

# SACLEGAL NEWSLETTER

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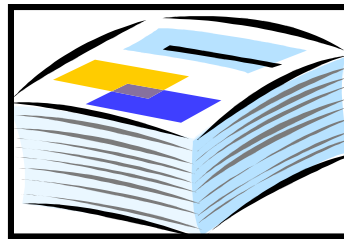
- Renew dues online at [www.saclegal.org](http://www.saclegal.org)
- Join as a sustaining attorney member and receive an online link to your firm
- Become a mentor or get involved with other SacLEGAL activities! Email: [events@saclegal.org](mailto:events@saclegal.org)
- Don't forget about Unity Bar Dinner on Oct. 25 and the Holiday Party on Dec. 13

## NEW SURVEY OF CRIME VICTIMS REVEALS HATE CRIMES ARE GROSSLY UNDER REPORTED IN UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS

A new report published by the US Department of Justice compared data collected by the National Crime Victimization Survey and shows that in recent years, an annual average of over 210,000 individuals were a victim of a hate crime. However, during a comparable period, there were only between 6,000 and 10,000 hate crimes reported by law enforcement in the Uniform Crime Report.

When we compare the number of incidents in which victims reported in the NCVS, **only 8% of hate crimes that victims reported to law enforcement were identified by**

**law enforcement as hate crimes.** The NCVS uses a specific survey instrument that is validated based on the hate



crime bias indicators that are comparable and based on the same definitions used by law enforcement to report in the Uniform Crime Report. This disparity is staggering and shows that law enforcement has a long way to go when it comes to properly responding to hate crimes.

The National Crime Victimization Survey is administered by the US DOJ Bureau of Justice Statistics. Each year it surveys some 42,000 households and generates a statistically accurate picture of crime and victimization based upon the annual sample size of some 76,000 individuals. The NCVS is the primary source of criminal victimization data available. By comparison, the FBI Uniform Crime Report is the most widely used report on the prevalence of crime in the United States.

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## LAW SCHOOL UPDATE

The UC Davis Lambda Law Students started off the 2007-08 school year with exciting events such as sending its largest ever delegation of students and staff to Lavender Law and hosting its annual National Coming Out Week program. During Coming Out Week students heard from inter-

sex and marriage equality advocates, and from Assemblymember Mark Leno. In addition, 1Ls hosted a "State of the Gay," presentation that summarized the state of gay rights in various sectors. Finally, King Hall's Lambda is featured in this month's *Student Lawyer*.

The Pacific McGeorge Lambda Law Students also sent students to the Lavender Law Conference in Chicago. During National Coming Out Week, Lambda hosted a barbecue, which attracted over a hundred students, and hosted a presentation on being out at work.

## SACLEGAL HELPS NCLR AND MEUSA RAISE TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS

On September 6, 2007, SacLEGAL hosted "Tipping the Scales for Justice: An Evening of Entertainment Benefiting the National Center for Lesbian Rights and Marriage Equality USA." Not only was the fundraiser successful in raising more money than in previous years, it was also a great evening with a packed house! Around 150 people attended, enjoying great entertainment and delicious food, while helping to support two worthwhile organizations.

The evening started off with music by songwriter Maggie Ward, who treated the standing-room-only crowd to heartfelt songs about life and love. Comedian Julie Werthman kept the crowd going with her hilarious comedy routine before turning the microphone over to our guest speakers. The engaging and informative speakers included NCLR Board members Donna Ryu and Olga Talamante, MEUSA Media Director Molly McKay and Stuart Gaff-

ney, one of the plaintiffs in the California *In Re Marriage Cases*. Capping off the evening was the closing of the silent auction and the rush to be the last name on the bid sheet, while local band, The Crepes, rocked the house.

The fundraiser was a huge success as NCLR and MEUSA raised \$10,540.89! SacLEGAL would like to thank everyone who sponsored and attended the event!

*Not only was the [NCLR & MEUSA] fundraiser successful in raising more money than in previous years, it was also a great evening with a packed house!*

## LAV LAW 2007: A RECORD SUCCESS

Lavender Law 2007, the annual conference of the National Lesbian and Gay Law Association, was held this year in Chicago, September 6th to the 8th. Sacramento-area law schools were well-represented, as four McGeorge students and a large contingent from UC Davis attended the career fair, various workshops, and networking events.

Over 150 recruiters from across the nation attended the conference this year, setting a record turnout. Prior to interviewing with this diverse group of employers, the students attended an introductory panel, geared to answer "coming out

questions" from various attorneys. Then, career counselors from various law schools conducted individual sessions with students, reviewed their resumes and answered questions about the interviewing process.

After finishing their interviews, the students selected from dozens of workshops and plenary sessions to attend.

Workshops on "Representing the Soldier," "Creating a Safe Space," and transgender issues were particularly popular.

