

2011

IMMIGRATION
EQUALITY
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EQUALITY

IMMIGRATION **EQUALITY**

Immigration Equality's mission has always been to remove the obstacles that LGBT and HIV-positive people uniquely face in their path to citizenship. When HIV-positive people were unjustly banned from entering the country, we collaborated with peer activist groups to change the policy. As LGBT immigrants across the world continue to flee persecution, we help them to win freedom and find security. When asylum seekers contact us from immigration detention, we work to get them released, and we fight for, and win, detention policy changes that benefit all LGBT detainees. Binational gay and lesbian couples face stark choices between family and country, and we are fighting for victory on that front.



The year began with a victory for our clients Anthony Makk and Bradford Wells. The couple faced separation because immigration discrimination prevents Bradford from sponsoring Australian-born Anthony for a green card. A front-page article about Anthony and Bradford was the most-shared story of the year on The San Francisco Chronicle's website, and editors estimate it could be their most-shared story ever. Bradford and Anthony appeared on MSNBC and in a CNN profile nominated for a GLAAD media award. We secured 125 media placements on behalf of the couple and for another couple, Frances Herbert and Takako Ueda. Both couples won two-year reprieves and remain together.

We asked the administration to put a hold on green card denials for all gay and lesbian families and to put that hold in writing. When they did not, we filed our first major impact litigation case. Our lawsuit, *Blesch v. Holder*, was filed on behalf of five couples from all walks of life who cannot secure marriage-based green cards simply because they are gay or lesbian.

As the experts on LGBT immigration law, we are the only organization with a full-time legal team devoted exclusively to these issues. Our legal team promptly and accurately responds to every single call, email, detention letter and walk-in. The free services and expertise that we and our pro bono partners offer are not available anywhere else, for any price.

We base our advocacy on the needs of those who contact us for help daily: LGBT and/or HIV-positive asylum seekers and detainees, and binational gay and lesbian families. More than 3,337 people from around the world called the Immigration Equality hotline in 2011, a 52% increase from 2010.

Our asylum caseload grew by 40% in 2011 and continues to increase. More asylum-seekers than ever are escaping deteriorating conditions in post-Soviet states, and LGBT people continue to flee violence in the Caribbean. Once asylum seekers reach the United States, they are being detained in record numbers. Detention inquiries and cases have doubled every year, and, this year alone, we answered 228 detention inquiries. We won permanent freedom for a record number of asylum seekers: 105 wins in 2011 and 79 wins in the first half of 2012. We represented 50% of all Caribbean people granted asylum in the U.S. in 2009 and 2010.

When our clients experience personal hardship, we fight for them, and we leverage their problems into solutions that help all LGBT immigrants. When our client Dulce, a transgender asylum seeker, won her case, the government refused to free her from detention. We fought for her release. Once released, Dulce was required to wear a tracking device for 24 hours a day, despite the fact that her case was over. She spent nights literally plugged into a wall. Immigration Equality appealed to relevant agencies to remove the device. When they refused, we brought the problem to the attention of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. We advocated for the device to be removed and for relevant agencies to stop the unnecessary practice. The device was removed, and the policy changed. Dulce's victory became a victory for LGBT detainees and for all detainees who win Withholding of Removal status.

As the only LGBT-specific immigration nonprofit with a full-time legal team, we are uniquely qualified to provide messaging and strategy support to grassroots activists, including undocumented youth. Collaborating with our peers in the LGBT and immigrant rights communities, we are helping DREAMers with their applications for deferred action and are providing training webinars.

It has been another year of success for Immigration Equality and the entire LGBT immigration ecosystem. We won a handful of high-profile and groundbreaking cases that have kept LGBT families from being separated by unfair policy, for now. We sued the government for a permanent win to keep our families together. We welcomed LGBT and HIV-positive asylum seekers from all over the world, helping them win permanent freedom.

