



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
LGBT JUDGES

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September 10, 2017

Hello,

It has been a rough period for a number of our members and friend during what has proved to be quite a period of weather upheaval. To the extent that the assistance of any of us can be helpful, it is hoped that those affected will not hesitate in contacting the others of us for assistance or a shoulder on which to sigh.

I am awfully delayed in getting this Update to you. I have a couple of excuses but I could not persuade myself that they had any potential of serving their purpose; therefore, no excuse is offered.

All the best,



At Eureka Restaurant (with Judge Cohen on far edge)



Judge J. Gary Cohen -Reception

Everyone had a great time Annual Meeting and related events. Thank you to Judge Mark F. Scurti (MD) for organizing the Welcoming Reception hosted by the Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom and Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP. During the Annual Meeting, Justice Elizabeth Garry (NY) spoke elegantly of the solemn visit to the National AIDS Memorial Grove. Above is a photograph taken by Judge Scurti's spouse, Michael Myers, of members who attended the

Annual Dinner at the Eureka Restaurant in the Castro District. (Unfortunately, I have not yet met with success in my quest to get a photo from someone who was able to capture the full image of Judge J. Gary Cohen (BC). I will keep trying, including more exposure for Judge Cohen.)



The Spouses at Eureka



Judge Cohen between Judges Javier Vargas and Jean Whalen - Meeting

For additional photos of Association fun and business in San Francisco, you can view photos at this Shutterfly link: https://pix.sfly.com/r_k7HR. Photos that include our members can also be found on The National LGBT Bar Association's Facebook page for a nice flavor of Lavender Law: <https://www.facebook.com/National-LGBT-Bar-Association-145754678807759/>.



DOWN TO BUSINESS – ANDERS SUCCEEDS KOLAKOWSKI



Anders with Judge Shusaku Tatara and Andrew Austin



Kolakowski with Tom Burrows

Congratulations to Judge Daniel J. Anders of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. He was elected to succeed Judge Victoria Kolakowski of the Superior Court of California, Alameda County, as President of the Association. Over the last two years, Judge Anders as served as Vice President to Judge Kolakowski. Our new Vice-President is Judge Linda Colfax of the Superior Court of California for San Francisco.

The “new” Board of Directors is composed of the following: Daniel J. Anders (PA), *President*; J. Gary Cohen (BC); Linda Colfax (CA), *Vice President*; Marisa Demeo (DC); Tara Flanagan (CA); Elizabeth Garry (NY); Linda Giles (MA), *ex officio*; Steven Kirkland (TX); Larnzell Martin, Jr. (MD), *Secretary*; Mark F. Scurti (MD); Harvey Silberman (CA); Michael R. Sonberg (NY), *ex officio*; Theodore M. Weathers (CA), *Treasurer*; and D. Zeke Zeidler (CA), *ex officio*.

Attached to the email message transmitting this update is a copy of the draft minutes from this year’s Annual Meeting. **You are encouraged to read the draft minutes since they contain important information related to entering into negotiations related to possible formalization of the Association’s relationship with the National LGBT Bar Association.**



NEXT YEAR’S ANNUAL MEETING

Next year’s Annual Meeting and related events are scheduled to occur during the Annual Lavender Law Conference. The Conference will be **August 8 – 10, 2018 at the New York Marriott Marquis, 1535 Broadway, NY, NY 10036.**



SORELY OVERDUE RECOGNITION



Well, this one is for the world of woefully pathetic excuses. As we enjoyed a moment in San Francisco, my friend Judge Harvey Silberman (CA) tactfully commented that, unlike a lot of news, I had failed to include in the updates an honor that he had received. Baffled, I countered that I

did not believe that I had received any information that had not been shared. I then asked whether it was significant and received the response, "Yes, it was quite an honor."

