2020

Sexual Orientation & the Law

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Introduction

"Sexual Orientation and the Law" encompasses several legal subjects - civil rights, criminal law, employment law, immigration, family law - as well as interdisciplinary topics in medicine, psychology, and social sciences.

You should note that state and local laws may provide greater rights for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) people than federal law. For example, currently, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (PL 88-352), pertaining to employment discrimination, construes "sex" as gender, not sexual orientation. However, it is generally recognized that "gender" can encompass sex-based stereotypes. Some states and municipalities specifically include sexual orientation as a protected class for employment discrimination purposes.

Legislative history documents - such as Committee Hearings and House and Senate Reports - can be great sources for information relating to pending or passed LGBT rights legislation. See the Legislative History Research Guide for information on these documents and how to find them.

[Above photo by Benson Kua on Flickr.]

C|M|Law Symposium


Blog Feed - ACLU Blog of Rights - LGBT Rights

- What 40 Years in Sex Work has Taught Me About Decriminalization
  Oct 20, 2020

  Content Warning: This piece contains graphic descriptions of violence, including sexual assault.

  The worst night of my life was the night that changed everything.

  It was hot out. That’s the code word sex workers use to warn each other if police are nearby. I ducked into a card room called Georgianne’s to hide, where I busied myself with an arcade machine, slipping quarter after quarter into the coin slot to make the world go away for a moment — or at least for the length of one Ms. Pac-Man game.

  That peace came to a halt when a man came up and flashed a wad of bills in my face. He told me to meet him out back so the police wouldn’t see him leave with me. I knew this was never a good idea. As a sex worker, if no one sees who you leave with, you may
never come home. But I didn’t care and went with him anyway, thinking he was like any other client on any other night.

When we got to his house, he locked the door and blocked it with a fan. He said he was a police officer, but I knew he was lying. A police officer would never take me home. My gut told me not to go through with it, but when I tried to leave, he snatched me by the hair and dragged me back into his house. He raped me several times that night. He even tried to kill me.

In the movies, when someone strangles you, you die. That isn’t always the truth. You come back and you breathe again and you’re in the same hell that you left, surrounded by blood and broken glass. I didn’t know whether the blood was his or mine, but it didn’t matter. That night, I fought for my life like only the dying can.

I tried everything, until finally I played dead and he bought it — but it didn’t stop him. Thinking I was dead, he dragged me out the back door and down the steps to his car, where he raped me one more time before throwing me in the trunk. I watched, still playing dead, as he went back inside the car to clean up the mess. I had a chance to run — and I took it.

My legs wouldn’t work. My foot had been badly injured, too. So I crawled and limped away until I made it to the first cross street. A car drove up. Four men were inside. It was only when I saw the looks on their faces — pure terror — that I realized the extent of what that man did to me.

"We don’t want anything to do with this," said the driver. "But we’re gonna take you somewhere safe."

They took me to the UC Davis Medical Center. I ended up in the rape unit, where nurses washed off the blood, stitched up my wounds, and gave me a rape kit before calling the police. Even though I knew I might be arrested for prostitution, I decided to report anyway — that man was too dangerous, and I didn’t want anybody else to go through what I did. I went straight to the district attorney, who looked at the pictures and the rape kit and decided to believe me.

But at trial, it became painfully clear that my word as a
But at trial, it became painfully clear that my word as a sex worker was worthless. I'll never forget the way it felt to take the stand and retell the experience for an entire courtroom, answering questions about why I was in a certain place at a certain hour, as if it was my fault. I knew they judged me for what I did for a living, and the outcome of the case speaks volumes to how society sees sex workers: The man who kidnapped, raped, and tried to kill me was sentenced to 45 days of community service. According to the court, what he did to me that night amounted to petty theft.

Kristen DiAngelo.
Credit: Max Whitaker

My story is as shocking as it is common. Sex workers frequently face violence on the job, but we usually won’t report because we might be arrested in the process. When we do report, we don’t get heard because of the social stigma that being a sex worker carries. My experience that night and the injustice that followed spurred me to fight for the rights society denied me. And the first step in that fight is to decriminalize sex work.

