

Mark Procopio Collection, MS 3218

Finding Aid to the Mark Procopio Collection, MS 3218

H. Furlong Baldwin Library, Maryland Historical Society

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Collection summary

Title	Mark Procopio Collection
Call number	MS 3218
Inclusive dates	1988 - 2014
Extent	3 boxes
Abstract	The Mark Procopio Collection consists of ephemera, newspapers, and audiovisual material related to the LGBTQ movement in Maryland. Much of the material relates to Free State Justice, and its predecessor, Equality Maryland, which provide legal aid to the LGBTQ community.

Administrative summary

Repository	H. Furlong Baldwin Library Maryland Historical Society 201 W. Monument St. Baltimore, MD 21201 www.mdhs.org specialcollections@mdhs.org
Access restrictions	Open to the public without restrictions.

Use restrictions	***The Maryland Historical Society does not own the copyright to programs found on the DVDs . these items are for reference purposes only. For information about how to purchase digital reproductions and for permission information for other items in the collection, please visit the Rights and Reproductions page .
Provenance	Gift, Mark Procopio, January 2018
Accession number	Acc# 2017-061-LIB
Processing note	Processed by Damon Talbot and Special Collections Volunteer Judy Hallfrisch, June 2018

Historical Note

Mark Procopio is a lawyer for Free State Justice.

FreeState Justice is a legal advocacy organization that seeks to improve the lives of low-income lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) Marylanders. Despite recent, incremental judicial victories for the national LGBTQ community, the low-income LGBTQ population continues to struggle with legal challenges such harassment, complex family law issues, and anti-LGBTQ discrimination in employment, housing, foster care, healthcare and public accommodations. In addition to needing attorneys with specific knowledge of how the law affects LGBTQ citizens, LGBTQ clients need attorneys who will treat them with respect and understanding. FreeState's mission is to combine direct legal services with education and outreach to ensure that the low-income LGBTQ community Maryland receives fair treatment in the law and society.

FreeState Justice was formed when FreeState Legal Project and Equality Maryland merged in the spring of 2016; the new name (an earlier name of Equality Maryland) was announced at an event in Baltimore on June 30, 2016. A history of each organization follows.

Equality Maryland's primary focus was achieving legislative victories in Annapolis, and its efforts made Maryland one of the most inclusive states in the country for LGBTQ people. Equality Maryland was responsible for the passage of numerous laws affecting the LGBTQ community including the Anti-Discrimination Act, which bans sexual orientation-motivated discrimination in housing, public accommodations, lending, and employment statewide; an expanded state hate crimes statute that includes crimes motivated by a victim's sexual orientation and gender identity; *the Medical Decisionmaking Act* that extends some medical and funeral decision-making rights to domestic partners; and *the Family Coverage Expansion Act*, which requires insurance companies to write policies inclusive of domestic partners.

In 2012, Equality Maryland was part of the coalition that passed *the Civil Marriage Protection Act*, and then later that year, helped to defend *the Civil Marriage Protection Act* at the ballot box, making Maryland the first state to pass marriage equality by popular vote. Equality

Maryland can also be credited with leadership in passing the Fairness for All Marylanders Act, a 2014 law that prohibits gender identity discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and credit.

FreeState Legal Project was a legal services organization founded in 2007 by a group of attorneys and law students who recognized that the specific needs of the low-income LGBTQ population in Maryland were not being effectively met. FreeState Legal began accepting cases in 2008 and began building a network of pro bono attorneys who volunteer their time to assist clients, making FreeState Legal the first statewide LGBTQ-specific direct legal services organization in the country.

FreeState Legal provided direct legal services to low-income LGBTQ clients through its in-house counsel and pro bono attorney network; worked towards systemic law and policy changes through governmental advocacy; conducted outreach activities designed to promote self-advocacy within the LGBTQ community, particularly among LGBTQ teens; and provided educational training to Maryland lawyers and judges about LGBTQ legal needs.

