



Briefly



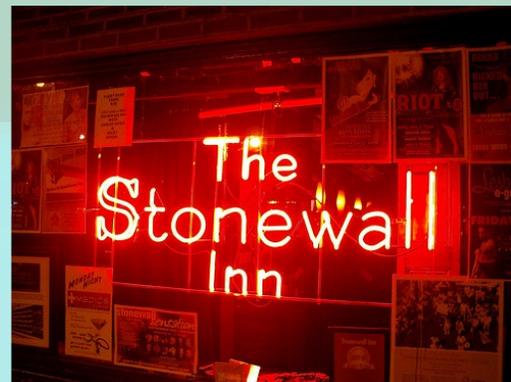
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(585) 371-3266 www.nycourts.gov/courts/7jd

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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.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month (LGBT Pride Month) is currently celebrated each year in the month of June to honor the 1969 Stonewall riots in Manhattan. The Stonewall riots were a tipping point for the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States. In the United States the last Sunday in June was initially celebrated as "Gay Pride Day," but the actual day was flexible. In major cities across the nation the "day" soon grew to encompass a month-long series of events. Today, celebrations include pride parades, picnics, parties, workshops, symposia and concerts, and LGBT Pride Month events attract millions of participants around the world. Memorials are held during this month for those members of the community who have been lost to hate crimes or HIV/AIDS. The purpose of the commemorative month is to recognize the impact that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals have had on history locally, nationally, and internationally. www.loc.org



Notable mentions for 2014

In a proclamation signed May 30th, 2014 president Barack Obama proclaims June as Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual and Transgender Pride Month. "As progress spreads from State to State, as justice is delivered in the courtroom, and as more of our fellow Americans are treated with dignity and respect -- our Nation becomes not only more accepting, but more equal as well. During Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, we celebrate victories that have affirmed freedom and fairness, and we recommit ourselves to completing the work that remains." President Barack Obama

"I call upon the people of the United States to eliminate prejudice everywhere it exists, and to celebrate the great diversity of the American people." President Barack Obama



On Friday May 30th, 2014 the National Park Service announced that they will begin installing markers at places of importance to the history of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans.

USNews reported that, "Interior Secretary Sally Jewell made the announcement Friday at the Stonewall Inn, the scene of riots in June 1969 that are widely credited with starting the modern gay rights movement. Stonewall was made a national historic landmark in 2000, and June is widely celebrated as LGBT Pride Month."

"Jewell said the nation is on a journey to expand civil rights to underrepresented groups. The process on LGBT issues mirrors efforts the service already has undertaken to preserve and promote locations that reflect the roles of Latinos, Asian-Americans and women in U.S. history." Jewell stated, "Part of the job of the National Park Service is to tell this story."

On May 10, 2014 Michael Sam made history, as the St. Louis Rams made him the 249th overall choice in the 2014 NFL draft.



The Missouri defensive end became the first openly gay player to be drafted in league history and seeks to be the first openly gay athlete ever to play in the NFL. Video of Sam receiving the call from the Rams and coach Jeff Fisher revealed the player's emotion while surrounded by friends, family and his boyfriend. Sam's emotion carried over into a conference call with the St. Louis media.

"Let me tell you something, if we were playing the Vikings right now, I'd probably have three sacks the first game," Sam said. "Since February and my big announcement, this has been a whole [lot of] speculation of the first openly gay football player, but you know what? It's not about that. It's about playing football."

"Can Michael Sam play football? Yes, I can, and the St. Louis Rams know I can. I am going to give everything I've got to the St. Louis Rams to help the Rams win a championship."

Sam added in a statement: "The moment my name was called was the single greatest moment of my life."
www.espn.com

Same-Sex Marriage Movement

"The race to legalize same-sex marriage in the nation's state and federal courts has become a self-fulfilling prophecy, fueled by an unbroken string of pro-marriage rulings since the Supreme Court first weighed in on the subject last June. As each decision strikes down state bans, it becomes more difficult for judges to ignore the opinions of peers who have found no constitutional basis to prevent gays and lesbians from having the same marriage rights as heterosexuals." Richard Wolf USA Today

District Court Judge John Jones on Pennsylvania's ban on same-sex marriage;
"Such laws should be tossed "into the ash heap of history."

All the LGBT soldiers, law enforcement officers and fire fighters serving around the world

On May 13, the LGBT Fallen Heroes Fund held the 3rd annual LGBT Fallen Heroes Memorial Service at DuPont Circle in Washington, D.C.

This year's service will honor six fallen LGBT heroes: two police officers, two firefighters and two members of the military. The individuals being honored can be seen to the right.



Fallen Hero: Darren Manzella (August 8, 1977 - August 29, 2013) was a United States Army Sergeant, Army medic and gay activist from Portland, New York, who was discharged under the Don't ask, don't tell policy. Manzella served in Iraq and Kuwait, was stationed in Fort Hood, Texas and resided in Rochester, New York upon his death.

Manzella came out on American news program 60 Minutes in 2007, the first openly gay service member on active duty to speak to the press from a war zone. His decision to appear on the show resulted from his opposition to the Don't ask, don't tell policy and his desire to build momentum for ending it. He believed that gays and lesbians should be able to serve openly. He said that due to the 60 Minutes interview he would likely be discharged. He was placed on block leave. He worked with the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), a gay military organization and lobby group.

Manzella was discharged with full benefits in June 2008 for acknowledging that he was gay. The DADT policy was repealed in 2011. Immediately following the repeal of DADT, Manzella enlisted into the New York Army National Guard and was promoted and awarded for his meritorious service. In August 2011, Manzella returned to Rochester and began working as a health science specialist for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Manzella married Javier Lapeira in Rochester on July 5, 2013. On August 29, 2013, Manzella was killed when an SUV hit him as he was in the act of pushing his disabled vehicle off the road in Pittsford, New York.
[Http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darren_Manzella](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darren_Manzella)

Leadership Moment...

"Who am I to judge a gay person of goodwill who seeks the Lord?" Pope Francis

"At some point in our lifetime, gay marriage won't be an issue, and everyone who stood against this civil right will look as outdated as George Wallace standing on the school steps keeping James Hood from entering the University of Alabama because he was black." George Clooney

"It takes no compromise to give people their rights...it takes no money to respect the individual. It takes no political deal to give people freedom. It takes no survey to remove repression." Harvey Milk

In Conclusion

As leaders and employees of the Unified Court system, we are not only expected to perform our duties and responsibilities to the best of our abilities and in a professional manner, we are also expected to do so in a way that respects our core values of non-discrimination due to race, color, national origin, creed, sex (including sexual harassment), sexual orientation, age, marital status, disability, gender identity, prior criminal record (in certain circumstances) or expression and domestic violence status. Respect and empathy for others should be the norm and not the exception.

For those who come to our courts, whether as litigants, jurors or others, should know unequivocally, that the Courts are both neutral and open for all who come before it- the very essence of "access to justice" requires this fundamental belief. I trust in you to ensure that our Courts in the 7th Judicial District remain neutral and open to all!

- Ron Pawelczak, District Executive

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.

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

