

Memorandum

From the Pro-Life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians
Spring 2006 Number 48

PRIDE EVENTS

PLAGAL will be participating in three different Pride events this year. We will have booths in Washington DC, Boston and San Francisco. We will be distributing various brochures and materials from PLAGAL as well as discussing our views with Pride participants. Board members will be at each event to head up the booth, but volunteers are always needed. If you are interested in helping with any of these events, please contact us.

Boston Pride - June 10, 2006, 12pm – 6pm in the Commons. Contact Maria Krasinski at fraulein_mt@yahoo.com or (603) 924-7449 to volunteer.

Capital Pride - June 11, 2006 11:30am – 7 pm in Washington, DC between 7th – 3rd streets and Constitution Ave on Pennsylvania Ave NW. Contact Jackie Malone at EscpTheMadnss@yahoo.com or 717-846-9971 to volunteer

San Francisco Pride - June 24, 2006 Noon – 6pm & 25, 2006 Noon- 7pm in San Francisco, CA at the Civic Center. Contact Jackie Malone at EscpTheMadnss@yahoo.com or 717-846-9971 to volunteer

PLAGAL Annual Meeting and Board Meeting

PLAGAL held its annual meeting and board meeting at the dignity center on January 22, 2006. To view the minutes from both meetings go to www.plagal.org go to the board members page.

Your new Board of Directors for the 2006 year are as follows:

Cecilia Brown, Steve Cook, Bill Crow, Rick Hoffman, Maria Krasinski, Jackie Malone, Dave Styers, Ken Teise, Marc Zappala

Your officers are as follows:

President- Cecilia Brown
Exec VP- Jackie Malone
Treasurer- Dave Styers
Ass Treasurer- Bill Crow

Bits and Pieces by Cecilia Brown, President

The past year has been such an exciting year for PLAGAL. We have been busy. We have seen an increase in membership as well as an increase on our volunteer base. Donations are up not just from direct mailing but from the Igive.com website and Network for Good as well. As you know we are a 100% volunteer organization. We have no paid individuals on our board or our officers. We also have no paid office personnel. That is why our accomplishments signify so much. PLAGAL has only been successful because we have so many volunteers who give selflessly of their time.

As an organization we returned to Boston Pride after a 10 year hiatus. PLAGAL has not been to Boston Pride since our booth was attacked in 1994. Our new website is up and running and it looks fabulous. It also gave us the ability to send Bulk e-mails from our administrative pages which simplifies our mailings considerably. PLAGAL had a presence at the West Coast March for Life, Ocala Florida Pro-life Event, as well as the March for Life in DC. PLAGAL has participated in the Democrats for Life Conference in Maryland, SBA reception after the March for Life as well as the SBA day of Women's voices held in April. PLAGAL held its first midyear meeting in Baltimore. We have two new brochures geared to the glbt community. We have had record number of speaking engagements, articles mentioning PLAGAL, interviews, and Blogs mentioning PLAGAL. We have been contacted by big names such as NPR radio, and Bill O'Reilly and Fox's 30days. The word of our existence is really getting out there. It is all because of our volunteers.

Check out the plagal website from time to time to keep up with important dates and changes. If you are not part of the official PLAGAL email list please consider doing so. This is not to be confused with the list serve that is a discussion list. Our official email list is an information only list and PLAGAL never sells or rents our membership list.

I am honored to serve another term as your president and I look forward to 2006 with excitement as we continue the progress that we have made in 2005.



March for Life DC 2006

Midyear Meeting

We know that not everyone can attend the annual meeting and March for Life in January. So it was decided that a midyear meeting should take place where PLAGALites can come together and meet and have fun. Every year a new location will be chosen to coincide with a pride event that PLAGAL will be participating in. This year PLAGAL will have the meet and greet for SF Pride. Look for more info at www.plagal.org.

Volunteers Opportunities

PLAGAL relies heavily on volunteers to accomplish its goals. Below are some opportunities to volunteer for PLAGAL that you can do from the comfort of your home.

