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ImmigrationEquality.org

ImEqActionFund.org

6:30 WELCOME RECEPTION

8:00 AWARDS PROGRAM

WELCOME

Joseph B. Landau
Chair, Board of Directors

THE ROAD TO COURT

Robyn Huffman
Safe Haven Awards Co-chair

PRO BONO AWARDS

Victoria Neilson
Legal Director

Nana Ama Owusua
Asylum winner from Ghana

Ranesh Ramanathan
Board of Directors

KEYNOTE

R. Martin Chavez & Adam Norbury
Safe Haven Awards Co-chairs

Jamie-Lynn Sigler
Co-star, I Do

David W. Ross
Co-star, I Do

STATE OF THE MOVEMENT

Rachel B. Tiven
Executive Director

DESSERT RECEPTION

*underwritten by Fried, Frank,
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Fried Frank

is proud to recognize the service
and commitment of

Ranesh and Erik Ramanathan

to

Immigration Equality



KEYNOTE
SPEAKERS

Immigration Equality is 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

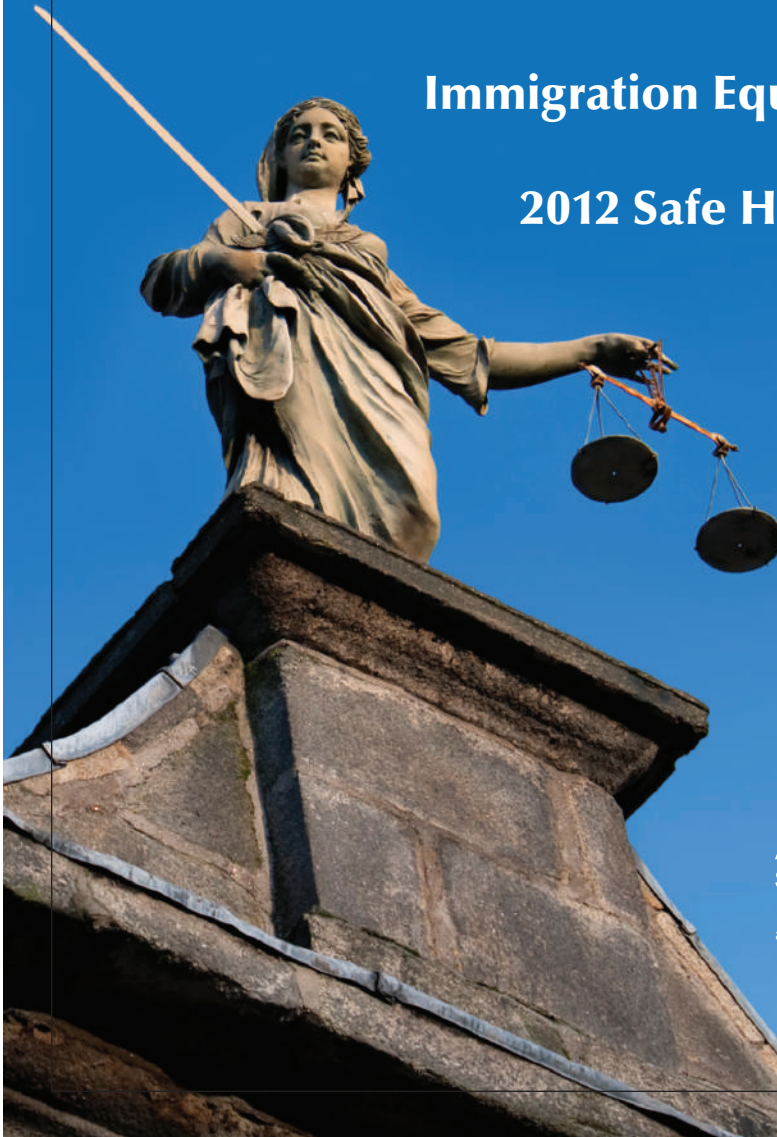
David W. Ross, who wrote the screenplay for *I Do*, is best known for playing Gary in the Sundance smash *Quinceanera*, which won the Audience Award and Grand Jury Prize at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival and an Independent Spirit Award and GLAAD Media Award in 2007. He was one of four members of Bad 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.

