

Legal Resources: Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgendered Individuals

Table of Contents

Overview	1
Terminology.....	3
Current Topics	3
Documents in Our Collection	4
Bibliographies	4
Handbooks	5
Books in Our Collection	5
Journals	8
LC Subject Headings	11

Overview

Finding legal materials relating to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered individuals (GLBT) and their status may involve sophisticated legal research. GLBT legal issues are frequently discussed as matters of civil rights, social justice or human rights and many approaches are cross-disciplinary in nature; bear this in mind as you conduct research.

Discussion of GLBT rights and status has changed over time, as has the terminology employed. Remember to adjust your use of terminology and research strategy based on the type of materials you are researching.

For example, if searching the InfoHawk catalog, remember that it contains basic Author-Title-Subject information about the books and items in the University of Iowa library systems. Using more general, formal terms such as ‘homosexual’(270) or ‘sexual identity’ (43) will retrieve many more relevant hits than colloquial terms such as ‘dyke’ (1) or ‘queer’ (23). And be sure to use the root expander, the asterisk (*), to search other word forms *including plurals* (i.e. homosexual*).

This keyword search results in 110ⁱ items at the law library:

Advanced Search

Searching on database: **InfoHawk Catalog** For Browsing, use [Basic Search](#).
For additional options, see [Common Command Language \(CCL\) Search](#).

Select	Search type:	Search for:
and	Keyword Anywhere	sexual
and	Keyword Anywhere	orientation or identity
and	Keyword Anywhere	

Search Clear

Limit Search to:

Language: all Location: Law Library

Including:

Personal freedom through human rights law? : autonomy, identity and integrity under the European Convention on Human Rights
Law Library K3240 .M369 2009

and

Courting change : queer parents, judges, and the transformation of American family law
Law Library KF540 .R53 2008

By contrast, searching Keyword Anywhere: 'Gay' and Location: 'Law Library' results in 430ⁱⁱ items.

Including:

Constitutional rights in two worlds : South Africa and the United States
Law Library K3239.53 2009

and

Value war : public opinion and the politics of gay rights
Law Library HQ76.8.U5 B74 2008

Be sure to try a variety of techniques to cover your topic.

If you are searching full text resources, such as law review articles on LexisNexis® or Westlaw®, utilize search terminology for the type of discussion you hope to retrieve. For example, search results for articles discussing GLBT issues relating to immigration vary greatly depending on how you search: 'homosexual! or gay w/5 immigrat!' retrieves over 200 items, whereas 'queer w/5 immigrat!' retrieves just over 10. Remember to allow for word forms by using the root expander, here the exclamation point (!).

Terminology

Various terms have been used to describe GLBT people and issues over time. Use the most number of alternative words you feel is appropriate for the scope of your research. Pay attention to the documents you retrieve to learn of additional words or phrases, and note consistent or inconsistent usages. Use of words which are commonly offensive or politically incorrect may have research value. An inexhaustive list includes:

- Boston marriage
- butch/femme
- coming out (of the closet)
- dyke
- fag
- faggot
- gay
- gender identity
- gender orientation
- homophob[! or *]
- homosexual[! or *]
- other(ness)
- lesbian
- lesgay
- queer
- same-sex
- sexual identity
- sexual orientation
- transgender(ed)
- transsexual
- out/out of the closet/outing

Current Topics

As with other areas of society, there are fads and fashions in legal writing about GLBT issues. Consider how to word the specifics of the scenarios you are researching. Some current topics are encapsulated in catch phrases such as:

- Adoption by gay couples/singles
- AIDS/HIV
- Benefits for gay partners
- Don't ask, don't tell
- Domestic partner(ship)
- Gays in the military
- Gay marriage
- Gay unions/Civil unions
- Hate crimes
- Same-sex sexual harassment
- Outing

Documents in Our Collection

Particularly rich sources for researchers interested in late 20th century civil rights movements are contained in the files of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, dealing with issues such as workplace discrimination, gays in the military, violence against lesbians and gays, and the AIDS epidemic. Hundreds of topics and thousands of documents spanning almost 30 years of activity are identified in the accompanying guide that is located in our Audio Visual/Special Services Department in Room 130:

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force records, 1973-2000 [microform] : from the holdings of the Human Sexuality Collection, Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, Cornell University Library, Ithaca, New York.

[Law Audiovisual Microfilm 563](#)

Additionally of interest are a variety of theses on individual topics:

An analysis of legal cases alleging harassment and/or discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) students in public schools / by Amy Leigh Freyn. Thesis (Ed. D.), Spalding University, 2006.

