



Briefly



The Seventh Judicial District Newsletter
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SPECIAL EDITION

The Workforce Diversity Committee would like to acknowledge that ***the month of June is Lesbian Gay Bi-Sexual and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month***. Some of our members throughout the 7th Judicial District have offered to display exhibits in their courthouses educating the public regarding the history of events. We encourage all of you to explore the LGBT movement by visiting the displays.

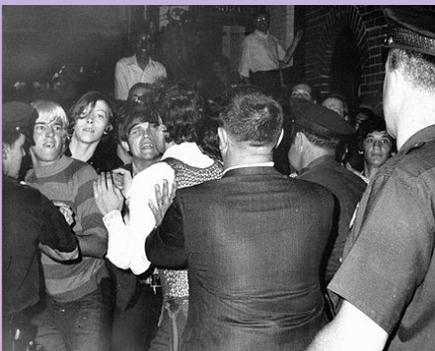


Use of the rainbow flag by the gay community began in 1978 when it first appeared in the San Francisco Gay and Lesbian Freedom Day Parade. Borrowing symbolism from the hippie movement and black civil rights groups, San Francisco artist Gilbert Baker designed the rainbow flag in response to a need for a symbol that could be used year after year. Baker and thirty volunteers hand-stitched and hand-dyed two huge prototype flags for the parade. The flags had eight stripes, each color representing a component of the community.

The Stonewall Riots were a series of spontaneous, and sometimes violent demonstrations by members of the gay community held in protest of a police raid that took place on June 28, 1969 at the Stonewall Inn in the Greenwich Village neighborhood of New York City. They are widely considered to constitute the single most important event leading to the Gay Liberation Movement and the modern fight for LGBT rights in the United States. As a result, many "pride" events are held during the month of June to recognize the impact LGBT people have had throughout the world. On June 28, 1970, the first Gay Pride marches took place in Los Angeles, Chicago and New York commemorating the anniversary of the riots. Today, Gay Pride events are held throughout the world.



Stonewall Bar



Stonewall Riots (NY Daily News Archive via Getty Images)

Though police raids on gay bars were common in the 1960s, on June 28, 1969, patrons of New York's Stonewall Inn said, "enough." They fought back, riots broke out, and supporters poured into West Village, igniting the gay rights movement in the U.S. Within six months, two gay activist organizations were formed in New York, and three newspapers were launched for gays and lesbians.

Approximately 10 years later the murder of Harvey Milk brought the gay community together again in protest of the verdict in the trial of his accused murderer.

Mr. Milk moved from New York City to San Francisco's Castro District in 1972. He became one of the first openly gay men elected to public office in the United States when he won a seat on the board of supervisors in 1977. An outspoken advocate for gay rights, he urged others to come out and fight for their rights. On November 27, 1978, Mr. Milk and Mayor George Moscone were assassinated at San Francisco City Hall by Dan White, who had recently resigned as a city supervisor and was looking to be reinstated. Dan White's request had been denied.

Harvey Milk Day is celebrated globally each year around the anniversary of Harvey's birthday, May 22, and October has been designated LGBT History Month. <http://www.harveymilkday.co>



Harvey Milk poses in front of his camera shop in San Francisco, Nov. 9, 1977. (AP Photo)

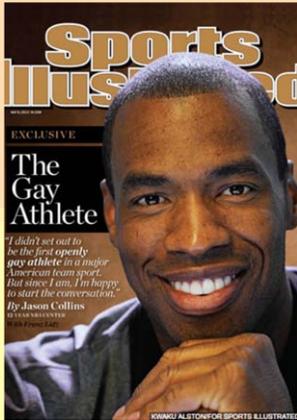
“The gathering constellation of torchlights nickered first at the corner of 18th and Castro streets, in the center of the homosexual community that makes up about one-eighth of San Francisco’s population. Held high by marchers stepping to the slow cadence of three drums, the bobbing lights moved down Market Street, their brilliance growing as the grieving crowd multiplied. By the time they reached the steps of the bronze-domed city hall, the crowd of youthful homosexuals, male and female, had been joined by many more conventional citizens, and an army of some 30,000 mourners expressed the sorrow of the shaken city.”

