

SPEAKER BIOS:

- **Bill Singer** (wsinger@singerfedun.com), Partner at Singer & Fedun LLC – **Moderator**



William S. Singer, a partner of Singer & Fedun, LLC, has been in the private practice of law in Somerset County, New Jersey for over 41 years.

His practice concentrates on the creation and protection of non-traditional families and as counselor to non-profit organizations. He has succeeded in extending rights of non-traditional families, particularly the LGBT community, through both the court system and the legislative process. In his practice, he counsels LGBT individuals and families through their life challenges.

He has been serving as the General Counsel of the National LGBT Bar Association since its founding in the 1980's and, among others, serves as General Counsel to the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys, the ACLU-NJ, the George and Helen Segal Foundation, the New Jersey Sierra Club and the New Jersey Association for Justice.

In 2009, Bill founded the LGBT Family Law Institute (FLI), a network of attorneys from the U.S. and abroad, who specialize in LGBT family law. It is a joint project of the National Center for Lesbian Rights and the National LGBT Bar Association. Bill continues to serve as Director of FLI and chairs regional and annual meetings of FLI for attorneys globally. <http://lgbtbar.org/what-we-do/member-groups/the-lgbt-family-law-institute/>

He is the Legal Advisor to Family By Design, the community of parenting partnerships. <http://www.familybydesign.com/> He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Assisted Reproductive Technology Attorneys and a member of the National Family Law Advisory Council of the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

In 2013, The National LGBT Bar Association named Bill as the inaugural winner of its Leading Practitioner Award. In 2012, Bill was awarded the Bill of Rights Award from the American Civil Liberties Union – New Jersey, the first ever Lifetime Achievement Award from the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Section of the New Jersey State Bar Association and the Presidential Award from the New Jersey Association for Justice, Inc. In 2014, upon nomination by Senator Robert Menendez and Senator Cory Booker, the United States Congress named Bill an “Angel in Adoption.”

Bill lectures frequently throughout the United States on issues concerning LGBT and other non-traditional families and diversity in the practice of law.

He received a degree in history with distinction from Rutgers College and his Juris Doctorate degree from the Columbia University School of Law.

www.singerfedun.com



- **Ilona Turner** (ilona@transgenderlawcenter.org), Legal Director at Transgender Law Center (TLC) – Topic(s): **Bisexual Exclusion Within the LGBT Community** (Softball case)

Ilona Turner is Legal Director of Transgender Law Center, the leading national legal organization dedicated to advancing the rights of transgender and gender nonconforming people. Ilona previously worked as a staff attorney at the National Center for Lesbian Rights, and as the lobbyist for Equality California. She has written numerous articles on transgender and LGBT rights issues. She received her J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law.



- **Toby Adams** (Toby.Adams@gmail.com), Family Law Attorney at Toby Adams, Attorney at Law – Topic: **Bisexual Marriage & Gender Discrimination**

Toby Adams. J.D., M.B.A. practices family law in Northern California, with a focus on LGBTQI and alternative families. Toby is a founding board member of the Intersex and Genderqueer Recognition Project, and interned with National Center for Lesbian Rights, Legal Aid Society Employment Law Center, Transgender Law Center, Advocates for Informed Choice, and Equality California. She has been a leader in bisexual visibility and marriage equality for over a decade, as the founding chairperson of the Placer County chapter of

Marriage Equality USA in 2004-2006, and chairperson of South Bay Bisexual Organizers and Activists in 2000. Toby was one of the principal authors of the BiLaw amicus brief filed in the Obergefell, DeBoer, Bourke, and Tanco Supreme Court marriage cases in 2015.

Toby received her J.D. with Distinction from University of Pacific, McGeorge School of Law in 2012. Prior to beginning her legal career Toby was a Project Manager at Hewlett-Packard. Toby lives in the SF Bay Area with her wife, Jean, and their very special daughter, Kalen.