Banner Design- PLAGAL has been without a banner since the arrest of our members at the March for Life several years ago. Purchasing a new banner was postponed until we chose a new logo design. Now that it has been chosen it is time to design a banner to carry proudly when we participate in various Marches. Banner must include our new logo, our website address and the words Human Rights Start When Human Life Begins. The banner must be small enough that two people can carry it easily with lightweight poles. We look forward to all creative designs to be sent to our email address at plagal@plagal.org or snail mailed to our PO Box.

College Data Base- PLAGAL is in the process of putting together a data base of college glbt and prolife student groups. We are in need of their snail mail address, email address, web address and phone number. We wish to promote our speakers bureau to these different groups. What is required is that you take a state or two and research all the colleges in that state and find out if they have a prolife or glbt organization on campus. If they do give us the info and we will do the rest. To volunteer for this just email us at plagal@plagal.org and let us know what state you can do.

PLAGAL Volunteers Recognized

It is with great appreciation that PLAGAL represents the following individuals for their volunteer efforts for PLAGAL. We are grateful for the time that they gave us. Without them we would not be successful.

Chris Hinkle – webmaster, copy editor
Marc Zappala – DC Pride
Sharone Belt – multiple tasks
Chuck Volz – produced new brochure
Mark Humphrey – website
Carl Johnson – website
Greg Hinkle – website
Carol Hoffman – Atlanta Pride
Mark H – Baltimore Pride
Mark Ranney – Atlanta Pride
Aaron Maloy- Boston Pride

Recognition of board members: Our Board members are responsible for the daily activities of PLAGAL not to mention speaking engagements, pride events, interviews etc...

Jackie Malone, Dave Styers, Bill Crow, Ken Teise, Maria Krasinski, Rick Hoffman, Steve Cook, Laurel Harris

Special Business Award

Netlink Resource Group once again received our Special Business Award for their support of PLAGAL. They continue to maintain our website and our administrative pages at no cost to PLAGAL. We are grateful for their support.

Tom Sena award

There were two nominations this year for the Tom Sena award. Sharone Belt and Jackie Malone were the nominees. Once the votes were all tallied and there was a tie, it was too difficult to choose between these two women since they were both worthy of the award. The decision was made to award this award to both of them.



The Tom Sena award is the highest honor that can be given to a PLAGAL member. It was named after our founder Tom Sena who was diligent in changing the status quo when it came to the issue of abortion within the GLBT community. To receive this award an individual must give outstanding service toward the Pro-life movement representative of the ideals and mission of the Pro-Life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians.

PLAGAL To Go Paperless

PLAGAL has always been frugal with the money that has been donated to us by our membership. To save money we decided to print the newsletter less often and to communicate most of the PLAGAL happenings by official PLAGAL email. The newsletter is our biggest expense. The money that is saved by going paperless would go towards our educational and service projects. PLAGAL will still offer hard copy newsletters to those who do not have email or access to a computer, with the priority going to our dues/donation paying members. Our goal was to have 75% of our members and friends paperless by December 2005. We have only achieved 50% at the time of this mailing. This is also an excellent opportunity to update our records and remove those from the mailing list that no longer wish to receive our newsletter. Snail mail addresses still need to be kept so that when PLAGAL plans an event in areas of the country we can contact individuals who may be interested. Please send the following to PO Box 16753, Alexandria, VA 22302

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Yes, Make me paperless my email address is:

No, I still wish my newsletter to come by snail mail

Remove me, I no longer wish to be on the mailing list

"Abortion does not address the basic inequalities, such as poverty and unequal pay, that make a woman believe she cannot have a baby. It's a cheap fix that leaves the woman as poor and oppressed as she ever was, while politicians claim to have struck a blow for women's rights and the doctors go home \$250 richer." --Jane Thomas Bailey

PLAGAL Membership Form

2006 DUES ARE NOW WELCOME

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Status: _____ member _____ mailing list only

Dues and Contributions

Annual dues: \$20.00 _____

Contribution: _____

PLAGAL is a 501c (3) organization. Donations are tax deductible as allowable by law. Make checks payable to PLAGAL.