Time Magazine, May 22, 2013

After the trial; White was acquitted of the First Degree Murder charge on May 21, 1979, but found guilty of Voluntary Manslaughter of both victims and was sentenced to seven and two-thirds years in prison. This sparked the “White Night Riots” and the incident inside and outside of the Elephant Walk Bar.



The string of victories achieved by LGBT rights advocates in 2011 and 2012 has continued into 2013. Same-sex marriage is legally recognized in several jurisdictions within the United States. As of June 2013, twelve states—Connecticut, Delaware, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington—as well as the District of Columbia and three Native American tribes—have legalized same-sex marriage. In addition, California, which briefly granted same-sex marriages in 2008, recognizes them on a conditional basis. Moreover, basketball player Jason Collins became the first active male athlete in one of the four major U.S. team sports to announce that he is gay, and soccer player Robbie Rogers became the first out male athlete to suit up in a U.S. team sport. www.diversityinc.com and www.enwikipedia.org



Jason Collins



Robbie Rogers

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, center, hands pen to Legislators after signing into law a bill legalizing same-sex marriage, at the Capitol in Albany, New York, on Friday, June 24, 2011. Behind Gov. Cuomo, from left, are Assemblyman Matthew Titone, Assemblyman Daniel O'Donnell, Lt. Gov. Robert Duffy, Sen. Thomas Duane and Sen. James Alesi. (Mike Groll, Assoc. Press)



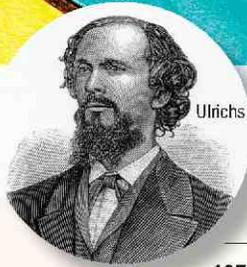
President Barack Obama declared the month of June LGBT Pride Month in a proclamation released by the White House on May 31, 2013.

“This year, we celebrate LGBT Pride Month at a moment of great hope and progress, recognizing that more needs to be done,” President Obama said in a statement. “Support for LGBT equality is growing, led by a generation which understands that, in the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., ‘injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.’”



Proclamation:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/06/01/presidential-proclamation-lesbian-gay-bisexual-and-transgender-pride-mon>



Ulrichs

1867 “Father of the LGBT Movement” Karl-Heinrich Ulrichs is first to speak out for gay rights

1973 American Psychiatric Association removes “homosexuality” as a mental disorder

1993 Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Roberta Achtenberg becomes first openly LGBT official confirmed by Senate

2009 President Obama signs law making it federal crime to assault someone because of sexual orientation or gender identity

1903 First recorded raid on gay bathhouse, in New York City; 12 men charged with sodomy

1975 Minneapolis becomes first city to protect transgender people by law from discrimination

1996 In *Romer v. Evans*, Supreme Court says gays and lesbians have same right to be protected against discrimination as non-LGBT people

President Obama declares June Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month

1924 Society for Human Rights, the first gay-rights organization in the United States, is founded. It is shut down by police within a few months

1978 Rainbow flag is first used as symbol of gay pride

President Clinton signs Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) into law



DeGeneres with wife Portia de Rossi

Respect for Marriage Act introduced in Congress; would repeal DOMA and require government to recognize legal same-gender marriages

1945 Veterans Benevolent Association, first LGBT veterans group, is formed

1980 David McReynolds becomes first openly LGBT person to run for president, for Socialist Party USA

1999 California becomes first state to legalize domestic partnerships for same-gender couples

2010 President Obama signs law ending “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy

1952 George Jorgensen Jr. is first American to have gender reassignment surgery, becoming Christine Jorgensen



Jorgensen

1982 Wisconsin is first state to ban discrimination on basis of sexual orientation in employment, housing and public accommodations

2000 Vermont becomes first state to legalize civil unions for same-gender couples

Supreme Court agrees to hear Edith Windsor’s case, which challenges the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act.