Law Audiovisual Microfiche 4640

Judicial narratives in custody cases involving gay and lesbian parents, 1952-1999 : a study of indeterminacy and meaning making in legal rationales and outcomes / by Kimberly Dawn Richman. Thesis (Ph. D.), University of California, Irvine, 2003

Law Audiovisual Microfiche 4082

Extending sexual content regulation to cyberspace and potential impact for the gay and lesbian community / by Mark Alan Cenite. Thesis (Ph. D.), University of Minnesota, 2001.

Law Audiovisual Microfiche 3855

We are family : understanding the structural barriers to the legal formation of lesbian and gay families in California / by Susan E. Dalton. Thesis (Ph.D.), University of California, Santa Barbara, 1999.

Law Audiovisual Microfiche 3632

Bibliographies

The homosexual and society : an annotated bibliography / compiled by Robert B. Marks Ridinger at Main Library Z7164.S42 R5 1990

Homosexual rights [microform] : bibliography-in-brief, 1993-1994 / Law Audiovisual Microfilm 27Suppl. Major studies and issue briefs of the Congressional Research Service. Supplement ; 1994, reel 13, fr. 00743.

The gay and lesbian movement : references and resources / Robert B. Marks Ridinger.
1996, UI Main Library at Main Reference Collection HQ76.5 .R53 1996

Sexual orientation and the law: a research bibliography selectively annotating legal
literature through 2005 Law Library KF4754.5.A1 S48 2006

Handbooks

Gay & lesbian rights : a guide for GLBT singles, couples and families (2nd ed.)
Law Library KF4754.5 .S455 2006

Gay, lesbian, and transgender clients : a lawyer's guide
Law Library KF337.5.G38 B87 2008

A legal guide for lesbian and gay couples / by Hayden Curry, Denis Clifford, and
Frederick Hertz , (12th ed., 2004) at Law Library KF539 .L44 2004

Making it legal : a guide to same-sex marriage, domestic partnership & civil unions (on
order April 2009)

The rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgender people : the authoritative
ACLU guide to the rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgender people / Nan
D. Hunter, Courtney G. Joslin, Sharon M. McGowan, (4th ed., 2004) at
Law Library KF4754.5.Z9 H86 2004

The U.S. military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy : a reference handbook, at
Law Library UB418.G38 E53 2007

Books in Our Collection

Following is a sampling of titles from the UI Law Library on various aspects of GLBT
issues:

AIDS law, (3rd ed.) / by Margaret C. Jasper at Law Library KF3803.A54 J27 2008

Beyond (straight and gay) marriage : valuing all families under the law / Nancy D.
Polikoff at Law Library KF538 .P65 2008

Common law marriage : a legal institution for cohabitation / Göran Lind (see index
heading "same-sex couples") at Law Library KF516 .L56 2008

Courting equality: a documentary history of America's first legal same-sex marriages at
Law Library HQ1034.U5 G69 2007

Courts, liberalism, and rights : gay law and politics in the United States and Canada
/ Jason Pierceson at Law Library KF4754.5 .P54 2005

Covering: the hidden assault on our civil rights / Kenji Yoshino. at
Law Library KF373.A3 Y67 2006

An early frost [videorecording] / Wolfe Video and NBC Productions at Law Film, Law,
Lawyers & Popular Culture No Call number

The future of gay rights in America / edited by H.N. Hirsch at
Law Library KF4754.5 .F88 2005

The gays' and lesbians' rights in an enlarged European Union / edited by Anne
Weyembergh and Sinziana Carstocea at Law Library HQ76.8.E85 G39 2006

Gender, equality and difference during and after state socialism / edited by Rebecca Kay
at Law Library HQ1075.5.R8 G46 2007

God hates fags: the rhetorics of religious violence / Michael Cobb at
Law Library BR115.H6 C63 2006

Homophobia and the law / by Amy D. Ronner at Law Library KF4754.5 .R66 2005

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender family law / authors, Courtney G. Joslin, Shannon
P. Minter at Law Library KF505 .L47

The long arc of justice: lesbian and gay marriage, equality, and rights / Richard D. Mohr
at Law Library HQ76.3.U5 M642 2005

The nature and scope of individual rights: emerging debates in constitutional law / by
Robin D. Barnes at [on order (Oct 22, 2007)]

Officially gay : the political construction of sexuality by the U.S. military / Gary L.
Lehring at Law Library UB418.G38 L44 2003

Out of the closets & into the courts: legal opportunity structure and gay rights litigation
/ Ellen Ann Andersen at Law Library KF4754.5 .A963 2005

Out law : what LGBT youth should know about their legal rights / Lisa Keen at
Law Library KF4754.5.Z9 K44 2007

Patriarchal religion, sexuality, and gender : a critique of new natural law / Nicholas
Bamforth, David A.J. Richards at Law Library K460 .B36 2008

Philadelphia [videorecording] / TriStar Pictures at Law Course Reserve

The politics of same-sex marriage / edited by Craig A. Rimmerman and Clyde Wilcox at
Main Library HQ1034.U5 P65 2007

