



## Panel Attorney Spotlight

### JASON WOLFORD & JOEL LIBERSON

When an ALRP client was denied a reasonable accommodation and faced the prospect that he might lose his job, ALRP Panel Attorneys Jason Wolford and Joel Liberson stepped up to the plate to help. Ready to litigate to the zealous max, Jason and Joel worked over 500 hours on the case before it settled with a very significant award for the client. It was not an easy fight as they took on a large company, but through it all Joel was inspired by the client's principles and his courage in attempting to right a wrong. The settlement not only brought a great result for their client, but also secured a large and generous tithe to ALRP!

It was while working at Gordon & Rees that Jason and Joel were first exposed to pro bono work

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## Keker Team Fights Discrimination

When Luis Alfaro first contacted ALRP, he was hoping to put a difficult employment issue behind him so he could move along with his education. He did everything he could on his own, and reached an impasse. Thankfully, three attorneys at **Keker & Van Nest**, one of the law firms participating in ALRP's Pro Bono Connections Initiative, were willing to take his case and provide him with the assistance he needed.

Attorneys **Alyse Bertenthal**, **Audrey Walton-Hadlock**, and Pro Bono Coordinator, **Daniel Purcell**, accepted the employment discrimination and wage claim case against Mr. Alfaro's former employer and immediately communicated with Mr. Alfaro. In fact, their first phone call to him was to a location in Germany, where Mr. Alfaro was visiting friends. Mr. Alfaro recalls that he felt immediately comforted during this first call with the attorneys. "They spent one and a half hours with me on the phone, listening to my issues, and asking detailed questions. There were three attorneys on the line, and none of them was in a hurry to get off the phone. I immediately had a good impression as to their support and compassion."

Upon his return to the U.S., Ms. Bertenthal, Ms. Walton-Hadlock and Mr. Purcell met with Mr. Alfaro several times, learned the facts, and figured out the legal issues. Mr. Alfaro says he knew he was in good hands because his attorneys made it clear that they would help him pursue his rights.

Ultimately, the attorneys filed an action in federal court. Less than six months later, they settled the case.

According to Mr. Alfaro, as they worked together, his Keker & Van Nest attorneys demonstrated their genuine concern for his well-being by calling him regularly just to check in. In getting to know Mr. Alfaro better, the attorneys identified a separate issue affecting Mr. Alfaro's family that they thought could be resolved, and provided a successful referral for him. Mr. Alfaro adds, "Alyse, Audrey and Dan were so good to me. I felt guilty at first



A crucial member of the Keker van Nest Team, Dan Purcell, initially accepted Mr. Alfaro's case from ALRP.

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### ALRP's Pro Bono Connections Initiative Highlights

- **Manatt, Phelps & Phillips LLP (through Cristin Zeisler)** fought successfully to reinstate a client's disability benefits.
- **Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP (through Tera Heintz)** is currently working on behalf of three clients seeking legal permanent residence.
- **Reed Smith LLP (through Jim Wood)** worked over 1,900 hours on a confidentiality matter on behalf of an ALRP client.

## ALRP Mission

To help people with HIV/AIDS maintain or improve their health by resolving their legal issues.



# From the heart

ALRP Executive Director Bill Hirsh

## Board of Directors

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## ALRP – A Partnership You Can Trust

In 2008, your volunteer hours and financial contributions enabled ALRP to continue to be there for those who needed us. We saw a 10% increase in the number of legal matters we handled for our clients – 2,191. We leveraged an amazing \$6.9 million in donated legal services – resulting in ninety-seven cents of every donated dollar going directly to ALRP's programs. We surpassed our *You're the Heart of It* 25th Anniversary Campaign goal of raising \$250,000 to support ALRP's programs. And, we completed a new Strategic Plan to guide our work over the next five years.