Participation

I can represent PLAGAL by helping out at Pride and other LGBT events in my area.

I can represent PLAGAL by participating in events within the pro-life community.

I am willing to become a local contact for PLAGAL.

I am an articulate speaker and would love to become part of the PLAGAL's speaker's bureau.

I am willing to be part of a committee if needed.

I am a fabulous writer and would be willing to write op-ed articles and other things for PLAGAL.

Please return form to:

PO Box 16753

Alexandria, VA 22302

or email: plagal@plagal.org.

West Coast March for Life by Steve Cook

On January 21, 2006, the West Coast March for Life in San Francisco first began with four speakers: Serrin Foster, FFLA; Rev. Clenard Childress Director of LEARN, an African American pro-life group; and Star Parker, an African American woman from San Clemente CA who has her own radio talk show and is with an organization called Center for Urban Renewal (CURE), and Carol Crossed from Democrats for Life. A local paper estimated that there was double the 5,000 number of the previous year's march in this march and debated if this meant the pro-life movement is becoming "mainstream". The march went from the Ferry boat building (near Market Street) along the bay through tourist sections of Fisherman's Wharf and ended at the Marina's neighborhood. Behind me, where I was in the march, I saw an endless stream of pro-lifers without any end in sight. The march was in the streets most of the time (with all traffic blocked by the police), and there was a line of police on both sides of our march to protect us. I've never seen so many police at one event. There were a few hundreds of pro-abortion picketers on the sidewalks not allowed to come close to us, but some of them did leave the sidewalks at sight of me, in losing their self-control, because I carried two signs, one reading "Pro Life Alliance and Gays and Lesbians" and another reading "Killing children never advances gay rights. Human rights bi means of pro-life." Most of these pro-abortion picketers appeared to be male gay-rights activists, but there were numerous women, some verbally self-identifying themselves as being lesbian to me. Other women were holding individual signs that read, "I had an abortion". Some pro-life marchers sang "We Will Overcome" in the Martin Luther King, Jr. tradition, and many pro-life signs read, "Women deserve better than abortion." The very first group of pro-abortion picketers saw me in the midst of the march and screamed, "Oh, no! There's a gay man among them!" Screams of distress and shock riveted through the pro-abortion picketers. While some of their screaming and cussing sounded hateful, much of their screaming sounded like they were utterly surprised and shocked to see me in the march with my signs. "Why is he there?" they screamed in grief. One male screamed, "Traitor to the gay community!" while others joined the chant "Traitor! Traitor! Traitor!" Pro-lifers remarked to these people making remarks, "That sounds like rather fierce words".



