

**DALLAS LGBT**  
BAR ASSOCIATION

# Visibility Ball 2023

**GALA & AWARDS**

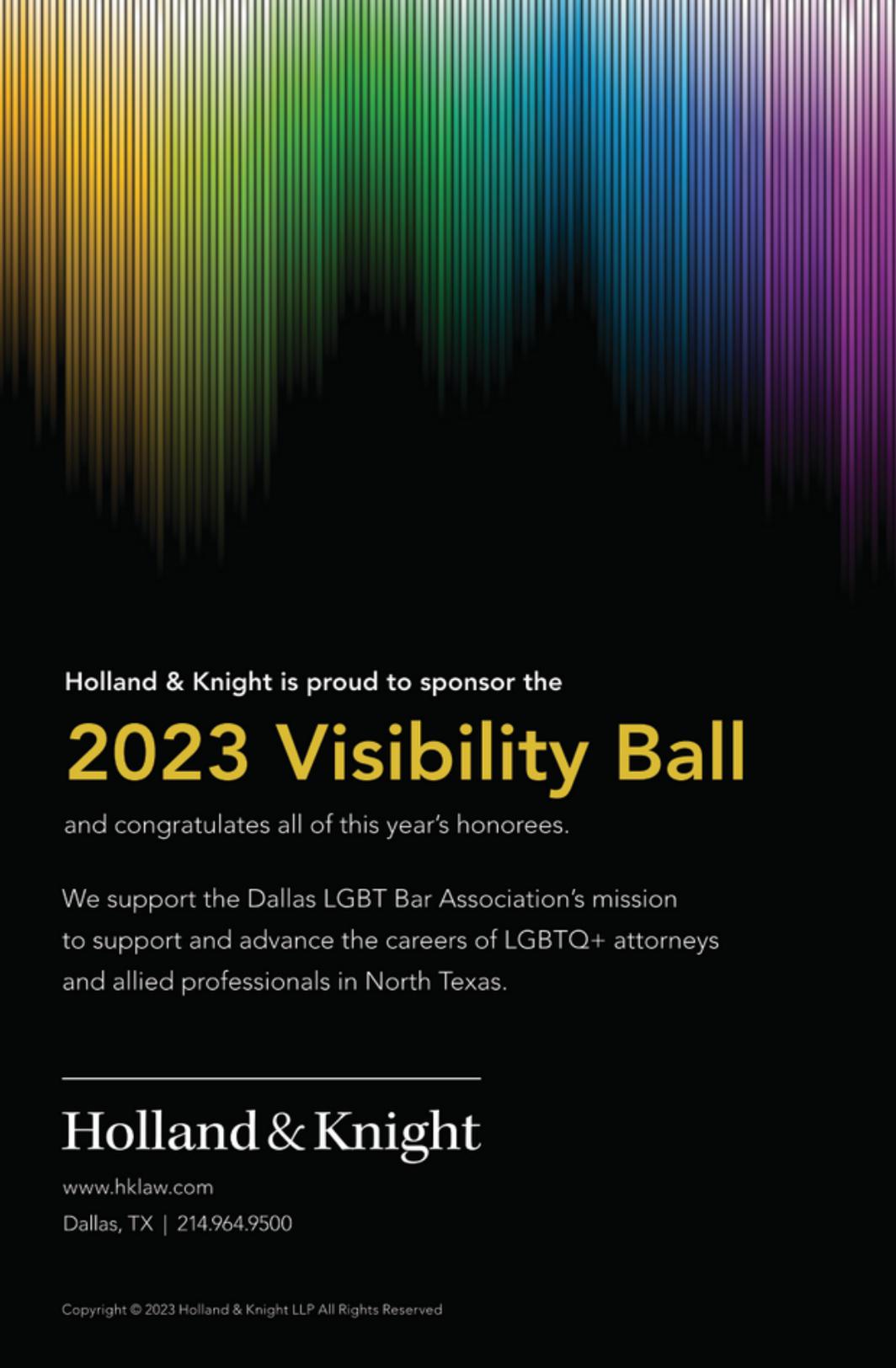
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18TH, 2023

7:00 PM

THE VIRGIN HOTEL - DALLAS

**PRESENTING SPONSOR**

**Holland & Knight**



Holland & Knight is proud to sponsor the

# 2023 Visibility Ball

and congratulates all of this year's honorees.

We support the Dallas LGBT Bar Association's mission to support and advance the careers of LGBTQ+ attorneys and allied professionals in North Texas.

