



Dear Judicial Officer:

I am a judge on the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County and the president of the International Association of LGBT Judges.

Our Association was founded 25 years ago by a group of LGBT judges from across the country including by Judges Stephen Lachs and Mary Morgan, the first openly gay and lesbian judges in the United States.¹ Our Association's objectives are:

- to provide an opportunity for judicial officers to meet and exchange views and to promote education among its members and among the general public on legal and judicial issues related to the LGBT community;
- to increase the visibility of LGBT judicial officers so as to serve as role models for other LGBT people and to bring to the attention of the general public the prominence of these judicial officers;
- to aid in ensuring the equal treatment of all persons who appear in a courtroom, as a litigant, attorney, juror, staff person or in any other capacity;
- to coordinate the sharing of information between LGBT judicial officers and others in the LGBT community or the general community, and;
- most importantly, to identify qualified LGBT attorneys and to serve as a resource for them in understanding the pathways to judicial office.

I have benefited from my membership in the Association in many ways. The Association has led to personal friendships and the ability to tap into the reservoir of the professional and legal experiences of other LGBT judges. The Association also offers judicial education in partnership with UCLA School of Law's Williams Institute. And, our Annual Meeting and Conference offers the opportunity for unique special events including a private tour of the United States Supreme Court and the United States Senate chambers – led by the official Senate historian – in Washington, D.C. in 2016 and a guided tour of the National AIDS Memorial Grove – led by its executive director – in San Francisco, CA in 2017.

Our next Annual Meeting and Conference is from August 8-10, 2018 at the New York Marriott Marquis in Times Square, which coincides with the National LGBT Bar Association's Lavender Law Conference. Our Education Committee has planned 3 hours of judicial education through our Judicial Education Institute. The Institute is open by invitation only to judicial officers. In addition to the Institute, there are many opportunities to participate as a panelist or moderator in Lavender Law programs. Also, consistent with prior years, local members are

¹ On our website, Judge Lachs provides a poignant explanation of why having an Association like ours was so important to him. <https://ialgbtj.org/about/from-our-founder/>

planning several social activities including a welcome reception, annual dinner and a few local outings.

Among our more notable members, we have federal judges and justices of several state Supreme Courts. The Association has a strong working relationship with the National LGBT Bar Association and its many affiliates. Our members are also in positions of leadership in other judicial organizations including the American Judges Association and the National Association of Women Judges.

Our website (<https://ialgbtj.org/>) was recently redesigned and is a great resource for our members. In addition to providing additional information about our organization and our events, it features a members' only area that includes a membership directory, a repository for all of our judicial education materials, all of our newsletters and a private listserv. Also, I am enclosing a copy of our January 2018 newsletter. Our newsletters feature interviews with our legacy members and our newest members along with other informative updates of interest to our members.

We would love to have you join us as a member! While it is fair to say that the Association has much to offer you, it is more important to acknowledge that the Association needs you to help it become stronger in identifying and supporting the needs of LGBT judicial officers, increasing the visibility of judicial officers who often serve as role models in our community and the legal community, and ensuring equal treatment of all persons who appear in our courtrooms.

Our membership is only \$50 per year, and you can easily join online once our website is updated. I am enclosing a 2018 Membership Application. Even if you elect not to become a member at this time, we will gladly add you to the Association's email list that keeps LGBT judges updated on information that may be of interest from time to time. Please note that our email list is not made available to other organizations and does not include any commercial solicitation.

Please contact me with any questions at daniel.anders@courts.phila.gov or 215.686.7917.
Very truly yours,

Daniel J. Anders
President, International Association of LGBT Judges

P.S. At your request, I will mail to you a special metal lapel pin that was designed this year to celebrate our 25th anniversary as an Association. I hope you will wear the lapel pin with pride. A photo of the lapel pin is below. Please email me with your mailing address to receive a lapel pin.

