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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LGBT JUDGES

March 19, 2016 Update

Hello Everyone,

Here's an update on things that may be of interest to you. I trust that all is well as Spring arrives. This update includes items received in our mailbox from our Contact Us link at our website. Note that Judge Elizabeth Berns (NY) and Todd Brower of the Williams Institute are presenting the Domestic Violence

Seminar. Regarding the Sexual Orientation & Gender International Law Conference in Leiden, remember that your conflict is your plan to be in Washington, D.C. for our annual gathering.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larnzell". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial letter.



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
LGBT JUDGES

**WHAT JUDGES NEED TO KNOW
ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY**



NATIONAL JUDICIAL INSTITUTE
ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Announcing an **LGBTQ Webinar Series,**

hosted by the National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence

Part I: What Judges Need to Know About Domestic Violence in the LGBTQ Community



Date: April 27th, 2016

**Time: 11 a.m. PT / 12 p.m MT / 1 p.m. CT/
2 p.m. ET**

Duration: 1 hour, 15 Minutes

Presenters: Judge Elizabeth Berns, King County Superior Court and Prof. Todd Brower, Judicial Education Director of the Williams Institute at University of California, Los Angeles.

Is your court sensitive to LGBTQ survivors? When judicial responses don't account for the unique dynamics of LGBTQ domestic violence, courts are less effective at helping survivors stay safe. Recent studies show that LGBTQ survivors face significant challenges accessing the court system. In one study, more than half (55%) of LGBTQ petitioners were denied protection orders, while nearly 45% were denied admission to a domestic violence shelter entirely. When LGBTQ survivors are elderly or from communities of color, problems accessing help can be even more difficult. Join Judge Elizabeth Berns and Prof. Todd Brower for an in-depth look at how LGBTQ survivors face powerful cultural barriers inhibiting disclosure, preventing help-seeking, and accessing the court system. Participants will analyze the dynamics of LGBTQ partner abuse and learn how to engage LGBTQ communities in collaborative domestic violence efforts. Faculty will also identify available resources on LGBTQ domestic violence and work through several active discussion problems with participants.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Although this webinar will address some transgender domestic violence issues, Part II of this series will be a full webinar on transgender domestic violence, and will take place on June 1st, 2016.

Closed Captioning is provided.

For questions or assistance, please contact [Alicia Lord](#).

This project was supported by Grant No. 2011-TA-AX-K040 ,2011-TA-AX-K116, and 2014-TA-AX-K038 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this website/publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice or the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence

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SEXUAL ORIENTATION & GENDER IDENTITY IN INTERNATIONAL LAW

On Wednesday, March 9, 2016 Zago, G. <g.zago@law.leidenuniv.nl> wrote:

Dear Martin Larnzell,

I am a researcher in comparative sexual orientation law at Leiden University, working with Kees Waaldijk. This August the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies is organizing for the first time a summer school on Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity in International Law. This program, coordinated by Kees Waaldijk, will be held in The Hague, and partly in Amsterdam, from 1 to 5 August 2016. Please find attached the summer school flyer for further details.

We also prepared an announcement (see below) advertising the summer school, and we would hope it to reach the highest number of professionals dealing with human rights issues who may be interested in participating from all over the world, thus making the program really diverse and exciting.

In this perspective, I am writing to kindly ask you if it could be possible to include this announcement in the IALGBTJ newsletter, or if there might be other ways to forward it to the IALGBTJ network.

Looking forward to hearing from you, I thank you in advance for your time and send best regards.

Giuseppe Zago

Researcher in Comparative Sexual Orientation Law
Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies
<https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/staffmembers/giuseppe-zago>
<http://grotiuscentresummerschools.com/event/sexual-orientation/g.zago@law.leideuniv.nl>

New summer school at Leiden University:

Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity in International Law

The Hague / Amsterdam, 1 to 5 August 2016

The summer school [*Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in International Law: Progress, Consolidation, Stagnation*](#) will focus on the emergence of SOGI issues in human rights law, international criminal law, and refugee law. It features speakers from international organisations (including [UNHCR](#)), NGOs (including [Jessica Stern](#) from OutRight Action International), and academics from some seven countries (including professor [Stephen Whittle](#), expert on trans law). Several speakers will talk about their involvement in key test-cases that achieved some international protection against homophobia and transphobia. The coordinator of this summer school is [Kees Waaldijk](#) (professor of comparative sexual orientation law at Leiden Law School).

