us legally change our name and trademarking our new identity to Partner Donald Horvath helping finalize our purchase of a west side property, Jenner & Block attorneys have advocated for Vital Bridges for the past five years, and provided the necessary counsel needed for us to move forward," Ms. Hinde said.

The fundraising croquet tournament was part of the Summer Associate program at the

Firm, administered by Partner Charlotte L. Wager. "This was a wonderful way to kick off the 2004 summer program," said Ms. Wager, the Firm's Director of Professional Development. "And their growth as a service agency is really inspiring to the young attorneys who have taken part in this."

"A year after the merger of three organizations, the surviving entity is now a much stronger service provider," said Ms. Morse, who is a board member and major supporter of the organization. "It's great to see the impact Vital Bridges is having on the lives of their clients, and how the Firm has played a key role in that"



In its recently released 2005 rankings, Vault again ranked Jenner & Block number one in the country for "Diversity for Gays and Lesbians."

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