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# Proskauer Supports the LGBT Community

Our commitment to diversity is essential to our commitment to excellence and we are proud supporters and members of the LGBT community.



## Proskauer Pride

Proskauer Pride is the primary internal resource for LGBT lawyers and their allies. The group is a point of contact between Proskauer and the LGBT community at large, serving to raise awareness within the Firm of areas of interest to the LGBT community and, particularly, social issues affecting LGBT lawyers.

The group creates and fosters informal mentoring relationships to support the professional development of LGBT lawyers and summer associates, and partners with our legal recruiters to identify ways to promote the Firm to LGBT law students and lateral hires.

## Events

We frequently hold events to discuss important topics in the LGBT community. Recent events have included:

**“LawSuited for Pride”** – a panel discussion on gender identity, gender non-conformity, and gender expression through fashion, in and out of the workplace, with a special look at the documentary film *Suited*.

**“Chechnya: Reacting to a Gay Purge”** – a panel discussion on violence against the LGBT community around the globe.

**“After Obergefell: A Conversation About the Supreme Court’s Ruling”** – a panel discussion on the U.S. Supreme Court decision regarding state recognition of same-sex marriage established in other jurisdictions, featuring prominent academics, activists and journalists.

**“After Perry & Windsor: A Conversation About the Supreme Court’s Rulings”** – a panel discussion exploring the impact of the U.S. Supreme Court rulings in two major gay marriage cases, *United States v. Windsor* which challenged the Defense of Marriage Act and *Hollingsworth v. Perry* which challenged California’s Proposition 8 ban on gay marriage.

**“Out on the Field” and Pride Reception** – a discussion of athletes coming out as gay on the professional and collegiate levels. The featured guest was Hudson Taylor, the founder and executive director of Athlete Ally, a non-profit organization that promotes inclusiveness in the sports world.

**Wealth Planning Presentations** – firm-provided wealth planning advice sessions addressing the needs of LGBT individuals, couples and families.

**“Brother Outsider”** – a screening of the critically acclaimed documentary about openly gay civil rights activist Bayard Rustin.

**LGBT Affinity Group Outings** – casual get-togethers, such as dinner or bowling, offer an opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and meet new people.

For more information about Proskauer’s diversity efforts, please contact:

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## Equal Rights

We are proud to partner with organizations to provide legal support on important cases, such as:

Representation of indigent clients in housing cases for AIDS Project Los Angeles

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Serving as counsel for Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN)

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Participating in a program at the Gay Men's Health Crisis providing estate planning and related legal services for people with HIV/AIDS

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Victoriously defended a gay journalist from the Gaza Strip when he was granted asylum based on his sexual orientation and political opinion

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Drafting several amicus briefs, in cooperation with the ACLU, in *Parker v. Lexington*, a case challenging materials used to teach tolerance of sexual orientation in elementary schools

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Successfully represented gay service members in challenges to their ouster from the armed services in *McVeigh v. Cohen* and *In Re Steven May*

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Advised on a FOIA matter on behalf of the Service Members Legal Defense Network which succeeded in forcing the Department of Defense to disclose information collected about student protests against Don't Ask, Don't Tell on the campuses of New York University and the University of California at Berkeley

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Representation of the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center in reverse discrimination suit brought by former employee

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Successfully represented the surviving domestic partner of a 9/11 victim in his application to receive survivor benefits from the Federal Victims Compensation Fund

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Representation of transgender individual in a suit against Suffolk County, New York, alleging discrimination in connection with the county's refusal to allow the client to adopt children

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Successfully represented an HIV-positive gay pro bono client, who faced harassment and abuse in his native Venezuela, in seeking asylum

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## We are active members of the LGBT community, partnering with and sponsoring organizations and events such as:

American Civil Liberties Union LGBT & AIDS Project

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Empire State Pride Agenda

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Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project

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Immigration Equality

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Lambda Legal Liberty Awards

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Lavender Law/National LGBT Bar Association

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LeGaL

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Massachusetts LGBTQ Bar Association

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New York City Bar Pride Reception

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Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE)

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Out & Proud Corporate Counsel Award Reception

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