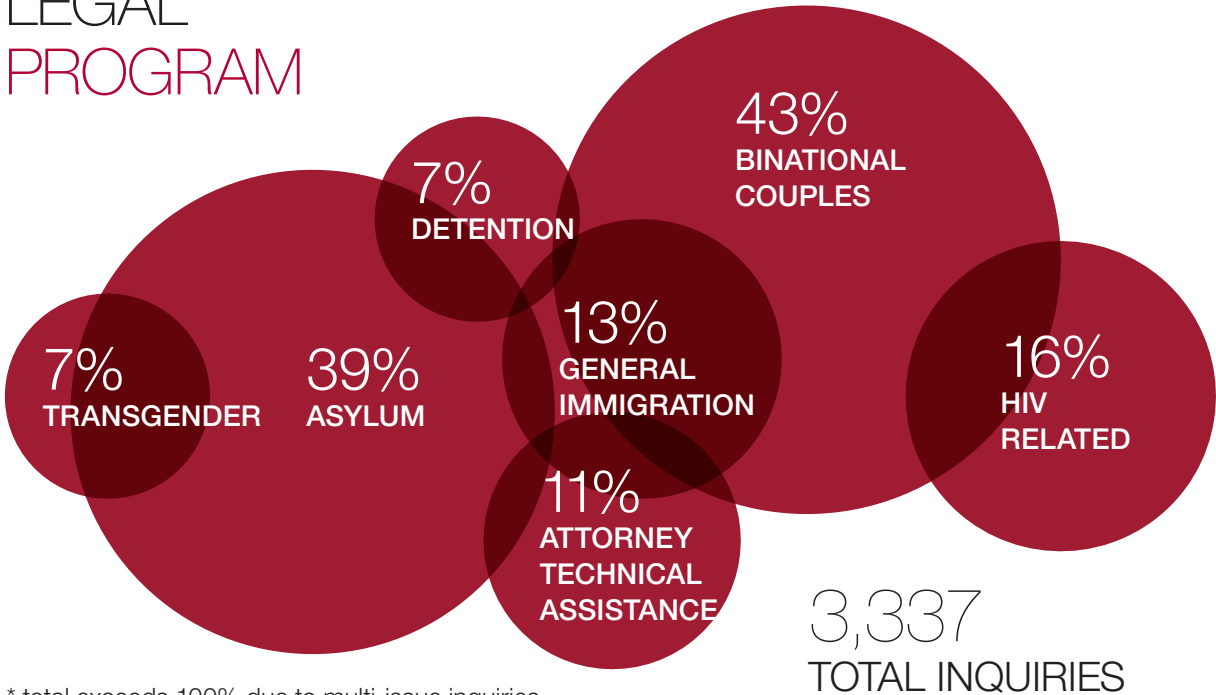
Yours in the fight,



Rachel B. Tiven, Esq.
Executive Director

OUR LEGAL PROGRAM

OUR INTAKE HOTLINE 2011



* total exceeds 100% due to multi-issue inquiries

ASYLUM VICTORIES BY COUNTRY 2008 – 2011

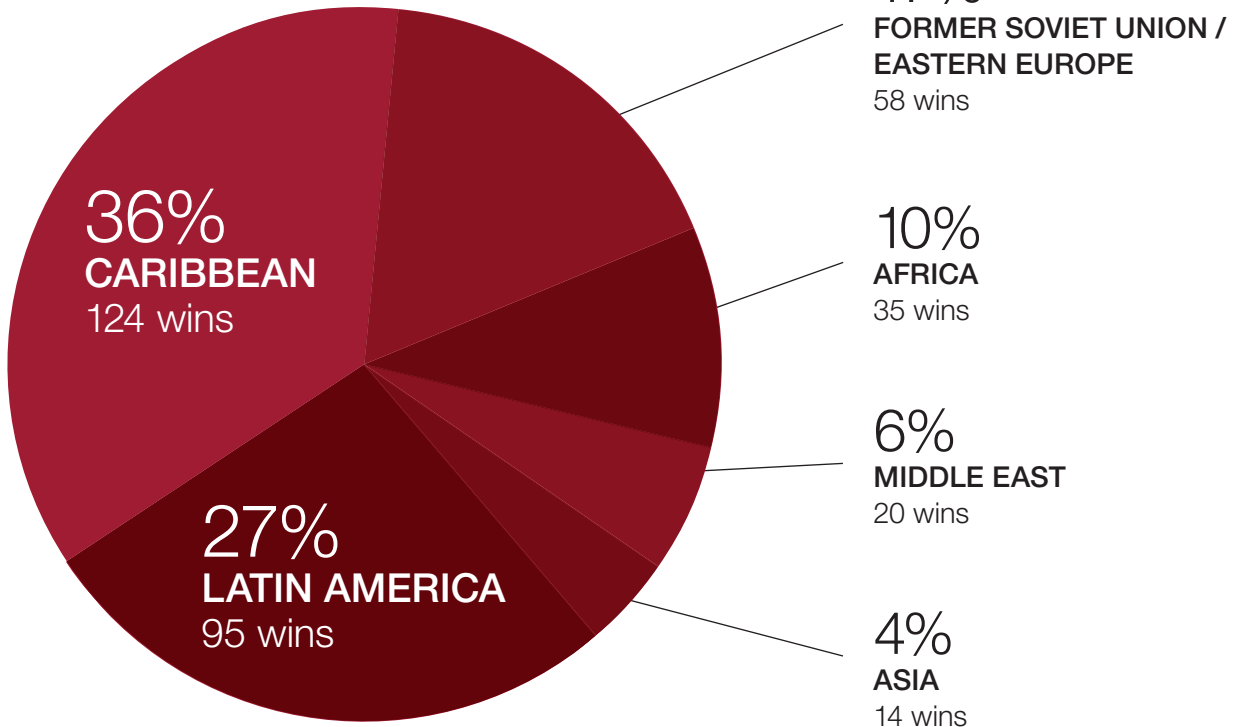
Caribbean	Total: 124
Antigua	1
The Bahamas	1
Dominica	2
Grenada	9
Jamaica	99
St. Kitts & Nevis	1
St. Lucia	3
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	1
Trinidad & Tobago	7

