

# Unmarried America



Newsletter of the AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR SINGLE PEOPLE

## 30th Anniversary of the Singles Rights Movement

In August 1972, a young student from Loyola Law School in Los Angeles introduced a resolution – *Single Persons Bill of Rights* – to the Law Student Division of the American Bar Association.

The proposal asked the ABA to support equal rights for unmarried Americans. It called for the elimination of marital status discrimination in taxes, and passage of laws prohibiting discrimination against unmarried workers and tenants. In 1972, laws against marital status discrimination were virtually nonexistent and no one had heard of singles rights.

The measure was approved by the Law Student Division, a body comprising one student representative from each ABA approved law school in the nation.

Over the years, due largely to pressure from women's rights organizations, many state and local civil rights laws have been amended to include marital status.

Today, about 25 states and dozens of cities have laws against marital status bias in business practices such as employment, housing, insurance, or credit.

Federal law is generally silent with respect to marital status discrimination, except for prohibiting such conduct in the areas of credit and public housing.

The name of the law student advocate who authored the 1972 resolution to the ABA is Thomas F. Coleman. Today, Coleman is Executive Director of the American Association for Single People, the nation's leading education and advocacy group for unmarried Americans.

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*Our thanks to Xerox Corporation for co-sponsoring this newsletter.*

## Momentum Builds for National USA Week



Just as there are commemorative days, weeks, and months to honor various individuals and groups, there is a time to focus on the nation's 82 million unmarried Americans.

National Unmarried and Single Americans Week, held Sept. 15 - 21, is a public awareness campaign encouraging recognition of unmarried and single Americans as loyal employees, loving family members, community volunteers, good friends and neighbors, and dutiful taxpayers.

Sponsored by the American Association for Single People, National USA Week is recognized by numerous Mayors and Governors throughout the nation, and co-sponsored in part by Xerox Corporation with a generous contribution funding the publication of this special edition of *Unmarried America*.

In addition to gaining more members and supporters during National USA Week, AASP has received proclamations from Mayors and Governors in more than 25 states, officially declaring the third week of September as Unmarried and Single Americans Week in their jurisdictions (See story on page 3). We have also obtained endorsements from chapters of the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Organization for Women, and other non-profit organizations in many states.

On September 16, radio stations throughout the nation will broadcast a one-minute segment released by the Census Bureau commemorating Unmarried and Single Americans Week. This should prompt more media attention, with radio talk show hosts and newspaper reporters interviewing members of the AASP Speakers Bureau.

From September 16 to 19, representatives of AASP will be in Washington, D.C. visiting the offices of all 535 members of Congress. They also will deliver special awards to the Washington offices of CBS Radio, New York Governor George Pataki, and D.C. Congressional Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (See stories on pages 4 and 5).

For the past three years, AASP has been building the foundation to support a platform which will elevate the issues and concerns of unmarried Americans to a more visible level. Individual members are essential building blocks for this platform. *It is only with significant increases in membership that our voices will be heard by elected officials and corporate executives – those who shape the policies which affect the quality of our lives.*

We encourage everyone to participate in National USA Week. There are plenty of opportunities for involvement: write a letter to the editor of your newspaper a week prior to USA Week, or call your favorite radio talk show on Sept. 16 to remind them about the occasion; post an announcement on the employee bulletin board where you work; send an e-mail to your friends asking them to visit our website at [www.nationalUSAweek.org](http://www.nationalUSAweek.org); invite your neighbors over for coffee or cocktails - let your enthusiasm become contagious.

Who knows, AASP may grow by leaps and bounds once you spread the word that a group such as ours is working to improve the quality of life and to secure more fairness for everyone – as workers, consumers, and taxpayers – regardless of their marital status. **AAA**

## Corporate Spotlight - Best Practices List

Corporations strive to adopt personnel policies and practices that attract and retain competent and loyal employees. During the last few years, many employers have revised their Human Resources policies and benefits packages as they adapt to more diversity in the workplace, including significant increases in the numbers of unmarried and single employees.

Flexible and inclusive workplace policies, which are fair and equitable to all employees regardless of marital status, are good for employee morale. Higher productivity results from unmarried workers who are aware that their employer has chosen to accommodate their needs and concerns. This results in an increase in profits and excellent employer-worker relations.