Since sex workers do not have access to many of the same protections as other workers, we have to fend for ourselves. It isn’t easy to keep yourself safe if you are constantly afraid of being arrested. Those of us who work on the street will rush through client negotiations to avoid being seen, sometimes jumping into dangerous situations with violent clients because we didn’t have time to screen the client first. People who work online also have limited ability to watch out for their safety. In 2018, the passage of SESTA/FOSTA banned many online sex work and client screening platforms that sex workers use to stay safe. And once you’re caught in a risky situation, there’s nobody to call for help without risking arrest.

Criminalization also puts us at higher risk of police abuse. Throughout my career, I’ve been sexually assaulted and robbed by the police several times, and I
I couldn’t do anything about it. I have also encountered police officers who helped me — in some instances, possibly saving my life by warning me of areas to avoid if other police were patrolling nearby. But sex workers should not have to rely on chance to stay safe, and those who swore to serve and protect should be helping rather than harming us.

I have been to jail several times for prostitution. Other sex workers, such as trans women of color, are even more likely to be arrested, incarcerated, and harassed, partly because the police profile and target them. The punishment doesn’t end with a jail sentence — having an arrest for prostitution on your criminal record is a scarlet letter, considered a crime of moral turpitude. It makes it difficult or sometimes even impossible to get a job, sign a lease, or access everyday services — even banking. I was shocked when I got a letter from my bank announcing they were closing my account. Even though I had good credit and had been a customer for decades, they said my job made me a “high risk” customer and violated their code of ethics. If sex work were decriminalized, banks would probably have fairer policies, and it would be easier for us to advocate for our rights.

Opponents of decriminalization are often trying to “save” us from trafficking and exploitation. In my experience, attempts to save sex workers through law enforcement have done the opposite. Raids, arrests, and stop-and-search policies push us further into the margins, where violence goes unchecked. Making an occupation illegal does not stop exploitation and trafficking — exploitation and trafficking proliferate because sex workers can’t report, don’t have resources, and social stigma silences us. Sex workers are not infantile beings who don’t know what’s good for us. We are the last people who want to perpetuate exploitation and harm, because we’re the ones who are affected. We want labor rights, we want justice, and we want to be treated the same as any other worker under the law. First and foremost, we need people to listen to us.

I’m proud to be a part of the movement for sex workers’ rights. In my home state of California, we banned the use of condoms as evidence of sex work by police. This will encourage workers to carry and use protection
without fear of arrest, protecting both their health and that of their clients. The same law also allows sex workers to report violent offenses such as trafficking, rape, and robbery with complete immunity from arrest — not just for prostitution, but for misdemeanor charges related to sex work or drugs. Every day I see more signs that attitudes are changing, including at the federal level. Last year, Congress introduced the SAFE SEX Workers Study Act, which calls for studying the effects of SESTA/FOSTA on sex workers’ safety and well-being. Decriminalization is by no means a panacea, but it will create positive changes for sex workers.

If sex work were decriminalized, sex workers would be able to seek help when we’re in danger. We could go to the hospital in times of emergency without fear of arrest. We would have more autonomy. And we wouldn’t get entangled with the criminal justice system for a misdemeanor that will follow us for life. Decriminalization is the step we need to take to keep us all safe.

Eye on Civil Liberties: Where You Can Have an Impact in Elections Closer to Home Oct 19, 2020

The intense focus on the presidential race can easily obscure policies that could have more of a direct impact on communities in both red and blue states, but they are no less important. Many voters don’t engage with the electoral process because they don’t think their votes make a difference or count for much. Down-ballot races are where voters can make a real impact in shaping policies and spark a broader public debate.

The ACLU is nonpartisan, so our goal with down-ballot campaigns is to ensure that voters are educated about the potential consequences of an election, not to support specific candidates. We don’t tell voters who to vote for, but provide them the tools to cast an informed vote by elevating the key issues at play in the race.

So what policies are at stake in this election? Here’s a quick snapshot of the types of civil liberties and civil rights issues that could be on your ballot.

