



**ACLU OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
LESBIAN & GAY RIGHTS CHAPTER
RECORDS**

Coll2007-013

Contact Information

One National Gay & Lesbian Archives
909 West Adams Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90007
Phone: (213) 741-0094
Fax: (213) 741-0220
E-mail: askone@onearchives.org

Processed by

Loni Shibuyama

Date Completed

October 16, 2007



Processing this collection has been funded by a generous grant from the
National Historical Publications and Records Commission



Table of Contents

Descriptive Summary	p. 2
Administrative Information	p. 3
Administrative History	p. 5
Scope and Content Note	p. 6
Container List	p. 8



Descriptive Summary

Title

ACLU of Southern California – Lesbian and Gay Rights Chapter Records

Creator

American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Southern California – Lesbian and Gay Rights Chapter, Los Angeles

Extent

Number of containers: 25 archive boxes + 1 oversize archive box
Linear feet: 13

Date

1970 – 2004 (bulk 1976 – 1995)

Repository

ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California

Abstract

This collection comprises minutes, meeting agendas, financial records, correspondence, memoranda, reports, press releases, newsletters, publications, legal papers, subject files, notes, photographs, ephemera, and a videocassette relating to the on-going activities of the Lesbian & Gay Rights Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Southern California (ACLU-LGRC), in Los Angeles. The LGRC is the first ACLU chapter in the United States to address the civil rights of gay men, lesbians, bisexual and transgender people. The earliest materials in the collection date before the founding of the LGRC and document the gay- and lesbian-related activities of the ACLU—including the Rights of Homosexuals Committee (1973 – 1976) and the Gay Rights Panel (1975 – 1976). The collection spans the founding of the LGRC in August 1976 up to 2004. However, the bulk of the materials come from the years 1976 to 1995.



Administrative Information

Access

The collection is open to researchers. There are no access restrictions.

Publication Rights

Researchers wishing to publish material must obtain permission in writing from ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives as the physical owner of the material. Note that permission to publish does not constitute copyright clearance. ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives can grant copyright clearance only for those materials for which we hold copyright. It is the responsibility of the researcher to obtain copyright clearance for all other materials from the copyright holder(s).

Preferred Citation

Box #, folder #, ACLU of Southern California Lesbian & Gay Rights Chapter Records, Coll2007-013, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California

Indexing Terms

This collection is indexed under the following terms:

- ACLU
- ACLU Lesbian and Gay Rights Chapter
- ACLU Foundation of Southern California
- American Civil Liberties Union
- American Civil Liberties Union Foundation
- American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California
- Davidson, Jon W.
- Gay and lesbian rights
- Gay Rights Chapter
- Gays—Services for
- Gays—Civil rights
- Homosexuality—Law and legislation—California
- Homosexuality—Law and legislation—United States
- Judge, Peter Thomas
- Lesbian and Gay Rights Chapter
- Lesbians—Services for
- Lesbians—Civil rights



**ACLU of Southern California — Lesbian & Gay Rights
Chapter Records, Coll2007-013**

McGrievy, Susan
Reynolds, Michael E.

Acquisitions Information

Donor and date of gift unknown.

Processing Information

Formerly housed in box 103-356 and ONE subject files. Collection processed by Loni Shibuyama, October 16, 2007.



Administrative History

Since the early and mid-1960s, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) affiliates took on the cases of founders of the Mattachine Society, members of the Daughters of Bilitis, and publishers of gay and lesbian publications such as *One Magazine* to challenge the federal government's exclusions of lesbians and gay men from civil service jobs, to fight police entrapment and bathhouse raids, and to end post office censorship. In 1966, the ACLU Foundation of Southern California formally affirmed that the right to privacy in sexual relations is a basic constitutional right and defended a public school teacher threatened with the loss of his teaching credentials after he was acquitted of charges of illegal homosexual conduct. In 1970, the ACLU of Southern California went on to obtain an injunction that permitted the first Christopher Street West parade to take place.

In 1973, the ACLU of Southern California began the formation of the Rights for Homosexuals Committee—the first of its kind in the United States. These activities and the organization of the Gay Rights Panel in 1975 ultimately led to the founding of the ACLU of Southern California Gay Rights Chapter on August 16, 1976 with its first president, Peter Thomas Judge. In January 1984, the Chapter officially changed its name to its current one, the Lesbian & Gay Rights Chapter.