- **Nancy Marcus** (ncmarcus@indianatech.edu), Assistant Professor at Indiana Tech Law School – Topic: **Bisexual Erasure in LGBT litigation**

Professor Nancy Marcus, LL.M., S.J.D. is the founding constitutional law professor at Indiana Tech Law School, where, as Assistant Professor of Law, she also offers courses in Sexual Orientation and the Law and other subjects. Marcus holds several



law degrees, including a J.D. from Case Western Reserve University School of Law and an LL.M. and an S.J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School, where her 2006 dissertation was on same-sex marriage. Marcus's career includes a diverse range of academic and advocacy experiences. Prior to joining the legal academia full-time, she was an adjunct professor at CWRU Law School, and has also worked as an attorney with a constitutional law firm and with a rural legal aid office, as a judicial law clerk for a court of appeals and for the Wisconsin Supreme Court, and as a policy analyst and attorney with organizations including the Alliance for Justice, the American Association for Justice (formerly ATLA), and the National Abortion Federation, where she was Director of State Public Policy.

Throughout her career, Marcus has been devoted to LGBT-rights advocacy. She is one of the founders of BiLaw and is the Chair of the American Bar Association Litigation Section's LGBT-Rights Subcommittee. She has previously served on the Board of Directors of the Lesbian and Gay Law Foundation and on the Board of Madison, Wisconsin's LGBT Community Center, Outreach.

She is a former volunteer writer for the Gay People's Chronicle, and has also been an active volunteer with a number of other LGBT-rights organizations and causes over the decades, frequently speaking at conferences and panels on LGBT-rights issues and often interviewed by her local media channels on same-sex marriage and other constitutional matters. Marcus has authored a number of law review articles on LGBT rights, including *When Quacking like a Duck is Really a Swan Song in Disguise: How Windsor's State Powers Analysis Sets the Stage for the Demise of Federalism-Based Marriage Discrimination*, 64 Case W. Res. L. Rev. 1073 (2014). *Deeply Rooted Principles of Equal Liberty, not "Argle Barge": The Inevitability of Marriage Equality After Windsor*, 23 Tul. J. L. & Sexuality 17 (2014); *The Freedom of Intimate Association in the Twenty First Century*, 16 Geo. Mason U. Civ. Rts. L.J. 269 (2006); and *Beyond Romer and Lawrence: The Right to Privacy Comes Out of the Closet*, 15 Columbia J. Gender & L. 355 (2006). Her recent article, on bisexual erasure, titled "Bridging Bisexual Erasure in LGBT-Rights Discourse and Litigation," is due to be published by Michigan Journal of Gender and Law in the fall of 2015.

Professor Marcus's scholarship on LGBT-rights has been cited by an LGBT Rights Shadow Report to the United Nations; by the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit; by a federal district court, and by a large number of other scholars in the legal academia.



- **Jodi Argentino** (jodi@ajfamilylawyers.com), Partner at Argentino & Jacobs, LLC – Topic: **Cultural Competency: Serving Bisexual Clients**

Jodi A. Argentino is a Partner with Argentino & Jacobs, LLC, with offices in Morris & Essex Counties, New Jersey where her practice is focused entirely on family law. Argentino & Jacobs, LLC practices exclusively in the area of Family Law, and Jodi's own practice is focused on LGBT families and complex parentage situations. She is also qualified by the State of NJ as a Family Law Mediator.

Jodi received her JD from Syracuse University College of Law in 2002, where she also received a Certification of Specialization in Family Law and Social Policy and was a Teaching Assistant for The Children's Rights and Family Law Clinical Program. She was also an Editor of The Digest (Journal of the Italian-American Bar Association). Jodi then began her legal practice as a Judicial Law Clerk to the Honorable Deanne M. Wilson, J.S.C. and has worked for various firms focusing her practice in the area of Family Law.

Jodi is an active volunteer in the legal community. She is a member of the National LGBT Bar Association, an admitted member of the Family Law Institute of the National LGBT Bar Association, and a member of the New Jersey Bar Association (NJSBA). Jodi is also the Secretary of the NJSBA LGBT Rights Section, a member of the NJSA Family Law Section, a member of the Solo and Small Firm Section, and a Family Law subcommittee member of the Morris County Bar Association. Jodi has been appointed to the District X Fee Arbitration Committee of the NJ Office of Attorney Ethics.

Jodi has written extensively on the subject of Family Law and LGBT issues, maintains a Family Law blog, is a contributing author for the NJSBA LGBT Rights Section Newsletter, and has been a speaker for various organizations including NJICLE, the LGBT Bar Association, and for the New Jersey Administrative Office of the Courts. She also is a founder of LGBTeach, LLC, an organization which provides LGBT-related continuing education courses and diversity training.