Latin America	Total: 95
Belize	2
Brazil	7
Colombia	12
Cuba	1
Dominican Republic	1
Ecuador	8
El Salvador	9
Guatemala	1
Guyana	6
Honduras	10
Mexico	13
Panama	2
Paraguay	4
Peru	10
Venezuela	9

Former Soviet / E. Europe	Total: 58
Albania	1
Armenia	2
Belarus	3
Bosnia	2
Georgia	3
Kazakhstan	2
Kyrgyzstan	4
Moldova	1
Russia	24
Serbia	4
Tajikistan	1
Turkmenistan	1
Ukraine	3
Uzbekistan	7

ASYLUM VICTORIES BY REGION

2008 – 2011



Middle East	Total: 20
Egypt	7
Iran	2
Jordan	1
Lebanon	1
Palestine	2
Saudi Arabia	1
Syria	3
Turkey	2
Yemen	1

Africa	Total: 35
Algeria	1
Benin	1
Cameroon	2
Ethiopia	2
Gambia	1
Ghana	5
Guinea	2
Ivory Coast	2
Kenya	3
Libya	1
Mauritania	4
Morocco	1
Nigeria	1
Senegal	1
South Africa	1
Togo	1
Uganda	4
Zimbabwe	1
Tanzania & Zanzibar	1

Asia	Total: 14
China	2
India	2
Indonesia	3
Malaysia	2
Pakistan	3
Sri Lanka	2

SAFE HAVEN AWARDS

Immigration Equality was pleased to welcome actors Jamie-Lynn Sigler (*The Sopranos*, *Entourage*) and David W. Ross (*Quinceanera*) as keynote speakers for the 2012 Safe Haven Awards.



JAMIE-LYNN SIGLER

Jamie-Lynn Sigler — best known for her critically acclaimed role in the hit HBO series *The Sopranos* — and Ross co-star in the forthcoming feature film *I Do. I Do* tells the story of a gay British man living in New York who is “fighting for love, family and a green card.” The film will premiere later this summer at festivals across the country.

Sigler’s portrayal of Meadow Soprano in the HBO series earned her the 1999 and 2000 Hollywood Reporter Young Star Award for Best Actress in a Dramatic Series, as well as two ALMA Award nominations for Best Actress in a Drama Series in 2001 and 2002. She has also appeared on Broadway in *Beauty and the Beast*, as well as in recurring roles on the TV series *Entourage* and *Ugly Betty*. Sigler’s film work includes IFC’s *Beneath the Dark*, and the thriller *Dark Ride*.



DAVID W. ROSS

David W. Ross, who wrote the screenplay for *I Do*, is best known for playing Gary in the Sundance smash *Quinceanera*, which won the Audience Award and Grand Jury Prize at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival and an Independent Spirit Award and GLAAD Media Award in 2007. He was one of four members of Bad Boys, Inc. a British “boy band” whose self-titled album spawned five hit singles. He has appeared in several award-winning projects, including *The Receipt*, which won multiple awards including Best Comedy at the Los Angeles International Short Film Festival and *Sneaux*, which was nominated for six LA Weekly Theatre Awards, including Best Musical.