Since these early days, due to the work and support of the Lesbian & Gay Rights Chapter and gay and lesbian rights Attorney Susan McGrievy, the ACLU Foundation of Southern California has been at the forefront of the nation's legal battles for lesbian and gay rights. The ACLU/SC has challenged discrimination against lesbians and gay men in public and private employment, in housing, in public accommodations; has fought college campuses' refusals to recognize lesbian and gay student groups; has attacked vague loitering and lewd conduct laws and other forms of police harassment of lesbians and gay men; has battled for lesbian and gay custody and visitation rights; has challenged exclusions of lesbian and gay aliens by the INS; has secured better treatment for lesbian and gay prison inmates; and has required the licensing of lesbian and gay-operated foster homes.

As of October 2007, the Lesbian & Gay Rights Chapter of the ACLU of Southern California continues to operate.

Source:

ACLU of Southern California Lesbian & Gay Rights Chapter Records, Coll2007-013, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California.



Scope and Content

The collection comprises minutes, meeting agendas, financial records, correspondence, memoranda, reports, press releases, newsletters, publications, legal papers, subject files, notes, photographs, ephemera, and a videocassette relating to the activities and operations of the Lesbian & Gay Rights Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Southern California (ACLU-LGRC), in Los Angeles. Materials in this collection date from before the founding of LGRC in August 1976 through 2004. However, the bulk of materials come from the years 1976 to 1995. The collection is divided into six series: (1) Administration, (2) Programs and Events, (3) Publications, (4) Subject Files, (5) Photographs, and (6) Ephemera.

The first series, Administration, consists of materials related to the general day-to-day administrative activities of the Lesbian & Gay Rights Chapter of the ACLU and is divided into six subseries: (1) General, (2) Committees and Board of Directors, (3) Publicity/Public Relations, (4) Services, (5) Correspondence, and (6) Memoranda. The first subseries, General, consists of contracts, bylaws, resumes, financial records, bequests, personnel files, documents, handwritten notes and miscellany pertaining to the general day-to-day operations of the LGRC. Included in this subseries are the Chapter's mission statement, organizational history and bylaws; its IRS status; treasurer's reports; and information about the organization's personnel, real estate, finances and general office operations. The second subseries, Committees and Board of Directors, consists of minutes, agendas and reports from meetings for the committees and board of directors of the LGRC. It is this subseries that contains the earliest materials in the collection, including records from the Gay Rights Panel and the Rights of Homosexuals Committee of the ACLU of Southern California. The third subseries, Publicity / Public Relations, consists of press releases, press listings, notes and a pamphlet design draft pertaining to LGRC's publicity and media relations. The content of the press releases range from notices for LGRC's special events to announcements about current events significant to the gay and lesbian community. The fourth subseries, Services, consists of administrative papers and microfiche pertaining to general services of the LGRC, which includes legal and community resource referral information. Also included in this subseries are information about LGRC's membership, complaint intake logs (1989 – 1994), surveys, and questionnaires. The fifth subseries, Correspondence, consists of letters, notes and faxes sent or received by LGRC, its officers, or the ACLU of Southern California. Arranged chronologically by year, it includes—but is not limited to—personal correspondence of Peter Thomas Judge, Charlotte Innes, Michael Reynolds, and Susan McGrievy; complaint intake letters; and general letters to the LGRC membership at large. The sixth and last subseries, Memoranda, consists of internal memoranda of the LGRC, its officers, and/or the ACLU of Southern California. They are also arranged chronologically by year.

The second series, Programs and Events, consists of press releases, correspondence, memoranda, graphic design drafts, program books, flyers, notes, financial records, award certificates and miscellany related to public programs and events of the LGRC or ACLU. Included in this series are materials related to the LGRC's monthly General Meeting and its annual event, the Human Rights Awards. Also included in this series are reports and documents from the ACLU's National Biennial Conferences.



