

FLORIDA LEGAL BRIEF



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THE GAY OFFICERS ACTION LEAGUE OF NEW ENGLAND came through with flying colors by hosting the Eleventh Annual Conference of Gay and Lesbian Criminal Justice Professionals.

Everyone was in full attendance as the color guard marched in and the conference began! The opening ceremonies were beautiful. GLBT criminal justice professionals from here and abroad stood proudly together as they played our Na-

Conference cont'd

tional Anthem and Canada's National Anthem. It was truly a great start to a great conference.

The hotel was First Class all the way! The receptions were elegant with munchies to die for- The luncheons and dinners could not have been better.

There was an impressive list of excellent workshops and seminars. **FLORIDA LEGAL** presented two workshops-Games Criminals Play & How to Support Your Partner Who Works in Law Enforcement. Both were well attended and received.

Our delegation included;
Charles Slebodnick

Carroll Hunter & his partner Stephen

Michael Barron & his partner Jefferson

Jim Young

Brice Brittinum

Tommy Jeans

They were joined by almost



Canada-well represented in the color guard

200 other attendees.

After taking care of business during the day, at night the party didn't stop. GOAL NEW ENGLAND really turned on the hospitality, as only they can! They had a show for us at the hotel, the local bars welcomed us with outstretched arms and local restaurants treated us royally.

The openly Gay Mayor of Provi-

dence, R.I. **DAVID CICILLINE**

Addressed the closing ceremony.

The Keynote Address was presented by;

David Mixner-author, political activist and liaison to the gay community under President Bill Clinton.

What a night-what a conference! Our hats go off to **GOAL NEW ENGLAND** for a job well done.

Next year the conference will be in ;

WASHINGTON, D.C. from **May 9th to May 15th** during Police Week **AND** in an election year!!

Don't miss this one!!



FLORIDA LEGAL DELEGATION-Left to Right-Tommy Jeans, Michael Barron, Carroll Hunter, Brice Brittinum, attendee from L.A., Charles Slebodnick, Jim Young



THE BEST IN THE BUSINESS

Jim Young (with shades) at the last SAWMILL outing

FLORIDA LEGAL is proud to announce that several months ago, member Jim Young of the Orlando Police Department was named LGBT Liaison. Orlando City Commissioner Patty Sheehan personally selected Jim, an openly Gay Officer, after the former Liaison was promoted. His appointment is also supported by Police Chief Michael McCoy .

In his new role, Jim will handle various Law Enforcement issues given to Sheehan by her constituents. He says that his new job is ideal because he enjoys working within our community. After years of being in the closet, Jim says it's nice not to have to worry about that any more. He says he is happy with everyone on his team as they are all very supportive.

Jim grew up in Sandusky, Ohio and joined the Air Force in 1984. He served most of his four year tenure in Military Law Enforcement in the Middle East and in Central America, all the while in the "closet". He saw many good friends kicked out because it was discovered they were Gay. During his successful military experience he was decorated and promoted early on and often. Still, he was always afraid because this was long before "don't ask-don't tell". After the Air Force, Jim found himself bartending but soon realized that he missed Law Enforcement. He was hired by the Pinellas Park Police Department. While there, he earned a B.A. in Criminal Justice from LEOS University and was 1995 Officer of the Year.

Jim joined the Orlando Police Department in 1987. He has worked on patrol, downtown bikes, motors, crisis negotiation and as a Community Involvement Officer.

Jim is now fully "out" on his job and has had discussions with the Chief about it. He says the Chief is very supportive about his role, not only as a police officer but as a Gay police officer. Jim Young has come a long way from the days of growing up in Ohio. He is a consummate professional, a gentleman and an asset to FLORIDA LEGAL. He is truly one of- "**THE BEST IN THE BUSINESS**"!

NEWS

On Saturday July 28th, Tampa Bay Area GLBT Law Enforcement and Public Safety Professionals will be meeting for a picnic. It will be held at PICNIC ISLAND PARK in South Tampa. It's a large park with a playground, beach and plenty of parking. Directions are Grady Blvd to Westshore-head south almost to the end. Signs will be posted. The event is from 10AM until---

For more info email to [CPTampaFL@ AIM.com](mailto:CPTampaFL@AIM.com)

NEWS

FLORIDA LEGAL will be returning to the Sawmill Campground for our Annual retreat on Oct.11th -Oct.13th. We will be sending out more information on this great event next month-but for now-mark your calendars!