SAFE HAVEN
AWARDS



The Safe Haven Awards celebrate our shared work to bring LGBT and HIV-positive immigrants and their families together, giving them the freedom to pursue their hopes and dreams in the face of stigma and inequality.

For one incredible evening, the entire Immigration Equality family comes together — our pro bono community, business partners, political champions and loyal supporters.

A CLIENT'S STORY

I'm here tonight to tell you how I am alive today because of Immigration Equality. Last November, I fled Ghana fearing for my life. Simply for being me, I had been arrested, starved, beaten and left for dead, and unspeakably worse. My girlfriend in Ghana was murdered. I found her lifeless at home, poisoned, with foam on her lips. The words "Bitch, go find a man in hell" were scrawled on the wall.

I could not stay in Ghana a minute longer. I scrambled to gather the few things I could, and spent all the money I had to flee to America. I asked for asylum right at JFK airport.

After almost 100 nights in immigration jail, I was released from detention on a cold night in the middle of nowhere. Luckily, Immigration Equality arranged a ride for me and a place to stay. Who would I have called? I was alone with no family, no friends and no money.

I thought American immigration authorities would welcome me, but I was wrong. They questioned me for hours, put me in shackles, and brought me to a jail in New Jersey. They took my fingerprints, put me in a jumpsuit, and treated me like a criminal. They threatened to send me back to Ghana. I was terrified, confused, and humiliated.

After 9 days, a guard said "A lawyer is here to see you." I remember thinking "Lawyer? Is this a trick? I don't know anyone in this country." Yet I walked Clem Lee, a lawyer from Immigration Equality. He explained that Immigration Equality helps lesbian, gay, bi and trans people whose lives and safety are in danger. Clem said Immigration Equality had learned about me from the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, who did an initial screening of my case.

Clem gave me hope. I prayed and prayed that Immigration Equality would take my case. And they did!

Asylum applications are not easy. As many in this room know, building a winning application is a painful process. For me, it meant tearfully reliving the most painful experiences of my life to a stranger — experiences I wish I could forget. I was thankful to Clem for being gentle and understanding as he began building my case. He was probably only the fourth person in my life who I told I was a lesbian.

I was thrilled when Immigration Equality placed my case with Jaime Hernandez, a lawyer from Hughes and Hubbard. Jaime took over my asylum case while Clem kept working on my release from detention. Other detainees had no lawyers, or lawyers who left them after twenty minutes — I remarked at my luck for having two lawyers, both of whom met with me for hours at a time.

My lawyers moved heaven and earth for me.

After almost 100 nights in immigration jail, I was released from detention on a cold

night in the middle of nowhere. Luckily, Immigration Equality arranged a ride for me and a place to stay. Who would I have called? I was alone with no family, no friends and no money.

I met with Jaime dozens of times to build my case. He listened patiently as I recounted painful details of my history for hours. Heroically he gathered evidence, calling hospitals in Ghana and arranging for friends in Ghana to FedEx me documents I needed.

The day before my court date, I wept bitterly. I was terribly anxious, but I felt comforted with my lawyers beside me. Still, I could barely speak. Jaime built such an ironclad case that the government attorney asked me no questions.

After Jaime argued my case passionately, the judge granted me asylum on February 22, 2012.

I'm eager to close an awful chapter in my life, and start living my life. Two weeks ago I got my employment authorization card. I'm currently staying in Montclair, New Jersey, and I just started school to become a medical assistant. I want to help people. I volunteer at the Audre Lorde Project, an activist group that empowers LGBT people of color in New York.

Without Immigration Equality and Jaime at Hughes Hubbard, I would literally not be alive in order to enjoy these simple things in life. And because of that, I am so, so proud to present the 2012 Safe Haven Awards. Thank you!