When in trouble with one friend, solicit the help of another. Judge D. Zeke Zeidler (CA) was able to recover the following message from his inbox:

From: Rizalinda Mina
Sent: Tuesday, November 08, 2016 8:26 AM
To: All Judicial Officers <AllJudicialOfficers@lacourt.org>; All Assigned Judicial Officers <AllAssignedJudicialOfficers@LACourt.org>
Cc: Sherri R. Carter <SRCarter@lacourt.org>
Subject: Congratulations | AAML Honors Judge Harvey A. Silberman - Saturday, January 14, 2017

(Sent on behalf of Presiding Judge Carolyn B. Kuhl)

Dear Colleagues,

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers ("AAML") will be honoring our colleague Judge Harvey A. Silberman with the *Los Angeles County Family Law Judicial Officer of the Year* award at their 24th Annual Trial Advocacy Institute. The presentation of the awards will be held during the dinner event on Saturday, January 14, 2017 at the Montage Hotel in Beverly Hills.

Please join me in congratulating Judge Silberman for this well-deserved honor and recognition.

Carolyn

*Rizalinda Mina
Secretary to the Presiding Judge
Los Angeles Superior Court*

An internet search yielded the photograph above, published January 19, 2017, accompanied by the headline

Superior Court Judges, Harvey Silberman, Mark Millard, and Patricia Guerrero receive honors at this year's AAML/17 Judges of the Year Gala

Appropriately, Judge Silberman centers the photograph. When Judge Silberman speaks of resolving family law cases, he speaks with a passion that causes one to understand the love he has for his work and the value it adds to attorneys and families who have the privilege of having their cases considered by him. To be recognized by the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers is to be recognized by the finest experts in the field of family law.

A very belated "congratulations" Judge Silberman and a fervent appeal to the Court for forgiveness for an unintended slight.



AND THEN THERE WERE TWO

Our President, Judge Anders, provided the following from Facebook to be shared:



What more can be said? Congratulations Justices Humes and Lavin. We look forward to the day that the “pro tem” blossoms into “permanent”.



RESEARCH REQUEST FOR DATA ON LGBT JUDGES

The National LGBT Bar Association forwarded the email message that appears below to Judge D. Zeke Zeidler (CA). His reply included "I will forward your email to members of the International Association of LGBT Judges to see if any of the others are able to provide information to you.

From: **Sharon A. Navarro** <Sharon.Navarro@utsa.edu>

Date: Wed, Aug 30, 2017 at 11:12 AM

Subject: re: Data on LGBT judges in US

To: "laura@lgbtbar.org" <laura@lgbtbar.org>

Cc: "Sharon A. Navarro" <Sharon.Navarro@utsa.edu>

Dear Ms. Hoch,

My name is Sharon Navarro and I am an associate professor in political science. I am writing and researching on LGBT judges serving at various levels of the judiciary in the US. I am finding that it is very difficult to find any data on the number of LGBT judges serving as judges or the percentage admitted to law school in the US. Would you happen to have any of this data? If not, would you happen to know where I could acquire that information?

The information you provide will only be used for academic purposes.

Any assistance you can provide would be appreciated,

Sharon

Sharon A. Navarro, PhD
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If you have any information that might be of assistance, please contact Professor Navarro directly.



HARTLE FULLY CAPABLE OF MAKING HER MARK

Retired Judge Barbara Hartle left the Bench to take on a new challenge, Administrative Bureau Chief of the Office of the District Attorney for Harris County, Texas. A [brief bio](#) is included at the Office's website. More than a year ago, Houston's OutSmart magazine included a feature that demonstrates how valuable Judge Hartle was as Presiding Judge over the City's Municipal Court System. You can find the article at [this link](#).

OutSmart
Houston's LGBT Magazine

RUNNING HOUSTON'S MUNICIPAL COURTS WITH A STRONG BUT SENSITIVE HAND

Posted On 28 Jun 2016



Openly gay judge Barbara Hartle is the presiding judge of Texas' largest court system, which handles the nation's third-largest caseload.

By Brandon Wolf