Criminal Justice Reform

This summer police accountability and other criminal
Reproductive Freedom
Since 2011, states have passed more than 460 abortion

restrictions, eroding abortion access for far too many, disproportionately harming low-income people and people of color. With President Trump having promised only to nominate justices that would overturn Roe v. Wade, if his current nominee is confirmed, the legal right to abortion will be in the gravest danger it has faced yet. As federal protections for reproductive rights become precariously uncertain, safeguarding this right at the state level has never been more urgent.

Montana stands out as a state with strong protections for reproductive freedom, especially in its geographic region, but that's mostly because of its governor, as well as some important state supreme court precedents. The state legislature continually passes abortion restrictions like targeted regulations of abortion providers (TRAP laws) and abortion bans, but has been stopped by the governor's veto pen. Without a governor who supports abortion rights, Montana could see severe restrictions on the five remaining abortion providers in Montana, which also serve patients from Idaho, the Dakotas, and Wyoming, where access is virtually non-existent due to restrictions. The risk is so high that the ACLU is dedicating significant resources to informing voters on what's at stake in this race so they can make an informed decision.

Should Roe v. Wade be overturned, abortion could become illegal in several states, including Arizona. The Arizona House of Representatives, however, is very close to obtaining a majority that would protect abortion rights, so we're engaging in two key state legislative races — House Districts 20 and 23 — to mobilize voters on this issue. Additionally, since access to abortion turns not only on statewide legislation but also on prosecutorial discretion, we have raised abortion in the Maricopa County attorney race too. Should abortion be banned in the state, the Maricopa County attorney would have significant influence on whether to charge people with crimes for seeking or providing abortion care.

And in Colorado, we're fighting back a ballot measure, Proposition 115, that would ban abortion later in pregnancy. Prop. 115 would make it a crime for doctors to provide abortion care starting at 22 weeks in pregnancy, robbing pregnant people of the ability to...
pregnancy, robbing pregnant people of the ability to make their own personal medical decisions, taking into consideration their own personal situations. Prop. 115 is a one-size-fits-all mandate that fails to acknowledge every pregnancy is unique — and shows no compassion for what families face in unimaginably complicated circumstances. And it takes away the ability of doctors to provide the best medical care for their patients.

**Immigrants’ Rights**

Typically, the federal government shapes our policies on immigration. But they frequently also try to involve local law enforcement in their efforts to find, detain, and deport immigrants, splitting families and communities. This is the case for local sheriffs who are often asked to house detained people, including immigrants, and have the power to enter into agreements with federal immigration enforcement to deputize local police as immigration agents.

In the run-up to November 3, we’re focused on three specific sheriff races that have the ability to transform the quality of life for immigrant families. In Charleston, South Carolina, the next sheriff could end the city’s 287(g) agreement with federal immigration agencies, which wastes local resources to detain and deport immigrants on behalf of the federal government. And in Cobb and Gwinnett counties in Georgia, two of the most aggressive locations for local immigration enforcement, we’ve asked candidates if they’ll commit to both ending the 287(g) program and stopping the use of ICE detainers, which can extend a person’s detention beyond the authorized amount of time, allowing ICE to take them into custody and eventually deport them. In Gwinnett County alone, the county shared information with ICE on more than 5,000 immigrants in 2017, which accounted for one-fifth of all interactions nationwide that year. In Miami-Dade County, Florida — another area of ACLU electoral engagement — the mayor will appoint a new sheriff, so in this case, we’ve gotten involved in a mayoral race to let voters know about the candidates’ positions. But, the issues at stake are the same — treating immigrant communities justly and curtailing local collaboration with ICE.

**Racial Justice**
While our country remains in a moment of racial reckoning, there are states where voters can have a direct impact on racial justice in just a few weeks. Of course, many reforms to the criminal justice system, like State Question 805 in Oklahoma, could mean decreasing racial disparities in who gets charged and the length of their sentences. But these policies on the ballot go beyond criminal justice reform.

