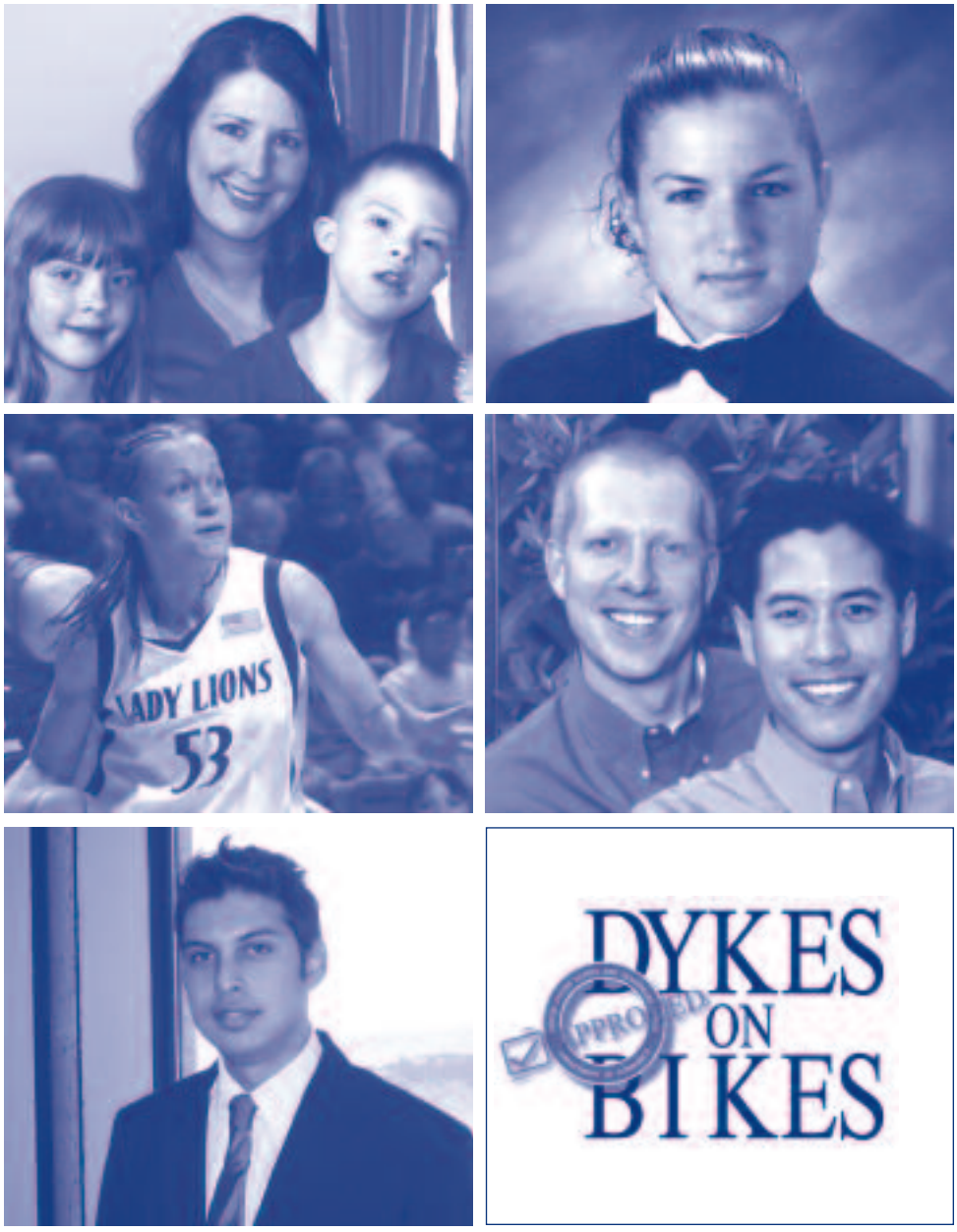
NATIONAL CENTER FOR LESBIAN RIGHTS



2005 ANNUAL REPORT

NCLR

WWW.NCLRIGHTS.ORG

"Since 1977, the National Center for Lesbian Rights has been at the forefront of nearly every legal gain won for LGBT people and families. And because I know this to be true, I promise you: we are going to turn the tide, and we are going to shape this country in our vision of what we know it can be."