---

## Holland & Knight

[www.hklaw.com](http://www.hklaw.com)

Dallas, TX | 214.964.9500



**DALLAS LGBT**  
BAR ASSOCIATION

# Visibility Ball 2023

## Cocktail Hour

7PM - 8PM

## Dinner & Program

8PM - 9:30PM

### WELCOME

President Elect Elissa Wev

### JUSTICE AWARD PRESENTATION

Monica Uribe, Clark Hill

2023 Recipient - Juan Contreras, TX Latino Pride

### OUTSTANDING FIRM & JURIST

Secretary Thomas McMillian & Treasurer Sean Buckley

2023 Firm - Holland & Knight

2023 Jurist - Justice Bill Pedersen, III

### SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNITION

Visibility Ball Chair, Josh Dossey

### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

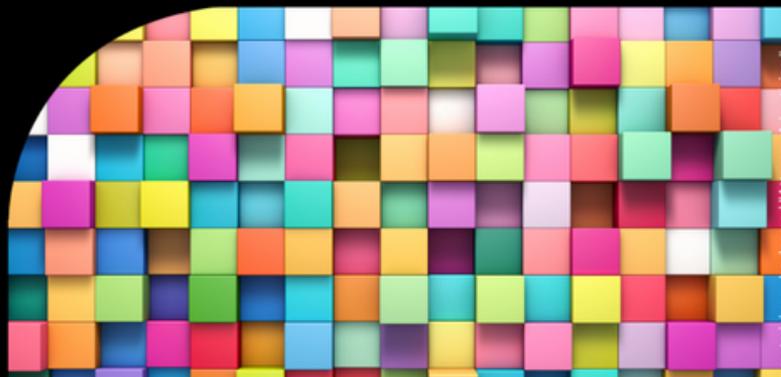
President Callie Butcher



We are proud to sponsor  
the Dallas LGBT Bar  
Association 2023 Visibility  
Ball.

Making a positive impact in our  
community is one of Clark Hill's  
core values.

Learn more at [clarkhill.com](https://clarkhill.com)





# JUSTICE AWARD

---

The Dallas LGBT Bar Association Justice Award recognizes an individual who has made a significant contribution to the advancement of the LGBTQ+ community by fighting injustice.

The Justice Award was established in 2019 in response to a growing wave of violence targeting trans women of color. One tragedy in particular prompted The DLGBT Bar to create this call to consciousness.

Muhlaysia Booker was a 23-year-old Black trans woman and Dallas native who spoke out against the perpetrators of her hate crime after a video of her assault went viral. She challenged the injustice of the group of onlookers who shouted transphobic slurs while she was attacked. Ms. Booker was found murdered nearly a month later. "She had a heart of gold," Muhlaysia's best friend, Jessica Anderson, said. "She didn't want to experience all of this tragic stuff, but she wanted everyone to pay attention to the injustice."

Justice Award honorees are considered to exhibit "a Heart of Gold" through their work advocating for and fighting injustice towards LGBTQ+ the community.

*This year we celebrate our 2023 Justice Award honoree - Juan Contreras.*

## PAST HONOREES

*2019 - Jayla Wilkerson, Transgender Pride of Dallas co-founder.*

*2020 - Robyn Pocohantas Crowe, The House of Rebirth founder.*

*2021 - Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett, Texas' 30th District.*

*2022 - Portia Cantrell, Silver Pride Project founder.*

# JUSTICE AWARD

---

## 2023 RECIPIENT



## TX LATINO PRIDE FEST FOUNDER JUAN CONTRERAS

Juan Contreras began his work as a Dallas community organizer in 2010, building partnerships to bridge the gap between communities like Oak Cliff and much needed programming. Juan began growing those partnerships with local media, venues, and fellow nonprofits to establish the first LGBTQ+ summit held locally, spotlighting issues like immigration in the LGBTQ+ space. In 2012, Juan sought to create an entertainment space to showcase the heritage, diversity, and achievements of the Hispanic/Latinx and LGBTQ+ communities in Texas. Thus, was born Texas Latino Pride Festival, an annual event that celebrates the meaningful intersections of Hispanic/Latine culture and music with queer pride and causes.

Held each year during Hispanic Heritage Month, the festival supports local artisans and small businesses, awards grants to grassroots community partners, and is free to attendees. In 2014, Juan formed Texas Latino Pride, a nonprofit organization to grow the festival. Texas Latino Pride hosts various events throughout the year that provide free HIV/AIDS testing and other services to the LGBTQ+ community in Dallas while celebrating the music, art, and joy of queer Latine community.

