



NATIONAL CENTER FOR LESBIAN RIGHTS



making the case for equality



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James D. Esseks is the Litigation Director of the ACLU Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & AIDS Project. He oversees litigation around the country that aims to ensure equal treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people by the government; equal rights and protections for LGBT couples and families; protection from discrimination in jobs, schools, housing, and public accommodations; and fair treatment by the government of people living with HIV/AIDS. Examples include cases challenging the exclusion of same-sex couples from marriage; challenges to bans on adoption or foster parenting by lesbians and gay men; and challenges to schools that seek to stifle the speech or association rights of LGBT students.

Prior to joining the ACLU, he was a partner at Vladeck, Waldman, Elias & Engelhard, P.C., in New York. He graduated from Yale College and Harvard Law School, where he was editor-in-chief of the *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review*. He clerked for the Honorable Robert L. Carter, United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, and the Honorable James R. Browning, United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.