– Kate Kendell, NCLR Executive Director



Dear NCLR Friend and Supporter:

An Annual Report tries to do the impossible. Ideally we wish to give you, as our dearest supporters, a clear, concise, and passionate picture of the work we've been doing for the past year; graciously and meaningfully thank you for your life-altering and landscape-changing support; generate new and untapped reservoirs of pride and awe in our effort and accomplishments; and inspire you to an even greater level of investment. My effort here will be more modest but critical, for in that list of what we'd like this document to do, the first and foremost task is to thank you. Without your support and commitment, nothing else would be possible.

As you review this report you will see a strengthened and ever more effective organization. We have been at the forefront of transformative legal and public policy change. We have launched unprecedented conversations and moved hearts and minds. We have made a positive difference in the lives of individuals and in entire communities. We have felt daily the privilege and responsibility of trying to protect and amplify the security and safety of our clients and the thousands of others who contact us throughout the year seeking assistance and help.

And as we begin celebrating our 30th Anniversary, we know that the challenges and opportunities will only increase. We are honored and humbled by your support. Some of you have been investing in us for decades. Whether you are a first-time donor or a longtime supporter, you are the heart of who we are and we carry the trust you place in us every moment of every day. The most spectacular Annual Report cannot capture nor convey how grateful we are and how much you mean to us; however, we hope that our work—done with great passion and effectiveness—does.

With great thanks,

Kate

NCLR'S GROUNDBREAKING

With your support, the National Center for Lesbian Rights has:



Argued successfully in the California Supreme Court to uphold a court order declaring a non-biological mother to be her child's legal parent despite separating from her partner, and in spite of her partner's efforts to deny parental status, including custody and visitation. This groundbreaking victory offers unprecedented protections to LGBT families.



Challenged Penn State Coach Rene Portland's outrageous twenty-five-year-old "no drugs, no alcohol, no lesbians" policy. The federal lawsuit alleges Portland, athletic director Tim Curley, and Penn State University violated numerous federal and state laws and constitutional protections prohibiting discrimination based on race, gender, and sexual orientation. In addition to representing a courageous student basketball star, Jennifer Harris, this highly visible case has encouraged many athletes to come forward and speak out.



Secured initial victory as lead counsel in *Woo v. California*, when a San Francisco Superior Court Justice ruled that California's exclusion of same-sex couples from marriage discriminates on the basis of sex and violates the fundamental right to marry.

2005

LEGAL WORK



Successfully defended the validity of the first marriage of a same-sex couple in the Cherokee Nation, inviting a larger discussion about the rights of two-spirit Native Americans.



Persuaded a Florida school board to change its senior portrait policy and add sexual orientation to its non-discrimination policy for both students and teachers after a senior high school student was denied the right to appear in her senior yearbook because she wore a tuxedo rather than stereotypically feminine clothing.



Secured initial victory for a same-sex couple who attempted to post a profile as potential adoptive parents on Adoption.com, which rejected the posting because the company does not allow same-sex couples to use their services.

- Negotiated a historic custody settlement agreement on behalf of Michael Kantaras, a transsexual father who had been fighting for almost seven years to retain his parental rights to his two children.
- Secured a groundbreaking victory in federal district court on behalf of the LGBT student group at Hastings Law School, in a case defending the ability of public law schools to prohibit school-funded student groups from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation or religion.
- Petitioned the Eighth Circuit to grant asylum to a gay man from Zimbabwe who was forced to flee from President Mugabe's notoriously brutal anti-gay regime after being imprisoned for being gay.
- Successfully reached a settlement with Presbyterian Retirement Communities, Inc., a national chain of retirement communities, who agreed that all qualified applicants will have equal access to its facilities.



Won the right to fly rainbow flags over the historical Bridge of Lions in St. Augustine, Florida, for the 2005 Pride Celebration.



Successfully fought for asylum-seekers from many countries, including Mexico, Peru, Romania, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Mongolia.



Negotiated a settlement on behalf of Merry Stephens, an award-winning teacher and basketball coach in Bloomburg, Texas, who was threatened with termination simply for being a lesbian.