ALRP has always been a remarkably efficient and cost effective operation. Mindful of the challenging economic climate we face, ALRP has undertaken a number of initiatives to position itself to maintain its services in the coming years. Chief amongst them is the establishment of a Board Designated Fund, the equivalent of a rainy day fund. The ALRP Board is committed to ensuring that ALRP is able to continue to serve our clients and has authorized

the use of these funds to cover revenue shortfalls ALRP may experience during the next five years. Additionally, we have taken steps to reduce our costs where possible, including trimming down our employee benefits expenses, installing a more efficient digital phone system, and securing administrative support through one of Goodwill's job training programs.

Because of your partnership and generosity, and our prudent fiscal management, ALRP is secure and in a strong position going into 2009. We have ended each of the last seven years in the black. And every dollar you contribute to ALRP is leveraged more than six times by our donated legal services!

We know that tough times will be even tougher on our clients. I always say that those least able to deal with the system are the ones that are forced to deal with it the most. When they lose their job, their healthcare, and/or their housing, they can easily be overwhelmed as they try to navigate their

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## ALRP Staff

Jackie Abellada, Esq.  
Staff Attorney

Eric Bull  
Office Manager

Diana Camacho  
Volunteer Coordinator

Maisha S. Cole, Esq.  
Outreach Attorney

Megan D. Corcoran, Esq.  
Insurance Attorney

Bill Hirsh, Esq.  
Executive Director

Sara Malan, Esq.  
Housing Attorney

Jim McBride  
Development Director

Ana Montano, Esq.  
Immigration Attorney

Jaime Rush, Esq.  
Housing Attorney

## ALRP's Recent Events

### MACY'S PASSPORT



Bill Hirsh with Macy's West Chairman and CEO Jeffrey Gennette.

In September, ALRP was a proud benefactor of the 2009 **Macy's Passport Fashion and Com-**

**passion** event, which merged fashion and shopping events in order to fundraise for AIDS service organizations. Macy's Passport presented ALRP with over \$25,000 as a result of proceeds earned from three fashion show events and a one-day shopping event known as **Macy's Passport In-Store**. ALRP staff and volunteers were vital in helping ALRP to achieve our beneficiary obligations at all the events.

### REAL BAD XX



ALRP representative, Eric Bull, is presented with a check from Real Bad XX Event Chair, Leif Wauters.

On September 28th, **Real Bad XX**, the Folsom Street Fair After-Party presented by **Grassroots Gay Rights West**, raised record proceeds of over \$160,000 for San Francisco organizations. ALRP's dedicated volunteers were up till dawn assisting with the preparation and organization of this successful nine-hour leather celebration. As proud benefactors of Real Bad XX, ALRP was presented with over \$22,000 in order to provide legal services to those living with HIV/AIDS!

### CASTRO STREET FAIR

On October 5th, over 30 ALRP volunteers donated over 100 hours to join the ALRP team in collecting donations at the gate of the **Castro Street Fair**. The proceeds benefited ALRP and other AIDS service and Castro community based organizations. ALRP is grateful to be a part of the event and thanks its dedicated volunteers!

Megan Corcoran, Jaime Rush, and Diana Camacho selling tickets with volunteer David Barenchi.



### From The Heart 25th ANNUAL RECEPTION & AUCTION

With over 300 guests in attendance, ALRP celebrated its 25th Anniversary on November 13th at the Palace Hotel. The night's event included a silent and live auction, keynote speaker **Associate Justice Carlos R. Moreno, Esq.**, and the presentation of ALRP's 2008 awards. Honorees included **Frederick C. Hertz, Esq.**, **Stephen A. Sommers Esq.**, and **Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP**. The event was the most successful ALRP fundraiser to date, raising over \$158,00, thanks to the generosity of our supporters.



