

G.L.A.D. BRIEFS

A NEWSLETTER FROM
GAY AND LESBIAN
ADVOCATES AND DEFENDERS

at

FALL 1979

2 PARK SQUARE, ROOM 400
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02116
617-426-1350

GLAD . . .
VINDICATING
AND
PROTECTING
GAY RIGHTS
UNDER
THE LAW

This is GLAD's first newsletter. It represents an effort to keep you informed of GLAD's contributions to the rapidly developing area of lesbian and gay rights under the law.

Serving the gay community of New England, GLAD was born out of a great need for a legal defense fund as political attacks and harassment against the gay community intensified in 1978. It is an organization that not only provides legal defense to victims of homophobic attack but also takes aggressive action to vindicate gay rights in such areas as child custody and visitation, employment discrimination, housing and public accommodation, law enforcement abuses, freedom of speech and association, and others.

Across the country, litigation and legislation, good and bad, are affecting the rights of lesbians and gay men. The degree to which the resulting law is favorable to the gay community depends on the degree to which GLAD and similar gay public interest law firms are involved in the court battles.

GLAD FILES
AMICUS BRIEF IN
JOB
DISCRIMINATION
CASE

GLAD has filed an *amicus curiae* brief in the case of *McCauley v. Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination* before the Supreme Judicial Court. The issue raised is whether MCAD has jurisdiction over complaints alleging discrimination on the basis of sexual preference.

A favorable opinion by the court would make this a landmark case, for the first time providing administrative remedies to gays who have suffered job discrimination based on their sexual orientation.

OTHER CASES
ON THE
GLAD DOCKET

GLAD

. . . is helping an indigent lesbian mother to retain custody of her child.

. . . is representing a lesbian who is the victim of job discrimination and harassment based on her sex and sexual orientation.

. . . is preparing major litigation with the Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts to impose liability upon the high officials responsible for the infamous mass arrests at the Boston Public Library.

. . . is seeking to have returned finger prints and mug shots of a person against whom charges of a nonviolent "sexual offense" were dismissed. Such identifying data, unless expunged from law enforcement files, often creates a handicap more severe than the court record.

. . . represented a gay man who was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct because he was posting publicity for the lesbian and gay pride rally.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24