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Beth Allen Law

Beth A. Allen, founding partner: winner of the Oregon Gay & Lesbian Law Association (OGALLA) Silver Jubilee Award; OGALLA Award of Merit; and the Basic Rights Oregon Superhero Award. Selected as a 2010 Oregon Super Lawyer. Founding member of the BRO Legal Group; author of *Same-Sex Marriage: a Conflicts of Law Analysis for Oregon*; frequent local, state and national speaker on marriage equality.

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Springtime Events for a Cause

Annual fundraisers for BRO, CAP this month

BY AARON SPENCER

Two of Portland's biggest and swankiest fundraising events for LGBTQ-focused nonprofits happen this month. Basic Rights Oregon's 18th Annual Business Leaders Luncheon and Cascade AIDS Project's 22nd Annual Art Auction and Evening raised a combined \$520,000 for the two organizations last year, and this year the groups hope to see more generosity from the community.

The two events, which are separate, are set for the end of April: BRO's luncheon on Thursday, April 21 and CAP's art auction on Saturday evening, April 30. Tickets to the BRO luncheon are \$75 each, tickets to the CAP event

are \$100-\$250, plus the cost of art. Below are the details to help you decide which one—or both—to attend.

BRO's Business Leaders Luncheon

As high-profile fundraisers go, Basic Rights Oregon's annual luncheon includes much of the standard fare—fancy lunch, big name speaker (Governor John Kitzhaber), updates on the organization, etc.

But what distinguishes the event is its focus: the people who help keep BRO running.

"Helping Basic Rights Oregon helps us feel a part of something bigger," says John Halseth, who with his partner Robin Castro won BRO's Fighting Spirit Award last year.

"We're participating in changing history for our community, and Basic Rights is on the forefront of that. That's why we're supporters."

Halseth works at local insurance company The Standard, which this year will receive a special honor from BRO for its support and work for LGBTQ equality. That's the point of the luncheon—to recognize the work of

others in the community.

This is a big year for Basic Rights Oregon. The group is gearing up for a possible ballot campaign for marriage equality next year. Its television ads are airing across Oregon in an ef-

fort to win hearts and minds for gay marriage. BRO is also in the midst of a campaign for trans-inclusive health care in Oregon, an area where the state could be a pioneer.

Gov. Kitzhaber, whom BRO helped elect last year with months of volunteer phone calls, is the event's keynote speaker.

"People are seeing that plans we've been putting into place over the past two and a half years are becoming reality," says Juan Martinez, BRO's development director.

The event had 450 attendees last year and raised \$100,000, about 10 percent of BRO's budget. It's one of the organization's biggest events, second only to its fall dinner. This year BRO is shooting to fill 500 seats.

And even though "business" is in the

Easter Sunday, April 24

Sunrise Service 7:00 AM (Washington Park Rose Garden)

Breakfast 8:30 AM (2400 NE Broadway)

Celebration Worship 10:00 AM (2400 NE Broadway)

See our website for more activities!

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