Board Co-Chairs Marti Simon, Esq., and Greg Curatolo and ALRP Director, Bill Hirsh, with Attorney of the Year Honoree, Steven Sommers, Esq.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We invite all long-standing and new volunteers to come join the fun at these upcoming events:

**VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY**  
April 16

**ALRP ADVOCATES CLUB Thank You PARTY**  
May 20

**AIDS WALK: LEGAL EAGLES TEAM**  
July 19

**CASTRO STREET FAIR**  
October 4th

**ALRP ANNUAL RECEPTION & AUCTION**  
October 14

To sign-up or for questions please contact Diana Camacho, at [diana@alrp.org](mailto:diana@alrp.org) or (415)701-1200 ext. 303.

### Board Notes

ALRP is pleased to welcome **Robert Millar, Esq.**, of **Davis Wright Termaine, LLP** to ALRP's Board of Directors!

Other Board changes include, **Enrique A. Monagas, Esq.**, as the new Board Secretary, and **Matthew S. Gray, Esq.**, as the new Board Treasurer.

ALRP would also like to thank departing Board members **James Campbell, Melissa Chan, Esq.**, **BJ Chisholm, Esq.**, and **Shawn D. Parrish, Esq.**, for their service and efforts to protect the legal rights of people with HIV/AIDS.

## SHOP FOR YOUR MOMS, DADS & GRAD!

Looking for a great gift to give your Mom, Dad or Grad this spring?

Purchase **The Bracelet** from the *Until There's A Cure Foundation*.



Visit [www.until.org](http://www.until.org) to order, or to see more bracelet styles. Help ALRP be there for our clients, until there's a cure...



### SHOP ONLINE at [www.IGive.com/ALRP](http://www.IGive.com/ALRP)

Simply sign up at [www.IGive.com/ALRP](http://www.IGive.com/ALRP). Then shop at your favorite online store and the donation to ALRP is automatic.

Up to 27% of your purchases are donated to ALRP.

Shop at over 680 brand name stores, including Barnes & Noble, Best Buy, eBay, GAP, HSN, Lands End, Nordstrom, Overstock.com, QVC, Target, and many more.



For more info visit [www.IGive.com/ALRP](http://www.IGive.com/ALRP) today.

## GREAT WAYS TO SUPPORT ALRP THIS SPRING

At ALRP, our goal is to make it easy for you to support our programs. We offer a wide variety of donation options for your convenience:

### DONATE to ALRP's Enduring Heart Individual Donor Campaign

Help ALRP commemorate 26 years of service to our clients by supporting our 2009 *Enduring Heart* campaign. Send a contribution directly to us at ALRP, 1663 Mission Street, Suite 500, San Francisco, CA 94103. Or contact us for a reply envelope to be mailed to you. Or make a donation ONLINE – just click “Donate Now” on the home page at [www.alrp.org](http://www.alrp.org).



### Get your Firm/Company to Match Your Gift

One of the most effective ways to make a donation is through your firm or company. Let us help you in determining whether some of the following options might be available through your firm or company:

- Charitable giving programs
- Matching gift programs, which can double your gift or more
- Pro-bono services, including access to or underwriting of a Lexis/Nexis subscription

### Donate Your Car

With the *ALRP Car Donation Program*, you can get a big tax break, FREE IRS and DMV paperwork, and FREE pick-up (in most cases). To donate your car, truck, boat or RV, call our car auction partner, **Bizzarro Auctions**, at (866) 273-5898, or contact ALRP.

### Include ALRP in Your Planned Giving and Estate Planning

Join the *ALRP Angels Legacy Society* by naming ALRP in your will or trust.

### Designate ALRP through United Way or Workplace Donor Initiatives

- United Way now uses addresses for designations, instead of codes. Please designate ALRP by including our address: 1663 Mission, Suite 500, San Francisco.
- If you are a federal or state employee, you can designate ALRP through the Combined Federal Campaign and the California State Employee's Charitable Campaign. Look for ALRP in your campaign directory.