One male pro-lifer asked the lesbians why they were picking on a gay man, and one lesbian broke through the police to talk to the pro-lifer with her answer after she had left the sidewalk and tried to intimate me verbally. Lesbians chanted "Shame! Shame!" to me. One pro-abortion man yelled that if I ever went to the Castro (gay) area, he would not be surprised to see me knocked to my knees. (I hope it was a warning, rather than a threat.) A pro-abortion man yelled to me, when seeing my PLAGAL sign, "Fucking fagots!" (in the plural, as he assumed there was more than one of me.) (I assume he might have been gay, but I'm not sure.) Pro-lifers began laughing at such intolerant language and wondered if they were in San Francisco. One pro-abortion woman tried to calm her peers, "He's all alone! Don't get upset!" Her peers screamed back, "But he's on the WRONG side!" with distress in their voices. A pro-abortion man ran up to me and identified himself as a "fag-boy" and asked why I was in the march. I handed him a pink PLAGAL pamphlet out of my bag as he said, "I don't believe it!" as he took the pamphlet, stopped, and began reading it. (I could not pass out much literature because we were told at the beginning of the march that all pro-lifers were not to pass out literature during the march, but after the march instead.) Pro-lifers in the march began patting me on the back and telling me that I was brave, while pro-abortion gay onlookers screamed in disapproval of my being patted by pro-lifers. Pro-abortion picketers began running beside me, off the sidewalk where they were suppose to stay. The police had to block these runners from me. Other pro-abortion picketers ran a block ahead to tell their peers, "A gay man is among them! Get ready! A gay man is among them!" Some of the same picketers at the beginning of the march kept re-appearing several times to taunt me, blocks ahead. It was obvious I was being singled out more than the rest of the marchers. A transsexual person showed bare feminine breasts to the pro-life marchers while saying, "If you don't want to see me, close your eyes!" The police told the person to cover up or else the person would be arrested for indecent exposure. At first, the transsexual person refused by saying, "Men can go topless". When it looked as if the person might be arrested, the person covered up and said, "The police can stop me from doing this" as he gave the finger to the pro-lifers. When the transsexual person saw my PLAGAL signs, the person screamed out, "Pro Life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians?!?" and went into crude antics, railing that was as much of a contradiction as the existence of gay police.

There were some apparent gay police protecting us pro-lifers. Channel 7 news came running up to me with a camera man and a woman interviewing me. The police were about to pull them away until they saw it was the media and let them be. I was interviewed all about PLAGAL and this pro-life march being inclusive, but none of it appeared on television as far as I know. Tourists took pictures of me with my signs. Pro-abortion picketers took pictures of me to identify me for the future. A Protestant man on the sideline with a loud speaker was saying, "You Roman Catholics in the march, you should not pray to Mary or Jude, but to God in the Name of Jesus. Is there anyone in the march who will step forward and say I am a Christian?" I was the only person that I saw that stepped out of the march and said, "I am a Christian!" When the man saw my PLAGAL sign, he went mute and could not speak anymore. The march was not necessarily religious, and there were many non-Roman Catholics present. I obviously broke stereo-type expectations, and not one single pro-lifer said anything negative to me whatsoever. The march was a positive experience

for me.

March for Life DC and SBA Reception

By Jackie Malone

The morning of the march was warmer than normal in DC, but the skies were overcast and it rained occasionally. Cecilia and I met 4 other PLAGAL members there. Due to a long pre-march presentation by a choir and various speakers, the march did not start until 2pm. We were standing in and around many other groups during this time and I didn't hear any negative comments about us and no one came up to us to directly say anything negative.

Cecilia and I had been invited to the Susan B Anthony reception at 2pm, so we had to leave before we had a chance to march. 2 other PLAGALites were able to participate in the march. At the reception, we heard a brief speech by Kate O'Beirn, author of "Women Who Make The World Worse", and afterwards had the opportunity to introduce ourselves and tell her a little bit about PLAGAL.

As we were leaving the reception, Cecilia was stopped by a woman who had noticed our shirts, Pro-Life and Proud. I stayed back and watched for a few minutes before coming closer and being able to hear the conversation. The woman was questioning Cecilia about being a lesbian and trying to convince her that not only was it a detrimental "lifestyle choice", but also tried to convert Cecilia to her own religion. She seemed to be a fundamentalist Christian from the conversation. Cecilia explained how she leaned towards Buddhist teachings and did a wonderful job of explaining how we each have our own path in life and we have to find that ourselves. As the woman kept trying to show that if Cecilia were to be a Christian that she would have no need to "choose" homosexuality, I piped into the conversation and let her know that I was a Christian. She asked me several questions and when she was satisfied that I truly was a Christian, she turned the questioning to me as to how I could "choose" this. She tried hard to convince me that I was heterosexual with a very close female friend. The conversation was going too long and I was concerned that Cecilia was going to miss her flight and that I was going to catch rush hour traffic going home. I told the woman that I was interested in continuing our conversation and gave her my card with e-mail address so that she could contact me. I haven't heard from her yet, but look forward to passing on the e-mails if we do talk again. At no point was she rude or mean, just very passionate about her own beliefs.