This year, Nebraska voters can decide to reduce predatory payday loan interest rates, which average more than 400 percent. These payday loans, marketed as a short-term fix for those in financial stress, are actually designed to trap borrowers in a cycle of long-term debt. The consequences of payday lenders fall especially hard on communities of color, where payday lending stores are located in higher numbers than in other neighborhoods. It becomes incredibly hard for minority families to build wealth, save for the future, or have a safety net because dollars are systematically drained away. This ballot measure comes at a time when many Americans are devastated by the global health pandemic and the longstanding racial disparities it has exacerbated, leaving millions unable to meet their families’ basic needs. While many of these issues will take work to resolve, voting for this ballot measure will be a move in the right direction to help remedy economic and racial injustice.

In California, the most diverse state in the nation, voters can choose to support Proposition 16, which would bring affirmative action back to the state for the first time in decades. The current affirmative action ban means fewer and less profitable opportunities for women and communities of color. But this isn’t only about money and jobs — lives are at risk. Black, Latinx, and Native American people are dying disproportionately from COVID-19 because of the devastating consequences of decades of discrimination in education, housing, jobs, health care, and more. Affirmative action would help reduce and eliminate those harms by leveling the playing field, for instance, through expanding access to health care education to all communities. Research has shown that communities of color receive better health care from medical professionals of those communities. If passed, Proposition 16 will help bring equal opportunity to all Californians, increasing access to fair
wages, good jobs, and quality schools for everyone.

**Make a Plan to Vote**

Of course, none of these policies will change if you don't vote. So make a plan and recruit friends and family. For more on how to vote in your state, check out our Let People Vote tool.

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Paid for by American Civil Liberties Union, Inc., Anthony Romero, Executive Director, 125 Broad Street, New York, New York 10004. Not authorized by any candidate or candidate’s committee.

Paid for by the American Civil Liberties Union, Inc. on behalf of the Committee to Advance Constitutional Values.

Authorized and paid for by American Civil Liberties Union, Inc., 125 Broad Street, New York, NY 10004, 212-549-2500, on behalf of Yes on 805, Inc.

Paid for by American Civil Liberties Union, Inc.; Anthony Romero, Registered Agent. Authorized by Abortion Access for All.

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Paid for by American Civil Liberties Union, Inc., ID #1259514, and authorized by Yes on 16, Opportunity for All Coalition, Sponsored by Civil Rights Organizations.

Website | Feed
Study Aids

- Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and the Law in a Nutshell
  KF4754.5 .C65 2017

Marriage and Same-Sex
Marriage in Constitutional Law

CALI Lesson. Updated to April 2018.

Marriage & Family Law

Estate Planning for Same-Sex Couples
KF750 .B87 2015.

- Legally Straight: Sexuality, Childhood, and the Cultural Value of Marriage
  EBook. KF539 .R65 2018eb

- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Family Law - Westlaw
  Annual; updated regularly.

- Speak Now: Marriage Equality on Trial: The Story of Hollingsworth v. Perry
  KF229 .H654 Y67 2015

Then Comes Marriage: United States v. Windsor and the Defeat of DOMA
KF229 .W56 K37 2015

- Truth Overruled: The Future of Marriage and Religious Freedom
  HQ519 .A53 2015

- Winning Marriage: The Inside Story of How Same-Sex Couples Took on the Politicians and Pundits - and Won
  EBook. HQ1035 .U6 S65 2014eb

Employment

- Employment Discrimination
  See Part LVIII - Sexual Orientation and Transsexuality.
  Also available on Lexis Advance

- Gender Nonconformity and the Law
  EBook. KF3467 .Y875 2016eb

Out and About: The LGBT Experience in the Legal Profession

ABA Commission on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.
KF3467.5 .O938 2015

- Sex-Based Employment Discrimination - Westlaw
### General

- Gender Nonconformity and the Law
  - EBook. KF3467 .Y875 2016eb
  - Lavender and Red: Liberation and Solidarity in the Gay and Lesbian Left c2016. EBook. HQ76.8 .U5eb
- Law and the Gay Rights Story: The Search for Equal Justice in a Divided Democracy
  - EBook. KF4754.5 .F73 2014eb
- LGBT Diversity and Inclusion Conference Ohio Room KF750 .E79 2016
- Sexual Orientation and the Law Updated regularly. KF4754.5 .S49 2012. Also available on Westlaw.
- Transgender Rights and Politics: Groups, Issue Framing, and Policy Adoption
  - EBook. HQ77.9 .T7173 2014eb