DYKES ON BIKES

- Assisted the San Francisco Women's Motorcycle Contingent in winning the right to register the name "Dykes on Bikes" with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

- Represented lesbian mother Keri Jones before the Utah Supreme Court, seeking the right of non-biological parents to have visitation with their children.

- Worked with Equality Florida to organize the first-ever public legislative hearing on Florida's anti-gay adoption ban.

NCLR'S PUBLIC POLICY & EDUCATION WORK CREATES LANDMARK PROTECTIONS

In 2005, NCLR helped draft and win passage of the landmark California Foster Care Nondiscrimination Act (AB 458), the nation's first state-wide law to explicitly protect LGBT foster youth from discrimination and harassment.

In 2005, the Elder Law Project represented the needs of LGBT elders at the White House Conference on Aging, which is held once every ten years. Our recommendations, developed through local forums and national alliances, will be included in the Conference's final report and will help set the priorities for LGBT aging issues over the next ten years.

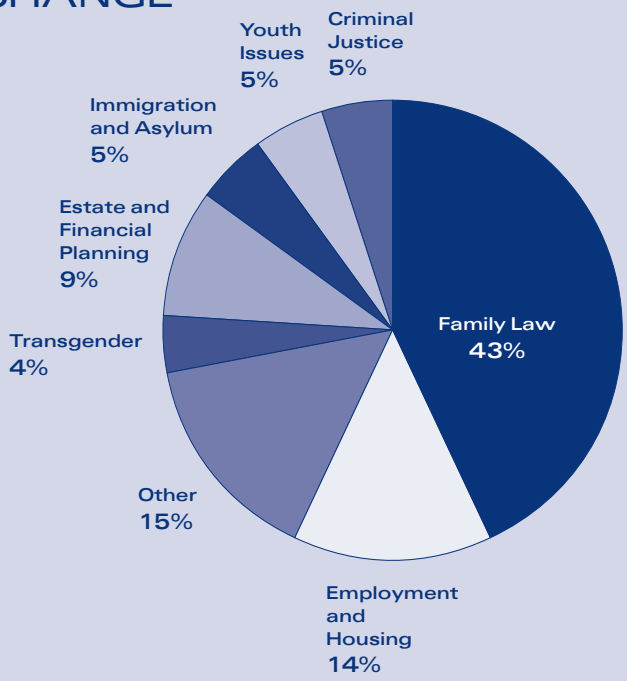
In an historic first, NCLR provided testimony about sexual violence against LGBT prisoners and youth in juvenile justice facilities to the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission.

NCLR joined fellow LGBT organizations and launched the Hurricane Katrina LGBT Relief Fund to ensure that LGBT youth and families, among the most vulnerable members of our community, receive the critical support they need to regain stability in their lives.

NCLR AT THE FOREFRONT OF TRANSFORMATIVE LEGAL AND PUBLIC POLICY CHANGE

As society and the law move toward full inclusion of LGBT people, we face an extended period of struggle and adjustment. NCLR's nearly thirty-year track record has positioned us to meet this challenge head on. In the years ahead, NCLR will continue to be at the forefront of family, marriage, transgender, immigration, sports, elder, and youth law. We know from years of experience that we cannot afford to stand still or slow down.

We are at an important turning point in the history of our movement. For the first time in modern history, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people are on the cusp of full inclusion within existing legal and social structures – although at dramatically differing paces in various parts of the country. NCLR is committed to helping our community seize this unprecedented opportunity while preserving the unique values and experiences of LGBT relationships and families.