Overall this year was a good one at the march, though I'm sorry the pre-march activities took so long. I would really like to see a strong showing of PLAGALites next year at both this and the west coast march. We're being seen, we're being heard, and some people are even accepting us!

Shop online and help PLAGAL at the same time

Are you a person who shops online? Do you find that it is just plain easier to go online to shop and not mess around going from store to store looking for specific items? Would you like to see your online shopping dollars help a cause you believe in? Well you can shop at the Mall at iGive.com and help PLAGAL at the same time. There are over 330 well-known online stores. Places like PetsMart, Eddie Bauer, JCPenney, Toms of Maine, Green Market, Chadwick's, Hallmark...

HOW IT WORKS

1. Join to support Pro-life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians it's FREE, private, & easy
2. Shop the Mall at iGive.com -- You'll see familiar stores like the Gap, CDNow, JCPenney and more
3. Watch the \$\$ roll into PLAGAL -- up to 25% of EACH purchase gets donated!
4. Get involved with Six Degrees of Donation. Raise \$1 for each new shopper you refer! Use this link to JOIN FOR FREE and begin Supporting Pro-life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians:
<http://www.iGive.com/html/refer.cfm?memberid=261518&causeid=3636>.

MORE INCENTIVE

- 1st time buyer deals
- Excellent Prices and exclusive deals for members
- Free Shipping offers
- Six degrees of Donation to help your cause even further when you tell your friends to join
- Virtual Karma from supporting your favorite cause

Café Press



There has been a delay in getting the PLAGAL site on Café Press up and running. Watch our website for updates and hopefully before long you will be able to purchase cool stuff featuring our new logo.

Prolife Rally in Ocala Florida by Cecilia Brown

It has been almost two years since my move from Cleveland, Ohio to Ocala Florida. For those not familiar with Ocala it is considered the horse capital of the United States. It is rural and the majority of the population is made up of Christian conservatives. It was a culture shock for me. The area does have an abortion clinic along with a crisis pregnancy center and a home for pregnant teens. So I assumed that there must be an active prolife organization such as Right to Life here. I never dreamed that I would have such difficulties finding them. Right to Life operates here but it has no phone number, website or regular meetings. It was by accident that I came across a blurb in the local newspaper announcing the Ocala Right to Life Prolife Rally. Not being one to miss an opportunity to represent PLAGAL I decided to go.

I packed up my 7 month old grandson, put on my PLAGAL t-shirt and made up a sign that said "Not Your Traditional Prolifer" with the words liberal, green party member, consistently pro-life and gay underneath. It was a beautiful sunny day. I worked my way into the crowd. The event was different than most prolife events that I had been to. If you were anything but a Christian you were totally left out of the loop and were down right made to feel uncomfortable. I did not let that deter me.

It was not long before I was noticed and people started looking at my sign, looking at me, looking at my mixed raced grandson, looking back at the sign, looking back at me. Then they would whisper to each other. Look back at me and this went on for about an hour. I of course stood there smiling. Just waiting to see who would come up and talk to us. Finally my grandson was the draw that made them come up to me. He was a chick magnet so to speak except the chicks he was attracting was 60+ year old grandmothers who just could not wait any longer to find out what the deal was.

I explained to them that he is here with me because he was almost aborted by my daughter. I went on further to explain to them that it was because of my belief as a prolifer and my willingness to help raise him that saved his life. I talked about how being prolife without action was not enough. I explained to them about PLAGAL and the importance of why we exist. I certainly gave many something to talk about. One person running for office thanked me for being there. I was surprised because he was running on traditional family values held a strong held belief against homosexuality and especially gay marriage.

