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- **There are not enough medical personnel who are properly trained** to care for us, say nearly half of lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) respondents, respondents living with HIV and almost 90 percent of transgender respondents.
- **A higher proportion of people of color and low-income respondents report discriminatory and substandard care.** Fourteen percent of lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) respondents of color and almost 17 percent of low-income LGB respondents reported experiencing harsh language compared to almost 11 percent of LGB respondents overall.

A Call to Action

Many of us feel vulnerable when we're ill or seeking health care services. For LGBT people and those living with HIV, as Lambda Legal's Health Care Fairness Survey shows, that vulnerability is often exacerbated by disrespectful attitudes, discriminatory treatment, inflexible or prejudicial policies and even refusals of essential care. These barriers can result in poorer health outcomes, and often have serious and even catastrophic consequences.

With the nation in the midst of a vigorous debate about reforming the way health care is delivered, we at Lambda Legal and our partners want to ensure that the needs of LGBT people and those living with HIV are integral to the discussion. Chronicling care barriers faced by our communities is vital to addressing our needs.

"We hope that individuals and groups will take information from this survey and share it with community members, health care providers, institutions and legislators," says Lambda Legal Director of Community Education and Advocacy Beverly Tillery. "We want the survey report to become a part of the tools they use to fight for better health-care laws and policies for LGBT people and people living with HIV." **L**



A CLOSER LOOK:

AFFILIATED ATTORNEY DESMUND WU

Through Lambda Legal's affiliated attorney program, associates at some law firms can practice public interest law for a year. Lambda Legal staff member Brandon Aultman speaks to one participant in the Western Regional Office.

Describe your role as an affiliated attorney at Lambda Legal.

For the next year that I will be here, I will be working on our impact litigation in the Western Region. If one of our senior staff attorneys is writing a legal brief for one of those cases and raises a concern, I'll help out by doing research and writing a memo that addresses the issue. If a new law gets passed, or a case gets decided that clarifies a new law, I'll help to educate the public about their rights through outreach.

Before I went to UCLA School of Law, I worked as an assistant at UCLA's Williams Institute for Sexual Orientation Law and Policy. Seeing the kind of work that lawyers did in the LGBT movement made me think, "Hey, I want to do that, too!" So I applied to law school. I wanted to work with Lambda Legal, because the work we do has a big, discernable impact on the LGBT community.

What kinds of interesting work have you been doing lately?

I testified before the Los Angeles Police Commission to urge the commission to end its relationship with youth programs run by the Boy Scouts of America, because of the Boy Scouts' discriminatory policies against LGBT people. The commission eventually did sever

the relationship. It was exhilarating, testifying before the Police Commission. The Boy Scouts had once fought to the Supreme Court to defend its "right" to discriminate against LGBT people—and I reminded the Police Commission of that.

What is on the front burner for Western Regional Office?

One of our top cases is *Collins v. Brewer*, which challenges a mean-spirited Arizona law that strips lesbian and gay state employees of domestic partner benefits (see feature article on page 9). We've just begun the litigation process, but it's especially important to me that I'll help make arguments for the equal treatment of lesbians and gays in employment.

On a personal note, is there any Desmond Wu trivia that Lambda Legal colleagues and readers might be surprised to learn about you?

Well, I used to teach swing dancing in college, and I won some swing competitions a long time ago. I know how to salsa, do the Argentine Tango—even did some ballroom competitions. I've also played piano since I was four. I played in chamber ensembles in and after graduate school. **L**