

# Juvenile court actions give credence to claim that California courts show bias in gay-related cases

by Robert S. Rosen  
Special to Q-Notes

LOS ANGELES — A massive outpouring of gays and lesbians and their supporters from across Southern California have protested Commissioner Stanley Genser's anti-gay ruling that a child and his gay father should not be reunited because the father has "a personality disorder that is not amenable to therapy."

In a case that is rapidly gaining national spotlight and was recently front page news in *The Desert Sun* (Palms Springs, CA), US Representative Mary Bono (R-Palm Springs) has forwarded on information about this case to the State Attorney General for investigation. The Presiding Judge, Terry B. Friedman, has received almost three hundred written letters of complaint asking him to investigate the commis-

sioner, but has summarily dismissed all three hundred complaints without performing any investigation.

As a result, hundreds have written letters of complaint to the Commission on Judicial Performance, the state's disciplinary board for judges and commissioners. They charge that Genser has disgraced his position and the court system by his blatantly anti-gay bias. He has failed to be impartial, has abused his authority, failed to ensure the fundamental religious rights of the child, failed to supervise this case and has allowed a volunteer to control and determine the outcome of this case, and has commented on the case while pending. Genser remarked to the reporter for *The Desert Sun*, "I'd look at everything (Rosen) said with suspicion."

Genser accused Rosen of being a homosexual

who physically and sexually abused his son, allegations that therapists and Child Protective Service officials indicate are unsubstantiated.

Many gay men and lesbians feel California's courts are not providing them with fair and unbiased treatment, according to a six-year study recently released by the Judicial Council of California. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Jerold Krieger, who headed the subcommittee, noted, "there is both a perception and, in some cases, actual unequal treatment based upon sexual orientation." The Court of Appeals for Los Angeles County has reviewed the petition and supporting records and has agreed to decide the matter on the merits. In other words, it reviewed the documents and found that the gay father's complaint has merit. The case will be heard in May. ▼

## Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act gets new push

Co-sponsors line up behind Hate Crimes Bill

by Anabel Evora  
Special to Q-Notes

WASHINGTON, DC — Several members of Congress stepped forward March 27 to introduce to the new Congress federal hate crimes legislation that would assist local law enforcement officials in their investigation and prosecution of hate crimes. The bipartisan bill enters the political arena with a record number of original cosponsors, according to the Human Rights Campaign.

"We urge Congress to schedule a vote on this popular, bipartisan bill because the record number of original co-sponsors shows it has great prospects of passing the House and the Senate," said HRC Political Director Winnie Stachelberg. "We will also work to enlist support from the Bush administration."

The *Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act*, formerly the *Hate Crimes Prevention Act*

(HCPA), was introduced at a press conference on Capitol Hill. The bill was unveiled with a record number of co-sponsors, 50 in the Senate and 180 in the House at the time of the press conference. Lead sponsors include Sens. Edward Kennedy (D-MA), Gordon Smith (R-OR) and Arlen Specter (R-PA).

In June 2000, the Senate voted 57 to 42 to pass the language of the *Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act*. The version of the bill passed by the House did not contain the hate-crimes language, but on September 13 of last year, by a vote of 232-192, the House instructed the House-Senate conference committee (which was working to unify the bills) to keep the hate crimes measure in the reworked legislation. Despite this bipartisan support in both houses of Congress, the Republican Congressional leadership successfully stripped the hate crime language while the bill was in conference.

If passed, the bill would amend the current 32-year-old federal hate crimes statute — which covers race, religion, color and national origin — to include real or perceived gender, sexual orien-

tion and disability. It would serve as a tool to help law enforcement by allowing federal assistance, when necessary, in the investigation and prosecutions of hate crimes. This legislation has broad support from notable law enforcement agencies and state and local leaders including 22 state attorneys general, the Police Foundation, the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the National Sheriff's Association.

A September 2000 Gallup poll showed 72 percent of Americans agree that hate crime laws should cover lesbians and gay men. Another poll, released last year by the Garin-Hart-Yang-Research Group, shows that hate crime legislation is widely supported by the public. According to the poll, nearly 66 percent of voters say they would be less likely to vote for a candidate who voted against legislation to "strengthen the prosecution of violent hate crimes motivated by prejudice against race, religion, gender or sexual orientation of the victim." 63 percent of Independent voters say they are "less likely to vote for a candidate opposed to hate crime legislation." ▼

anxious...bored...  
frustrated...stuck...  
depressed...

Would you like  
experienced guidance  
as you identify and achieve  
your goals?



Lisa Griffin, Ph.D.  
Your FAMILY Therapist  
griffin@insideinterest.com

704-458-0433

FEE IS \$100 PER HOUR.  
MAY BE COVERED BY  
YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE

conflicted...unmotivated...  
out-of-control...scared

One Voice Chorus Presents

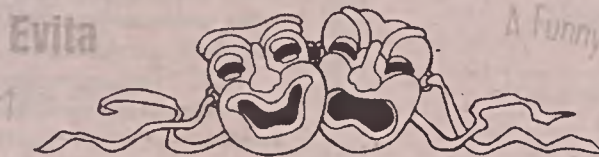
# A Cabaret

Friday May 4th and Saturday May 5th 7:30pm

At the Visulite Theater 1615 Elizabeth Ave

ONE VOICE  
CHARLOTTE

Beauty & The Beast  
Company  
A Chorus Line



Join us for our salute to Broadway

Tickets \$20 at the door \$17 at The Bag Lady, White Rabbit, Paper Skyscraper,

Rainbow Path & Georgetown Bodyworks or call (704) 529-2951

One Voice Chorus is the Gay, Lesbian and Gay Affirming chorus of Charlotte. One Voice Chorus envisions a world without discrimination, where the contributions of all people are cherished, celebrated and sought out. We sing to bring such a world into being.

We believe in supporting the community that supports us. That's why we also perform an average of 20 smaller shows each season. Many of these take place in local houses of worship, where we seek to provide a positive alternative to the often negative messages heard in such places. So far this year One Voice has performed for the:

- Democratic Women's Convention of North Carolina
- Metropolitan Community Church of Charlotte
- The Local Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation
- Piedmont Unitarian Universalist Church
- Unitarian Universalist Church of Charlotte
- The Carriage Club Assisted Living Center
- The Brian Center
- Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
- Mercy Hospital
- Gastonia Aids Council
- Westminster Assisted Living Center
- The Great Aunt Stella Center