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

is proud to support

Immigration Equality and the

2012 Safe Haven Awards



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PRO BONO AWARD WINNERS

Our Pro Bono Award winners were chosen from 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 are 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, Marlana Crippin, Bridget A. Crawford, Nancy Chu, Jonathan Lamberti



Diverse. Inclusive. Supportive.

Congratulations to the Kirkland & Ellis LGBT Asylum Project, its happy clients and the other winners of the Immigration Equality Safe Haven Award — together we fight for freedom for all.

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PRO BONO
AWARD
WINNERS

KASOWITZ BENSON TORRES & FRIEDMAN LLP

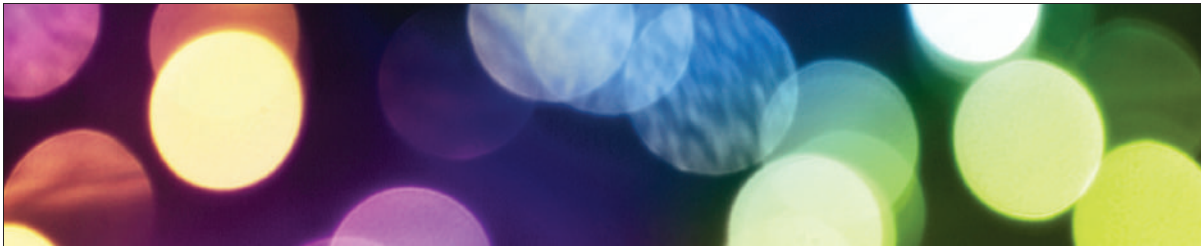
In less than two years, the team at Kasowitz has become a “Gold Star” pro bono partner and has now taken on eleven Immigration Equality cases, including five in its first year. The firm’s recent asylum wins include a transgender Sri Lankan woman; a gay Jamaican with PTSD as a result of his persecution 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 LLP

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 Baroody, 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



We are honored to support your work.

McDermott Will & Emery is proud to partner with Immigration Equality and help to further its mission to ensure equality for immigrants from the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities. We are also honored to receive the 2012 Safe Haven award and congratulate the other honorees for their outstanding commitment to LGBT asylum seekers and binational families.

**McDermott
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McDermott Will & Emery conducts its practice through separate legal entities in each of the countries where it has offices. This communication may be considered attorney advertising. Previous results are not a guarantee of future outcome.



Jones Day is proud to support Immigration Equality's 2012 Safe Haven Awards. We applaud Immigration Equality's continued efforts to promote equality in U.S. immigration law and to provide legal aid for LGBT and HIV-positive immigrants and their families. We congratulate tonight's honorees on their accomplishments.

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PRO BONO
AWARD
WINNERS

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

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Wachtell

Weil Gotshal

White & Case

Wilmer Hale

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

A CLIENT'S
STORY:
NANA

My name is Nana Ama Owusua and 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.

