



Archives and Records

Finding Aid

COLLECTION NUMBER: Coll. 33
TITLE: Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders Collection

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator(s): GLAD and The History Project
Title: Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders Collection
Extent: 1/2 Linear Foot
Repository: The History Project, Archives and Records Department

Finding aid prepared for The History Project, Archives and Records Department by Robert Johnston, student in the GSLIS Archives masters degree program at Simmons College, under the supervision of Andrew Elder, Spring 2010.

SUBJECTS TERMS

Subject Names:

Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD)

Subject Topics:

Gay Liberation Movement—Massachusetts –Boston

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Terms of Use/Copyright: Unrestricted, though some items in the collection are copyrighted by individuals and/or organizations outside The History Project.

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HISTORICAL NOTE

Attorney John Ward founded the non-profit legal rights organization Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) in 1978. It grew out of the Boston/Boise Committee, a group organized in December of 1977 to defend the rights of gay men arrested in Boston, Massachusetts as part of an "anti-gay witchhunt." GLAD would file its first lawsuit in 1979 on behalf of a gay man arrested at the Boston Public Library in March of 1978.

GLAD is based in Boston and works to combat discrimination against the GLBT community throughout New England and nationwide. In 2003, GLAD was involved with a lawsuit that would lead to the recognition of same-sex marriage in Massachusetts beginning in May of 2004. GLAD has also supported adoption and foster rights for same-sex couples, legal protection for people with HIV and various transgender rights.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of newsletters, booklets, flyers, correspondence, pamphlets and other documents relating to GLAD. There are issues of *GLAD Briefs*, the organization's newsletter, dating back to 1978 and continuing to the present (with gaps in the 1980s and 1990s) as well as annual reports from the 1980s and early 1990s. Promotional material – stickers, magnets and flyers – can be found in the collection, as can correspondence, donation appeals and press releases.

There are also pamphlets and booklets published by GLAD focusing on its services and/or specific legal issues, flyers and brochures for GLAD benefits and events, and newspaper articles (including several from 1978). Research conducted for the 30th anniversary of GLAD and e-mail correspondence with The History Project can also be found in the collection. The collection also contains material relating to the Boston/Boise Committee (a committee with which John Ward was involved prior to and around the time of the founding of GLAD) from 1977 and 1978.

Note: Photographs relating to GLAD are part of the *Gay Community News* (GCN) collection.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box 1

- Folder 1: Boston/Boise Committee Records and Flyers, 1977-1978
- Folder 2: *GLAD Briefs Newsletter*, Fall 1979-Fall 1991; Winter 1997
- Folder 3: *GLAD Briefs Newsletter*, Summer 2005-Winter 2008
- Folder 4: *GLAD Briefs Newsletter*, Summer 2008-
- Folder 5: Annual Reports, 1983-1984; 1986-1987; 1991; 1994
- Folder 6: Organizational Material and Misc. Flyers, 1978-2007; Undated
- Folder 7: Correspondence, Donation Appeals and Press Releases, 1978-2008
- Folder 8: GLAD Services and Legal Issue Pamphlets, Undated
- Folder 9: Legal Issue Publications, 1999-2008
- Folder 10: *AIDS Law Flash Newsletter #1*, Circa 1996
- Folder 11: GLAD Events and Benefits Flyers and Brochures, 1994-2008; Undated
- Folder 12: Legal Documents, 1979; 2002
- Folder 13: Newspaper Articles, 1978; 1990
- Folder 14: Boston Public Library Entrapment Demonstration, 1978

Folder 15: Benefit for GLAD '87 Poster, February 20, 1987

Folder 16: 10th Anniversary Forum, June 29, 1988

[Transcripts of panel and audio available in The History Project's collection]

Folder 17: Week of May 17, Marriage Documents, May 2004

Folder 18: 30th Anniversary Research and Correspondence, 2007

Related Materials/See also: Coll.21 - Bob Wheatly Collection; Coll.23 – Know Thy Neighbor Collection; Coll.27 – Religious Coalition for the Freedom to Marry