I did get the opportunity to introduce myself to a few of the Right to Life people who were all smiles until I introduced myself and told them about PLAGAL. I thought one woman was going to faint. When I pushed to get info on when the met, what they had going and how PLAGAL could get involved she was very curt with me. I was basically told that I had to look in the newspaper to get the info on meeting times.

I am not one to be deterred. Rest assured that I will be diligent on reading the paper and we will meet again.

A Special Gift for Our members.

As a special gift to those who pay their annual dues, PLAGAL is offering this beautiful key chain that sports our new logo on it. It also has printed on the back our web site address



www.plagal.org. The lapel pins that we offered last year were such a great conversation starter and was admired by so many people. We hope that the key chain will be equally as effective.

New PLAGAL Brochure

Attached is one of the newest PLAGAL brochures written by Chuck Volz titled "**Gay Rights And The Right To Privacy**" and is to be printed on lavender paper. It is full of useful facts and info that can be used when confronted by those within the glbt community when they argue that the right to abortion and the rights of members of the glbt community is one and the same right.

Look for our other brochures at the plagal website.

"It's not good for women to go through the procedure [abortion] and have something living sucked out of their bodies. It belittles women. Even though some women say, 'Oh, I don't mind to have one,' every time a woman has an abortion, it just crushes her self-esteem smaller and smaller and smaller."
Dolores O'Riordan: Lead Vocalist, The Cranberries:
(Source: You! Magazine, June/July 1996)

TIME LINE OF CHANGES

Abortion Rights

Gay Rights

<p>1973 <u>Roe v. Wade</u> legalizes abortion in all 50 states based on <i>right to privacy</i></p> <p>1976 Hyde Amendment prevents expenditure of federal funds for abortion</p> <p>1984 Ronald Reagan imposes "gag rule"</p> <p>1989 Webster permits states to forbid abortion at publicly funded facilities</p> <p>1990 Hudsonson upholds parental notification</p> <p>1992 Casey replaces Roe Upholds 24 hour waiting period, counseling, an parental consent. Replaces Roe's "strict scrutiny" test with weaker "undue burden" test.</p>	<p>1961 All 50 States and District of Columbia outlaw sodomy</p> <p>1962 Illinois becomes 1st state to decriminalize sodomy</p> <p>1964 Stonewall Riots begin modern gay rights movement</p> <p>1973 American Psychiatric Association removes homosexuality as "illness"</p> <p>1976 <u>Bowers v. Hardwick</u> upholds anti-sodomy laws fully 3 years after Roe v Wade. Only 24 states and DC have sodomy laws as of 1976.</p> <p>1993 "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" permits gays to serve in the military.</p> <p>1996 Romer strikes down Colorado amendment denying gays protection against discrimination</p> <p>2000 Vermont recognizes civil unions</p> <p>2003 Lawrence declares remaining anti-sodomy laws unconstitutional. Only 13 states remain with such laws.</p> <p>2004 Massachusetts legalizes same sex marriage</p>
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Join Us

If you're part of the GLBT community or just an open minded individual who shares our pro-life convictions, we invite you to join PLAGAL.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Membership: \$20.00

Includes subscription to PLAGAL newsletter

Additional Donation: Contributions are tax deductible

- \$10
- \$25
- \$50
- \$100
- \$ _____

Mail To:

PLAGAL
 PO BOX 16753
 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22302-0753
 (202) 223-6697
 Email us at: plagal@plagal.org

Visit us online at www.plagal.org.

PLAGAL is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization incorporated in Massachusetts.

GAY RIGHTS AND THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY



Pro-Life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians

*Educating the Community
 Serving the Individual*

Abortion proponents have targeted the LGBT community with a position paper to the effect that our rights are dependent on the judicially created “right to privacy” which is the foundation upon which *Roe v. Wade*, and hence abortion, is based. The parallel analysis of changes in abortion rights with changes in gay rights shows how specious this argument is.

