

THE MCHUGH LAW FIRM

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

August 13, 2009

TELECOPIER COVER SHEET

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TO: MARDI KRANTZ

FROM: MICHAEL J. MCHUGH

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MESSAGE: **Completed Attorney/Firm Questionnaire Attached. Please call if you have any questions. Thanks!**

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Attorney/Firm Questionnaire

Name: Michael McHugh

Organization/Law Firm: The McHugh Law Firm

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Arlington, VA 22201

Email Address: mchughpc@aol.com

Phone Number: (703) 841-9318

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Website: Soon!

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

Yes.

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

Yes.



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)?

Yes. I regularly handle cases in the following areas which involve issues of sexual orientation:

Divorce, where one spouse is coming out;

Domestic Partnership dissolution between same sex partners;

Collaborative partnership dissolution for same sex partners;

Partition suits between former same sex partners;

Estate Planning for single and coupled gay and lesbian clients;

Pre-nuptial agreements for same sex couples;

Custody issues, where one parent is gay or lesbian;

Business / real property disputes between former same sex couples;

Estate administration/advice for surviving partners;

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

(I understand this question to be asking if I have litigated on behalf of clients). Yes. I have represented the non-biological mother of a child against the biological mother in Arlington in a case where the biological mother was trying to cut off all contact between the non-biological mother and the child. I have also represented clients in various court proceedings relating to the co-ownership of property. Finally, I have assisted a client in preserving his reputation with the military in an instance where his former same-sex partner tried to destroy his career by outing him to the military.



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?

No.

6. What areas of your or your firm's practice might be of particular interest to prospective GLBT 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)?

I describe my practice as helping clients safely navigate all the difficult transitions in life. I work with clients in putting relationships together, and taking them apart. I help them with estate planning, which is also life and relationship planning. I am probably best known in the Northern Virginia for my work in helping gay and lesbian clients constructively work through the dissolution of their marriage or their domestic partnership.

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 do not have any experience in this area.



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

Every year the firm gives away innumerable hours of attorney time in furtherance of LGBT causes, including time not billed to existing clients who, simply cannot afford to pay for the kind of representation their cases require. That said, the firm is not large enough to take on pure pro-bono cases where there is no compensation at all for attorney services.