upcoming events

Free Immigration MCLE
March 11, BASF JDC
Presented by Gene Sverdlov, Esq: Removal Defense Waivers and Prosecutorial Discretion: Getting the Results You Want in Immigration Court. Includes sample forms and submissions. 1.5 General credits. learn more

Free Substance Abuse MCLE
March 26, BASF JDC
Presented by David Mann, JD. This training provides an overview of how to prevent, detect, and treat addiction and alcoholism through a case study of an addict attorney. 1.5 Substance Abuse credits. learn more

Board Emeritus Party
April 2, Morrison & Foerster LLP
By Invitation Only. Join us to (re)connect with past and present ALRP Board members. learn more

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Staff Departure: Dmitri Pikman Leaves ALRP

guiding clients on their path to citizenship

Despite its imperfections, San Francisco is often a safe refuge for HIV+ and LGBT people who have experienced extreme persecution in their countries of origin. ALRP Panel attorney Cara Jobson is one of the attorneys who help refugees remain lawfully in the Bay Area.

ALRP clients have told us horrific stories of abuse, gang violence, and even sexual assault resulting from the disclosure of their sexual orientations and gender identities. Others have shared the difficulty of accessing HIV/AIDS-specific medications in countries with resource-poor or developing health systems. Maria, one of our immigration clients, is no exception to this unfortunate rule. A transgender woman born in Mexico, Maria came to the U.S. over 25 years ago with hopes of living a more open and authentic life than what was possible in Mexico. With the help of several volunteer attorneys, Maria has walked the long road from undocumented individual to long term permanent resident.

Now ALRP Panel attorney Cara Jobson is working hard to assist Maria in taking the last step: citizenship.

Cara Jobson, one half of the San Francisco firm Wiley & Jobson, has had a remarkably long commitment to the rights of LGBT immigrants, particularly in the area of asylum. Handling dozens of asylum cases a year and being heavily involved with LGBT legal organizations such as the National Center for Lesbian Rights and Pride Law Fund, Cara’s expertise makes her an invaluable asset to ALRP and our clients. In the eight years that Cara has been on our Panel, she has done truly exceptional work for ALRP. Read more about that work in the interview below.

ALRP: What inspired you to become an immigration attorney?

Cara: I worked as a legal assistant in an immigration law office before I’d ever considered law school. Defending people facing deportation was so rewarding that I decided to go to law school and have been practicing immigration law ever since. It is a privilege to be able to help people in any capacity and I find it very rewarding to be able to be a part of making a concrete difference in people’s lives.
**Volunteer Appreciation Party**
April 16, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP
Join us as we recognize you for the hard work you do on behalf of people living with HIV/AIDS. [learn more]

**Major Donor Party**
May 20, The Plant Cafe - Pier 3
Come celebrate the ALRP You’re the One Campaign with fellow supporters while enjoying food and wine. ALRP will be honoring Kerne Matsubara, Esq. and BALIF. [learn more]

**AIDS Walk**
July 19, Golden Gate Park
Over the last 29 years AIDS Walk SF has raised over $85 million for HIV/AIDS services. Join the ALRP Legal Eagles team and help us raise funds for our programs. [learn more]

**Up Your Alley Street Fair**
July 26, Dog Alley
Volunteer with ALRP at this leather and kink street fair. [learn more]

**Folsom Street Fair**
September 27, Folsom St.
Volunteer with ALRP at the world’s biggest leather, kink, and fetish festival. [learn more]

**ALRP: How did you find the AIDS Legal Referral Panel?**
**Cara:** I found ALRP through other Bay Area non-profits. ALRP is such an integral part of the support network for immigrants, particularly LGBT immigrants. I can’t recall a time that support network hasn’t been important to clients’ lives.

**ALRP: You have led several continuing education trainings for ALRP and similar organizations. What have you learned from being an MCLE presenter – how has it influenced your work in the office?**
**Cara:** It is always an inspiration to see the volunteer attorneys and to be a part of giving them skills and information that is going to be turned around and used to help the immigrant community.

A lot of my involvement with ALRP has also been mentoring other attorneys, which has been very rewarding. Through mentoring and taking on pro bono clients I see a broad spectrum of immigration cases, including asylum based on HIV status, gender identity, and sexual orientation. The range of cases really reflects the needs in the community.