This one week summer school (1-5 August 2016) is aimed at legal and other professionals as well as at advanced students, and is organized by the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies at Leiden University's campus in The Hague. The second half of the programme will take place in Amsterdam, where participants will have a chance to take part in some events of Amsterdam Gay Pride & EuroPride 2016 (including parts of the conference *Proud in Europe?*).

More information at <http://grotiuscentresummerschools.com/event/sexual-orientation>. Applications can be sent to GrotiusSummerSchools@cdh.leidenuniv.nl (deadline is 1 June 2016).

Thank you for forwarding this message to (other) potential participants!

See also the call for papers for the conference [*Proud in Europe? LGBTI Emancipation in Comparative Perspective*](#) (Amsterdam, 4-5 August 2016).

And see the conference [*Same-Sex Relationships and Beyond: Gender Matters in the EU*](#) (Hamburg, 18-19 April 2016).

Thinking of a career in human rights either at the domestic or the international level? Then Leiden Law School's [Advanced Master Programme in European and International Human Rights Law](#) might be something for you!



LAVENDER LAW REGISTRATION OPEN

Our members are not required to register for Lavender Law to participate in activities of our Association. However, only those persons registered for Lavender Law are permitted to attend programs and events of the National LGBT Bar Association. Our Education Committee will be seeking proposals for programs to be presented by our Association as part of Lavender Law.





HISTORY CHECK: JUDGE BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ

Please recall our last update regarding the confirmation of Justice Maite Oronoz Rodriguez as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico. All the best information accessed by the news media was that Chief Justice Oronoz Rodriguez is the first openly LGBT Chief Judge in the United States. I was informed by one of the Association's Founding Members that former member Retired Judge Benjamin J.F. Cruz, current Vice-Speaker of the Guam Legislature, was actually the first openly LGBT Judge to serve as Chief Judge. He served as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Guam from April 21, 1999 until his retirement from the judiciary August 31, 2001.

A May 3, 2013 [resolution](#) of the Guam Judicial Council granting Judge Cruz the Guam Judiciary Hustisia Award includes the following regarding his some of his accomplishments:

Cruz was appointed to the Superior Court of Guam in 1984 by Governor Bordallo, where he spent ten years of his term presiding over Juvenile and Family Court. During his term on the Juvenile and Family Court, then-Judge Cruz took very seriously and personally his role in helping our island's youth escape a life of crime and abuse, rendering hundreds of decisions which changed lives, helped families heal, and taught troubled youth to respect the law. Cruz was elevated to the newly created Guam Supreme Court by Governor Carl T.C. Gutierrez in 1997, becoming the first openly gay Chief Justice of any state court in the United States, standing thus as a pioneer to many beyond Guam's shores.

After retiring from the bench, Cruz was elected Senator in 2004, serving in the 28th through 32nd Guam Legislatures, where he presently serves as Vice Speaker. He is credited with leadership on difficult but non-partisan issues, among which were increasing Guam's minimum wage; strengthening Guam's alcohol, tobacco, and substance

abuse laws; and repealing the statute of limitations for the prosecution of criminal sexual offenses against children. Vice Speaker Cruz has been open about his own struggle to overcome childhood sexual abuse, and this struggle in particular has driven his determination to protect children from abuse.

Needless to say, I was made aware of the fact that the ranks of Chief Judge or Justice of the highest "state" courts have been occupied by members of our community who were not out at the time of service in that capacity.



JURY ACCESS AND NON-DISCRIMINATION LEGISLATION

The National LGBT Bar Association's website includes [coverage](#) of bills pending before Congress regarding non-discrimination in jury selection and related links:

The Jury ACCESS (Access for Capable Citizens and Equality in Service Selection) Act (S. 447) and Juror Non-Discrimination Act (H.R. 864) prevent discrimination in jury selection based on sexual orientation or gender identity. S. 447 and H.R. 864 were reintroduced in February by Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Congresswoman Susan Davis (D-CA-53), respectively, and the Senate version received bipartisan support from Senator Susan Collins (R-ME).

The LGBT Bar worked closely with Senator Shaheen's office in drafting and supplementing the Act to ensure that the LGBT community would be protected in federal jury non-discrimination policy.

Currently, the United States Code prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin and economic status. Failing to include sexual

orientation and gender identity denies countless individuals a jury of their peers. Serving on a jury is a civic duty and to infringe upon that right is prejudicial. Equality extends to the courtroom and especially to juries. No one should be subjected to discrimination simply for performing a civic duty.

The Jury ACCESS Act would amend the federal statute to include sexual orientation and gender identity, protecting those groups from being removed from a jury without cause. Striking jurors on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity would be prohibited under federal law for the first time.



LET'S KEEP EACH OTHER INFORMED

What you have to share will be included in the next update.