### Comparative & Foreign Law

- Global Perspectives on Same-Sex Marriage: A Neo-Institutional Approach
  - EBook. HQ1033 .G56 2018eb
- Issues of Gender and Sexual Orientation in Humanitarian Emergencies: Risks and Risk Reduction c2014. EBook. HV553eb

### Blogs & Journal Literature
### Blogs

- **Advocate.com**  
  "Breaking news and current events" published by Here Media Inc.

- **AMERICAblog**  
  "A journal of news and opinion about US politics, both domestic and foreign, from a progressive point of view." Created in 2004 by John Aravosis.

- **The Bilerico Project**  
  "The web's largest LGBTQ group blog" maintained by dozens of selected contributors.

- **Gender & Sexuality Law Blog**  
  Maintained by Columbia Law School Center for Gender & Sexuality Law.

- **The Gist**  
  Maintained by SiriusXM Progress 127 host, and "Huffington Post Gay Voices" editor-at-large, Michael Signorile.

- **RE:ACT**  
  Official blog of the National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association. "A forum to discuss topics related to fair and accurate coverage of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) issues."

### Journal Literature

Search/browse selected OhioLINK Electronic Journal Center journal groups, such as Law and Social Sciences.

See also the Finding Articles in Law Reviews and Journals guide.

#### Selected Journal Titles:

- **Buffalo Journal of Gender, Law & Social Policy**  
  EJournal. 1992-2016

- **Cardozo Journal of Law & Gender**  
  EJournal. 2006-present.

- **Duke Journal of Gender Law & Policy**  
  EJournal. 1994-present.

- **Georgetown Journal of Gender and the Law**  
  CSU has 1999-present. Law Library also has 1999-2013 - K7 .E572.

- **GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian & Gay Studies**  
  EJournal. 1997-present.

- **Journal of Gender Studies**  
  EJournal. 1993-present (minus 18 months).

- **[Tulane Journal of] Law & Sexuality**  

- **Lesbian-Gay Law Notes**  
  1994-present. KF4754.5 .A15 L47

- **Michigan Journal of Gender & Law**  
  EJournal. 1993-present.

### Databases

Search selected OhioLINK Electronic Journal Center journal groups, such as Law and Social Sciences.

See also the Finding Articles in Law Reviews and Journals guide.

- **Advocate.com**  
  "Breaking news and current events" published by Here Media Inc.

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- **RE:ACT**  
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  SCOTUSblog - Special Features  
  Topical sections of the Supreme Court of the United States blog. See Same-sex marriage and the 14th Amendment and Same-Sex Marriage.
**Web Sites**

**Introduction**

This page contains information on, and resources of, United States, Ohio, and international academic, nonprofit, and professional associations, as well as associations and organizations opposed to LGBT issues.

See also:

- Internet Casebook on Sexual Orientation and the Law (1978-2018) - Compiled by CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice Professor Daniel Pinello.
- Same-Sex Marriage Laws - Chart summarizing U.S. state laws; provided by Ohio State University Moritz College of Law Library.

**CSU OneSearch (beta)**

OneSearch is CSU's beta federated search system, and is accessible from the Law Library home page (see box at upper right). It allows you to search multiple catalogs and databases at the same time, retrieving books, ebooks, audiovisual materials, articles, music scores, and more. Once connected, click Help at the top right for information on constructing searches and managing search results.

**Databases**

CSU Michael Schwartz Library - Research Databases by Subject - Select "Social Sciences" for access to over 10 databases, such as:

- Social Sciences Citation Index
- Gender Studies Database
- GenderWatch - Full-text database that "provides authoritative historical and current perspectives on the evolution of gender roles as they affect both men and women."
- LGBT Life with Full Text - Full text of over "120 of the most important and historically significant LGBT journals, magazines and regional newspapers" and over 150 books; also includes a "specialized LGBT Thesaurus containing over 6,400 terms."