Priscilla, (white) queen of the desert : queer rights/race privilege / Damien W. Riggs at Law Library HQ76.8.A8 R54 2006

Queer America : a GLBT history of the 20th century / Vicki L. Eaklor at Law Library HQ76.3.U5 E35 2008

Queer family values: debunking the myth of the nuclear family / Valerie Lehr at Law Library HQ76.3.U5 L44 1999

Queers in court: gay rights law and public policy / Susan Gluck Mezey at Law Library KF4754.5.Z9 M49 2007

Racial, ethnic, and homophobic violence: killing in the name of otherness at Law Library HV6773.5 .R33 2007

The rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgender people : the authoritative ACLU guide to the rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgender people / Nan D. Hunter, Courtney G. Joslin, Sharon M. McGowan at Law Library KF4754.5.Z9 H86 2004

Same sex-marriage and religious liberty : emerging conflicts / edited by Douglas Laycock, Anthony R. Picarello, Jr., and Robin Fretwell Wilson at Law Library BL462 .S36 2008

Same-sex marriage and the Constitution (2nd ed.) / Evan Gerstmann at Law Library KF539 .G47 2008

Sexual citizens : the legal and cultural regulation of sex and belonging / Brenda Cossman at Law Library HM683 .C67 2007

Sex rights : the Oxford Amnesty lectures 2002 / edited by Nicholas Bamforth at Law Library HQ76.5 .S49 2005

Sexual justice/cultural justice : critical perspectives in political theory and practice / edited by Barbara Arneil at Law Library HQ1236 .S44 2007

Sexual orientation and the law / by National Lawyers Guild at Law Library KF4754.5 .S49 1985

Don't be fooled by the copyright date in the call number; this looseleaf book was first published in 1985 *but it is completely up to date* as indicated in its InfoHawk catalog record.

Sexual orientation discrimination : an international perspective / edited by M.V. Lee Badgett and Jefferson Frank at Law Library HD6285 .S49 2007

Sexual orientation, public schools, and the law / Richard Fossey, Todd A. DeMitchell, Suzanne Eckes at
Law Library KF4754.5 .F67 2007

Sexual politics: the gay person in America today / Shannon Gilreath at
Law Library HQ76.3.U5 G55 2006

Sexuality and discrimination: a rights and liberties perspective / Gilbert Paul Carrasco at
Law Library KF4758.A7 C368 2005

Sexuality law / Arthur S. Leonard, Patricia A. Cain at Law Library KF4754.5.A7 L465
2005

Strangers to the law : gay people on trial / Lisa Keen and Suzanne B. Goldberg at
Law Library KF228.E94 K44 1998

Stonewalled, still demanding respect: police abuses against lesbian, gay, bisexual and
transgender people in the USA at [On Order]

Transgender rights / Paisley Currah, Richard M. Juang, and Shannon Price Minter,
editors at Law Library HQ77.9 .T716 2006

A time to embrace: same-gender unions in religion, law, and politics / William Stacy
Johnson at Law Library HQ1033 .J64 2006

Women's rights : the public/private dichotomy / Jurate Motiejunaite, editor at
Law Library HQ1236 .W6528 2005

Journals

Gay & lesbian law journal (Australia)

See previous title Australasian gay & lesbian law journal at
K1 .U7384

online at

<http://proxy.lib.uiowa.edu/login?url=http://www.heinonline.org/HOL/Index?index=journals/agllj&collection=journals>

Law & sexuality. Tulane University School of Law, 1991-
at K12 .A9278 or

online at

<http://proxy.lib.uiowa.edu/login?url=http://heinonline.org/HOL/Index?index=journals/lsex&collection=journals>

Lesbian-gay law notes, Bar Association for Human Rights of Greater New York at
KF4754.5.A15 L47

Online at

<http://www.qrd.org/qrd/www/usa/legal/lgn/>

The National Journal of Sexual Orientation Law (online only)

<http://www.ibiblio.org/gaylaw/>

On the Web

A variety of organizations have webpages that address various legal aspects of GLBT life. For a listing of law focused websites, visit the page put up by the Social Responsibilities Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries at <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/srsis/links/glbtrights.html> .

Similarly, look at the Librarians' Index to the Internet (www.lii.org). The Librarians' Index to the Internet also provides links of interest at:

People: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgendered People <http://lii.org/pub/topic/glbtrights.html>

People Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgendered People > Law

<http://lii.org/pub/subtopic/2924>

Additional websites of interest are listed below:

American Civil Liberties Union

<http://www.aclu.org/>

Family Issues: Gender and Sexuality (Family Law and Social Policy Center, Syracuse University College of Law)

http://www.law.syr.edu/academics/centers/flsp/family_issues.aspx

Gay/Lesbian Law Pathfinder (Law Library Resource Xchange)

<http://www.llrx.com/features/gaylesbianlaw.htm>

Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD)

<http://www.glaad.org/>

Gay & Lesbian Legal Issues (Washburn University School of Law Library)

<http://www.washlaw.edu/subject/gay.html>

GayLawNet

<http://www.gaylawnet.com/laws/laws.htm>

Fight AIDS — Not People With AIDS!