ACLU of Southern California — Lesbian & Gay Rights Chapter Records, Coll2007-013

The third series, Publications, compiles distributed newsletters, documents and reports created by the LGRC, the ACLU of Southern California or the national ACLU. The first part of the series contains the monthly newsletters of the Chapter, which the Chapter began distributing in 1977. The remaining publications report on the local and national activities of the ACLU, including those pertaining to AIDS and gay- and lesbian-related legislation.

The fourth series, Subject Files, compiles reports, clippings, court documents, publications, correspondence, flyers, typescripts, notes, and a videocassette organized in subject files created by the LGRC. The topics in the subject files relate to the LGRC's on-going activism involving AIDS, discrimination, adoption, domestic partnership, legislation, litigation, media, military policies, police practices, violence, hate crimes, among others.

The fifth series, Photographs, comprises photographs and negatives—circa 1974 to 1990—taken of programs organized by the LGRC or those in which the LGRC participated.

The sixth and final series, Ephemera, comprises printed ephemera, a guestbook, a stamp with the phrase "Gay Flag = Yes," and a "Vehicular Award" ribbon won in the 1983 Gay Pride Parade.



Container List

Series 1. Administration

Dates: 1970 - 1997

Extent: 5.2 linear feet

This series consists of materials related to the general day-to-day administrative activities of the Lesbian & Gay Rights Chapter of the ACLU. It includes minutes, correspondence, memoranda, reports, press releases, contracts, administrative documents, microfiche and miscellany that date from before the founding of the LGRC through 1997. The series is divided into six subseries: (1) General, (2) Committees and Board of Directors, (3) Publicity/Public Relations, (4) Services, (5) Correspondence, and (6) Memoranda.

Subseries 1.1. General

Dates: 1976 - 1995

Extent: 0.4 linear feet

This subseries consists of contracts, bylaws, resumes, financial records, bequests, personnel files, documents, handwritten notes and miscellany pertaining to the general day-to-day operations of the LGRC. Included in this subseries are the Chapter's mission statement, organizational history and bylaws; its IRS status; treasurer's reports; and information about the organization's personnel, real estate, finances and general office operations.

Box Folder

1	1	Mission Statement and Organizational History, ca. 1976 – 1991
24	1	Bylaws 1982 – 1991, [Oversize]
1	2	IRS Status, 1976
1	3	ACLU Affiliates, 1991, 1995
1	4	Personnel Information, 1979 – 1995
1	5	Personnel – Michael E. Reynolds, 1989
1	6	Personnel – Charlotte Innes, 1990
24	2	California Federal Community Room Agreement, 1979 – 1980 [Oversize]
1	7	Office Administration, ca. 1976 – 1995
5	1	Treasurer's Reports, 1978 – 1991
5	2	General Financial Records, ca. 1976 – 1995
5	3-4	Bequests, 1990 – 1995 (2 folders)
1	8	Miscellaneous, ca. 1976 – 1995

Subseries 1.2. Committees and Board of Directors

Dates: 1970 - 1995

Extent: 1.5 linear feet



ACLU of Southern California — Lesbian & Gay Rights
Chapter Records, Coll2007-013

This subseries consists of minutes, agendas and reports from meetings for the committees and board of directors of the LGRC. It is this subseries that contains the earliest materials in the collection, including records from the Gay Rights Panel and the Rights of Homosexuals Committee of the ACLU of Southern California.

