

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- Tuesday, September 26, 2007
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"The Future of LGBT Rights in Tennessee: Organizing, Educating, and Litigating"

"The Future of LGBT Rights in Tennessee: Organizing, Educating, and Litigating" is the topic of the John Googin Memorial Lecture at the ACLU-TN's annual meeting, which will be held on Thursday, October 4, 2007. Christine Sun, ACLU-TN LGBT Project Attorney, will discuss current LGBT issues and the work that needs to be done to protect and promote LGBT rights in the south.

The program, which will begin at 6:00 p.m., will be held at the Green Hills Branch Library at 3701 Benham Avenue in Nashville.

Christine Sun, noted gay rights attorney, arrived in Tennessee in the spring of 2007 to spearhead ACLU's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) rights work in the south. Sun, who has worked on LGBT and AIDS issues for the ACLU in California since 2004, works out of the ACLU of Tennessee's office in Nashville.

"We are excited that Christine has joined the ACLU-TN staff. Her expertise and commitment are exactly what is needed to make a difference for LGBT southerners," said Hedy Weinberg, Executive Director of the ACLU of Tennessee.

"In the short time Christine has been here she has successfully intervened on behalf of a student reprimanded for organizing a "Day of Silence" in Washington County and persuaded the TBI to investigate a hate crime in Warren County. In addition, Christine is reaching out to LGBT groups and other constituency groups to strategize about building a strong coalition to pursue pro-active initiatives," according to Weinberg.

While at the ACLU of Southern California, Sun worked on a number of important cases and projects, especially cases involving the rights of LGBT students. She won a victory on behalf of a group of students in a rural California town who were barred from publishing a series of gay themed articles in the school newspaper. The school ultimately caved and permitted the students to publish the articles. In another case on behalf of gay youth, Sun was successful in establishing that school officials may not disclose the sexual orientation of students to their parents without a compelling governmental interest.

Sun graduated with honors from NYU School of Law in 1998 where she was an editor of the NYU Law Review. After graduating from NYU Law, Christine clerked for Judge Robert L. Carter (former NAACP General Counsel who argued *Brown v. Board of Education*) in the Federal District Court in New York City and then practiced at the law firms of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton and Kecker & Van Nest. Her cases have been featured in the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Anderson Cooper 360*, *The Advocate*, *Cosmo Girl*, and *MTV News*.

ACLU-TN is a private non-profit, non-partisan membership organization dedicated to translating the guarantees of the Bill of Rights into realities for all Tennesseans. As the only statewide

organization protecting and promoting civil liberties, ACLU-TN pursues its mission through litigation, lobbying, advocacy and public education activities.

The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, please call 615-320-7142.

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