



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN®

BELIEVE

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5TH ANNUAL
HRC ARIZONA
GALA DINNER

MARCH 21, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARIZONA HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN HONORS CYNTHIA LEIGH LEWIS
Recipient of 2009 Individual Equality Award

PHOENIX, ARIZONA—March 24, 2009—The prestigious HRC Arizona 2009 Individual Equality Award was presented to Cynthia Leigh Lewis on Saturday, March 21, at the 5th Annual HRC Arizona Gala Dinner and annual fundraiser held at the Camelback Inn in Scottsdale. Ms. Lewis was honored for her exceptional commitment, leadership and initiative in the struggle to correct social injustice in Arizona and bring awareness to the mission of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) for fair and equal treatment of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LGBT).

Each year HRC Arizona, the local volunteer committee of HRC of the nation's largest LGBT civil rights organization, recognizes one individual whose passion for equality embodies the memorialized words of Harvey Milk (1930-1978), an American politician and the first openly gay man to be elected to public office in California, who said, "All young people, regardless of sexual orientation or identity, deserve a safe and supportive environment in which to achieve their full potential".

"Cynthia Leigh Lewis is our choice as the individual that exhibits extraordinary vision and courage that inspires other to join in confronting and challenging equality," Linda Elliott, board of directors of the HRC and the co-chair of HRC Public Policy Committee. "She demonstrates the dedication required to encourage and create a profound revolution of equality for all humans in the mission of motivating others to stand up, move forward and change the world. She is an inspiration to us all."

Cynthia Leigh Lewis, MSW, is a renowned expert in fundraising, advocacy, strategic planning and political consulting. Her outstanding efforts in Arizona are represented by the partnerships created with organizations, her representation of political candidates and her enduring commitment to several statewide initiative campaigns. She provides the structure for others to achieve financial goals, cultivate relationships and create a vision for long-term sustainability.

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Photographs of the 5th Annual HRC Arizona Gala award winners, guests and honorees are available at <http://phoenix.hrc.org/image/tid/41>. Information regarding the dinner is available online at www.hrcazdinner.org.

ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN - The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender equality. By inspiring and engaging all Americans, HRC strives to end discrimination against GLBT citizens and realize a nation that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all. HRC seeks to improve the lives of GLBT Americans by advocating for equal rights and benefits in the workplace, ensuring families are treated equally under the law and increasing public support among all Americans through innovative advocacy, education and outreach programs. HRC works to secure equal rights for GLBT individuals and families at the federal and state levels by lobbying elected officials, mobilizing grassroots supporters, educating Americans, investing strategically to elect fair-minded officials and partnering with other GLBT organizations. HRC contributed over \$150,000 in Arizona in 2008 to its advocacy of equal rights. This included funding the NO to Prop 102 campaign in addition to providing dedicated, experienced staff to work with the campaigns of local candidates supportive of equality and with allied organizations. Visit phoenix.hrc.org for more information about HRC Arizona.

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