Perhaps the most memorable aspect of the conference, though, was the

opportunity for students to network with attorneys, law professors, and fellow students during the various social receptions. The law student ice cream social, transgender luncheon, and welcome reception for people of color proved invaluable, as students connected with practitioners in their field of interest and shared their experiences.

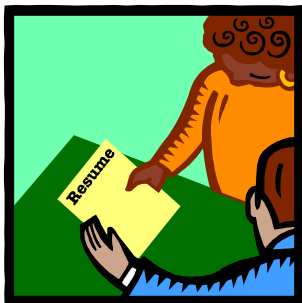
The 2008 conference will mark Lavender Law's 20th anniversary and will be held at the Hyatt Regency Embarcadero, September 4th to the 6th, 2008, in San Francisco, California. For more information, visit <http://lavenderlaw.org/>

## SACLEGAL MENTOR PROGRAM

We are pleased to announce that SacLEGAL is once again coordinating a “mentor program” for law students, which will also include providing mock interviews and resume reviews. We need your participation in this important program.

There are three ways to participate:

(1) **Become a Mentor:** Law students will have the opportunity to select a mentor from a list of participating attorneys. As a



mentor, the amount of time you wish to commit is entirely up to you. However, we request that you meet with your law student at least twice.

(2) **Conduct Mock Interviews:** Many law students appreciate the opportunity to participate in mock interviews and receive feedback from practicing attorneys. Attorneys are asked to conduct a face-to-face interview with the “candidate” and provide the student with comments and suggestions.

(3) **Conduct Resume Reviews:** Students will provide you with their resume for your review and ask that you provide comments and sugges-

tions. This can be done either in person or via e-mail. You can choose to participate in all three areas or select the area or areas that work for you.

In addition, SacLEGAL will be hosting a Mentor Program Reception where law students will have the opportunity to look through the attorney applications and select a mentor. Mentors are also encouraged to attend. The date, time, and location will be announced shortly.

Contact [events@saclegal.org](mailto:events@saclegal.org) for an application. Once you receive an application, please submit it before November 2, 2007.

## SACLEGAL AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS FILE AMICUS BRIEFS IN *IN RE MARRIAGE CASES*

The California Supreme Court is one step closer to ruling on marriage equality in the *In re Marriage Cases*. In the last few months, several organizations filed amicus briefs with the California Supreme Court supporting Marriage Equality. In the briefs, the organizations urge the court to put an end to state laws that deny same-sex couples the protections of marriage. *In re Marriage Cases* is a lawsuit seek-

ing marriage equality on behalf of eleven same-sex couples, Equality California, and Our Family Coalition. The briefing process concludes with responses to amicus briefs, which are due in



October. At the conclusion of briefing, the Court will set oral argument which will likely be late 2007 or early 2008.

To view a complete list of organizations and individuals who filed amicus briefs supporting marriage equality at the Supreme Court, including SacLEGAL, go to [www.nclrights.org](http://www.nclrights.org) or [www.lambdalegal.org](http://www.lambdalegal.org).

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The NCVS is critically import as a gauge of just how well law enforcement is doing when it comes to combating hate crime. "It is troubling that only about one in twenty hate crimes is being reported by law enforcement," said Calvin Chang who serves as President of the California Hate Crime Investigators Association. Even more disturbing in the age of community policing is the continuing disparity between victim and law enforcement perceptions about when a hate crime has occurred. When we look at geographic regions and compare jurisdictions, we find gross disparity in how different law enforcement jurisdictions report hate crime. While some jurisdictions continue to report at notable rates, many jurisdictions and even some entire states continually report that they have little to no hate crime.

#### Annual Hate Crimes

Total Hate Crimes Victimization	210,000 confirmed by NCVS (Nov, 2005)
Reported to Police	92,100
Confirmed by Police as Hate Crime	17,680
Reported by Police in UCR	6,000 to 10,000

Based on these numbers, it appears that half of the incidents of hate crimes are being reported to law enforcement. Of those reported, only one in five are being identified as such by law enforcement. Finally, only half of those confirmed as hate crime by law enforcement end up being counted in the Uniform Crime Report.

Clearly, more needs to be done to develop law enforcement's ability to respond more effectively to this age old problem. It begins with an agency commitment, developing useful policies, training, supervision, and working in partnership with community groups. The benefits of having a proactive stance on combating hate crime helps to bring suspects to justice, prevents further violence, protects victims, and is fully consistent with the fundamental duty of peace officers, **"to protect the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence."** Having an A+ response to hate crime pays great dividends in the police community relationship.

Calvin Chang is President of the California Hate Crime Investigators Association. [www.chcia.org](http://www.chcia.org) The California Hate Crime Investigators Association can assist law enforcement agencies with policy development, review, and training. March 10, 2006 Copyright 2006 CA Hate Crime Investigators Association. Reprinted with permission.