Since the *Roe v. Wade* decision of 1973, there has been a slow and consistent erosion of abortion-on-demand with the imposition of mandatory counseling, waiting periods, and parental notification. Prohibitions against the expenditure of federal funds as well as state funds have been found constitutional. International family agencies receiving U.S. aid have been prevented from counseling for abortion. *Casey v. Planned Parenthood* replaced *Roe v. Wade* as the law of the land on abortion; it replaced the “strict scrutiny” test of state anti-abortion laws with a much weaker “undue burden” test, with four of the nine justices calling for an outright reversal of *Roe*. Thirty-two states now require parental notification and 18 states require waiting periods and counseling as to risks and fetal development. Both houses of Congress have voted to ban “partial birth” abortions. And the number of abortions has been steadily declining for at least a decade.

As abortion rights have been undergoing a consistent cutback, there has been a simultaneous expansion of gay rights. In 1961, all states and the District of Columbia had anti-sodomy laws. By the time of the infamous *Bowers v. Hardwick* decision in 1976, fully 50% of the states had already decriminalized sodomy. *Bowers* held anti-sodomy laws constitutional and stated that the fact that homosexual conduct occurs in the privacy of the home does not affect the result. *Bowers* was decided fully three years after *Roe v. Wade*, giving lie to the argument that the “right to privacy” had any application to the LGBT community:

“Respondent would have us announce . . . a fundamental right to engage in homosexual sodomy. This we are quite unwilling to do.” This is the same court, which by a 7 to 2 holding, found a fundamental right in the abortion process.

When *Bowers* was specifically overruled by *Lawrence v. Texas* in 2003, the 25 states that had outlawed sodomy in *Bowers* had been reduced to only 13, of which only 4 enforced their laws against homosexual conduct. In dissent, Justice Scalia noted that the LGBT community had had considerable success in promoting their agenda to decriminalize sodomy through democratic means. To be sure, there is plenty of language in *Lawrence* as to “privacy,” but it has little, if any, relevancy to the actual holding based on the due process clause of the 14th Amendment.

Gay marriage (civil unions, domestic partnerships) is currently a hot *public policy* issue, but it is the very antithesis of a privacy right because it *seeks* state action for the approval and sanction of LGBT relationships. Because the marriage contract is a three-party contract (the state is the third party) there can be no meaningful talk of a “right to privacy.” The issue of marital equality is one which has just started, with a few states taking positive steps and several states taking negative ones. The LGBT community need not fear the competition in the marketplace of ideas.

Other than gay marriage (which does not concern the right to privacy) and sodomy (which has been won largely by the democratic process and not litigation) the Supreme Court’s only other gay decision, *Romer v. Evans*, is based on equal protection of the laws and not the right to privacy. *Romer* disallowed a Colorado constitutional amendment which would have denied gays the protection of anti-discrimination laws.

The argument for the right to privacy (“get out of my bedroom”) is an appealing one for the LGBT community but it has nothing to do with the advancement of gay rights since the movement began with the Stonewall Riots of 1964. The long fight to decriminalize gay sexual behavior was won state by state through the democratic process. The success was so absolute prior to the *Lawrence* decision that homosexual sodomy was outlawed in only 4 of the 50 states, and even in those states it was not enforced, leading Justice Thomas to call it an “uncommonly silly” law. The fight for marriage equality is a public policy issue outside any privacy concerns. Any other gay court decision has addressed equal protection of the laws, once again not sounding in any “right to privacy.”

The position paper put forth by abortion advocates is a thinly veiled attempt to shore up rapidly fading support for abortion-on-demand. Gay Americans, much like their counterparts in straight America, have differing philosophical, religious, moral, ethical, and pragmatic attitudes toward abortion. This appeal to our self-interest will fail as will the attempt to divide and conquer. Abortion advocates have attempted to divide men from women, rich from poor, white from black, religious from secular but it appears all this hard work will come to naught.

Abortion rights will fail because, unlike gay rights, they are not the result of a democratic process but rather a brand new “constitutional right” created by a court impatient with democratic change.