Box Folder

1	9	General Notes, ca. 1970 – 1995
1	10-13	
2	1-6	
3	1-6	Board of Directors – Meeting Agenda and Minutes
1	10	1979 – 1983
1	11	Sep 1989 – Jan 1990
1	12	Jun 1990 – Aug 1991
1	13	Sep 1991 – Dec 1991
2	1	Jan 1992 – Apr 1992
2	2	May 1992 – Aug 1992
2	3	Sep 1992 – Nov 1992
2	4	Dec 1992 – Feb 1993
2	5	Mar 1993 – May 1993
2	6	Jun 1993 – Aug 1993
3	1	Sep 1993 – Dec 1993
3	2	Jan 1994 – Jun 1994
3	3	Jul 1994 – Dec 1994
3	4	Jan 1995 – Jun 1995
3	5	Jul 1995 – Nov 1995
3	6	Dec 1995
4	1	Chapter Council Agenda, 1993 – 1994
4	2	Executive Committee, 1976
4	3	Gay Rights Panel of ACLU Southern California, 1975 – 1976
4	4	Legal Committee, ca. 1975 – 1980
4	5	Legislative Committee, 1976 – 1979
4	6	Lesbian Rights Committee, 1977 – 1978
4	7	Membership Committee, 1976 – 1978
4	8-9	Nomination Committee, 1976 – 1995 (2 folders)
4	10	Police Practices Committee, 1977 – 1979
4	11	Publicity / Public Relations (and Newsletter) Committee, 1970 – 1978
4	12	Rights of Homosexuals / Gay Rights Committee of ACLU, 1973 – 1976
4	13	Speakers Committee, 1977 – 1978
4	14	Steering Committee, 1977 – 1978
4	15	Miscellaneous Reports, ca. 1976 – 1995

Subseries 1.3. Publicity / Public Relations

Dates: 1976 - 1994

Extent: 0.2 linear feet



This subseries consists of press releases, press listings, notes and a pamphlet design draft pertaining to LGRC's publicity and media relations. The press listings are primarily gay- and lesbian-related publications in the Los Angeles area, and the content for the press releases range from notices for LGRC's special events to announcements about current events significant to the gay and lesbian community.

Box Folder

5	5	Press Releases, 1976 - 1993
5	6	Los Angeles Area Press Lists, ca. 1976 - 1989
5	7	CityChannel 8 Bulletin Board Requests, 1990 - 1993
24	3	Pamphlet Drawing, 1989 [Oversize]
24	4	General Notes, 1979 – 1994 [Oversize]

Subseries 1.4. Services

Dates: 1980 - 1994

Extent: 0.5 linear feet

This subseries consists of administrative papers and microfiche pertaining to general services of the LGRC, which includes legal and community resource referral information. Also included in this subseries are information about LGRC's membership, complaint intake logs (1989 – 1994), surveys, and questionnaires.

Box Folder

5	8	Membership Services Information, 1980 – 1994
5	9	Membership Services [Microfiche], ca. 1990
6	1	Legal Referral Information, 1992 – 1994
6	2	Community Resources, ca. 1980 – 1985
6	3-5	Intake Log, 1989 – 1994 (3 folders)
6	6	Questionnaires and Surveys, Undated

Subseries 1.5. Correspondence

Dates: 1975 - 1997

Extent: 2 linear feet

Arrangement: Chronological

This subseries consists of correspondence sent or received by LGRC, its officers, or the ACLU of Southern California. Arranged chronologically by year, it includes—but is not limited to—personal correspondence of chapter presidents Peter Thomas Judge and Michael E. Reynolds and gay rights attorneys Susan McGrievy and Jon Davidson; complaint intake letters; and general letters to the LGRC membership at large. Also included are letters on behalf of the LGRC to and from public officials regarding current events significant to the gay and lesbian community, in California in particular.



Box	Folder	
6	7	1975
6	8	1976
7	1-2	1977 (2 folders)
7	3-6	1978 (4 folders)
8	1-3	1979 (3 folders)
8	4	1980
8	5-6	1981 (2 folders)
9	1	1982
9	2-3	1983 (2 folders)
9	4	1984
9	5	1985
9	6	1987
9	7	1989
24	5	1990 [Oversize]
9	8-9	1991 (2 folders)
10	1-2	1991 (2 folders)
10	3-5	1992 (3 folders)
11	1-2	1993 (2 folders)
11	3	1994
11	4	1995
11	5	1996
11	6	1997
11	7	Undated

Subseries 1.6. Memoranda

Dates: 1976 - 1996

Extent: 0.6 linear feet

Arrangement: Chronological

This subseries consists of internal memoranda of the LGRC, its officers, and/or the ACLU of Southern California. They are arranged chronologically by year.