### SHOP for ALRP this Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Graduation Season!

- Shop online at [www.IGive.com/ALRP](http://www.IGive.com/ALRP) - visit all your favorite stores like eBay, Barnes & Noble, Lands End, OfficeMax, PriceLine.com, ProFlowers, Sharper Image, and Target – and up to 27% of your purchases goes directly to ALRP.
- Or visit [www.until.org](http://www.until.org) and shop for beautiful bracelets, key chains and lapel pins from **Until There's A Cure Foundation** – proceeds benefit AIDS agencies, ALRP included!
- Or stop by **UNDER ONE ROOF**, at its NEW LOCATION at 518A Castro Street (between 18th & 19th) in San Francisco – a unique gift store where all sales benefit local AIDS organizations.
- Feeling handy? **COLE HARDWARE** has three locations in San Francisco – 956 Cole Street (at Parnassus), 3312 Mission Street (at 29th Street) and 70 Fourth Street (at Market) – and will credit your purchase to ALRP's charitable account.
- You can also donate thrift items to **COMMUNITY THRIFT**, at 623 Valencia (at 17th Street) in San Francisco, and designate ALRP as the benefiting charity of proceeds from the sale of your donation while getting a year-end tax deduction.

## BE A “TEN” and JOIN THE PARTY



ALRP has launched the 2009 *Enduring Heart Individual Donor Campaign*, an initiative aimed at securing donations to help keep our free legal services available this year.

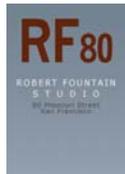
Campaign donors who donate \$250 or more before April 30th are invited to join us for “TEN”, our invitation-only *Advocates Club Thank You Party* being held from 6-8pm on May 20th at RF-80:

- Mix it up with TEN Special Guests including Dennis Herrera and Donna Sachet
- Enjoy Fine Wines and our special *Advocates’ Cosmo* Vodka Drink
- Feast on TEN delicious Catered Foods and Desserts
- Have a chance to Win one of TEN Bottles of Champagne
- Take home an *Advocates Club* Gift Bag featuring TEN gift items

Donations can be made at [www.alrp.org](http://www.alrp.org) or at the door. See you at “TEN!”

Special Thanks to our “TEN” *Advocates Club* Thank You Party Sponsors:

GUY KORNBUM &  
ASSOCIATES  
ATTORNEYS



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## ALRP ADDS ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY VENDOR TO LSDP



ALRP is proud to announce our new partnership with **Advanced Discovery Services (ADS)** as the second legal services provider in the ALRP Legal Services Donation Program (LSDP). ADS joins **U.S. Legal Support, Inc.**, who has already donated almost \$10,000 through the LSDP.

ADS provides a full range of electronic discovery solutions and is donating 3% of all LSDP revenue generated from participating law firms and Panel Attorneys. U.S. Legal Support donates \$10.00 for each deposition and \$2.00 per location for record retrievals. Both ADS and U.S. Legal Support offer special LSDP program pricing and excellent customer service.

To participate or to schedule a FREE LSDP lunch-n-learn presentation in your office, contact ALRP development director Jim McBride at [jim@alrp.org](mailto:jim@alrp.org).

## More Shopping

### FIND GREAT GIFTS UNDER ONE ROOF



Shop at **UNDER ONE ROOF** at 518A Castro between 18th & 19th. The store is open from 10am-9pm daily.

Or visit [www.underoneroof.org](http://www.underoneroof.org). Help raise funds for AIDS agencies, including ALRP.

*Shop for a cause!*

### CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSET

Do your Spring Cleaning and help ALRP.

Recycle your clothing and household items at **COMMUNITY THRIFT**.



Simply drop off your items at **623 Valencia Street** at **17th** and list ALRP Code 230.

Donate any day from 10am-5pm.

Visit [www.community-thriftsf.org](http://www.community-thriftsf.org) for listing of acceptable items.

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to receive so much help. But I learned that it's better to accept the help and appreciate them for what they did."

Mr. Alfaro is thrilled with the result and relieved to have put this behind him. He says, "The experience has allowed me to move on. I really think my health has improved since I started working with my attorneys because my stress has been reduced so significantly. I am so grateful for their time and generosity to me."

