

LGBT Forum 2021

Sept. 17, 2021 – Virtual Forum

Program Producers: Ashley Senti, Attorney at Law
Lucas Cameron-Vaughn, Collective Justice Legal Group
Total Credits: 2 General, 2 Dual



This year's program will focus on political concerns for Tennessee's LGBT community, including an advocacy panel that will address how to become more involved locally in the fight for equal justice, building a grassroots movement and much more.

10 – 11 a.m. CDT
DUAL

Southern Frontlines: The Battle Against State-by-State Anti-LGBT Legislation – What's Working and What Isn't

With the Equality Act stalled in the U.S. Senate, the battle for equality is being waged in the individual states - and in 30 of the 50 states at least one (and frequently several) bills have been introduced during the latest session that would roll back protections or, in some cases, not just restrict but eliminate protections for LGBT people. Some of the recent battles include attempts to rescind protections or make it illegal to offer medical care to transgender Americans, particularly those under the age of 18. Additionally, the rights of LGBT kids to be free from discrimination at school has become a target of many state legislators. This panel will examine the arguments being used to combat anti-LGBT legislation, what's working and what isn't, as well as possible developments for the next legislative session.

Chris Sanders, Tennessee Equality Project

Hedy Weinberg, ACLU of Tennessee

Lucas Cameron-Vaughn, Collective Justice Legal Group (Moderator)

Vivian Topping, Equality Federation

11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Anti-LGBT Legislation in the Tennessee General Assembly

Sen. Raumesh Akbari, District 29, Memphis and Shelby County

12 – 12:30 p.m.

Break

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
DUAL

Litigation Lessons in Court for Representing Trans Plaintiffs and Causes

Leading attorneys who have litigated cases concerning some of the most heated issues of national debate related to trans people such as freedom of speech, access to bathrooms as well as protections for trans children at school discuss tips for the courtroom and interacting with a possibly hostile judiciary, as well as foreseeing some of the stigma that plaintiffs will need to overcome. The goal of this panel is to educate Tennessee practitioners who might not feel educated or knowledgeable enough to accept cases involving trans rights to be able to anticipate and strategize for litigation hurdles and feel more confident to navigate difficult “educational moments” that they might encounter more accurately.

Ashley Senti, Attorney at Law

John Farringer, Sherrard Roe Voigt & Harbison

Olivia Hill, Finally Me

Tom Castelli, ACLU of Tennessee

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Employment Discrimination Post-Bostock

Although SCOTUS in *Obergefell* (2015) granted same-sex couples equal marriage rights, job protections for individuals due to their sexual orientation and/or gender identity remained uncertain until SCOTUS provided Title VII protections to LGBT persons in the landmark case *Bostock v. Clayton County* (2020). Join us for a discussion with Thomas Mew, one of the attorneys on *Bostock*, and Maureen Truax Holland, one of the attorneys on *Obergefell*, as they discuss the *Bostock* decision and what’s next as employers seek religious exemptions to the law.

Maureen Holland, Holland & Associates

Thomas Mew, Buckley Beal