

ON THE DOCKET IN THE FIELD

A SAMPLE OF LAMBDA LEGAL'S RECENT WORK AROUND THE COUNTRY

LOUISIANA

Lambda Legal Demands Respect for Adoptions

In October, Lambda Legal argued before a three-member panel of federal judges in our case against the Louisiana Registrar of Vital Statistics, who refused to respect the New York adoption by a same-sex couple of a Louisiana-born baby boy. Our lawsuit, brought on behalf of parents Oren Adar and Mickey Smith in 2007, claims that the registrar violated the Full Faith and Credit Clause of the U.S. Constitution. In 2008, a U.S. District Court judge in Louisiana agreed and ordered the registrar to issue a new birth certificate identifying both Adar and Smith as the boy's parents, but in January 2009, Louisiana appealed the decision. As an adopted child, Adar says seeing his own birth certificate gave him "a sense of belonging, of identity and of dignity." The court's decision is pending.



Louisiana won't issue a birth certificate to Oren Adar—pictured with his adopted son—naming Adar and his partner as parents.

Out, Safe & Respected
A Guide to LGBTQ Youth in Schools
for Educators and Parents

NATIONWIDE

Lambda Legal Fights for Student Rights in New York and Publishes Guide for Educators and Parents

Lambda Legal has long been at the forefront of fighting for LGBTQ youth. In four ongoing cases in New York State, Lambda Legal has fought efforts by school districts to narrow the scope of New York's Human Rights Law. In each case, Lambda Legal has contested the claim that the law's antiharassment protections for students—which expressly include sexual orientation—should only apply to students in private, not public, schools. At least one of these cases may soon reach the state's highest court.

To help school professionals understand the rights of LGBTQ students and implement policies which make schools safer and more inclusive, Lambda Legal has published *Out, Safe & Respected: A Guide to LGBTQ Youth in Schools for Educators and Parents*. The booklet provides clear information on topics such as harassment, proms and dating, curriculum issues and accommodating transgender students.



To order your free copy, visit
www.lambdalegal.org/out-safe-respected-admin

NEW YORK

Benefits Protected for Same-Sex Couples Married Out-of-State

In November, Lambda Legal successfully argued before New York State's highest court that government agencies act lawfully in recognizing the marriages of same-sex couples wed outside the state for the purposes of granting spousal benefits to public employees. Lambda Legal argued on behalf of two married same-sex couples. The judges unanimously agreed, thwarting attempts by the Alliance Defense Fund, a national antigay legal organization, to reverse the decisions of lower courts. The ruling protects out-of-state marriage recognition while advocates continue to press for marriage equality in the state. Lambda Legal has successfully defended recognition in New York of out-of-state marriages before 20 judges in four different cases over three years.

IOWA

Empowering LGBT Families

In November, families and advocates were brought together in America's heartland to strengthen LGBT families in the wake of Lambda Legal's historic, marriage-equality victory in Iowa. Parents, their children, allies and panelists participated in the summit, the first of its kind in Iowa. Hosted by Lambda Legal, which led and won the Iowa Supreme Court case, along with COLAGE, Equality Iowa, Family Equality Council, One Iowa and Rainbow Union of Drake University, summit workshops covered topics like how to start a family, what it means for same-sex couples to raise children in Iowa, protecting marriage equality in Iowa, and how to best protect LGBT families under existing law. "Our successful marriage equality litigation centered on same-sex couples and their children," said Camilla Taylor, Lambda Legal Senior Staff Attorney and keynote speaker at the summit. "To see so many parents and their children attend the summit and listen to them share their stories and experiences about being in an LGBT family was truly inspirational."



The children of LGBT parents—pictured here making family portraits—were a vital presence at the Iowa Family Summit.



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