

Inventory of the Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF) Records (#1999-80)

Note: This document is a preliminary inventory, not a completed finding aid. The collection is surveyed but not processed, and its organization and composition are subject to change. This inventory is intended to help researchers better understand the general scope and content of the collection.

Repository: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society

Collection Title: Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF) records

Collection Number: 1999-80

Physical Description: 14 cartons (14 linear feet)

Creator: Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF)

Date (inclusive): 1981-2001

Language of Material: English

Abstract: Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF) is the nation's oldest and largest bar association of lesbians, gay men, bisexual people, and transgender people in the field of law. The bulk of the collection covers the years 1981-1999. It includes organizational records, board materials, correspondence, directories, financial records, materials related to the AIDS Legal Referral Panel, amicus briefs, materials related to annual events and conferences, newsletters and other publications, public relations materials, and subject files.

Preferred Citation:

[Identification of item], Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom records (#1999-80), The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

Conditions Governing Access:

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights:

For the status of the rights to this material, please contact the GLBT Historical Society archives.

Acquisition Information:

For this material's acquisition information, please contact the GLBT Historical Society archives.

Processing Information:

Inventory created by Isaac Fellman in 2020, based on a preliminary survey completed by Marjorie Bryer in 2011.

This inventory uses terminology for LGBTQ people that was in current use at the time of its creation. Descriptive language for queer identities evolves quickly and some of these terms may now be dated or even offensive. Finding aids are themselves historical documents; they reflect the moment in which they were written and often reflect the terms that subjects used for themselves. Please contact the GLBT Historical Society Archivist with questions or comments.

Biographical/Organizational History Note: Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF) is the nation's oldest and largest bar association of lesbians, gay men, bisexual people, and transgender people in the field of law. Founded in 1980, BALIF represents its members' interests in the wider San Francisco Bay Area. BALIF members and supporters include San Francisco Bay Area judges, lawyers, law students and legal workers.

BALIF also started the organization that grew to become the now-independent AIDS Legal Referral Panel, which has provided free and low-cost legal assistance to over 50,000 people since it was founded in 1983.

BALIF's mission has expanded. The group takes action on questions of law and justice that affect the queer community; strengthens professional and social ties among queer members of the legal profession; builds coalitions with other legal organizations to combat all forms of discrimination; promotes the appointment of queer attorneys to the judiciary, public agencies, and commissions in the Bay Area; funds scholarships for queer law students and fellowships for public interest lawyers working on queer issues; and provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and information of concern to members of the queer legal community. BALIF also submits amicus briefs in cases affecting the queer community, sponsors resolutions to the Conference of Delegates of California Bar Associations, provides queer-focused continuing legal education opportunities, and endorses candidates for judicial offices and legal elected positions. BALIF is committed to building coalitions with other minority bars.

Scope and Content: The bulk of the collection covers the years 1981-1999. It includes organizational records, board materials, correspondence, directories, financial records, materials related to the AIDS Legal Referral Panel, amicus briefs, materials related to annual events and conferences, newsletters and other publications, public relations materials, and subject files.

Indexing Terms:

Law

Politics and elections

Container Listing

Carton 1:

Flyer for “The Prom You Never Had,” 1984

Checks

Financial reports and other financial records, including committee budgets, circa 1988-1994

Board minutes, 1989-1993

Misc. materials/Correspondence, 1991-1993

Lavender Law: the National Conference on Lesbian and Gay Legal Issues, 1988

Carton 2: some legal-size folders, most are labeled

1988 annual meeting

Board materials, 1981

Board minutes, 1985-1986

Board retreat, 1988

Law Student Conference, 1988

By-laws, Law Student Committee, Endorsements, Judicial evaluations

Board Co-Chair, 1988

Law Student Conference, 1989

Correspondence, 1988; newsletter columns/articles, 1988

Board agendas and minutes, 1988

Newsletter layout, 1986 (w/5-1/2” floppy disk)

Charge accounts

Stamps (weed)

Correspondence (Bridgette), 1986 (Case file?)