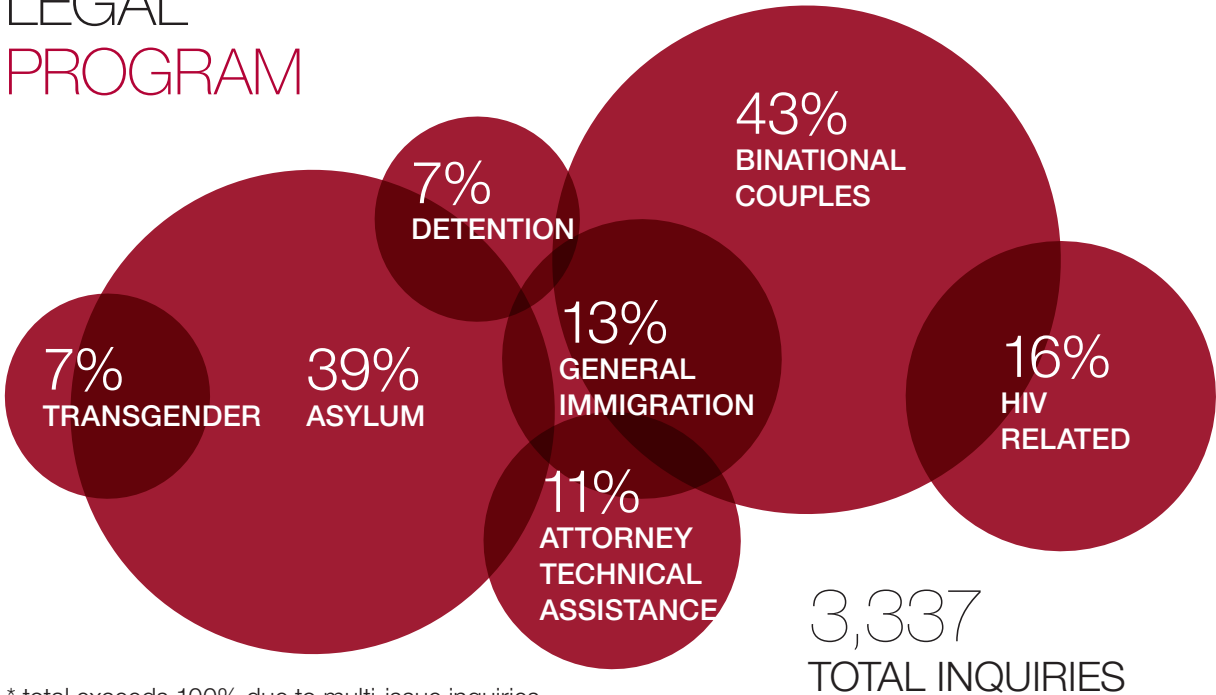
After Jaime argued my case passionately, the judge granted me asylum on February 22, 2012.

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 LEGAL PROGRAM

OUR INTAKE HOTLINE 2011



* total exceeds 100% due to multi-issue inquiries

ASYLUM VICTORIES BY COUNTRY 2008 – 2011

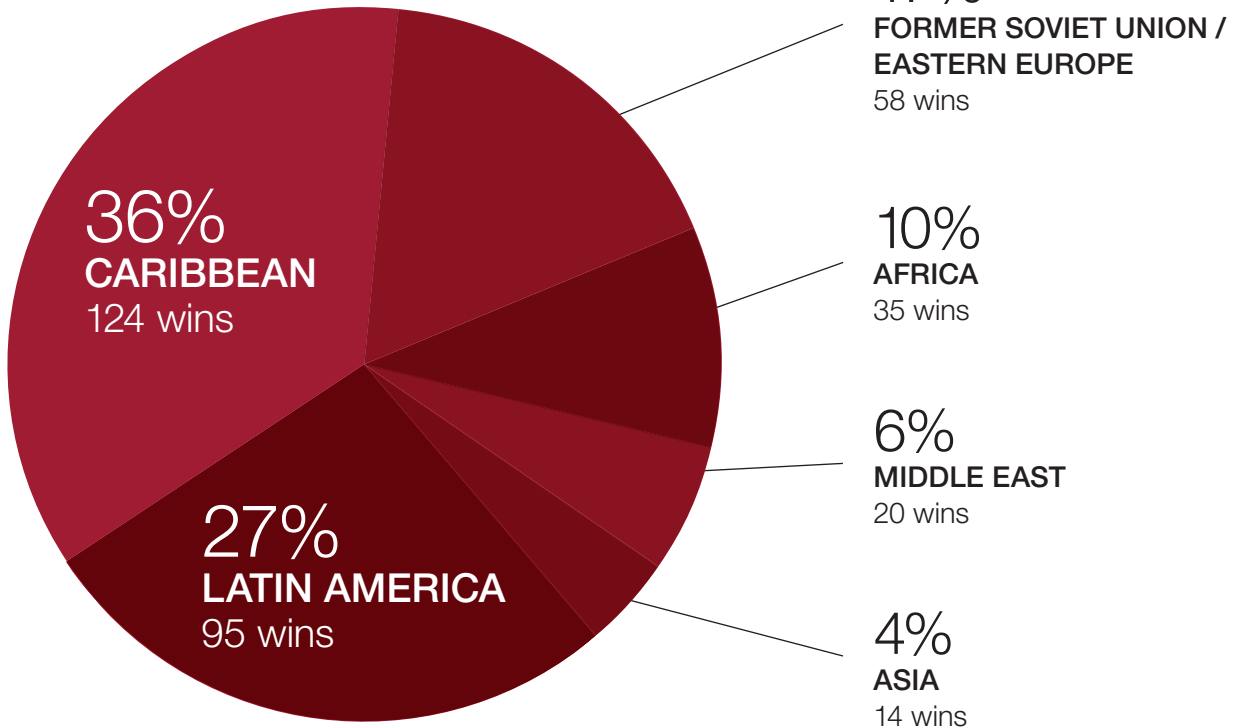
Caribbean	Total: 124
Antigua	1
The Bahamas	1
Dominica	2
Grenada	9
Jamaica	99
St. Kitts & Nevis	1
St. Lucia	3
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	1
Trinidad & Tobago	7