**ALRP: We referred an immigration client named Maria to you in the end of 2014. What work have you done so far and what are the next steps?**
**Cara:** I was recently brought into the case to help with naturalization which will really be the culmination of a long struggle for her as she has been in the U.S. for over 25 years. Other volunteer attorneys had helped her get asylum based on her gender identity. She’s faced a lot of challenges including long-time undocumented status, serious mental health issues, medical problems, and financial hardship. We sought and were granted a fee waiver and are seeking a waiver of the English language requirement based on a doctor’s recommendation. Her citizenship interview is coming up soon and we are hopeful for a positive result.

**ALRP: How do you see new developments in immigration law affecting ALRP clients?**
**Cara:** Obama’s November 20, 2014 announcement regarding executive action is a positive step forward that can make a huge difference in the lives of people who came here as children or who have children in the U.S. However, the executive action is temporary and it is limited in that it leaves out long term residents who don’t have children. We continue to need more permanent immigration reform from Congress that will be more inclusive.

Cara received her J.D. from UC Berkeley and her B.A. in Latin American Studies from UC Santa Cruz. She also attended the Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolas de Hidalgo in the state of Michoacan, Mexico, where she studied Mexican history and literature. Her other pro bono activities include serving as a Mentor Attorney at the Pro-Bono Asylum Program of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and a Volunteer Attorney at La Raza Centro Legal Immigration Clinic. Learn more about Cara’s work or get in touch by visiting www.wileyjobson.com.

### director’s message

#### Getting to Zero

A new year has begun and we are fortunate to see some glimmers of hope in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

With its increased staffing, ALRP has been able to handle more cases, especially in the areas of housing and immigration, where there is great unmet need for legal services.

Additionally, the City is contemplating increased capacity to serve people with HIV by committing to a goal of Getting To Zero: zero new HIV transmissions, zero deaths from HIV, and zero stigma. This is welcome news to ALRP and the other San Francisco HIV/AIDS service
providers who have spent the last several years fighting budget cuts. But Getting To Zero is no small task, and it will require considerable resources to make a catchy name become a reality.

With new tools to prevent the spread of HIV, including the use of PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis), San Francisco can realistically envision a day when we will drop from 300 new HIV cases a year to zero. Prevention, however, is not the only goal. Keeping folks in treatment is essential for San Francisco to reach the goal of zero deaths from HIV, and the required healthcare changes extend beyond increasing accessibility to HIV/AIDS specific medications. Many people living with HIV/AIDS have multiple diagnoses and there is much more that the City needs to do in terms of mental health and substance abuse treatment. We also have to ensure that everyone living with HIV has access to and can remain in stable affordable housing.

While one would hope that in San Francisco we would no longer experience discrimination against people with HIV, that is not the case – ignorance and fear are alive and well. The goal of eliminating HIV stigma is lofty but vital.

Unfortunately, the budget battles are still not over. Years of funding cuts have taken their toll on service providers even as our clients face greater needs. Despite these hurdles, ALRP is grateful to be in a city that has long led the world in how to address the AIDS epidemic, and we are committed to the fight for as long as our clients need our help.

**past events**

**Academy of Friends Oscar Night Gala**

Academy of Friends celebrated its 35th annual Gala on February 22, 2015 at the San Francisco Design Center Galleria. ALRP was proud to be a beneficiary of this important event that supports Bay Area organizations serving people living with HIV/AIDS.

The evening featured delicious food, an unforgettable performance by the cast of *Newsies*, and a wax statue of Neil Patrick Harris courtesy of *Madame Tussauds Wax Museum*. This is not to mention the small army of flat screens tuned to the awards so attendees didn’t miss any of the action while chatting with friends or exploring the two floors of wine and gourmet treats.

A fellow beneficiary, *The HIV Story Project*, graciously created beautifully crafted promotional videos for each of the beneficiaries that aired during the Awards’ commercial breaks. Click on the image below to view the video.

We hope those who joined us at the Galleria were impacted by the large number of people who enthusiastically support protecting the rights and livelihoods of people living with HIV/AIDS. If you weren’t able to attend, we hope you’ll consider volunteering or purchasing a ticket next year.
All orders must be received by FRIDAY, MARCH 27 to guarantee delivery for Passover (April 4) and Easter (April 5).

For more information, click here. To place an order, please contact Kimberly Hathaway: (415) 994-1097 or kimberly@thathawaypr.com.

