



NATIONAL CENTER FOR LESBIAN RIGHTS



making the case for equality



Equality California | eqca.org

**Making the first argument will be:  
Shannon Price Minter, Esq.  
Legal Director  
National Center for Lesbian Rights**

Shannon Price Minter is the Legal Director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR), one of the nation's leading advocacy organizations for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.

Shannon was lead counsel for same-sex couples in the landmark California marriage equality case which held that same-sex couples have the fundamental right to marry and that laws that discriminate based on sexual orientation are inherently discriminatory and subject to the highest level of constitutional scrutiny. He is now lead counsel in the subsequent Prop 8 legal challenge currently pending before the California Supreme Court.

Shannon was also NCLR's lead attorney on Sharon Smith's groundbreaking wrongful death suit and has litigated many other impact cases in California and across the country.

In 2009, Shannon was named California Lawyer of the Year by *California Lawyer*.

In 2008, he was named among six Lawyers of the Year by Lawyers USA and among California's Top 100 Lawyers by the legal publication *The Daily Journal*. He also received the 2008 Dan Bradley Award from the National Gay and Lesbian Bar Association for outstanding work in marriage cases and was the recipient of the Cornell Law School Exemplary Public Service Award.

In 2005, Shannon was one of 18 people to receive the Ford Foundation's "Leadership for a Changing World" award. In 2004, he was awarded an Honorary Degree from the City University of New York School of Law for his advocacy on behalf of same-sex couples and their families.

Shannon has also received the Anderson Prize Foundation's *Creating Change* Award by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the Distinguished National Service Award from GAYLAW, the bar association for LGBT lawyers, law students, and legal professionals in Washington, D.C., Cornell Law School's Exemplary Public Service Award, the Unity Award from Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom, the Advocacy Award from the San Francisco Bar Association, and the Justice Award from Equality California.

Shannon serves on the American Bar Association Commission on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. He also serves on the boards of Equality California and the Transgender Law & Policy Institute.

Shannon received his J.D. from Cornell Law School in 1993. He is originally from Texas.