



Attorney/Firm Questionnaire

Name: Alexandra Lydon (but applying on behalf of all LSNV attorneys)

Organization/Law Firm: Legal Services of Northern Virginia

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1. Are you and your firm actively interested in representing lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) clients?

Absolutely! We are working on updating and implementing our training for all of our staff on LGBTQIA+ issues (although we have had training in the past).

2. Are you or your firm currently representing LGBT clients or have you represented LGBT clients in the past?

Yes, we have represented LGBT clients in the past and continue to do so.

3. Have you or your firm worked on matters/cases in which the sexual orientation, gender identity or expression of your client or your opponent played a role in the case or was relevant to the legal advice you gave? If so, what types of cases/matters have they been (workplace discrimination, housing discrimination, child custody, adoption, etc)?



I have advised clients on the intersection of their sexual orientation as it relates to divorce and child custody, but I am sure that my colleagues have also given advice relevant to housing and debt issues as well.

4. Have you or your firm worked on matter(s)/case(s) in which you advocated for LGBT rights? If so, please describe the case(s)/matter(s).

Not that I am aware of other than helping them exercise their rights as an individual in the community. However, I am on the board of the Virginia Equality Bar Association and some of our attorneys attend VEBA's gender marker change legal clinic in Northern Virginia as well as the NOVA TIES Pop-Up.

5. Have you or your firm ever used sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression against an opposing party on behalf of a client? If so, how?

Not that I am aware of.

6. What areas of your or your firm's practice might be of particular interest to prospective LGBT clients (e.g., workplace/housing discrimination, trusts and estates, tax planning, child custody, adoption or surrogacy, medical decision-making, health care, insurance benefits, personal injury litigation, hate crimes, etc)?

We provide a wide range of FREE civil legal services to indigent clients throughout Northern Virginia that LGBT clients would be interested in. Here is a list of range of services we provide:

- **Education advocacy:**
 - Special Education
 - Re-admission into the client's local school
 - Credit transfer from out-of-home placement to local school
 - School discipline matter
- **Employment:**
 - Driver's license/ID
 - Other identification paperwork
 - Professional licensure
 - Debt & credit issues, including bankruptcy
 - Wage claims
- **Housing Matters:**
 - Eviction
 - Homeless
 - Transitional housing
 - Foster Care
- **Records:**
 - Assistance in procuring birth certificates
 - Draft powers of attorney and medical authorization
 - Sealing/Expungement



- Opening bank account without proof of address
- **Benefits:**
 - Disability benefits
 - Medicaid
 - Health insurance
 - Food stamps
 - Crime Victims' rights enforcement
- **Family Matters:**
 - Protective Orders
 - Custody and/or Visitation
 - Child Support
 - Spousal Support
 - Separation & Divorce
- **We also have special programs for individuals with HIV/AIDS, veterans, and those who were previously incarcerated.**

7. Do you or your firm have any experience advising transgender people about the specific legal issues affecting such individuals? If so, please give examples.

I would not say that the majority of our attorneys have experience advising transgender people about the specific legal issues affecting such individuals, but hopefully with time and training they will all have the capacity to do so.

8. What is your or your firm's policy on pro bono legal assistance?

We actively work with pro bono attorneys to help clients obtain legal assistance that we may not have the capacity to provide, but all of our in-house services are provided to clients for FREE as well. They never have to pay LSNV anything- although they may have to pay court costs for filing documents in court if we can't get those fees waived. We have recently discussed making sure that all pro bono attorneys are LGBTQIA+-friendly but have not taken action on this plan at this time.