*Easter/Passover Special Offer: All case orders receive a FREE set of ALRP stemless wine glasses.

Happy Easter!

quick links

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We've Got This! Health Access Conference

We've Got This! Health Access for HIV+ Older Adults an event co-sponsored by ALRP, took place on February 26, 2015, at The SF LGBT Center.

The event provided information and assistance navigating the often overwhelming world of health access under the Affordable Care Act, specifically tailored to the needs and experiences of older people living with HIV. Gina Gemello, ALRP’s HIV Consumer Advocacy Project (HCAP) attorney, spoke on the Healthcare Access panel. The audience largely consisted of people who are currently on publicly funded health insurance programs, such as MediCal and MediCare. Gina shared how ALRP offers a safeguard for people who were denied or are having trouble accessing those services.

Staff attorneys John Fasesky and Brandon Lawrence also attended We’ve Got This!, representing ALRP at the event’s tabling fair. They conducted direct intakes with potential clients.

Amongst the other community organizations represented at the event were Acria, Alliance Health Project (UCSF), California Health Advocates (HICAP), Curry Senior Center, Institute on Aging, Let’s Kick Ass, Mission Wellness, On Lok Lifeways, Openhouse, Positive Resource Center, and Project Open Hand.
ALRP 2015 VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY
Thursday, April 16
6:00pm - 8:00pm
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP

Please join ALRP for a celebratory evening of warm thanks and deep appreciation in recognition of the important work you do on behalf of people living with HIV/AIDS.

We will formally acknowledge our volunteers who in 2014:

- Joined the ALRP Panel
- Accepted five or more referrals
- Presented an MCLE training
- Volunteered in our office or at events
- Supported ALRP’s Pro Bono Connections Initiative (PBCI)
- Served on ALRP’s Panel for 10, 15, 20, 25, or 30 years

To RSVP, e-mail alext@alrp.org or call (415) 701-1200 x303

ALRP 2015 MAJOR DONOR PARTY
Wednesday, May 20
5:30-7:30pm at The Plant Cafe

Come celebrate the ALRP You’re the One Campaign at ALRP’s 2015 Major Donor Party.

ALRP is honoring Kerne Matsubara of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP with the ALRP 2015 James C. Hormel Philanthropist Award and Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF) is being presented the ALRP 2015 Community Partner Award.
Take in the fabulous views, savor delicious food and wine (cash bar available) and network with friends and colleagues.

Suggested minimum donation is $500. If you already made a $500+ gift to the ALRP You’re the One Campaign this year, please RSVP as our guest. If you haven’t contributed yet, you can do so by May 18th at www.alrp.org or simply donate at the door.

RSVP to Jim McBride at jim@alrp.org or (415) 701-1200 ext. 301.

We hope to see you there!

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### legal services donation program

Does your firm order electronic discovery services, schedule depositions, or purchase subpoena preparation or record retrieval services? ALRP has partnered with [Advanced Discovery](#) and [Barkley Court Reporters](#) to raise critically needed funds for our programs through our Legal Services Donation Program (LSDP).

**Advanced Discovery** is a leading litigation support company which provides a full range of electronic discovery solutions and document management and review services. Advanced Discovery is donating 3% of all revenue generated from firms participating in the LSDP to ALRP. For Document Review Service Projects, Advanced Discovery is donating $500 for the first $10,000 in project revenue and $100 for each $10,000 thereafter. **Contact:** Meggan Capps (415) 780-9584

**Barkley Court Reporters** has provided quality court reporting, e-Repository, videography/videoconferencing, and trial preparation services for over 40 years, and is the first and only Certified Green Court Reporting Firm in the U.S. For each deposition completed for new AND existing cases, Barkley Court Reporters is now donating $25.00 per deposition (increased from $10). **Contact:** Michael Sporn (415) 215-1134

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### staff departure

**Staff Attorney Dmitri Pikman Leaves ALRP**

ALRP was sad to say goodbye to Dmitri Pikman who left ALRP last month. A staff attorney who primarily focused on eviction defense, Dmitri has done an immeasurable amount of work for our clients and will surely be missed. Dmitri is a graduate of UC Hastings and began his involvement with ALRP as a law clerk in 2009 before being hired as a full time staff member in 2012. He is now working as an immigration attorney at Pearl Law Group in downtown San Francisco. Exhibiting his tireless dedication to people living with HIV/AIDS, Dmitri intends to stay involved with ALRP as a volunteer Panel attorney.
upcoming events

AIDS Walk
July 19, 2015

Since 1987, AIDS Walk San Francisco has inspired thousands of people to walk, millions more to donate, and has raised over $84 million to fight HIV/AIDS. The funds raised at the event enable HIV/AIDS service organizations like ALRP provide prevention, care, and advocacy programs for thousands of men, women, and children living with HIV/AIDS.

