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Leader Wants Laws Changed

Gay Law Students Offer Legal Help For Homosexuals, Other Minorities

By LUCIE LOWERY
Staff Writer

At last the gay people of the world have legal spokesmen — the Gay Law Students Association.

Loyola Law student Thomas F. Coleman, president of the group which was formed in June in Southern California, said the objects of the association are to work toward the solution of legal problems indigenous to the homosexual as a minority, as a member of society, and of the legal profession.

Coleman said there are areas of the law which need to be changed in order to effect equal protection of the law to all gay people.

Specifically, he said the association would like to see the repeal of all statutes dealing with consensual sexual services, the sale of sexual services, private possession and-or use of marijuana by adults, and private possession for use and-or sale of literature defined in case law as "obscene."

The association is working for the repeal of all portions of the Internal Revenue Code or state codes which impose higher taxes on single people than on married people.

It would like to have legislation enacted to prohibit automobile insurance companies from considering the insured marital status as an underwrit-

ing or rating criterion, and to prohibit business firms and landlords from discriminating against applicants for credit or housing on account of a person's marital status.

The association was formed by a group of young gay law students, Coleman said, who wish to meet the needs of the members as professionals and assist the minority group to which they belong.

The membership now includes Los Angeles attorneys, interested lay persons and law students from UCLA, USC, Loyola, Southwestern, University of San Diego and University of San Fernando.

Coleman said the association is a member of the Gay Student Council of Southern California, and is also working on joint projects with the Gay Community Services Center and Metropolitan Community Church.

The association sponsored a workshop at the recent American Bar Association convention in San Francisco. Speakers included Walter Barnett, visiting professor of Hastings College of Law who is currently writing a book on the unconstitutionality of the sodomy laws of the country. He is being funded by Playboy Foundation, Coleman said.