

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## The DC Center Announces New Leadership for 2014 New Board Members and Board Officers Elected at Annual Meeting

January 3rd, 2014 - The Board of Directors of the DC Center for the LGBT Community recently elected new board members and officers at its annual meeting. Returning to the Board of Directors are Eddy Ameen, Matthew Corso, John Crow, Martin Espinoza, Michael Fowler, Holly Goldmann, Dr. Patricia Hawkins, Jason Laney, Michelle Ross, Michael Sessa, Ashley Smith, Kelly Zimmerman, and Patrick Zornow.

DC Center Board Officers for 2014 are: Michael Fowler, Chair (new), Dr. Pat Hawkins, Vice-Chair (new), John Crow, Treasurer (returning), Eddy Ameen, Secretary (new), and Matthew Corso, Chief Communications Officer (new).

Newly elected to the Board of Directors are Julie Enszer, Louis Lopez and Mindy Michels. Julie Enszer is currently working on her Ph.D. at the University of Maryland in the Department of Women's Studies, where she is also a Visiting Assistant Professor. She is an author and writer of poetry. Prior to pursuing her Ph.D., Julie held positions with the Gill Foundation; several venture capital funds; TechRocks, a supporting organization to the Rockefeller Family Fund; Human Rights Campaign; and served as Development Director and then Executive Director of the Nuclear Policy Research Institute. Julie has an MFA from the University of Maryland and a BA from the University of Michigan.

Louis Lopez serves as Deputy Chief in the Employment Litigation Section of the Civil Rights Division at the U.S. Department of Justice, where he formerly served as a senior trial attorney. Mr. Lopez's public service also includes serving as counsel to the Chairwoman of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, counsel to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's EEO Officer, and an appellate litigation attorney in the EEOC's Office of General Counsel. In addition, Mr. Lopez worked in private practice at law firms in DC and Chicago, and served as director of human resources for Washington Post Digital. Mr. Lopez is an adjunct professor at the Georgetown University Law Center, where he teaches comparative employment discrimination law. He received a J.D. from Harvard Law School and an LL.M. in Labor and Employment Law from the Georgetown University Law Center.

Mindy Michels is the Program Director, Dignity for All: LGBT Assistance Program at Freedom House where she helps lead a consortium of eight organizations that provide emergency funds, advocacy support, and security assistance to human rights defenders and civil society organizations under threat or attack due to their work for LGBTI human rights. While living in Albania while her partner was posted at the U.S. Embassy (2006-2010), Mindy co-founded Aleanca Kunder Diskriminimit with Albanian activists and worked closely

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with the organization for 2.5 years as an advisor and a board member. During her time there, she also worked on the passage of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that included sexual orientation and gender identity, which was unanimously approved by the Parliament in February 2010, and helped catalyze and develop a vibrant, sustainable grassroots LGBT movement. Prior to living overseas, Mindy served as the Director of the GLBTA Resource Center at American University for ten years, where she built it from a small student-run office into a recognized and funded university office with two full-time staff and more than ten part-time student staff. Mindy has a Ph.D. and M.A. in Anthropology from American University and a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

Members of the DC Center's Board of Directors are elected by existing Board Members and serve for three year terms.

Outgoing Board President Michael Sessa and Executive Director David Mariner stated, "We are thrilled to welcome such distinguished members of DC's LGBT community to the Board of Directors and are excited to see a new leadership team take the helm in 2014. The breadth and depth of experience on the board comes at an opportune time as the DC Center continues to grow and serve the diverse interests of the local LGBT community."

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