**Note:** When off the CSU campus, access to MS Library databases requires CSU ID & PIN.

**United States**

- American Bar Association - Commission on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
  "Leads the Association’s commitment to diversity, inclusion and full and equal participation by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons in the Association, legal profession, and society." In particular, see its Transgender Rights and How to Be an Ally Toolkit pages.
- American Civil Liberties Union - LGBT Rights
  "Works to ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people can live openly without discrimination and enjoy equal rights, personal autonomy, and freedom of expression and association."

**Ohio**

- American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio - LGBT Rights
  "Deploys legal, educational and legislative resources to fight for full legal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals, whether in employment, schools, marriage or...

**Associations & Organizations Opposed to LGBT Issues**

- Alliance
  Defending Freedom
  "Advocates for the right of people to freely live out their faith." In particular, see its Issues - Marriage & Family page.
• Equality Case Files
A "non-profit organization providing information on litigation and legislation impacting the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people." In particular, see its Documents and Files and Recent Cases pages.

• Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD)
"As a dynamic media force, GLAAD ... rewrites the script for LGBT acceptance." In particular, see its Resources page, with numerous publications and its Media Reference Guide.

• Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN)
Established in 1990, GLSEN seeks to ensure that every student is "valued and treated with respect, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression." In particular, see its Research and Webinars and Workshops pages.

• Human Rights Campaign
"Advocates for LGBTQ equality and educates the public about LGBTQ issues." Site includes links to numerous Resources on topics such as Adoption, Marriage, Parenting, Hate Crimes, and the Workplace, as well as Federal Advocacy and State & Local Advocacy materials. See also its Blog.

• Immigration Equality
Advocates for and represents "lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ), and HIV-positive immigrants seeking safety, fair treatment, and freedom." In particular, see its Get Legal Help page, with links to Legal Resources (eg, Visa Questions, Primary Source Materials) and an Asylum Manual.

• The Kinsey Institute
Indiana University (Bloomington) Institute that seeks "to foster and promote a greater understanding of human sexuality and relationships through impactful research, outreach, education, and historical preservation." Site includes links to numerous Research publications and its Library and Special Collections.

• Lambda Legal Defense Fund
Seeks to achieve "full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and everyone living with HIV through impact litigation, education and policy work." Site includes links to rights parenting." Provides information about cases and legislation, as well as links to Publications and news.

• Equality Ohio
"Advocates and educates to achieve fair treatment and equal opportunity for all Ohioans regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity or expression." Provides information on housing and employment, safety and security, and marriage issues.

• TransOhio
"Serves the Ohio transgender and ally communities by providing services, education, support and advocacy, which promotes and improves the health, safety and life-experience of the Ohio transgender individual and community." In particular, see its Changing IDs (Ohio) page.

• Alliance for Therapeutic Choice and Scientific Integrity
A multi-disciplinary professional and scientific organization dedicated to preserving the right of individuals to obtain the services of a therapist who honors their values, advocating for integrity and objectivity in social science research, and ensuring that competent licensed, professional assistance is available for persons who experience unwanted homosexual (same-sex) attractions." In particular, see its Key Documents page.

• American Family Association
Seeks "to inform, equip, and activate individuals to strengthen the moral foundations of American culture, and give aid to the church here and abroad in its task of fulfilling the Great Commission."

• Americans For Truth About Homosexuality

information In Your State as well as Publications & Resources, such as Fact Sheets and Toolkits.

- The LGBT Bar
  "Promotes justice in and through the legal profession for the LGBT community in all its diversity." In particular, see its Programs page, which includes Advocacy links, as well as information on its Judicial Nuts & Bolts Academy, Lavender Law 365 program, and Law Students resources.

  Modern Military Association of America
  "The nation’s largest non-profit organization for the LGBTQ military and veteran community." Non-partisan. Also provides "free, direct legal services for the LGBTQ and HIV+ military and veteran community."