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
Benin	1
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

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Bain & Company is a proud member of Immigration Equality's Business Coalition.

BGLAD

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WE CONGRATULATE THE FOLLOWING
LAW FIRMS FOR PROVIDING LIFE-SAVING
LEGAL COUNSEL TO LGBT AND HIV-POSITIVE
IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES:

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& FELD LLP JONES DAY
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KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP
MCDERMOTT WILL & EMERY



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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

LOVE &
FAMILY
A GREEN CARD MARRIAGE

TWO WORDS
CAN CHANGE
EVERYTHING

I Do 

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SCHOOL PICTURE PRESENTS JAMIE-LYNN SIGLER ALICIA WITT MAURICE COMPTE DAVID W. ROSS "I DO" GRANT BOWLER AND PATRICIA BELCHER
CASTING BY ELIZABETH SHOAI & KATIE PIEL COSTUME DESIGNER SARAH REGISTER PRODUCTION DESIGNER MICHAEL FITZGERALD ORIGINAL MUSIC BY JORDAN BALAGOT & GABRIEL MOUNSEY
EDITED BY JAMES CUDE DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY DAVID M. GIL PRODUCED BY STEPHEN ISRAEL & DAVID W. ROSS WRITTEN BY DAVID W. ROSS DIRECTED BY GLENN GAYLORD

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.

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Global Immigration

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Kramer Levin
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advance equal immigration rights for the
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Over the past decade,
We are proud to have assisted Immigration
Equality's clients in their quests for asylum.

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We are proud to support
Immigration Equality and its work
in advocating for change on
behalf of LGBT immigrants and
their families.

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We are proud to support the significant work of
Immigration Equality
and
to be a recipient of a
2012 Safe Haven Award

We thank all our honored attorneys for their
dedication and perseverance
in helping our clients obtain asylum in the U.S.

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Linklaters

Linklaters is happy to join Immigration Equality in honoring this year's Safe Haven Pro Bono Award winners.

linklaters.com

[> bingham.com](http://bingham.com)

Congratulations Immigration Equality and to the 2012 Safe Haven Awards Honorees.

We are proud to support your work.

BINGHAM

The logo for Bingham, consisting of the word "BINGHAM" in a bold, orange, sans-serif font. A vertical orange line extends downwards from the center of the letter "M".

THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING SAFE HAVEN FOR THOSE IN NEED

We are proud to support Immigration Equality
and your dedicated work on behalf of LGBT and
HIV-positive asylum seekers and their families.

ROPES & GRAY

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
congratulates **Immigration Equality**
and the **Safe Haven Award Winners**

on their monumental achievements.

We are proud to have shared in another tremendously successful
year by winning asylum for so many deserving clients.

Skadden

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SNR Denton is proud to support **Immigration Equality's 2012 Safe Haven Awards**

Congratulations to all of tonight's honorees

SNR Denton is an international legal practice serving clients from more than 60 locations worldwide, through offices, associate firms and special alliances in the US, the UK, Europe, the Middle East, Russia and the CIS, Asia Pacific and Africa. We offer our clients premier service in eight key industry sectors. For more information visit snrdenton.com.

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