Box	Folder	
11	8	1976 – 1990
11	9-10	1991 (2 folders)
12	1-2	1992 (2 folders)
12	3	1993
12	4-5	1994 (2 folders)
12	6	1995 – 1996
12	7	Undated



Series 2. Programs and Events

Dates: 1976 - 1995

Extent: 1.7 linear feet + 2 oversize folders

Arrangement: Chronological

This series consists of press releases, correspondence, memoranda, graphic design drafts, program books, flyers, notes, financial records, award certificates and miscellany related to public programs and events of the LGRC or ACLU. Included in this series are materials related to the LGRC's General Meeting held monthly at the Center, which usually featured a talk or discussion panel highlighting topics relevant to the gay and lesbian community, including but not limited to discrimination, national and state legislation, health, police practices, hate crimes, military, child custody and equal rights. The series also contains administrative and program material for the LGRC's annual event, the Human Rights Awards—an award dinner held since 1977 in which the LGRC honors members of the community who have contributed to the advance of lesbian and gay activism and civil liberties. The LGRC's other regularly-held events include a leadership retreat and holiday parties. Also included in this series are reports and documents from the ACLU's National Biennial Conferences. The materials in this series are categorized by event and arranged chronologically.

Box Folder

12	8	
13	1-6	General Monthly Meetings, 1976 – 1995 (7 folders)
13	7-8	
14	1-12	
15	1-12	Human Rights Awards
13	7	1978
13	8	1979
14	1	1980
14	2	1981
14	3	1984
14	4	1986
14	5	1987
14	6	1988
14	7	1989
14	8-12	1990 (5 folders)
15	1-5	1991 (5 folders)
26	1 [OS]	1991 Program Book Materials [Oversize]
15	6-9	1992 (4 folders)
26	2 [OS]	1992 Publicity Materials [Oversize]
15	10-11	1993 (2 folders)
15	12	1994
16	1	Gay Constituency Day, 1979
16	2	Chapter Activist Award, 1986
16	3-5	Annual Retreat



ACLU of Southern California — Lesbian & Gay Rights
Chapter Records, Coll2007-013

16	3	1990
16	4	1992
16	5	1994
16	6-9	ACLU Biennial Conference
16	6-8	1991 (3 folders)
16	9	1993
16	10	Bill of Rights Bicentennial Dinner, 1991
16	11	Holiday Rights Party, 1994
16	12	Miscellaneous Programs and Events

Series 3. Publications

Dates: 1976 - 2004

Extent: 1.5 linear feet

This series compiles publications created by the LGRC, the ACLU of Southern California or the national ACLU. The first part of the series contains the monthly newsletters of the Chapter—arranged chronologically—which the Chapter began distributing in 1977. Several issues of the newsletters, between the years 1997 to 2004, are missing. The remaining publications are arranged alphabetically and report on the local and national activities of the ACLU, including those pertaining to AIDS and gay- and lesbian-related legislation.

Box Folder

17	1-9	
18	1-14	
24	6-10	Newsletter of the Lesbian & Gay Rights Chapter
17	1	1976 – 1977
17	2	1978
17	3	1979
24	6	1980 [Oversize]
24	7	1981 [Oversize]
24	8	1982 [Oversize]
24	9	1983 [Oversize]
24	10	1984 [Oversize]
17	4	1985
17	5	1986
17	6	1987
17	7	1988
17	8	1989
17	9	1990
18	1	1991
18	2	1992
18	3	1993
18	4	1994



18	5	1995
18	6	1996
18	7	1997
18	8	1998
18	9	1999
18	10	2000
18	11	2001
18	12	2002
18	13	2003
18	14	2004
18	15	ACLU – 1989 in Review
19	1	AIDS Project Dockets, 1991, 1995 - 1996
19	2-3	Anti-gay Ballot Initiatives Briefing Book, 1993 (2 folders)
19	4	Civil Liberties in Crisis: Los Angeles During the Emergency, 1992
19	5	International Civil Liberties Report, 1992
19	6	Lesbian and Gay Rights Project Dockets, 1991, 1995 - 1996
19	7	Of the Community and For the Community: Racial and Gender Integration in Southern California Police and Fire Departments, 1994

Series 4. Subject Files

Dates: 1976 - 2001

Extent: 1.5 linear feet

Arrangement: Alphabetical

This series compiles reports, clippings, court documents, publications, correspondence, flyers, typescripts, notes, and a videocassette organized in subject files created by the LGRC. The topics in the subject files relate to the on-going activities of the LGRC involving AIDS, discrimination, adoption, domestic partnership, legislation, litigation, media, military policies, police practices, violence, hate crimes, among others. This series also includes materials from organizations with which the LGRC has collaborated with, such as LIFE: League for Individual Freedom and Equality, the Lawyers for Human Rights, and the National Center for Lesbian Rights. The subject files are arranged alphabetically.