The attorneys feel the same about Mr. Alfaro. They report that they had a great experience. They found an opportunity to learn about a new and interesting area of the law, and to work with a client who was generous and cooperative at all stages of the case. They add that it was rewarding to recognize that their work made a significant difference in Mr. Alfaro's life. Since finishing up their work together, Mr. Alfaro reports that he has been looking for a way to show his gratitude to the attorneys at Kecker & Van Nest and ALRP. "Alyse, Audrey and Dan have my sincere appreciation, as does the staff at ALRP. The frustrations I was feeling are gone, and I can finally focus on my life, my health, my studies—all the things that really matter."

## "Shining Acts of Compassion..."

Justice Carlos R. Moreno's Keynote Remarks from  
ALRP's *From the Heart* 25th Annual Reception & Auction



ALRP was privileged to have California Supreme Court Associate Justice Carlos R. Moreno speak at its 25th Anniversary Reception. Following is an excerpt from his inspiring remarks.

"For a quarter-century, this public interest law office has ably represented people living with AIDS and HIV infection. As you know, the face of the epidemic and the needs of ALRP's clients have changed dramatically since 1983, when ALRP began its work. Today, new and effective drug regimens mean that people with AIDS and HIV infection are living longer and their legal needs are more complex than the simple estate planning, which was the reason ALRP was originally formed. Back then, HIV infection was widely viewed as a death sentence and those who were infected were all too often viewed as modern-day lepers. It is worth revisiting those dark ages to underscore the courage of ALRP's staff and volunteer lawyers in taking on these clients.

"In 1983, the causes and course of AIDS were still largely unknown, but what was known was that HIV infection had struck hardest among gay men. Despite the political strides that the gay and lesbian community had made in the preceding 10 years, the emergence of AIDS among gay men would demonstrate that prejudice toward them was alive and well. As I wrote in my 2006 dissent in *John B. v. Superior Court* [(2006) 38 Cal.4th

1177, 1215]: 'AIDS is unique in the opprobrium with which those infected with HIV are viewed, in part because one of the populations most at risk has been traditionally stigmatized on the basis of sexual orientation.'

"It is true that some measures taken in those early days — like equipping San Francisco police officers with special masks and gloves when they were dealing with 'a suspected AIDS patient' — reflected the uncertainty about how the virus was transmitted. But there were other actions that were clearly motivated as much by animus against the victims of AIDS as by any health concern.

"Some of the events of 1983 illustrate my point. For example, in 1983 the New York Health Commissioner reported that landlords were evicting people with AIDS, and funeral directors were refusing to embalm the bodies of those who had died from the disease. 1983 was also the year that Jerry Falwell called AIDS "the judgment of God," and the media routinely characterized the disease as the "gay plague." It was the year when the first case of AIDS dumping was reported, after Florida officials gave an indigent man with AIDS a one-way ticket to San Francisco, where he died. In short, 1983 was a year of panic and hysteria that threatened to leave many AIDS victims homeless, jobless and without medical care. 1983 was also the year when nearly half of those diagnosed with AIDS died.

"It was against this backdrop of ignorance and fear that ALRP came into being. As I mentioned, ALRP was originally formed as a resource for those dying of AIDS to receive emergency wills and powers of attorney. Behind that simple fact lies a tragic

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Panel Attorney Spotlight: Jason Wolford & Joel Liberson- Continued from pg.1

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and realized the great passion they had for their pro bono clients. Since leaving Gordon & Rees, these two have joined forces and started their own firm, Liberson & Wolford, LLP. They are incredibly enthusiastic about using their considerable legal talents to represent the underserved in our community.

They found their way to ALRP through volunteer work with the Volunteer Legal Services Program of the Bar Association of San Francisco. Since joining the Panel in 2006, the dynamic duo has been very active, handling dozens of cases in a variety of legal areas including: landlord/tenant, insurance, torts, employment, and employee benefits.