OUR STAFF

Maria Booth
*Communications &
Operations Coordinator*

Jennifer Carrel
Operations Director

Win Chesson
Development Director

Pamela Denzer
BIA Accredited Representative

Christopher Taylor Edwards
Communications Manager

Chris Fleming
Sr. Manager Corporate Partnerships

Julie A. Kruse
Policy Director

Clement Lee
Tom Steel Legal Fellow

Gary Liao
Legal Fellow

Kestryl Lowrey
Technology Coordinator

Aaron Morris
Senior Staff Attorney

Victoria Neilson
Legal Director

Claudia Paz
Paralegal

Tom Plummer
Staff Attorney

Steve Ralls
Communications Director

Tara Sadooghi
Events Manager

Stephen Silva
Paralegal

Rachel B. Tiven
Executive Director

Ariel Travis
Binational Couples Paralegal

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Susan J. Zachman, Esq.

Rachel B. Tiven, Executive Director

* Action Fund Board

At our annual Safe Haven Awards gala in May, Immigration Equality honored more than 50 elite law firms in our Pro Bono Asylum Program, which won asylum for 105 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and HIV-positive people last year — a 99% success rate.

Each winning firm went above and beyond to provide top-notch legal counsel to people fleeing for their lives. This is literally life-saving work, and we were so proud to honor:

AKIN GUMP STRAUSS HAUER & FELD LLP

A long-time member of our pro bono network, Akin Gump handled numerous challenging cases in 2011, involving attorneys in three different cities. The firm prepared a BIA appeal for a gay man living with AIDS from Guyana; represented a young, HIV-positive Ivorian mother with a son who was born prematurely and with a number of medical complications; and won Immigration Equality's first HIV-only asylum case for a client from Kyrgyzstan, subsequently filing derivative asylum petitions for his wife and son.

Steven Schulman, Ray Donahue, James Sherry, Michael Cross, Justin Bell, Ryan Marks, Jennelle Menendez, Alana Martell, Ron Deutsch, Alexandra Reuss, Ira Kustin, Joseph Sorkin, Arina Lekhel, Rachel Presa, Robert Pees, Kristine Manoukian, Meredith Lahaie, Fred Hodara, Christopher Carty, Robert Johnson, Wilson Meeks, Ashley Waters, Angela Verrecchio, Danielle Letting, J.P. Howard

JONES DAY



Jones Day accepted seven new LGBT asylum cases in 2011. The firm's caseload included a young lesbian from a politically powerful and religiously conservative family in Mali; a gay Jamaican man living in Atlanta; and Hassan, a young, gay Syrian man living in Chicago. Attorneys from Jones Day's New York and Chicago offices worked to prepare a successful asylum application for Hassan, who came out as a gay man while living in the United States and was faced with the prospect of returning to the Middle East, where gay men routinely face violence and torture.

Daniel R. Culhane, Sasha N. Franklyn, Elizabeth Gene Greenberg, Andrew Kleinfeld, Jordan Cerruti, Jennifer K. Messina, Kamilla Mamedova, Andrey Belenky, Maya Elbert, Mariya Nazginova, Andrew H. Weisberg, Mirah Curzer, Rita Celebrezzi, Joshua M. Grossman, Thomas G. Hackney, Anshul Mangal, Jennifer A. Bunting-Graden, Mareasa M. Fortunato, Mary Ellen Bonner, Lawrence R. Gabuzda, Joshua K. Bromberg, Jacki Rodriguez

Former Jones Day Attorneys who worked on these cases in 2011

Halia Evans, Pantea Stevenson, Suzanne Grandt, Fritz Klantschi, Joan Sim, Terry McMahon, Marlena Crippin, Bridget A. Crawford, Nancy Chu, Jonathan Lamberti

KASOWITZ BENSON TORRES & FRIEDMAN LLP

In less than two years, the team at Kasowitz has become a “Gold Star” pro bono partner and has now taken on eleven Immigration Equality cases, including five in its first year. The firm’s recent asylum wins include a transgender Sri Lankan woman; a gay Jamaican with PTSD as a result of his persecution who was successful despite applying for asylum outside the one-year filing deadline; and the first successful Immigration Equality asylum case from Barbados, on behalf of a gay, HIV-positive man. The firm has also handled several difficult cases that have been referred to Immigration Court proceedings. Kasowitz currently represents Immigration Equality clients from eight different countries, including a gay couple from Mauritania, where homosexuality is a crime punishable by death.