NCLR'S 2005 CASES

Family Law - Adoption and Foster Parenting, Alternative Insemination, Child Custody/Visitation, Marriage, Relationship Recognition, Dissolution

Employment and Housing - Employment Benefits, Employment Discrimination, Housing/Public Accommodations Discrimination

Other - First Amendment/Civil Rights, Elder Issues, Health, Homophobia in Sports, Miscellaneous

Estate and Financial Planning - Estate Planning/Complex Wills/Trusts, Living Together Issues, Partnership Protection Documents, Taxation

Youth Issues - Juvenile Justice and Foster Care, School Harassment/Discrimination

Criminal Justice - Domestic Violence, Hate Crimes, Law Enforcement/Prison Issues, Sex Offenses

Transgender - Family Law, Youth, Prison Issues, Discrimination

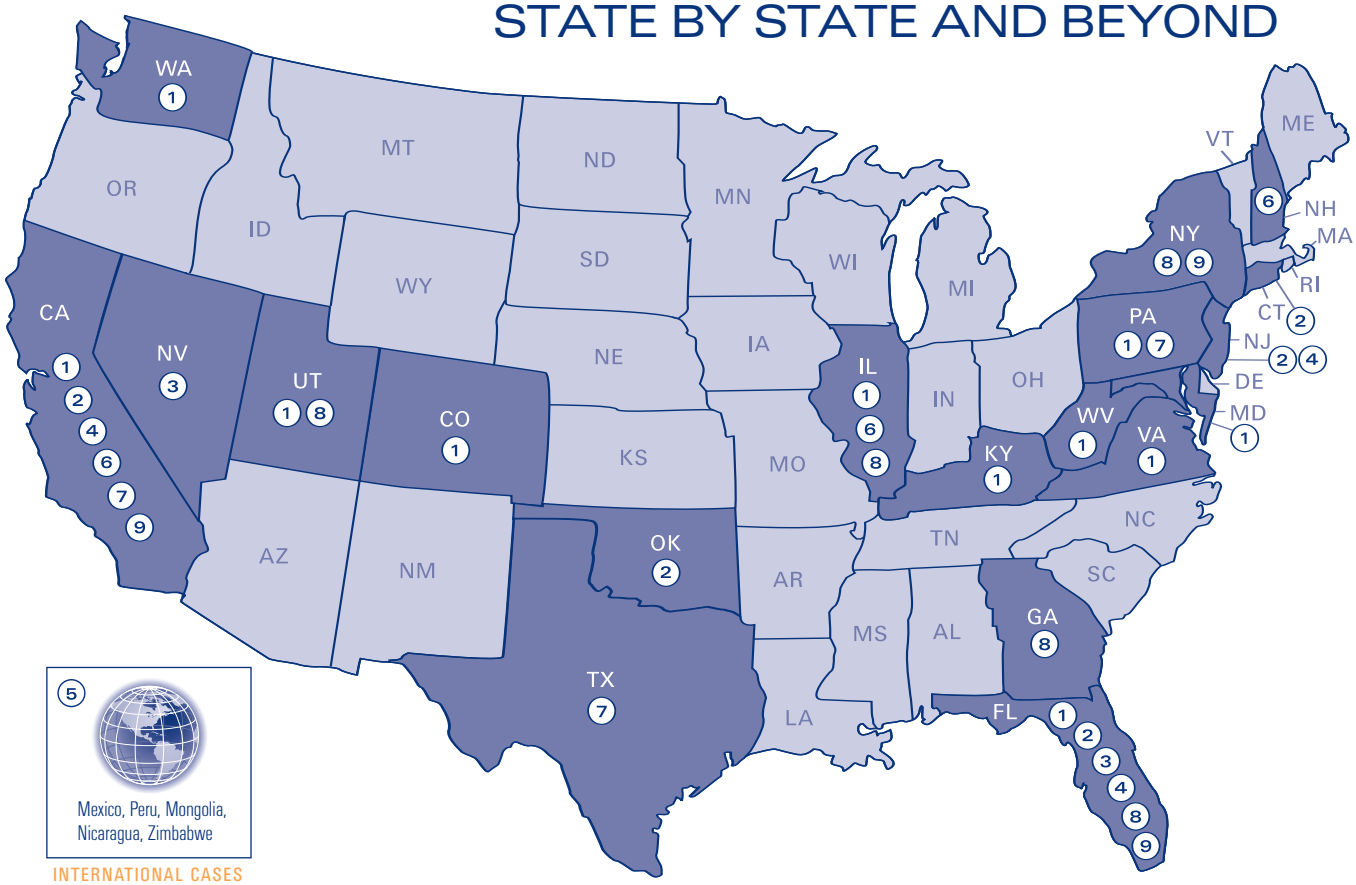
Immigration and Asylum - Bi-national Couples, Persecution on the Basis of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and/or HIV Status

