

national

NATIONAL

Trans Woman Sues Library of Congress

Rejecting the federal government's attempt to throw out a transgender veteran's sex discrimination lawsuit against the Library of Congress, a federal judge ruled Nov. 28 that the case can go forward. The American Civil Liberties Union brought the lawsuit in June 2005 on behalf of 25-year U.S. Army veteran Diane Schroer, who was offered a job as a senior



A federal court judge ruled that the Library of Congress discriminated against U.S. Army veteran Diane Schroer when her employment offer was rescinded.

terrorism researcher but was later told she was not a "good fit" after her future boss learned she was in the process of transitioning from male to female.

"After putting my life on the line for my country for 25 years, I couldn't believe that I could be refused a job that I was told I was the most qualified for solely because I happened to be transgender," said Schroer, a former U.S. Army Special Forces Officer who specialized in fighting terrorism.

After retiring from the military, Schroer, who was chosen to lead a classified national security operation while serving as an airborne ranger qualified special forces officer, applied for a position with the Library of Congress as the senior terrorism research analyst. Soon thereafter she was offered the job, which she accepted immediately.

Prior to starting, Schroer took her future boss to lunch to explain that she was in the process of transitioning and thought it would be easier if she started work presenting as female. The next day, her future boss rescinded the offer, saying she wasn't a "good fit."

In its motion to dismiss, the government argued that Title VII, which protects against sex discrimination, does not protect transgender workers. The court rejected this argument. The court said, "Title VII is violated when an employer discriminates against any employee, transsexual or not, because he or she has failed to act or appear sufficiently masculine or feminine enough for an employer."

FLORIDA

Republicans Defend Gay Military Ban

Republican candidates for the 2008 presidential nomination Nov. 28 defended the federal "don't

ask, don't tell" law, which bans gay, lesbian and bisexual personnel from the military.

Retired Brig. Gen. Keith Kerr, a member of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network's military advisory council, asked his question as part of the CNN/ YouTube debate of Republican presidential contenders. "I want to know why you think that American men and women in uniform are not professional enough to serve with gays and lesbians," he asked.

"Most Americans [who enter the military] are conservative and have conservative values, and to force those people to work in a small, tight unit with someone openly homosexual and goes against their principles is a disservice," U.S. Rep. Duncan Hunter, D-Calif., responded.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., said, "Leaders almost unanimously tell me that the present policy is working."

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee said, "People have a right to whatever feelings and attitudes they wish, but when conduct puts cohesion at risk, I think that is what is at issue."

Former Gov. Mitt Romney, who acknowledged supporting open service early in his career, said he now opposes it, saying that the law "has been there for 15 years, and it seems to be working."

Aubrey Sarvis, executive director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, pointed to growing support among Republican voters and lawmakers for repealing the law. A March 2006 Pew Research Poll found that 62 percent of self-identified moderate Republicans support open service.

For more information visit www.sldn.org.

OHIO

Partnership Registry Approved

The Toledo City Council approved an ordinance Nov. 13 that creates a domestic partnership registry for same-sex and opposite-sex couples. The measure passed by a strong margin, 10-2.

Toledo Mayor Carty Finkbeiner signed the ordinance Nov. 21, and it takes effect Dec. 21. The domestic partnership registry is the second in Ohio, following Cleveland Heights, and is the first in a big city. It will enable couples to obtain recognition of their domestic partnership from the clerk of the council.

Meanwhile, the Dayton City Commission passed an ordinance Nov. 21 that adds sexual orientation and gender identity to the city's nondiscrimination law. The vote was 3-1, with Mayor Rhine McLin voting in favor and one commissioner abstaining.

MICHIGAN

Directive Protects Trans Employees

Gov. Jennifer Granholm signed an executive directive Nov. 21 that bans discrimination in state employment based on gender identity or expression.

The directive protects nearly 50,000 state employees in Michigan's executive branch, which encompasses 95 percent of all state employees. The directive will protect transgender workers and any state employees who face discrimination because they do not conform to traditional gender norms in their behavior or appearance. 10

Compiled by JAYMEE R. CUTI

I'm straight...
when it comes to real estate.

Straight... as in
Straight shooter
Straight forward
Straight to the point

For over 30 years, straight when it counts.



503.287.9370 x104
deborah@bridgetownrealty.com



Deborah Betron CRB, GRI
Principal Broker

The severity of the
itch is proportional to the reach.
NEED FLEA MEDS?



Experienced with
**CATS • REPTILES
DOGS • POCKET PETS
OTHER EXOTICS**

6135 SE KING RD. 503-774-3363

20 Blocks off 82nd near Clackamas Town Center

www.linwoodvet.com

COUPON

\$24⁹⁵
FIRST VISIT

Exam for any Dog, Cat,
Bird, Reptile or Pocket Pet
Not valid with other offers. New clients only.
Expires 2/28/08 • Code: 10

**Boarding
Microchip
Implants
Flea Products**

DOGS, CATS & EXOTICS

Special Diet, Medications
Available Too

Mon-Fri 8:00am-6:30pm
Sat. 8:00am-4:30pm



**GET BACK
TO NATURE AT
SEA RANCH**

- Tent sites • Cabins • Fire ring for campfires
- Full hook-up RV sites • Wifi
- Water and electric sites • Clean Restrooms
- Picnic tables • Hot showers
- Horseback Rides (Summer) • Pets welcome on leash
- Open all year • 2.5 blocks to the beach

Sea Ranch RV Park
is situated at the edge
of temperate rain
forests, bordered by
Ecola Creek and
includes one of
twenty-two
estuaries along the
Oregon Coast.

**SEA RANCH
RV PARK & STABLES**

415 Fir Street P.O. Box 214 • Cannon Beach, OR 97110

Ph: 503-436-2815 • Fax: 503-436-2074

www.searanchrv.com



new year's is coming...
get your business in shape.

love
work
life
causeit

**call now to schedule a free
business consultation
or life coaching session!**

causeit.org | 503.493.7332 | coaching, p.r. & business development for our community