David J. Abrams, Matthew Cowherd, Yah E. Demann, Michelle Genet, Sondra D. Grigsby, Matthew J. Hrutkay, Nadia Klein, Danielle M. Kudla, Leigh McMullan, Aileen K. Monahan, John F. Murphy III, Cheryl B. Neiman, Shalini Rajoo, Jessica Rosenbaum, S. Omell Shanks, Elizabeth Young



Kirkland & Ellis continues to be a standout member of Immigration Equality's LGBT asylum program, and has represented more than 20 Immigration Equality asylum clients during the course of the firm's partnership with our legal team. Through strong partner involvement and an internal focus on asylum expertise, Kirkland has not only increased the number of cases the firm handles, but has also represented clients with especially difficult asylum claims. In 2011, Kirkland took on seven new Immigration Equality asylum cases, including three affirmative cases with particularly challenging one-year filing deadline issues. Kirkland also worked on a defensive case for a young Salvadorian man in a binational relationship. The client, who lived in San Francisco, was detained and placed in removal proceedings in Texas.

Andrew Barood, Michelle Berger, Sharon H. Billington, Neil Dugal, Michael P. Esser, Robert A. Gretch, Kendall W. Hannon, Nickolas A. Kacprowski, Alexandra Kolod, Marlo A. Leach, Lisa LeCointe-Cephas, Joseph A. Loy, Peter C. Magic, Amit Makker, Katherine L. McDaniel, LeMar Moore, Cody Rockey, Shanti E. Sadtler, Joshua L. Simmons, Kevin L. Spark, Christian Chadd Taylor, Heather Thomas, Dmitriy Tishyevich, Leopoldo Joaquin Yanez, Susan J. Zachman

McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY

McDermott has won seven asylum cases for Immigration Equality clients since 2008, with four additional cases pending. Their work is exemplified by their representation of Oleg, a gender non-conforming gay man from Tajikistan. Oleg, who grew up in an orphanage, fled to the United States after being repeatedly harassed and detained by the police in his home country. Oleg was beaten, severely assaulted and set on fire by neighborhood men who targeted him for being effeminate. McDermott took Oleg's case in 2008 and represented him for the next four years until winning asylum for him last September. "Our connection to Oleg transcends legal representation," said lead attorney Jonathan Boyles. "We have become Oleg's family and have supported him beyond his asylum case, in finding work and housing."

Jonathan J. Boyles, Michael Dreznes, John Hankins, Toni Ann Kruse, Lisa Linsky, Ashley McCarthy, Meishin Riccardulli, Jasmine Bonilla, Angella Phillips, Boyan Konstantinov

OUR PRO BONO PARTNERS

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Sidley Austin

Simpson Thacher

Sive, Paget & Riesel

Skadden

SNR Denton
Stephoe & Johnson
Sullivan & Cromwell
Wachtell

Weil Gotshal

White & Case

Wilmer Hale

Indicates Gold Star firm, accepting at least five new cases per year.

American Airlines / Bain & Company / Barclays / Bausch & Lomb / Boehringer Ingelheim USA / Bristol-Myers Squibb / Carlson / Cisco Systems / Diageo / The Dow Chemical Company / eBay / The Estée Lauder Companies / Fifth & Pacific Companies / Goldman Sachs / Intel / Marriott International / Medtronic / Merck & Co., Inc. / Nike / Ogilvy & Mather / Omnicom / Pfizer / Replacements, Ltd. / Starwood Hotels / Texas Instruments / Thomson Reuters / US Airways

Businesses are losing talent & lobbying for change

“ The issue of equality for LGBT families under U.S. immigration laws is important to many of our associates, and to Marriott as a global employer. ”

Debbie Marriott Harrison
SVP, Government Affairs
Marriott International

“ Lost talent and expended resources are a needless financial and emotional strain on our company and its employees. ”

Steven Tallman
VP of Global Operations
Bain & Company

Russ Hagey
Chief Talent Officer
Bain & Company

Business Coalition for the Uniting American Families Act

Add your company to the growing list of employers standing up for equality. To join, contact Chris Fleming: business@imeqactionfund.org or 212-714-2904

ImEqActionFund.org/business

TAKING OUR CASE TO COURT

Over the course of the past year, the Obama Administration has refused to approve – or even hold — green card applications filed by our families. As a result, couples are facing separation and exile ... and we will not sit idly by as the federal government keeps tearing families apart.

There is no question that DOMA is unconstitutional. We know it; the Obama Administration knows it; and the families who feel its impact know it most of all. It is time to end this law, and Immigration Equality and our families will do just that.