KPFA show on alcohol and domestic violence, 1985

Newsletter

Board materials, 1985

Newsletter, 1987

Ballots, 1987

Stationary

Blair Griffith—personnel? Weed

Board materials 1986

Dinner, 1989

State Bar Convention

AIDS Panel By-Laws, 1989

Newsletter mockup, Newsletter, 1989

State Bar info

Dinner invitation

AIDS Legal Referral Panel materials

10th Anniversary GALA dinner

Miscellaneous materials (some loose, some in unlabeled folders) include more newsletters, Board materials, mass mailings

CALIF (California Lawyers for Individual Freedom) materials

Newsletters and news articles, 1985, 1988

Lawyers Committee against Prop. 64

A's vs. Giants game, 1989

Dinner, including program, program ads 1990

Endorsements

National Lawyers' Guild 50th anniversary program, history (subject files)

AIDS Legal Referral Panel funding proposal, 1990

Snapshots, including BALIF at Pride march

Newsclippings regarding Rose Bird

Lists of attorneys and their specialties, including separate list for AIDS-related lawyers

Law student runoff—election and ballot list, 1992-1993

State Bar materials (subject files)

Presentation—representing gay men and lesbians in employment discrimination cases, 1992 (2 copies –weed one)

Carton 3:

Book of accounts and other financial records—these are foldered by subject, in alpha order, and range from Bach Personnel to dinner to Vision Printing, 1989, 1998. A lot of these are receipts. Some folders have additional materials, e.g. Annual meeting, 1998, Board materials, 1998 and Judiciary Committee, 1998—but still, these are mostly financial documents related to these events/bodies.

Copies of check stubs and receipts

Carton 4:

Inventory of BALIF Treasurer Files and Records, 1996

Treasurer: Bank statements, CDs, receipts and related correspondence (), circa 1988-1992

Treasurer: General, TZP, circa 1992-1993; Palmer records, 1992-1993; paid bills, 1991-1992; financial report through FY 92; deposits, thru 12/92; paid bills, FY 1993; taxes, 1993; financial report, FY 1993; deposits, FY 1993

Carton 5: financial records

BALIF Amicus Brief In Support of Respondents Challenging the Marriage Exclusion, with accompanying letter asking GLBTHS to archive it, 2008

Press release, 2001

Materials regarding AIDS Legal Referral Panel

Financial records, including financial reports, investment options, timesheets, deposits made, receipts, budget, costs related to CA State Bar Convention, 1989-1997

Finance Committee, 1997

Treasurer reports, 1997

Bank statements, 1991-1995

Board lists, minutes and agendas, 1994, 1995-1996, 1996-1997

Misc.--memos, correspondence, materials regarding annual dinner, newsletters

By-Laws, Rules & Procedures activity year, 1996

Budgets, circa 1989

Financial reports, 1994

Carton 6: financial documents

Treasurer: 1996 financial reports; copies of checks; dinner accounting; MDC financial reports to Board; tax forms; treasury related correspondence; circa 1990s

Materials related to NEFIR—National Educational Foundation for Individual Rights, Inc., including correspondence, employment info, 1986 employment of Clint Hockenberry (is this personnel or case file?)

Bank statements and checks, 1981-1985

Financial records, arranged alphabetically, e.g. from newsletter to U.S. Postmaster, 1996-1997

Taxes, Checkbook, Receipts, circa 1989

Board minutes, 1996-1997

Carton 7:

Member Directories, 1987-1992

Newsletters, 1991-1996 TRANSFER?

Photos

Membership mailings, 1992

Board minutes and related materials, 1984-1987, 1991

Phone instructions (weed)

Photocopies of stickers?