SHANNON MINTER WINS 2005 "LEADERSHIP FOR A CHANGING WORLD" AWARD

The Ford Foundation selected Shannon Minter, NCLR Legal Director, as one of the 2005 winners of the Leadership for a Changing World awards. The 17 awardees, chosen by a national selection committee from a pool of nearly 1,000 nominations, are individuals and leadership teams tackling some of the nation's most entrenched social, economic, and environmental challenges. NCLR received $100,000 to advance our work and an additional $15,000 for educational opportunities to strengthen our organizational effectiveness over the course of the next two years.



NCLR'S 2005 CASES
STATE BY STATE AND BEYOND



KEY

1 FAMILY LAW/PARENTING
2 MARRIAGE/DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP/RELATIONSHIP PROTECTIONS
3 EMPLOYMENT
4 FIRST AMENDMENT
5 IMMIGRATION & ASYLUM
6 REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS
7 SPORTS
8 TRANSGENDER
9 YOUTH

FAMILY LAW/PARENTING
Adoption.com – CA
Angela G. v. D.W. – CA
Armijo v. Miles – CA
B.F. v. T.D. – KY
Charisma R. v Kristina S. – CA
In re Clifford K. – WV
Davenport v. Little-Bowser – VA
Dixon v. Samuel – CA
Elisa B. v. Superior Court – CA
Hayes v. Mohr – FL/CO
Hedberg v. Detthow – MD
In re Austin W. – IL
In re E.L.M.C. – CO
Jones v. Barlow – UT
Jones v. Boring – PA
K.M. v. E.G. – CA
Kristine H. v. Lisa R. – CA
In re Parentage of L.B. – WA
Riley v. Sica – CA
Sharon S. v. Annette F. – CA
Tina B. v. Paul S. – WV
Wood v. Wood – FL/CO

MARRIAGE/DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP/RELATIONSHIP PROTECTIONS
Bowler v. Lockyer – CA
Burrows v. ILWU – CA
Campaign for California Families v. Newsom – CA
Florida Anti-Gay Initiative Challenge – FL
Higgs v. Holhage – FL
Kerrigan & Mock v. Connecticut Department of Public Health – CT
Knight v. Davis / Thomasson v. Davis – CA
Lewis v. Harris – NJ
Proposition 22 Legal Defense and Ed Fund v. City and County of San Francisco – CA
Reynolds and McKinley – OK/ Cherokee Nation
Smelt v. County of Orange – CA
Smith v. Knoller et al – CA
Strong v. BOE – CA
Tyler v. California – CA
Woo v. California – CA

EMPLOYMENT
Coyne v. Bel-Aire Investments and D. Winter – FL
Jespersen v. Harrah's Casino – NV

FIRST AMENDMENT
Christian Legal Society v. Kane – CA
Dykes on Bikes – CA
FAIR v. Rumsfeld – NJ
Jensen v. St. Augustine – FL

IMMIGRATION & ASYLUM
In re Luis – Mexico
In re Mariella & Edit – Peru
In re Shinegerel – Mongolia
In re Vanessa – Nicaragua
Soto Vega v. Ashcroft – Mexico
W.K. v. Gonzales – Zimbabwe

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS
Ayotte v. Planned Parenthood of Northern New England – NH
Benitez v. North Coast Women's Care – CA
Scheidler v. NOW – IL

SPORTS
Harris v. Portland, Penn State – PA
Koebke v. Bernardo Heights Country Club – CA
Stephens v. Bloomberg School District – TX

TRANSGENDER
Etsitty v. Utah Transit Authority – UT
Hammock – GA
In re Marriage of Simmons – IL
Kantaras v. Kantaras – FL
McGrath v. Toys R' Us – NY

YOUTH
Burrier v. St. Johns County School Board – FL
Davis v. Fleming High School – FL
Doe v. Suffolk County DSS – NY
Lake Weir High School – FL
Pinellas County Juvenile Welfare Board – FL
Ramirez v. Los Angeles Unified School District – CA

