Finding Aid to the Joel Wachs Gay and Lesbian Records, 1983-1996
Coll2014.119

Kyle Morgan
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Scope and Contents
Legal records and correspondence of Los Angeles City Councilmember Joel Wachs regarding the discrimination of gay and lesbian people by the Los Angeles Police Department, November 1995 to April 1996. The records include legal briefs from The People of the State of California vs. Donald Cole Chapman and Virginia Acevedo vs. City of Los Angeles, and correspondence from the American Civil Liberties Union and Randy Hirt. The records also include awards from Christopher Street West and the Log Cabin Republican Club.

Biographical / Historical
Joel Wachs was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, in 1939, but grew up in Los Angeles. He received a bachelor’s degree in political science at the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1961; a law degree from Harvard in 1964; and a master’s degree in tax law from New York University in 1965. Wachs returned to Los Angeles to practice corporate tax law. In 1971, he was elected as a Los Angeles City Councilmember for District 2 located in the San Fernando Valley. Wachs served as a councilmember for thirty years. He was involved in the passing of an anti-AIDS discrimination law in 1985, establishing the Los Angeles Endowment for the Arts in 1988, supporting rent control, and supporting assistance for the city’s elderly. Wachs became president of the Los Angeles City Council in 1981. Wachs ran, unsuccessfully, three times for mayor. After his last loss (2001) he resigned from his city council position to assume the presidency of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.


Related Materials
Joel Wachs Papers, CSLA-29, Department of Archives and Special Collections, William H. Hannon Library, Loyola Marymount University.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Gay politicians
Gay activists
Wachs, Joel
Los Angeles (Calif.). City Council -- Archives
Los Angeles (Calif.). Police Department -- Archives
Wachs, Joel -- Archives
Box 1, Folder 1
Los Angeles City Council records on gay and lesbian discrimination November 1995 - April 1996

Box 1, Folder 2
Awards from Christopher Street West and the Log Cabin Republican Club 1983-1985