Mailing and membership lists for various organizations (e.g. CALIF, Golden Gate alumni), types of attorneys, publications

Brorby correspondence

Receipts, photocopies of checks ()

Member mailings, circa 1983

Carton 8: mostly foldered

Misc. documents, including financial records, member lists, memos regarding Nominating Committee, circa 1994

Treasurers reports, 1994-1996

Board minutes, 1983-1984, 1994-1997

Directory

By-laws and policies

NLGLA, 1998

Voluntary Bar, 1998

Staff time sheets (weed)

Staff appreciation Awards, 1994-1995

Annual dinner, 1985

National Lawyers Guild alternative law day, 1989

Carton 9: sort loose documents by organization, then sort BALIF docs by topic

Misc. (mostly) loose documents, including flyers, brochures, BALIF directories, legal rulings (Olympics case), notes; Board meetings, 1985, 1987-1988; financial reports; membership lists; materials regarding annual dinner, 1985;

AIDS Legal Referral Panel materials

Misc. materials, including Board minutes, resolutions, newsletters, correspondence; also misc. materials in an envelope, ranging from minutes, to mock ups for printing to member mailings, circa mid-1980s

Materials relating to various conferences and annual meetings, including LHR (Lawyers for Human Rights)/BALIF meeting, State Bar Annual Meeting and BALIF annual meeting, circa 1983-1988

CALIF-related materials, including membership, minutes, by-laws, newsletters, circa 1986

Carton 10: most of the financial documents

Misc. loose papers, including Board election materials, 1999

Treasurer papers, including photocopies of checks, 1994; deposits, financial report and bills paid, FY 1994

Checks and bank statements, with some financial correspondence (in shoebox)

Carton 11: primarily financial documents—

Checks and photocopies of checks for deposit, 1995

Tax materials, 1994-1995

Treasurer financial reports, instructions, 1995

Misc. loose correspondence and reports

Materials from Christopher Street Financial

Treasurer bills paid, deposits, 1995

Carton 12: mostly foldered and labeled

By-Laws, circa 1993

Correspondence, circa 1995

Personnel materials (review restrictions), including rosters of legal workers

Financial and Treasurer's reports, circa 1993-1995

Insurance materials

Board Meeting minutes, 1994-1995

Case materials and court proceedings, *Steel v. Young*, circa 1993

Materials regarding Proposition K (Domestic Partnership legislation), 1990-1991

Carton 13:

Board Minutes, Agendas, 1995

1997 Dinner

Newsletters--TRANSFER

State Bar Convention, 1995

Nominating Committee

Judicial Independence, 1996

Board of Governors Election, 1996

GLRS (Gay and Lesbian Legal Referral Service), 1996

Sean SeLegue Board of Directors materials, includes correspondence, memos, minutes, treasurers reports, by-laws, circa 1994-1996 (these must have been SeLegue's gift—break up or keep as separate series?)

1996 Survey

NGLA (one envelope)

Treasurer and Monthly meeting reports, 1996-1997

Retreat, 1996, 1998

Ski Trip, 1997

Randall v. Boy Scouts of America; Curran v. Boy Scouts of America

Montgomery Gallery License

Advertising, BALIF directory, 1997

Admission ceremony, 1997

California Judiciary Statistics

Treasurer and Monthly meeting reports, 1995

Member survey, 1995

Amicus Briefs filed, including Romer v. Evans, and Amicus Committee, 1997

Carton 14:

Nominating Committee, 1997-1998 (2 folders)

Dinner, 1997-1999 (3 folders)

Peter Fowler Work File, September 1995

Peter Fowler Endorsement, 1997

Stationary (BALIF, State Bar of California), 1997, undated (2 folders)

State Bar Committees, 1997

Special Reports, 1996-1997

CPA File, 1995

Retreat, 1995-1998 (3 folders)

Chapman v. Superior Court, 1997

Holmes v. Cal. Army National Guard, 1995

Newsletters, 1996-1998--TRANSFER

Board of Directors Correspondence, Volume 1-2, 4-5, 1995-1998 (4 folders)