Furthering his commitment to community welfare, Juan serves as the International Director of Advocacy for the AIDS Healthcare Foundations affinity organization, Latino Outreach and Understanding Division (LOUD). Through LOUD, he dedicates his efforts to making a positive impact on the community, showcasing a multifaceted commitment to both professional and community-oriented endeavors. In his professional role, Juan is a Business Controls Specialist at Bank of America supporting mortgage and other business lines while championing community leadership in North Texas. As the co-chair of the Hispanic/Latino Organization for Leadership & Advancement (HOLA), he actively contributes to employee growth and engagement initiatives. Juan extends his civic involvement through volunteer roles with organizations like the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and Somos Tejas. Juan has a strong entrepreneurial spirit. Armed with a background in food and hospitality management, he applies his expertise to enhance his family's taquerias in Dallas.

# OUTSTANDING JURIST

---

## 2023 RECIPIENT



## TEXAS FIFTH COURT OF APPEALS HON. BILL PEDERSEN, III

The Honorable Bill Pedersen, III currently serves on the Texas Fifth District Court of Appeals, which he was elected to in 2018. As a longtime friend and member of the Dallas LGBT Bar Association, Justice Pedersen practices his allyship both within our organization and the community at large. Justice Pedersen vocalizes his concern about the bigotry and discrimination faced by the LGBTQ+ community, actively countering these challenges by consistently participating in and advocating for the community. He ensures that his stance on equality for all is well-known among his peers, proudly joining some of his 5th District colleagues as some of the highest-ranking members of the Texas Judiciary present at Dallas LGBT Bar meetings and events. His unwavering commitment stems from a profound belief in the freedom of individuals to embrace their authentic selves, a principle he extends even into the courtroom.

Justice Pedersen was born and raised in Nacogdoches, Texas and obtained his law degree from Baylor University School of Law in 2001. While at Baylor, he was admitted to the Order of Barristers and as a student assistant to the professors administering Baylor Law School's Practice Court program. At the age of 24, Justice Pedersen began his career in the law at the Collin County District Attorney's Office, where he prosecuted over sixty jury trials to verdict and served as Chief of the Domestic Violence section. In September of 2003, Justice Pedersen entered private practice, representing clients in criminal and civil litigation matters in both Texas and Federal courts. He has managed complex litigation matters for foreign corporations, local businesses, and individuals. Justice Pedersen is admitted to practice before the United States District Courts of both the Northern and Eastern Districts of Texas, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. He is AV Rated by Martindale Hubbell.



**DALLAS LGBT**  
BAR ASSOCIATION

2023

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**PRESIDENT**  
**Callie Butcher**



**PRESIDENT-ELECT**  
**Elissa Wev**



**SECRETARY**  
**Thomas McMillian**



**TREASURER**  
**Sean Buckley**



**DIRECTOR**  
**Rachael Gearing**



**DIRECTOR**  
**Josh Dossey**



**DIRECTOR**  
**Elizabeth Rocha**



**DIRECTOR**  
**Monica Uribe**



**IMMEDIATE PAST  
PRESIDENT**  
**Nadia  
Haghigatian**



## Who we are

Founded in 1992, the Dallas LGBT Bar Association is the only group focused on fostering a supportive community and advancing the careers of LGBTQ+ attorneys and allied professionals in North Texas. Our network is comprised of over 220 dues-paying members across the Dallas–Fort Worth metroplex, an email distribution list of more than 500 subscribers, and a social media following of nearly 2,000. We are from all walks of life: solo practitioners, government attorneys, corporate counsel, “big law” attorneys, academics, judges, non-profit advocates, and paraprofessionals. While the DLGBTBA celebrates the diversity and successes of its membership, we recognize that many barriers remain for LGBTQ+ professionals, who still experience high risks of workplace bias and fears that coming out could damage their careers - particularly in a state that was, and at times remains, hostile to the LGBTQ+ community.

## Our Mission

The Dallas LGBT Bar Association seeks to provide a community for LGBTQ+ lawyers across the metroplex by:

- Providing continuing legal education (“CLE”) courses on pressing legal issues for the LGBTQ+ community.
- Hosting regular community networking events that foster fellowship among LGBTQ+ legal professionals and allies.
- Coordinating volunteer opportunities for community service to the greater LGBTQ+ population in the Dallas–Fort Worth metroplex.
- Promoting employment opportunities through a job posting board to LGBTQ+ legal professionals and increase representation in the profession.
- The Justice Award, presented annually at the Visibility Ball, recognizing leaders who advance our local LGBTQ+ community by fighting injustice.