On April 2, 2012, we filed suit on behalf of five lesbian and gay couples, challenging Section 3 of DOMA, which prevents lesbian and gay American citizens from sponsoring their spouses for green cards. The lawsuit, filed on the couples' behalf by Immigration Equality and the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP, alleges that DOMA violates the couples' constitutional right to equal protection.

We put together the strongest lawsuit, with the best team in the business, because we know how much is riding on our victory. Our legal staff advises more LGBT immigrant families than any other organization in the country. We are the experts the experts turn to on matters impacting those families. There is no group, and no individual, better prepared to win this fight in the courts.

And make no mistake: We are going to win.

PLAINTIFFS



Edwin Blesch and his South African spouse, Tim Smulian. Edwin and Tim, who have been together for more than 13 years, were married in South Africa in August 2007. While their marriage is honored by Edwin's home state of New York, their green card petition was denied on March 14, 2012. They reside in Orient, New York.



Frances Herbert and Takako Ueda, who is originally from Japan. Frances and Takako, who have known each other for 22 years, were married in April 2011. Their petition for a green card was denied on December 1, 2011. They reside in Dummerston, Vermont.



Heather Morgan and Maria del Mar Verdugo, a native of Spain. Heather and Mar have known each other for 14 years. They were married, in New York, in August 2011 and have a pending green card petition, which is expected to be denied. They reside in New York City.



Santiago Ortiz and Pablo Garcia, a native of Venezuela. Santiago, a Puerto Rican American, met Pablo in 1991 and they registered as domestic partners in 1993. In May 2011, they were married in Connecticut. The couple have filed a green card petition, which is expected to be denied. They reside in Elmhurst, New York.



Kelli Ryan and Lucy Truman, a native of the United Kingdom. Kelli and Lucy have been a couple for more than 11 years and entered into a civil union in July 2006. They were married in March 2010 in Connecticut. Their petition for a green card was denied on March 27, 2012. They reside in Sandy Hook, Connecticut.

TO THE
STREETS



OUR FUNDERS

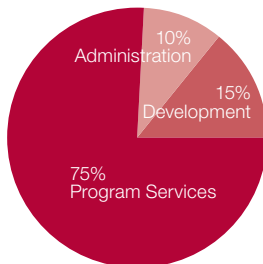
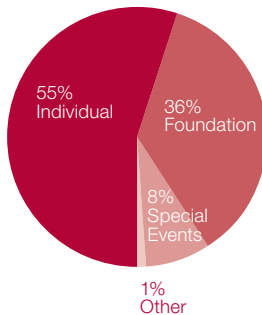
Thanks to the generosity of our individual, foundation, and corporate supporters, Immigration Equality continued its dramatic growth in 2011. We expanded our program staff in both our New York headquarters and at our DC office. We also recorded our most successful fundraising year to date.

FOUNDATION FUNDERS

Anonymous
 Arcus Gay and Lesbian Fund
 Morton K. and Jane Blaustein Foundation
 David Bohnett Foundation
 Ford Foundation
 Gill Foundation
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 J.M. Kaplan Fund
 MAC AIDS Fund
 New York Community Trust
 Open Society Foundations
 Vital Projects Fund

2011 FINANCIAL RESULTS

Audited results as of December 31, 2011. Prepared by Gelman, Rosenberg, & Freedman



	Immigration Equality	Immigration Equality Action Fund	Consolidated
Foundation	\$ 667,000	\$ 115,000	\$ 782,000
Individual Contributions	\$ 970,224	\$ 212,193	\$ 1,182,417
Special Events	\$ 120,924	\$ 48,389	\$ 169,313
Affiliated Org. Grant	\$ —	\$ 230,000	\$ 230,000
Interest & Other	\$ 15,430	\$ 40	\$ 15,470
TOTAL INCOME*	\$ 1,773,578	\$ 605,622	\$ 2,379,200

* In addition, four dozen national law firms donated more than \$15 million in legal services as participants in Immigration Equality's Pro Bono Network.

Program Services	\$ 1,178,570	\$ 203,698	\$ 1,382,268
Administration	\$ 194,650	\$ 19,005	\$ 213,655
Development	\$ 202,035	\$ 114,023	\$ 316,058
Affiliated Org Grant	\$ 230,000	\$ —	\$ 230,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,805,255	\$ 336,726	\$ 2,141,981

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