Victory in challenge to Georgia law

In a 2-1 decision, a Federal Appellate Court has held that the Constitutional right to privacy protects homosexual activity. The ruling was made in a case that challenged the constitutionality of the Georgia sodomy law. In addition, the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that Georgia would need to show some compelling state interest if it wanted to requlate private adult sexual activity at all.

The Court's decision has been hailed by gay leaders as a major victory. Jean O'Leary, **Executive Director of National Gay Rights** Advocates, said: "This decision is significant because sodomy laws are the bedrock of discrimination against gay men and women in this country." O'Leary also pointed out that since these laws criminalize our very existence, lawsuits will be filed against every state that still has one on their books.

Abby Rubenfeld, Managing Attorney of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, said: "The Court set an extremely important precedent in this case. It's the first time a U.S. Court of Appeals has held that the right to privacy protects lesbians and gay men."

Rubenfeld noted that it is also the first time that such a court has forced a state to justify its reasons for having a sodomy statute.

The case was filed two years ago when Michael Hardwick was arrested in his own bedroom and charged with sodomy. Sodomy in Georgia is a felony that carries a sentence of 20 years in prison. Cathy Wilde, an attorney in Atlanta, represented Hardwick at both the District Court and Court of Appeals.

Gay men and lesbians, 55 and older

Previous research in the gay/lesbian community has indicated a preference for retirement housing and long term care facilities which are homosexually oriented. To elicit more detailed and accurate information concerning interest in such facilities for older lesbians and gay men, a nationwide survey is being conducted by Dr. A.J. Lucco, Fellow in Geriatric Medicine at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore.

Gay men and lesbians who will be at least 55 years old by the end of the current calendar year are needed to complete an anonymous, self-administered questionnaire which asks for demographic data as well as opinions in

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regard to and retirement housing options and preferences. If you qualify and are willing to participate, please contact: A.J. Lucco, M.D., The Beacham Center, 5200 Eastern Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21224.

Organizations willing to distribute questionnaires are also asked to reply.

The study is being funded privately by the principal investigator. Results will be compiled and made available to gay/lesbian organizations around the country which are interested in developing retirement facilities for older

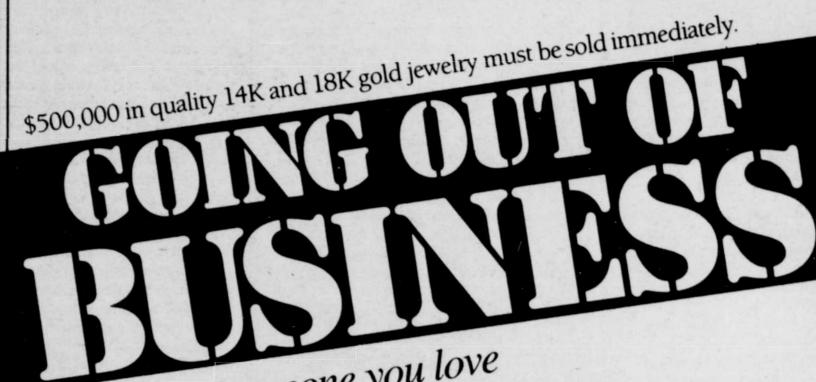
lesbians and gay men.

ABA rejects gay rights advocacy

The American Bar Association's House of Delegates rejected, by nine votes, a proposal to use the resources of the lawyer's group to lobby at federal, state and local levels for civil rights for lesbians and gays.

The resolution on behalf of gays and lesbians urged governments to adopt legislation prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation.

Debate preceding the 161-152 vote rejection included the reading of a letter of support from Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago, who stated that although he advocated civil rights for lesbians and gays, he did not endorse their lifestyle.



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