- **Merisa Bowers** (merisa@merisabowerslaw.com)
Criminal and Family Law Attorney at Merisa K. Bowers,
Attorney at Law, LLC – Topic: **Cultural Competency:
Serving Bisexual Clients**

Merisa is a University of Cincinnati graduate and a cum laude graduate of Case Western Reserve University School of Law in Cleveland, Ohio. She works to promote her family's long-standing value that everyone, regardless of class, gender, income, race, or age, deserves competent and compassionate legal representation. Realizing Ohioans' need for aggressive yet affordable representation, Merisa established her law practice in January 2010.

Merisa has experience with Ohio's foremost criminal justice and civil rights advocates. Her prior experience includes working as an administrative assistant at Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP in Cincinnati, a Federal Judicial Externship with the Honorable Sara Lioi in the Northern District of Ohio, and working as the litigation law clerk at Friedman & Gilbert in Cleveland, Ohio. She continues to have strong professional relationships with some of Ohio's premiere litigators.



- **Andy Izenson** (andy@dianaadamslaw.net), Associate at Diana Adams Law & Mediation, PLLC – Topic: **Non-monogamy and Bisexual Families**

Andy Izenson is an Associate Attorney and mediator with Diana Adams Law & Mediation, PLLC, and is a passionate advocate for queer and nontraditional families and for trans and gender non-conforming youth and adults. As a collaborative attorney trained by the New York Association of Collaborative Professionals and mediator trained by the New York Center for Interpersonal Development, Andy aids clients in creating intentional structures and support for their families. Longstanding affiliations with the National LGBT Bar Association, and with the National Lawyers Guild as a member of the NYC Chapter Executive Committee and a legal observer, frame Andy's commitment to support for queer community and families as well as to a radical, anti-assimilationist politic.



Andy is also an activist and educator on gender, sexuality, positive consent practices, and sexual communication, and speaks at various organizations and events on the East Coast about those topics, including the Woodhull Sexual Freedom Summit, Open Love NY, Skidmore College, and Columbia University. Andy studied sociolinguistics at Skidmore College, publishing a thesis on nonbinary gender and paralinguistic communication in the International Journal of Arts and Sciences, and then attended New York Law School as a member of the Justice Action Center and a Trustee Scholar.



- **Heron Greenesmith** (heron@lgbtmap.org), LGBT Movement and Policy Analyst at Movement Advancement Project (MAP) – Topic: **Bisexual Legal Scholarship & Statistical Disparities**

Heron Greenesmith leads the Movement Advancement Project's (MAP) LGBT movement research analyses and conducts research in support of MAP's public policy work. Before joining MAP, Heron was Legislative Counsel at the Family Equality Council where she focused on federal regulatory reforms for LGBT parents and their children. She

writes about bisexuality, health, employment discrimination, and LGBT families, among other topics. Heron is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire and American University, Washington College of Law and is admitted to the New York and Massachusetts bars. She is a board member of the National LGBT Bar Association, a former fellow with the Rockwood Leadership Institute, and a returned Peace Corps Volunteer.

- **Ann Tweedy** (Ann.Tweedy@muckleshoot.nsn.us), Associate Professor at Hamline University School of Law – Topic: **Employment Discrimination Against Bisexuals**

Ann Tweedy is an associate professor at Hamline University School of Law. She previously served as a visiting assistant professor at Michigan State University College of Law and a Fellow at California Western School of Law. After clerking for Judge Gould of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and Judge Armstrong of the Oregon Court of Appeals, she worked for several years representing Indian tribes, first as in-house counsel for the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and then as an associate at Kanji & Katzen, PLLC. Her practice primarily centered on environmental and natural resources law. She has written extensively on tribal sovereignty under federal law and also writes on tribal law and sexuality and the law. In addition to her work as a scholar, she is also a poet and essayist.



Professor Tweedy received her JD from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall), where she was inducted into the Order of the Coif, and her AB degree from Bryn Mawr College, where she majored in English and Philosophy. She is a peer reviewer for the Journal of Homosexuality and a contributing editor for the Federal Bar Association's Indian Law Section newsletter. Her primary teaching areas are Property, Federal Indian Law, and Gender, Sexuality, and Law. She is admitted to the bars of Washington and California (inactive); and she is of counsel to Kanji & Katzen, PLLC in Seattle.