# NAME+ GENDER MARKER CHANGE CLINIC



**DALLAS LGBT**  
BAR ASSOCIATION

**SATURDAY**  
**SEPT. 23**

In September 2023, the Dallas LGBT Bar Association held its first Name Change + Gender Marker Correction Clinic. With the support of our community partners, volunteer attorneys, law students + therapists, and leadership of our Clinic Chair Liz Rocha - we assisted 20 trans and non-binary folks in their journey to authenticity and freedom.

# THANK YOU TO OUR COMMU NITY PART NERS



**Legal Karma**



**Oak Lawn**  
United Methodist Church



**TRANS LEGAL AID CLINIC**  
**TEXAS**  
*be legally you*



**DALLAS LGBT**  
BAR ASSOCIATION

*Visibility  
Ball 2023*

**PRESENTING SPONSOR**

**Holland & Knight**

**JUSTICE AWARD**



**Clark Hill**

**COCKTAIL**



**Kastl Law, P.C.**

**VISIBILITY**



**CARRINGTON COLEMAN**

*Thank You Sponsors!*

Thank You  
Sponsors!

 **DALLAS LGBT  
BAR ASSOCIATION**

Visibility  
Ball 2023



**BakerHostetler**



Duffee + Eitzen



**EQUALITY**

**AUTHENTICITY**

**Akin**  **BAKER BOTTS**

**ALSTON  
& BIRD**

**GoransonBainAusley**  
FAMILY LAW

**Dykema**

Dr. Lynda &  
Dan Butcher



**DebnamRust**  
Attorneys at Law



**UNT | DALLAS**  
COLLEGE of LAW

**PROGRESS**



**Katten**  
**MCCATHERN**  
SHOKUHI · EVANS



**SMU** Dedman School of Law

Hon. Tonya Parker

Lauren & Tre' Black  
Callie Butcher  
Nadia Haghigatian  
& Evren Yurchak

Stephen Huschka &  
Nicole Muñoz Huschka  
Thomas McMillian  
& Dustin Ward

Elissa M. Wev

**ALLY**

Hon. Maria Aceves  
Hon. Monique Bracey Huff  
Hon. Juan Jasso  
Hon. Sara Martinez

Hon. Erin Nowell  
Hon. Robbie Partida-Kipness  
Hon. Amanda Reichel  
Hon. Nicole Taylor

*Introducing  
the*



**DALLAS LGBT**  
BAR ASSOCIATION

2024

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**PRESIDENT**  
**Elissa Wev**



**PRESIDENT-ELECT**  
**Thomas McMillian**



**SECRETARY**  
**Josh Dossey**



**TREASURER**  
**Sean Buckley**



**DIRECTOR**  
**Elizabeth Rocha**



**DIRECTOR**  
**Monica Uribe**



**DIRECTOR**  
**Haley Ablon**



**IMMEDIATE PAST  
PRESIDENT**  
**Callie Butcher**



# DALLAS LGBT BAR ASSOCIATION

JOIN. LEAD. SUPPORT.

## **Get Involved in the Dallas LGBT Bar Assoc.**

Our organization is growing and we want you to be a part of it!

Head to [www.dallaslgbtbar.org](http://www.dallaslgbtbar.org) to become a member.

We have leadership and volunteer opportunities on a variety of committees and events. Email [info@dallaslgbtbar.org](mailto:info@dallaslgbtbar.org) to learn more.

Had a blast at this year's Visibility Ball? Let's do it bigger next year! Email [president-elect@dallaslgbtbar.org](mailto:president-elect@dallaslgbtbar.org) to pledge your support and sponsorship for Visibility Ball 2024.

*Visibility  
Ball 2023*

# Personal Injury Trial Lawyers



Kristina N. "Krisi" Kastl  
Personal Injury & Civil Litigation

Strategic. Excellence. Qualified. Caring.  
Referrals encouraged and appreciated.



**Dallas • Fort Worth • El Paso**

4144 N. Central Expressway, Suite 1000 | Dallas, Texas 75204

Tel: (214) 821-0230 | (817) 219-2053 | (855) 99-KASTL | Email: [info@kastllaw.com](mailto:info@kastllaw.com) | [www.kastllaw.com](http://www.kastllaw.com)