Over the last 10 years, ALRP has experienced a 50% increase in the number of people coming to us for legal help. Additionally, foundation and corporate funding for ALRP’s free legal services for people with HIV/AIDS is way down this year. ALRP is counting on individual donors like YOU to help us make up this funding shortfall, so we can keep our legal services available for our clients.

Please JOIN the ALRP Legal Eagles Team now – simply go to the ALRP Legal Eagles Team page and sign up. It’s that easy! All ALRP Legal Eagle Team Members receive a FREE ALRP water bottle. If you can’t join our team, please consider making a donation to support the ALRP Legal Eagles.

2015 Schedule of Events:
9:00 a.m. Sign-In and Awards Open
9:30 a.m. Aerobic Warm-Up
9:45 a.m. Opening Ceremony
10:30 a.m. AIDS Walk San Francisco Begins!
12:00 p.m. KidZone Opens
12:30 p.m. Post Walk Concert (performers TBA)

Location: The AIDS Walk will start and end in Sharon Meadow in Golden Gate Park.

Length: 10 kilometers/6.2 miles

Directions and Parking:
Public transportation is recommended due to the limited amount of street parking. The following MUNI bus lines stop near the entrance to the park at Stanyan: 5 Fulton, 7 Haight, 21 Hayes, 33 Stanyan, 71 Noriega (at Lincoln), and N Judah (bus before 8 a.m., train after 8 a.m.). The 37 Corbett and 43 Masonic stop about two blocks from the park entrance at Haight and Cole.

Visit AIDSwalk.net/sanfran for more information. If you need help joining or donating to our team, contact Jim McBride at jim@alrp.org.

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Folsom Street Events
July 2015 & September 2015

Looking for a volunteer opportunity this summer? Look no further than FOLSOM STREET FAIR! ALRP is a proud beneficiary of the 2015 Folsom Street Event’s summer-long leather and kink extravaganza. We invite you to join us at five of the city’s most outrageously fun events.
By volunteering at these events, you ensure that ALRP fulfills its volunteer obligation as a beneficiary while also helping us raise critically-needed funds to provide our free legal services for people living with HIV/AIDS. Contact Alex Taylor at alex@alrp.org to sign up or learn more.

**July 25, 2015**
The official Saturday night dance event of Up Your Alley. 10pm–4am. Factory 525 Harrison St.

**July 26, 2015**
Folsom Street Fair’s little brother where leather rules the streets of SOMA. 11am–6pm. On Dore Alley between Howard and Folsom.

**September 26, 2015**
The official Saturday night dance event of Folsom Street Fair. 9pm-4am. RIDE 900 Marin St.

**September 27, 2015**
The world’s largest leather event where fetish enthusiasts spread out over 13 city blocks. 11am–6pm. On Folsom St from 8th to 13th St.

**September 27, 2015**
The official closing party of Folsom Street Fair hosted by Honey Soundsystem.

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**Castro Street Fair**
October 4, 2015

Castro Street Fair takes place on Castro Street between 16th and 19th Street from 11am-6pm on Sunday, October 4, 2014.

Castro Street Fair is a family friendly event so feel free to bring along the whole gang. All volunteers age 14+ must register with Volunteer Coordinator Alex Taylor before the day of the fair.

The Fair is located in the heart of San Francisco’s Castro District, at the intersection of Market & Castro Streets and the surrounding area.
The Castro Street Fair is a community street celebration that was founded by Harvey Milk in 1974. Hundreds of local artists, vendors, craftspeople, and organizations line the streets and celebrate the diversity of the neighborhood. Stages with live entertainment and dance stages can be found throughout the fairgrounds. Entertainers this year include Peaches and The Monster Show.

The Fair is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization and all proceeds go directly to charitable causes important to the Castro community. Additionally, the Fair funds the rainbow flag that flies over the intersection of Castro and Market.