Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom records

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GLBT Historical Society
989 Market Street, Lower Level
San Francisco, California 94103
(415) 777-5455
reference@glbthistory.org
http://www.glbthistory.org/
2020
Descriptive Summary

Title: Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom records

Dates: 1981-2001

Collection Number: 1999-80

Creator/Collector: Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom

Extent: 14 cartons (14 linear feet)

Repository: GLBT Historical Society  
San Francisco, California 94103

Abstract: Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF) is the nation’s oldest and largest bar association of lesbians, gay men, bisexual people, and transgender people in the field of law. The bulk of the collection covers the years 1981-1999. It includes organizational records, board materials, correspondence, directories, financial records, materials related to the AIDS Legal Referral Panel, amicus briefs, materials related to annual events and conferences, newsletters and other publications, public relations materials, and subject files.

Language of Material: English

Access
Collection is open for research.

Preferred Citation
Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom records. GLBT Historical Society

Biography/Administrative History

Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF) is the nation’s oldest and largest bar association of lesbians, gay men, bisexual people, and transgender people in the field of law. Founded in 1980, BALIF represents its members’ interests in the wider San Francisco Bay Area. BALIF members and supporters include San Francisco Bay Area judges, lawyers, law students and legal workers. BALIF also started the organization that grew to become the now-independent AIDS Legal Referral Panel, which has provided free and low-cost legal assistance to over 50,000 people since it was founded in 1983. BALIF’s mission has expanded. The group takes action on questions of law and justice that affect the queer community; strengthens professional and social ties among queer members of the legal profession; builds coalitions with other legal organizations to combat all forms of discrimination; promotes the appointment of queer attorneys to the judiciary, public agencies, and commissions in the Bay Area; funds scholarships for queer law students and fellowships for public interest lawyers working on queer issues; and provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and information of concern to members of the queer legal community. BALIF also submits amicus briefs in cases affecting the queer community, sponsors resolutions to the Conference of Delegates of California Bar Associations, provides queer-focused continuing legal education opportunities, and endorses candidates for judicial offices and legal elected positions. BALIF is committed to building coalitions with other minority bars.

Scope and Content of Collection

The bulk of the collection covers the years 1981-1999. It includes organizational records, board materials, correspondence, directories, financial records, materials related to the AIDS Legal Referral Panel, amicus briefs, materials related to annual events and conferences, newsletters and other publications, public relations materials, and subject files.

Indexing Terms

Law
Politics and elections

Inventory of the Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF) Records