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Matt Foreman, Long-time LGBTQ National Leader, Named to Succeed Bill Hirsh as AIDS Legal Referral Panel (ALRP) Executive Director

September 25, 2023. The AIDS Legal Referral Panel (ALRP), which has provided free and low-cost legal assistance to people living with HIV/AIDS in California's Bay Area, has named Matt Foreman, a nationally recognized LGBTQ leader, to succeed Bill Hirsh as the organization's executive director. Mr. Hirsh has led ALRP for the last 24 years. The organization is celebrating its 40th Anniversary at its Annual Reception on October 19, where Mr. Hirsh will be honored and Mr. Foreman will be formally introduced to the ALRP community.

"We are profoundly grateful for Bill's extraordinary leadership over the last quarter-century and also excited to have Matt come on board to continue and build on ALRP's unique record of serving people living with HIV/AIDS over the last four decades," said the organization's co-chairs, Jaclyn "Jackie" Gross and Scott Zimmermann.

"We can never adequately thank Bill for his exceptional visionary and tenacious leadership over the last quarter-century. During his tenure, the staff doubled, our budget increased five-fold, we provided critical legal assistance to over 20,000 individuals, and ALRP became a trusted community partner with a national reputation for exceptional, sensitive, and robust client services," said Ms. Gross and Mr. Zimmermann.

"ALRP has been my life's passion and I will always be profoundly grateful to everyone who has given so much to enable ALRP to help those in need, including our board members, staff, and volunteers," Mr. Hirsh said.

Foreman brings a wealth of leadership experience to ALRP. He has held leadership positions in the LGBTQ community for more than 30 years, including serving as the Executive Director of the NYC Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, the Empire State Pride Agenda (New York State's LGBT political advocacy organization), and the National LGBTQ Task Force. For the last 15 years, he has led the LGBT Equality Program at the Evelyn & Walter Haas, Jr. Fund, one of the largest philanthropic funders of LGBT civil rights across the nation. (After a successful 23-year run, the Haas, Jr. Fund is winding down its LGBT program at the end of 2023.)

"I am deeply honored to be joining ALRP's extraordinary team of staff, board, and volunteers, especially at this critical time when people living with HIV/AIDS are facing ever-increasing challenges," Foreman said. "ALRP is known nationwide for providing excellent, robust, and successful legal representation for people living with HIV/AIDS, 95% of whom have very limited income and face a wide variety of injustices as a result of broken and hostile systems. I'm looking forward to sustaining and building on this stellar record."

Foreman starts his position on October 16. He and Mr. Hirsh will work together through the end of the year to ensure a smooth leadership transition.

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