After longstanding advocacy by FreeState Legal, including litigation on behalf of individuals and a request to federal regulators to require Maryland to prohibit transition-related care exclusions from state-regulated insurance plans governed by the federal Affordable Care Act, the Maryland Insurance Administration issued bulletins in December 2015 prohibiting individual, small-group, and student health insurance plans sold in Maryland from excluding health care coverage for services and procedures related to gender transition

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(From Free State Justice Website, accessed June 19, 2018, <https://freestate-justice.org/who-we-are/mission/>)

Scope and Content

The Mark Procopio Collection consists of three boxes of materials related to the LGBTQ community from 1988 . 2014. Materials include: brochures, pamphlets, and bumper stickers related to LGBTQ activist organizations and events including Equality Maryland, Free State Justice, Red Emma's Bookstore, and Maryland's Black Family Alliance; newspapers and newspaper clippings containing articles related to the LGBTQ community and movement in Maryland; documents, included a framed copy of the Civil Marriage Protection Act signed by Governor Martin O'Malley; DVDs containing documentaries, recordings symposiums, promotional videos and other programs related to the LGBTQ community [The Maryland Historical Society does not own the copyright to programs found on the DVDs . materials are for reference purposes only]. There is also a framed copy of *Gaylife Maryland's LGBT Community Newspaper*, signed by comedian Joan Rivers.

Container List

Description	Date	Folder	Box	# of items	Notes
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Pamphlet--What's in a word? A religious perspective on civil marriage equality	2008	Folder 1	Box 1	2	Equality Maryland, publisher
Brochure--Fairness, Justice, and Equality for all families	2007	Folder 1	Box 1	10	Maryland Black Family Alliance, publisher
Brochure--Some of us have more than one closet to deal with	ca 2000s	Folder 1	Box 1	10	Equality Maryland--LGBT & Undocumented, publisher
Pamphlet--Jumping the Broom: A Black Perspective on Same-Gender Marriage	2007	Folder 2	Box 1	5	Equality Maryland, publisher
Pamphlet--The story of my name--A trans zine by FreeState Legal & Red Emma's	ca 2000s	Folder 3	Box 1	1	Red Emma's Bookstore Coffeehouse, FreeState legal Project
Bumper Stickers--Vote for question 6.com--Marriage equality & fairness, Like. Pledge. Spread the word.	ca 2000s	Folder 3	Box 1	2	
Bumper Stickers--Vote for question 6--Marriage equality & fairness, blue & white	ca 2000s	Folder 3	Box 1	10	unsigned, blue & white
Bumper Sticker--Vote for The Civil Marriage Protection Act in Maryland	ca 2000s	Folder 3	Box 1	1	purple & white
Bumper sticker--Check for marriage equality--marylandersformarriageequality.org	ca 2000s	Folder 3	Box 1	1	Red, white, and blue
Bumper sticker--Maryland--www.equalitymaryland.org	ca 2000s	Folder 3	Box 1	1	Red, white, black, gold
Magnet--Vote for Question #6	ca 2000s	Folder 3	Box 1	1	Red, white, blue
Bumper Stickers--Vote for question 6--Marriage equality & fairness [Signed by Martin O'Malley]	ca 2000s	Folder 4	Box 1	14	Signed by Martin O'Malley
Roll of stickers--Maryland Black Family Alliance	ca 2000s	Folder 5	Box 1	1 roll	Red, white, gold
Roll of stickers--Marylanders for Marriage Equality	ca 2000s	Folder 5	Box 1	1 roll	Red, white, gold, black with Maryland flag
DVD--Advertising Gay marriage Initiatives	2004	Folder 5	Box 1	1	Gill Foundation, broken case
DVD--Under Pressure--3 families emotional journeys	2006	Folder 5	Box 1	1	Angel Rose Productions,