Box Folder

19	8	Affirmative Action, 1990 - 1992
19	9	
20	1-6	AIDS
19	9	AIDS Legislation and Litigation, 1984 - 1994
20	1-2	AIDS Legislation and Litigation, 1984 – 1994 (2 folders)
20	3	AIDS and Women, 1990 - 1993
20	4	California Dept. of Health Services: Task Force on HIV/AIDS, 1994
20	5	Department of Health and Human Services: AIDS Discrimination in Employment, 1989



ACLU of Southern California — Lesbian & Gay Rights
Chapter Records, Coll2007-013

20	6	Santa Barbara AIDS Advocacy Program, 1991
20	7	Cable Access: Window to the People, Undated
20	8	California State Legislation on Gay and Lesbian Issues, 1977 – 1993
20	9-11	Discrimination
20	9	Employment Discrimination, 1990 – 1992
20	10	Employment and Housing Discrimination, 1979 – 1990
20	11	Curran vs. Mt. Diablo Council (Boy Scouts of America), 1990
21	1-5	Family
21	1	Adoption and Custody Battles, 1992 – 1993
21	2	Domestic Partnership: Issues and Legislation, 1992
21	3-4	Domestic Partnership and Marriage, 1990 – 1994 (2 folders)
21	5	Gay and Lesbian Parenting, 1991 – 1993
21	6	Gay and Lesbian History, 1980 – 1994
21	7	Heterosexual Privilege, 1992
21	8	Lawyers for Human Rights, 1992 – 1994
21	9	LEAGUE America, 1994
21	10	LIFE: League for Individual Freedom & Equality, 1987 – 1995
22	1	Media Watch
22	2-7	Military
22	2	Dept. of Defense and U.S. Military Policies on Homosexuality, 1992
22	3	Gay and Lesbian Issues in the U.S. Military, 1979 – 1993
22	4-5	Sexual Orientation and U.S. Military Personnel Policy, 1993 (2 folders)
22	6-7	Stout vs. Westbourne Ventures, 1988 (2 folders)
23	11	Swann / ACLU vs. Department of the Navy Video Highlights [videocassette], 1992 – 1994
22	8	National Center for Lesbian Rights, 1993
22	9	National Gay and Lesbian Social Surveys, 1992 – 1994
23	1-2	Police Issues, 1978 – 1994 (2 folders)
23	3	Transsexuals, Undated
23	4	Violence and Hate Crimes, 1992 – 1994
23	5	Miscellaneous Clippings, 1976 – 2001

Series 5. Photographs

Dates: c. 1974 - 1990

Extent: 0.1 linear feet

This series comprises photographs and negatives—circa 1974 to 1990—taken of programs organized by the LGRC or those in which the LGRC participated. Events documented in these photographs include “A Conference on Sex and the Law” in 1981, the 1990 Christopher Street West Gay Pride Parade and other unidentified LGRC events. In most cases, the people in the photographs have not been identified.

Box Folder

23	6-8	Photographs, ca. 1974 – 1990 (3 folders)
23	9	Negatives, ca. 1981



Series 6. Ephemera

Dates: c. 1975 - 1995

Extent: 0.6 linear feet

This series comprises printed ephemera, a guestbook, a stamp with the phrase “Gay Flag = Yes,” and a “Vehicular Award” ribbon won in the 1983 Gay Pride Parade. The printed materials created by the LGRC or the ACLU include pamphlets and flyers related to the organization’s general activities.

Box Folder

24	11	Flyers and Pamphlets, ca. 1975 – 1995 [Oversize]
23	10	Guestbook, 1990
25		Stamp: “Gay Flag = Yes,” Undated
25		Ribbon: “Gay Pride Parade 1983, Vehicular Award”