

# DIVERSITY

## GAY LESBIAN BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER AFFINITY GROUP

Affinity groups provide leadership, support and development opportunities for Perkins Coie attorneys. They are valuable connection points serving as forums for discussion and collaboration.

The **Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Affinity Group** was established to provide networking opportunities and address diversity issues. The group meets quarterly to encourage members and facilitate discussion.

### ADVOCACY

Perkins Coie attorneys make an effort to support causes and organizations that advance the rights of diverse people in the community, including those who are GLBT. Perkins Coie attorneys have been involved in several advocacy cases on behalf of organizations that advocate for GLBT civil rights.

- In 2010, a team of 13 Perkins Coie attorneys filed two lawsuits challenging the signatures, and ultimately the petitions, submitted by Protect Marriage Washington. They also successfully intervened in two lawsuits on behalf of [Washington Families Standing Together \(WAFST\)](#). Because of WAFST's work and that of the many others who assisted, Washington became the first state in the United States to have a popular vote in favor of legal recognition for lesbian and gay families.
- In 2009, firm attorneys filed an amicus brief on behalf of [Human Rights Watch](#) and affiliated parties in opposition to [Proposition 8](#), which denied marriage equality to same-sex couples in California. Proposition 8 was overturned in California in August 2010.
- Perkins Coie attorneys worked with [Lambda Legal](#) to draft an amicus brief on behalf of social scientists promoting the rights of the non-birth parent when a gay or lesbian couple dissolves its relationship. In a second project for [Lambda Legal](#), Perkins Coie attorneys challenged Arizona's decision to deny state employees the domestic partner benefits that had been granted them a few years before.

- In another matter for [Lambda Legal](#), Perkins Coie attorneys successfully defended a lesbian adoptive parent in a custody action in Michigan against her former partner and co-parent. Her partner was attempting to invalidate the Illinois adoption of their three Chinese-born daughters on the basis that the adoption should not be afforded full faith and credit in Michigan and that adoptions by same-sex parents are against public policy in China and therefore should be invalidated by the Michigan court.



- Before joining Perkins Coie, one of our attorneys worked with the San Francisco City Attorney and played a role in the groundbreaking litigation that secured equal marital rights for gays and lesbians in California. Partner [Bobbie Wilson](#) was appointed lead pro bono counsel by the San Francisco City Attorney's office to represent the city, Mayor Gavin Newsom, and Assessor-Recorder Mabel Teng. Bobbie helped lead the city of San Francisco to victory before the trial court and the California Supreme Court.

## HONORS AND PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

- **100 Percent Rating in Human Rights Campaign's (HRC) Corporate Equality Index**  
Perkins Coie received a 100 percent rating for the third year in a row and was named to the Best Places to Work list created by the HRC Foundation, the educational arm of America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve GLBT rights.
- **Equality Illinois Top LGBT Friendly Legal Firm**  
Equality Illinois named Perkins Coie one of the top LGBT friendly law firms in Chicago. The top firms were recognized for their best practices in recruiting, hiring and retaining LGBT employees.
- **Advocate for Social Justice Award from the Greater Seattle Business Association**  
Perkins Coie received an award for its work with Washington Families Standing Together (WAFST) in 2010. A team of 13 Perkins Coie attorneys represented WAFST in two lawsuits challenging signatures and permissions submitted by Protect Marriage Washington in opposition to Referendum 71.

## SPOTLIGHT

- **National LGBT Bar Association's "Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40."**  
Perkins Coie Associate Amanda Beane was named to this National LGBT Bar Association list in 2010, and Associate David Tsai was named to the same list in 2011. This list recognizes lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender legal professionals in the United States who are under 40 and who have distinguished themselves in their fields and demonstrated a profound commitment to LGBT equality.

## PERKINS PRIDE

On June 23, 2011, Perkins Coie hosted its first Perkins Pride event in Seattle featuring an evening with Major Margaret Witt, the plaintiff in the landmark "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" case. Major Witt shared her inspiring and courageous story with more than 130 guests of the firm. Her presentation, which was both poignant and humorous, included a lively question-and-answer session and concluded with a reception.

## BOARD PARTICIPATION

Our attorneys are active board members with the following organizations:

- **Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom: Joren Bass**
- **QLAW (GLBT Bar Association of Washington): Amanda Beane, Kelly Moser**
- **Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Los Angeles: Steven Gonzalez**

## SPONSORSHIPS

Perkins Coie sponsors several national and local job fairs, events and conferences that address GLBT issues in the community.

- **Basic Rights Oregon**
- **Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom Judges Reception**
- **CASCADE AIDS**
- **Human Rights Campaign Pacific Northwest Gala Dinner**
- **LAMBDA Legal National Sponsorships**
- **National LGBT Bar Association Career Fair and Conference**
- **Oregon Gay and Lesbian Law Association**
- **Out & Equal**
- **QLAW Annual Banquet**