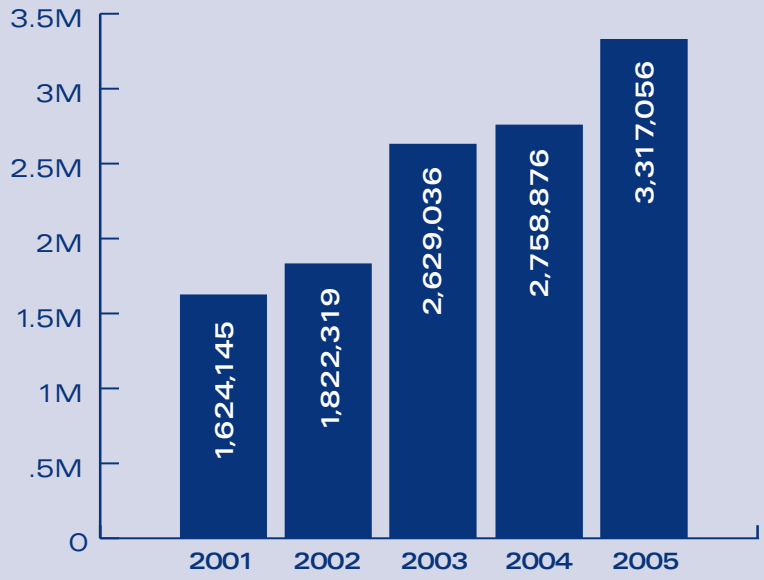
NCLR AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the Year Ending December 31, 2005

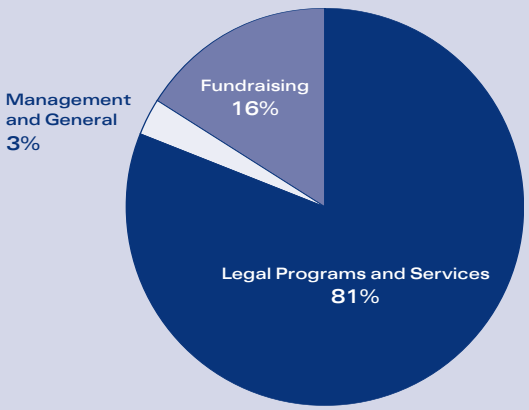
PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE	
Individuals	1,821,737
Bequests	
Foundations	661,180
Donated professional services	572,644
Special events	761,341
Case fees	
Other revenue	72,798
Total Public Support and Revenue	**3,889,700**

EXPENSES	
Legal programs and services	2,982,127
Management and general	107,877
Fundraising	594,374
Total Expenses	**3,684,378**
Increase in unrestricted net assets	**205,322**
Net assets, beginning of year	**1,835,146**
Net assets, end of year	**2,040,468**

Please contact NCLR for a complete audited statement.



HISTORY OF PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE*
2001 through 2005



2005 EXPENSES

*Does not include donated professional services.

DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

2005

The National Center for Lesbian Rights depends on the generosity of its members to do the vital life-changing work we do. 81% of our 2005 budget was spent directly on our legal programs and services.

Individual donors and members contribute 65% of our budget. 62% of those individual gifts come from major donors.

With an annual gift of $1,500 or more in non-Gala-related contributions, NCLR's Anniversary Circle of Major Donors provides the leadership, vision, and resources that are critical to our work and mission.

ANNIVERSARY CIRCLE OF MAJOR DONORS

NCLR is proud to acknowledge the following major donors whose gifts of $1,500* or more have strengthened our legal programs across the United States. We also express our heartfelt thanks to our 2005 Major Donor Campaign Co-chairs – Rhett Currier and Jan Zivic – for their leadership and inspiration.

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Jonna Wooten**

* NCLR's major gift level increased from $1,200 to $1,500 in September 2005; due to this mid-year change, we gratefully acknowledge here all donors of $1,200 or more.

** Major donors who give through our Sustainer Fund monthly or quarterly pledge program.

KATHRYN FRIEBE LEGACY CIRCLE

NCLR thanks the following donors who have included NCLR in their wills, trusts, or other estate plans. The foresight of these donors ensures that NCLR will be able to continue to respond to threats to equality far into the future, as we do today.

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