<http://psychology.ucdavis.edu/rainbow/html/aids.html>

Human Rights Campaign

<http://www.hrc.org/>

Immigration Equality

<http://www.immigrationequality.org/>

International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC)

<http://www.iglhrc.org/>

International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA)

<http://www.ilga.org/>

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund

<http://www.lambdalegal.org/>

Sexuality, Gender, and the Law: National and International

compiled by Lyonette Louis-Jacques

<http://www2.lib.uchicago.edu/~llou/sexlaw.html>

Legal Issues of Sexual Orientation (University of Minnesota Law Library)

<http://local.law.umn.edu/library/pathfinders/GLBTx.html>

Log Cabin Republicans

<http://online.logcabin.org/>

National Center for Lesbian Rights

<http://www.nclrights.org/site/PageServer>

National Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Bar Association

<http://www.lgbtbar.org/>

Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals, 1933-1945

<http://www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/online/hsx/>

Parenting: Broward Community College

http://ucl.broward.edu/pathfinders/Gay_and_Lesbian_Parents.htm

Queer Legal Resources

<http://www.qrd.org/qrd/www/legal/>

Same-Sex Marriage: A Selective Bibliography of the Legal Literature

compiled by Paul Axel-Lute

<http://law-library.rutgers.edu/SSM.html> (2002-) and

<http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~axellute/ssm.htm> (-1996)

Same-sex marriage ruling in Iowa: Varnum v. Brien (April 2009): See http://www.judicial.state.ia.us/Supreme_Court/Varnum_v_Brien/Supreme_Court_Ruling/ and <http://oneiowa.org/web/beInformed/marriage/varnumVsBrien/>

Unmarried Couples and the Law (Goldman & Kagon Law Corporation)
Gay and Lesbian Resources
<http://www.palimony.com/resources.html#anchor7>

Queer Legal Resources at <http://www.qrd.org/qrd/www/legal/>

The Williams Institute (UCLA School of Law)
<http://www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute//home.html>

LC Subject Headings

When searching in the InfoHawk catalog, or any other database that includes Library of Congress (LC) subject headings in its records, use this vocabulary strategically.

Examples of headings include:

Bisexual or bisexuality

Gay or gays or gay men

Homosexual or homosexuals or homosexuality

Lesbian or Lesbians

Sexual minorities

Transsexual

Transgender

The words may be coupled with other key concepts indicating legal status or laws, political or social activity, specific states or countries, history, biography, and medical and psychological aspects. Selecting each entry will give you a listing of titles the library system carries under that specific subject heading classification.

Examples of LC headings:

Browse List: Subjects-LCSH

No. of Recs	Entry
25	Gays -- Legal status, laws, etc. -- United States
2	Gays -- Legal status, laws, etc. -- United States -- Bibliography
5	Gays -- Legal status, laws, etc. -- United States -- Cases
1	Gays -- Legal status, laws, etc. -- United States -- Dictionaries
3	Gays -- Legal status, laws, etc. -- United States -- Periodicals
1	Gays -- Literary collections
1	Gays -- Louisiana -- New Orleans
	Gays, Male - [Heading Information]
	See: Gay men
1	Gays -- Maryland -- Baltimore -- Portraits
1	Gays -- Massachusetts -- Newspapers
1	Lesbian couples -- Legal status, laws, etc
1	Lesbian couples -- Legal status, laws, etc. -- California
8	Lesbian couples -- Legal status, laws, etc. -- United States
1	Bisexuals -- Civil rights -- United States
2	Bisexuals -- Colorado -- Attitudes

You searched for **[transgender]**

Transgender orientation - [\[Heading Information\]](#)

See: [Transsexualism](#)

Transgender people - [\[Heading Information\]](#)

See: [Transsexuals](#)

1	Transgender people -- Legal status, laws, etc. -- United States -- Periodicals
1	Transgender people -- Periodicals
1	Transgender people -- Social conditions
1	Transgender youth -- Sexual behavior -- Thailand
1	Transgender youth -- Thailand
	Transgendered people - [Heading Information]
	See: Transsexuals
1	Transgenderism - [Heading Information]

Manipulating the subject heading entries will link you to related material. This subject matter is often interdisciplinary in nature, and may require visits to other University of Iowa Library locations. Additionally, you may make interlibrary loan requests for materials not available on this campus at the law library Circulation Desk.

ⁱ Searches run on April 27, 2009.

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