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Human Rights Campaign Fund

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Human Rights CAMPAIGN FUND

FFR 16 905

TO: Jennifer Palmieri FAX NUMBER:

FROM: The Human Rights Campaign Fund
Public Policy Department

✓ Daniel Zingale, Director
Cathy Woolard, Deputy Director
Kevin Layton, Deputy Director, Political Action Committee

Julio Abreu
Nancy Buermeyer
Cheryl Camillo
Bill Darker
Doug Hattaway
Terrance Heath

Kris Pratt
Greg Reisher
Susanne Salkind
David Sobelsohn
Winnie Stachelberg
Intern _____

Alexis -

Burch wants LEP
to introduce her

@ this meeting.
What do you
think?

Jennifer

DATE:

RESPOND TO:

PAGES TO FOLLOW: 3

FAX: 202.347.5323

PHONE: 202.628.4160

TTD: 202.628.4169

Message:

Thank you very much for
checking Mr. Panetta's availability.

Host Committee

*The Honorable Barbara Boxer
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable James M. Jeffords
The Honorable Sherwood L. Boehlert
The Honorable Barney Frank
The Honorable Nancy L. Johnson
The Honorable John Lewis
The Honorable Constance A. Morella
The Honorable Gerry E. Studds*

*The Honorable John H. Chafee
The Honorable Mark O. Hatfield
The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo
The Honorable Vic Fazio
The Honorable Steve Gunderson
The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta
The Honorable Christopher Shays
The Honorable Peter G. Torkildsen*

***March 6, 1995
6:00 - 7:30pm
Rayburn Foyer
Rayburn House Office Building***

***Please RSVP by March 1, 1995
to Bill Darker (202)628-4160 ext.5055***

***The Human Rights Campaign Fund,
Leading the Fight at the National Level for Lesbian and Gay Equality***

Apple Lawyer To Become Director Of Gay Group

By DAVID W. DUNLAP

The nation's largest gay political organization has reached into the corporate world for an executive director to guide it through what promises to be a tumultuous period in the gay-rights movement.

Elizabeth Birch, the 38-year-old chief litigator at Apple Computer Inc., is to be named today as executive director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, an organization that is based in Washington and claims more than 80,000 members. The fund fights discrimination against homosexuals through organizing, lobbying and financial support for political candidates.

"I'm not naive," Ms. Birch said yesterday. "I understand it will be enormously challenging. But I continue to be optimistic, as someone who comes from outside Washington, that there is a wonderful trend going on in America."

"Even in the midst of the largest Republican sweep in 20 years, America has simply refused to institutionalize discrimination," she said, referring to the defeat of referendums in Oregon and Idaho seeking to abolish gay-rights measures.

Ms. Birch was involved in the battle last year between Apple and Wil-

liamson County, a suburban county north of Austin, Tex. The county commissioners balked at giving the company a tax abatement on the construction of an \$80 million office complex because Apple offered benefits to the partners of gay employees. But after Apple said that as a matter of principle and economics it would not build without the breaks, the county awarded financial incentives for the project.

Ms. Birch lives in Boulder Creek, Calif., near Santa Cruz. She was co-chairwoman of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force from 1992 until this year. She joined Apple in 1989 and has served as general counsel of the Claris Corporation, its software subsidiary.

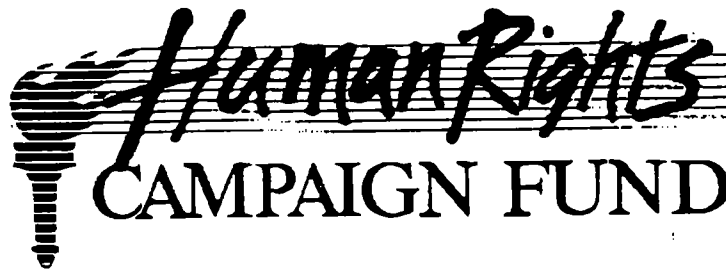
The campaign fund spent four months looking for a successor to Tim McFeeley. Jean Harris, a special assistant to San Francisco's public health director, applied for the job but told the search committee that they ought to choose Ms. Birch. "She's a tough cookie," Ms. Harris said. "She's got a corporate image, brains and the ability to take the risks that need to be taken."

John Laird, a former mayor of Santa Cruz, Calif., has worked with Ms. Birch on gay causes for almost a decade. "She can walk into a room and immediately connect with people from the corporate world," he said. "But that's not to take away from her street-level activities, which have also been good."



Lisa Berg for The New York Times

Elizabeth Birch is leaving Apple Computer to become the executive director of the nation's largest gay political organization.



ELIZABETH BIRCH
Executive Director

Elizabeth Birch was appointed Executive Director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund in late 1994 and took the helm of the organization in January, 1995. Birch's selection was the culmination of a 6-month extensive national search that was launched after Tim McFeeley, the organization's executive director for 5 years, announced his resignation in June, 1994.

Prior to her appointment at HRCF, Birch was Worldwide Director of Litigation and Human Resources Counsel for Apple Computer, Inc., where in addition to heading up litigation, she was instrumental in the development of Apple's landmark domestic partnership and non-discrimination policies. She also served as General Counsel of Claris Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Apple.

Birch graduated with honors in 1985 from the Santa Clara University School of Law. While studying at Santa Clara she clerked at the California Supreme Court. After graduating she joined the San Francisco law firm of McCutchen, Doyle, Brown and Enersen, where she specialized in complex commercial litigation with an emphasis in computer law. In 1989 she joined Apple where she became a visible spokesperson for lesbian and gay equal rights in the workplace, contributing significantly to the national movement to establish domestic partnership coverage in a variety of workplace settings.

Birch has a long history of activism in the lesbian, gay and AIDS/HIV communities. She is a former co-chair of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the founder of AIDS Legal Services, a model program for people with HIV in Northern California. Birch also authored several AIDS anti-discrimination ordinances which have been enacted in California municipalities. She was selected as Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year by the Santa Clara County Bar Association, and was named one of the Outstanding Women of Santa Clara Valley in 1993.