Both Jason and Joel come to ALRP with a cumulative arsenal of experience. Joel is a CPA and former stock broker/financial consultant while Ja-

son holds a Master's Degree in Environmental Law and has worked extensively in civil litigation on behalf of corporations and businesses.

Their success in representing their clients derives from the approach they take in working to understand the unique needs of each client, with care and with patience. Though sometimes their clients' lives are turbulent, Jason and Joel try to help them focus on removing barriers and finding a positive solution.

ALRP also sees them as an invaluable resource for their infectious enthusiasm and their dedication to clients, which is an inspiration to all of us in the HIV/AIDS legal community. Our sincerest thanks to Jason Wolford and Joel Liberson for their tireless work on behalf of ALRP's clients living with HIV/AIDS!

way to rebuild their lives.

This is why they need an advocate on their side. Now is not the time to reduce services; in fact, our services are needed more than ever. And with your continued support, ALRP will be there to help our clients when they are desperately reaching out for our help. There are any number of things you can do to help, and I trust that you will. Because community support for ALRP – your support – has been extraordinary both in its depth, and in its duration. And because you, and our clients, put your trust in us.

"Shining Acts of Compassion..." - Continued from previous page

reality. Many of the first victims of AIDS were young men in their 20s and 30s, decades away from giving any thought to estate planning, who were suddenly faced with their mortality, and all the issues associated with death. But it was not the dying alone who needed ALRP's help. Because no state in the United States, including California, gave any legal recognition to same-sex unions, there was no provision for the victims' life partners to make decisions about medical care or to protect the surviving partner's interest in his partner's estate. It was in response to these urgent needs that ALRP came into being and its first volunteer lawyers went to the hospitals and sickrooms of the city to help their clients.

"It is a testament to the changing

face of HIV that estate planning, which once made up almost all of ALRP's work, now makes up only 10 percent. Today, 25 years after ALRP was formed, the focus of its staff and volunteer attorneys is helping people who are living with AIDS, not dying of it. ALRP's volunteer lawyers provide access to the court for ordinary people and demonstrate that equal protection of the law is not just a slogan but a reality. ALRP also provides members of the bar with an opportunity to provide public service and this, in turn, contributes to a more positive view of the legal profession by the general public. Of course, for those volunteer lawyers there are the tremendous personal rewards of making a positive difference in the lives of their clients.

"Over the past 25 years, so many people afflicted with HIV and AIDS have fallen beside the road, abandoned by their friends, family and society. The sometimes shameful treatment of people with HIV infection is one of the darker episodes of recent American history. But this darkness has also been illuminated by the shining acts of compassion of those who have looked upon the sufferings of people with AIDS and HIV and have seen, not strangers, but neighbors in need of help. Since 1983, rendering that help has been the work of ALRP's staff, volunteers and donors and I am proud to be here and to share in this celebration of that work."

For a complete version of the Key-note remarks, visit [www.alrp.org](http://www.alrp.org).



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Diana Camacho

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# Upcoming ALRP Events



**ALRP VOLUNTEER  
APPRECIATION PARTY**  
Thursday, APRIL 16  
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP  
Celebrate ALRP's volunteers!



**REAF *Help Is On The Way*  
15th ANNIVERSARY GALA**  
Sunday, AUGUST 2  
Herbst Theatre, SF  
Save the date!



**"TEN" - The ALRP ADVOCATES  
CLUB Thank You PARTY**  
Wednesday, MAY 20  
RF-80 (80 Missouri at 16th)  
You don't want to miss this one...



**CASTRO STREET FAIR**  
Sunday, OCTOBER 4  
Castro at Market  
Come help us collect donations.



**2009 AIDSWalk**  
Sunday, JULY 19  
Golden Gate Park  
Join the ALRP Legal Eagles Team!



**ALRP *From the Heart* 26th  
ANNUAL RECEPTION & AUCTION**  
Thursday, OCTOBER 14  
War Memorial Building/Green Room  
Be there to commemorate ALRP's 26th!