to accept and embrace their gay children					Dan McCarthy
DVD-Clergy Press Conference--Equality Maryland	2006	Folder 5	Box 1	1	Metropolitan Community Church of the Chesapeake
DVD--Maryland Voices of Equality--Maryland Black Family Alliance	2009	Folder 5	Box 1	2	Info@MarylandBFA.org
DVD-Charles Theatre--LGBT Dreamers	2012	Folder 5	Box 1	1	In Blue, white case
DVD-Unequal Justice--The relentless rise of the 1% court	2012	Folder 5	Box 1	1	Alliance Justice
DVD--The New Black--Dir. Yoruba Richen	2013	Folder 5	Box 1	1	
DVD--Equality Maryland 25th Anniversary	2013	Folder 5	Box 1	1	
DVD--Heart of the Matter--Maryland same sex couples seek justice for their families	no date	Folder 5	Box 1	3	ACLU & Equality Maryland, clear cases
DVD-MD Marriage. Greenbelt, MD. Moderator: Donila Buffalo. African American Women	5/21/2012	Folder 5	Box 1	1	5:30:00 PM, group i
DVD-MD Marriage. Greenbelt, MD. Moderator: Jay Campbell. White Democrats &	5/21/2012	Folder 5	Box 1	1	8:00 PM
DVD-MD Marriage. Greenbelt, MD. Moderator: Donila Buffalo. African American Women	5/22/2012	Folder 5	Box 1	1	5:30 pm, part 1
DVD-MD Marriage. Greenbelt, MD. Moderator: Donila Buffalo. African American Women	5/22/2012	Folder 5	Box 1	1	5:30 pm, part 2
DVD-MD Marriage. Greenbelt, MD. Moderator: Jay Campbell. White Democrats &	5/22/2012	Folder 5	Box 1	1	8:00 PM
DVD-EQ MD Stand with Us Videos	ca 2000s	Folder 5	Box 1	1	Red sleeve
DVD-Stand with Us. Trans* Maryland Speaks	ca 2000s	Folder 5	Box 1	1	Clear plastic case.
DVD-Underrepresented groups--Diversity Outreach	ca 2000s	Folder 5	Box 1	1	Clear plastic case.
DVD-Equality Rocks! Photos	ca 2000s	Folder 5	Box 1	1	Clear plastic case.
DVD-Filmed Trans Stories. Unedited trans faith videos: Alisha, Alynna, Angie C, Autumn,	ca 2000s	Folder 5	Box 1	1	Also: Bobbi, Bonita, Catherine H, Charlotte K,

					Erin, Oliver, Ryely, Terrilee, Vann
DVD-Filmed Trans Stories, Disk 2: Charlotte, Erin, Bobbi	ca 2000s	Folder 5	Box 1	1	Google drive has Oliver, Ryely, Vann, Terrilee
DVD-Filmed Trans Stories, Disk 3, Ryely, Alisha, Anelle L (?), Terrilee Bell, Catherine H, Alynna L	ca 2000s	Folder 5	Box 1	1	
Document in Support of the Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill	April 1988	Folder 6	Box 1	1	
Scrapbook containing newspaper articles	2003-4	n/a	Box 2	1	Clippings about hate crimes, gay, lesbian rights legislation
Framed copy of Civil Marriage Protection Act	2011	n/a	Box 2	1	Signed by Governor Martin O'Malley with pen enclosed
Framed cover of Gaylife Maryland's LGBT Community Newspaper	2012	n/a	Box 2	1	Signed by Joan Rivers, who is on the cover
Executive Order - Further Amendments to Executive Orders 11478 & 11246, EEO in Fed. Gov. & EEO	2014	Folder 7	Box 2	1	Copy of Executive Order signed by President Barack Obama
Gaylife Maryland's LGBT Community Newspaper	2006	Folder 8	Box 2	4	Mar 3-16, Mar 17-30, Aug 4-17, Sep 29-Oct 12
Outloud Baltimore An independent voice for the LGBT Community	2012	Folder 9	Box 3	4	3-Nov 18, 1-Dec 28
Baltimore Sun--Light for All	2012	Folder 9	Box 3	2	Feb 18-- House Oks Gay Marriage bill; Feb 19-- Searching souls on gay marriage
Washington Blade--All the news for your life, and your style	2006	Folder 10	Box 3	5	Feb 17, Mar 3, Mar 17, Apr 28, Sep 8
City Paper Baltimore's Free Alternative Weekly	2006, 2012	Folder 11	Box 3	3	2006 Aug 2-9; 2012 Sep

					5-12, Oct 3-12
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