NEWS

On April 20th the Gay Officers Action League of New York celebrated it's 25th Anniversary! We are pleased to report that at the banquet they presented their highest honor, The Charles Cochran Award to our Vice President Carroll Hunter. This award is only given to those who have distinguished themselves in the struggle for GLBT Rights in the Criminal Justice Field. This is the second time that GOAL has chosen to give this award to Carroll. Well done Carroll! We're all proud of you.

NEWS

FLORIDA LEGAL member Adriane Reese, PhD had brought the following article to our attention!

WE URGE ALL OUR MEMBERSHIP TO GET INVOLVED IN THIS EFFORT

Ph: (813) 870-3735 Fx: (727) 499-6925



Email: info@FairnessForAllFamilies.org

www.FairnessForAllFamilies.org

So-called 'marriage amendment' an attack on Broward police and firefighters

Backers of the so-called marriage amendment have aimed most of their comments at taking rights away from committed gay couples, obscuring the fact that their measure is written so broadly that it could take existing rights away from a wide array of Florida families, including Broward County employees.

The far reaching effect of the Florida amendment was driven home by a February 2nd ruling of the Michigan Court of Appeals that denied domestic partnership benefits to government and university employees based on a similar amendment voters passed there in 2004.

"This is devastating for us," says Jach, a systems analyst with the city of Kalamazoo for 19 years. "And it's scary for Barbara. ... She changed her whole life based on the fact that we would have benefits. We were doing what we thought was best for our kids." *USA Today, Michigan Domestic Partners Face Tough Choices, June 19, 2007* http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-06-19-ohio-domestic_N.htm.

After the ruling, Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm told reporters she believed the public never intended to ban these benefits when they voted on Michigan's so-called marriage amendment. The decision has grave implications for Broward families if a similar amendment is passed here. We should learn from Michigan's mistake and reject the Florida effort to eliminate legal protections and benefits for Florida families.

More than 8,000 public and private employers nationwide offer health care benefits to employee's domestic partners or spouses. Broward County not only offers COBRA-like benefits to its employees, in January 1999, the County Commission offered preference points to contract bidders who extend spousal benefits to unmarried employees.

If Florida's so-called marriage amendment were passed the rights and benefits of Broward's firefighters and police officers could be jeopardized. Why would we take away benefits that Florida families rely on?

The Fairness for All Families campaign is gearing up in anticipation of a formal announcement by the amendment's proponents that they have attained the necessary signatures to appear on the 2008 ballot. John Stemberger of Florida4marriage.org has promised "the most robust, well-funded campaign in any state marriage amendment history."

We need your help to defeat this misguided measure that could dramatically impact so many families in Broward County and across the state. To learn how you can join leaders like U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz and help the campaign visit www.FairnessforAllFamilies.org.



A man was speeding down an Alabama Highway-feeling secure in a gaggle of cars ALL traveling at the same speed! As they passed a speed trap-he got nailed with an infra-red speed detector and was pulled over

The officer gave him a citation and the man said- "*Officer , I know I was speeding but I don't think it's fair -there were plenty of others cars going JUST as Fast*"!!

"Ever go fishing?" the officer suddenly asked the man-

"Umm Yeah...said the startled man"

The officer smiled and added-- "Did you ever catch ALL of them?"

FLORIDA LEGAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

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NEWS

The Gay Officers Action League of New York will celebrate it's 25th Anniversary on April 20, 2007! They are planning a black tie Gala to be held at the beautiful Tavern on the Green in New York City's Central Park. As the oldest & largest Gay and Lesbian Criminal Justice Organization in the world they plan to pull out all the stops! GOAL President George Farrugia reports that this will be a star

NEWS

Special thanks go out to Jimmy Gilleran, of the 801 Bar in Key West and to Timothy Swain for working so hard to make our BINGO nights such a success. People are still talking about Timothy's alter ego R.V.Beaumont, who proved to be the hostess with the mostess. Jimmy really went out of his way to help Flor-

NEWS

This year we are planning to participate in the Orlando Pride Events. The dates will be Friday October 13th through October 15th. We will march from Summerlin Ave. to Central Ave. For more information contact our delegate at large Tom

NEWS

Great NEW website! For all GLBT Criminal Justice Professionals-It's BLUE-PRIDE and it's a good forum for us to meet, chat and get things off our chest while having a good time! This is a private password secure site that is free to join. Carroll Hunter, Michael Barron and several other Florida LEGAL members participate on it's board. Members are from all over the country sharing thoughts

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President Barron and DJ

Charles supervising



FLORIDA LAW ENFORCEMENT GAYS & LESBIANS

FLORIDA LEGAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Michael G. Barron

Vice President: Carroll M. Hunter