- National Center for Lesbian Rights
  "Committed to advancing the civil and human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their families through litigation, legislation, policy, and public education." In particular, see its Our Work page, with links to Cases & Advocacy and Legislation & Policy. See also its Blog.

- National Conference of State Legislatures - Research - Human Services - Same-Sex Marriage Laws
  Need to create free account to access information. Provides information on state same-sex marriage laws, as well as state civil unions & domestic partnership laws.

- National LGBTQ Task Force
  "Advances full freedom, justice and equality for LGBTQ people." Site includes links to Reports & Studies and Fact Sheets & Infographics. See also its Blog.

- Partners Task Force for Gay & Lesbian Couples
  Founded in 1986 by Demian and Steve Bryant. Site contains over “450 essays, surveys, legal articles and resources on legal marriage, ceremonies, domestic partner benefits, relationship tips, parenting, and immigration.”

  ProCon.org - Gay Marriage
  ProCon.org seeks to promote "critical thinking, education, and informed citizenship by presenting controversial issues in a straightforward, nonpartisan, and primarily pro-con format." This issue section includes state information, US Supreme Court cases, company information, and

International

Human Rights Watch - LGBT Rights
Documents and exposes "abuses based on sexual orientation and gender identity worldwide, including torture, killing and executions, arrests under unjust laws, unequal treatment, censorship, medical abuses, discrimination in health and jobs and housing, domestic violence, abuses against children, and denial of family rights and recognition." Site includes links to reports, multimedia, and news.

Christian Coalition
“A political organization, made up of pro-family Americans who care deeply about ensuring that government serves to strengthen and preserve, rather than threaten, our families and our values. To that end, we work continuously to identify, educate and mobilize Christians for effective political action.” See, in particular, its Get Informed page.

- Citizens for Community Values
  “Seeks the good of our neighbors..."
selected Footnotes & Sources.

- Transgender Law Center
  Seeks to change "law, policy, and attitudes so that all
people can live safely, authentically, and free from
discrimination regardless of their gender identity or
expression." In particular, see its topical Resources
page, which also includes a National Equality Map
summarizing state laws affecting LGBT Americans.

- UCLA School of Law - The Williams Institute
  Founded in 2001, this national think tank "is dedicated
to conducting rigorous, independent research on sexual
orientation and gender identity law and public policy."
Site includes information on its educational programs,
such as Judicial Education, and many full-text
Publications.

- International
  Lesbian, Gay,
  Bisexual, Trans and
  Intersex Association
  A "world federation
  of national and local
  organisations
  dedicated to
  achieving equal
  rights for lesbian,
  gay, bisexual, trans
  and intersex (LGBTI)
  people." In particular,
  see its Resources
  page.

- OutRight Action
  International
  "Seeks to advance
  human rights and
  opportunities for
  LGBTIQ people
  around the world by
developing
  partnerships at
  global, regional, and
  national levels to
  build capacity,
document human
  rights violations,
advocate for
inclusion and
equality, and hold
leaders accountable
for protecting the
rights of LGBTIQ
people." In particular,
see its Where We
Work page, with
links to specific
country activities,
and Documentation
page, with numerous
reports. [Formerly
known as the
International Gay
and Lesbian Human
Rights Watch - Ohio]

- Family Research Council
  Seeks "to advance
  faith, family and
  freedom in public
  policy and the
  culture from a
  Christian worldview."
  In particular, see its
  Issues - Marriage &
  Family page.

- Focus on the Family
  A "global Christian
  ministry" that
  provides "help and
  resources for
  couples to build
  health marriages that
  reflect God's design,
  and for parents to
  raise their children
  according to morals
  and values grounded
  in biblical principles."
  In particular, see its
  Marriage and Social
  Issues pages.

- Heritage Foundation
  A "research and
  educational
  institution" that seeks
  "to formulate and
  promote
  conservative public
  policies based on the
principles of free enterprise, limited government, individual freedom, traditional American values, and a strong national defense." In particular, see its Issues - Family and Marriage page. See also its blog - The Daily Signal.

Pacific Justice Institute
A "legal defense organization specializing in the defense of religious freedom, parental rights, and other civil liberties."