

# Birds of a Feather

1972 - 2022

50th Anniversary of Organized  
LGBTQ Law Student Activism

A Production of Spectrum Institute

<https://spectruminstitute.org/>

Commemorating the Synergy of LGBTQ Law  
Students, Professors, and Lawyers in the 1970s

## Documentary Film • Memory Book • Forums

“Birds of a Feather Flock Together” and that is how [organized LGBTQ law student activism](#) began in 1972. That was the same year the [ABA](#) held its first forum on gay rights. To commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of these historic events, various activities will occur during LGBTQ History Month in October 2022. Commemorative events will encompass the legal activism of an entire decade. A documentary film will recognize law students, law professors, and lawyers who were trailblazers for

LGBTQ rights throughout the 1970s. A memory book of essays written by living trailblazers of that era and biographical narratives of those who are deceased will be produced. Participating law schools, student groups, and bar associations will conduct educational forums where the documentary film (30 min.) will be shown, followed by an audience conversation with one or more of the living trailblazers. Audiences at these forums will receive the memory book. ([See 1.5 minute video.](#))

## An Invitation to Participate

**Sponsors.** Individuals, law firms, businesses, organizations, law schools, and bar associations are invited to support this commemoration. Individuals can become sponsors by making a donation of \$100 or more.\* Sponsorships are available for law firms, businesses, organizations, law schools, and bar associations with a donation of \$250.\* Sponsors will be acknowledged in all of the commemorative activities. Benefactors who make a donation of \$500 or more\* will receive special recognition at forums and will be given display space in the memory book where they can identify themselves and convey their greetings to the trailblazers. To become a benefactor or sponsor of this historic commemoration, contact John Adam DiPietro. (See next page for contact information.)

**Trailblazers.** Individuals who were active in LGBTQ activism in the 1970s as law students, law

professors, or practicing lawyers, are invited to participate. We will reach out to you for a zoom interview and ask you for photos or graphic images relevant to your activities during that era. We will invite you to submit an essay to be included in the memory book. We encourage you to participate in one or more forums to be held in October 2022.

**Law Schools.** Student groups or faculty members at law schools can sponsor an in-person or virtual forum in October 2022 to commemorate the LGBTQ legal activism of the 1970s. After the film is shown, students, faculty, and members of the legal community can have a conversation with one or more of the trailblazers from that era. Participating schools will have display space in the memory book. Schools and student groups may arrange to participate by contacting Thomas F. Coleman. (See next page for contact information.)

**Bar Associations.** National, state, and local bar associations can participate by sponsoring a forum in October 2022. The documentary will be made available for showing at an in-person or virtual event that you host. One or more trailblazers will be available for a question and answer session

following the film. Bar associations may make arrangements to participate by contacting Thomas F. Coleman. Participating bar associations will receive display space in the memory book. We encourage you to become involved in this historic commemoration.

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### **Living Trailblazers (38): (partial list)**

Thomas F. Coleman (1973 - Loyola, L.A.); Jack Baker (1971 – U. of MN); Abby Rubenfeld (1979 – Boston U.); Stephen Lachs (1963 – UCLA); Susan McGreivy (1977 – Los Angeles); Marilyn Hedges (1977 – Hastings); Matt Coles (1977 – San Francisco); Jay Kohorn (1974 – UCLA); Georgia Garrett-Norris (1980 – Irvine); Tim Stearns (1974 – Golden Gate); Gerald Gerash (1969 - Denver); Leonard Graff (1975 - Cooley); Bill Thom (19?? - Yale); Rosalyn Richter (1979 - Brooklyn Law School); John Sanchez (197? - Boalt Hall); Barry Copilow (1973 - USC); David A. J. Richards (1971 - Harvard); William H. Gardner (1959 - U. of Buffalo); George Raya (1980 - Thomas Jefferson); Rick Angel (1973 - Loyola, L.A.); Jerel McCrary (1977 - Hastings); Robert Blaustein (1975 - Loyola, L.A.); Thomas B. DePriest (1976 - U of VA); John O'Loughlin (1972 - UCLA); Rhonda Rivera (1967 - Wayne State); Patricia Cain (1973 - U. of GA); Jean Love (1968 - U of WI); Roberta Achtenberg (197? - U of UT); Jon Davidson (1979 - Yale); David Piontkowsky (1981 - Wayne State); John Ward (1976 - Boston U); Terence O'Brien (1972 - Loyola L.A.); Thomas J. Coleman Jr. (1980 - Tulane); Michael Pastor (1975 - USC); Kenneth Lasson (1966 - U of MD); Nan Hunter (1975 - Georgetown); Donna Groman (1979 - American University WA); Mary Morgan (1972 - NYU).

### **In Memoriam (30): (partial list)**

David Rosenbaum (1973 - Southwestern); Ron Grayson (1975 - Peoples College); Claudio Frias (1975 - Rutgers); Craig Patton (1971 - Ohio State); Marjorie Rushforth (1978 - Western State); E. Carrington Boggan (19?? - NY); Harris Kimball (1953 - FL); R. Michael Wetherbee (196? - U. of MN); Donald Knutson (1958 - U. of MN) Arthur Warner (1946 - Harvard); Renee Hanover (1969 - John Marshall); William Reynard (1948 - Colorado); Leroy Walker (1966 - NYU); Steven Kelber (1976 - UCLA); Jerold Kreiger (1969 - UCLA) Albert Gordon (1967 - Los Angeles); Walter Barnett (19?? - NM); Matt St. George (1979 - Loyola); Tom Homann (1978 - Western); George Haverstick (1969 - U of San Diego); Mary Dunlap (196? - Boalt Hall); Ray Hatler (1975 - Southwestern); Marshall Jacobson (1972 - Loyola); Barry Kohn (197? - PA); B.J. Beckwith (1966 - San Francisco); Herb Donaldson (1957 - Stanford); Tom Stoddard (1977- NYU); Tom Steel (Hastings - 1975); Rand Schrader (1973 - UCLA); David Goodstein (1959 - Columbia).

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Spectrum Institute is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit operating foundation.

Birds of a Feather was inspired by Chapter One of [The Domino Effect](#) book.

Thomas F. Coleman was the founding president of the first gay law student association in the nation and the organizer of the first gay rights forum at an annual meeting of the ABA.

\* Proceeds above production costs will be used to support [Capacity to Love](#), a campaign to protect the social and sexual rights of LGBTQ adults who have mental or developmental disabilities.