1955 Daughters of Bilitis, first national U.S. lesbian organization, is formed

1983 Representative Gerry Studds (Mass.) becomes first openly gay member of Congress

2000 President Clinton declares June Gay and Lesbian Pride Month

2011 Obama administration announces it will actively combat anti-LGBT efforts by other countries

1958 In first case regarding LGBT rights, Supreme Court protects First Amendment rights of ONE: The Homosexual Magazine

1986 In *Bowers v. Hardwick*, Supreme Court upholds Georgia law banning homosexual sex

2003 In *Lawrence v. Texas*, Supreme Court overturns 1986 ruling and declares anti-sodomy laws unconstitutional



Obama signing repeal of DADT

2012 Ellen DeGeneres is named jcpennney spokesperson; CEO Ron Johnson supports her—and her strong values—despite protests from group calling itself “One Million Moms”

1962 Illinois becomes first state to remove sodomy from criminal code

1989 Denmark becomes first country to legalize same-gender partnerships

2004 Massachusetts becomes first state to legalize same-gender marriage

Seven LGBT candidates win election into House and Senate

1966 National Planning Conference of Homophile Organizations is formed



Stonewall riots

1991 First TV kiss between same-gender couple, two women on L.A. Law

2007 DiversityInc requires domestic-partner benefits as a prerequisite to make DiversityInc Top 50 list

2013 Maryland (Jan. 1), Delaware (July 1), Rhode Island (Aug. 1), Minnesota (Aug. 1) bring to 12 the number of states to allow same-gender marriage

1969 Stonewall riots in New York gain national attention for gay rights

1993 “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy allows gays/lesbians to serve in the U.S. military as long as they are closeted

2008 Diego Sanchez is hired as senior policy adviser by openly gay U.S. Representative Barney Frank (Mass.), making him first transgender staffer on Capitol Hill

Supreme Court hears arguments against Proposition 8 and DOMA. A ruling on both cases is anticipated in summer 2013

1970 First Gay Liberation Day March is held in New York City; similar events are held in Los Angeles and San Francisco

Minnesota passes the first state-wide law prohibiting discrimination against transgender people



Windsor

The Gay-Straight Alliance Mission Statement:

Employees of the Unified Court System who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered and those persons who support issues of concern in our communities have created the Gay-Straight Alliance of the New York State Unified Court System. We recognize the continuing need for action to address inequality and discrimination against those who are or are perceived as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered, both within the legal profession and within society at-large. We seek to identify ways to provide a friendly work environment and to ensure the opportunity for career enhancement within the Unified Court System, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. We are committed to fostering awareness of the importance of achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and the transgendered. Through the collaborative efforts of the judicial and non-judicial employees of our court system, the Alliance has been formed as a not-for-profit organization, in order to establish a network of ideas, activities and resources designed to promote our mission.

The Gay-Straight Alliance is dedicated to fostering the general principles of diversity and tolerance. Members will have the opportunity to interact at informative meetings and social gatherings planned and sponsored by the Alliance. As an organization, we will play an active role in identifying and alerting our members and potential members to events within the court system and throughout the state which promote our mission. We hope that all of these collaborative efforts on behalf of our members will ultimately result in greater visibility and representation of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and the transgendered at all levels of the Unified Court System. We will work to insure that all users of the court system are treated fairly despite sexual orientation or gender identification. Further, we will actively promote the notion that members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community at-large are welcome to pursue careers in the court system without discrimination.

The Alliance welcomes any and all employees of the Unified Court System.

The Alliance sponsors a number of Pride events throughout the year. The upstate Pride event is scheduled for Monday, June 17, 2013 in the Legislative Office Building (Room TBD) 198 State St., Albany, NY 12210 at 1:00PM.

For a membership application and additional information please contact Marc Levine at mlevine@courts.state.ny.us