AASP has been monitoring the policies of large employers. Based on what we have learned from published news stories, as well as from corporate responses to our Fortune 500 Survey on Unmarried Employees, we have assembled the following "Best Practices" list:



### Awareness of Marital Status

Knowing how many employees are unmarried can help a company revise its employment practices, including its benefits package. Such data helps to more precisely address the needs of single and unmarried workers. The following companies have informed AASP that they track this information: **Autozone, AFLAC, Delta Airlines, Cendant, Fifth Third Bancorp, PPL Corporation, Nationwide Insurance.**

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### Marital Status in EEO Statement

Large companies have adopted an Equal Employment Opportunity Statement, indicating that the company treats its employees equally and without regard to personal characteristics, such as race, religion, sex, etc. This affirmation is essentially a promise of fairness on which employees and potential

employees can rely. The following companies have informed AASP that marital status is part of their EEO Statement: **Viacom, Xerox, Fifth Third Bancorp, Kellogg Company, Praxair, Cendant.**



### Fifth Third Bank

#### Gender-Neutral Partner Benefits

A growing number of employers now offer benefits to domestic partners of employees. Some companies limit benefits to same-sex couples. However, many employers have adopted gender-neutral benefits plans which include same and opposite-sex domestic partners. Inclusive benefits programs, which do not discriminate on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, or marital status, are always the best practice, especially for companies which respect diversity. The following companies have stated that they offer benefits to domestic partners regardless of gender: **Southwest Airlines, America West Airlines, National Airlines, Bank One, Xerox, Fifth Third Bancorp.**



#### Household Benefits to Employees

Some employers have gone further than domestic partner benefits and now allow an employee to choose one adult household member to receive workplace benefits. The beneficiary can be a spouse, a domestic partner of either sex, or a blood relative such as an adult child, parent, or a sibling. These broad and inclusive programs are laudable and help make benefits compensation equitable to a larger segment of the workforce. The following companies have reported they have adopted extended family benefits or household benefits programs: **Bank of America, Nationwide Insurance, Merrill Lynch, American Century Investment, Citi Group, Fleet Boston Financial.**



Fleet Boston Financial



### Singles-Friendly 401k Plan

Many employers have adopted retirement savings plans which treat all employees alike, regardless of marital status. Employer contributions to these 401k plans become vested in the employee, either immediately or after a short time. This contrasts with many traditional pension plans where unmarried workers forfeit the employer's contributions if the employee dies prior to retirement, although a married worker can leave those assets to a surviving spouse. The following employers have informed AASP that their 401k plans treat married and unmarried employees the same: **America West Airlines, National Airlines.**



National Airlines  
Everything's better up here.®

### Sharing Information About AASP

In an effort to maintain positive relations with their unmarried employees, these companies have expressed willingness to share information about groups such as the American Association for Single People that deal with issues of concern: **Viacom, Praxair, AFLAC, Kellogg Company, Cendant.**



CENDANT

AASP commends the employers listed on this page for adopting one or more of the best practices in their personnel policies or benefits programs.

Not only are these practices good for unmarried and single employees, they are also good for the employers in terms of recruitment and retention of productive workers. In the end, such practices increase profits and are good for company shareholders as well.

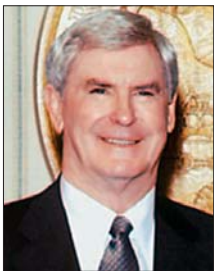
Let us know if you are aware of other companies we should feature in a future corporate spotlight news story. **AAA**

# Governors and Mayors Issue Proclamations for National USA Week

The American Association for Single People has succeeded in obtaining proclamations and greetings from Governors and Mayors in more than 25 states. The proclamations declare September 15 - 21 as Unmarried and Single Americans Week in their jurisdictions. The greetings extend best wishes to everyone who commemorates this week.



In his greeting, California Governor Gray Davis had this to say about AASP. "I applaud the supporters of this unique event for their efforts to protect the rights of unmarried and single people. Their dedication has made a lasting impact".



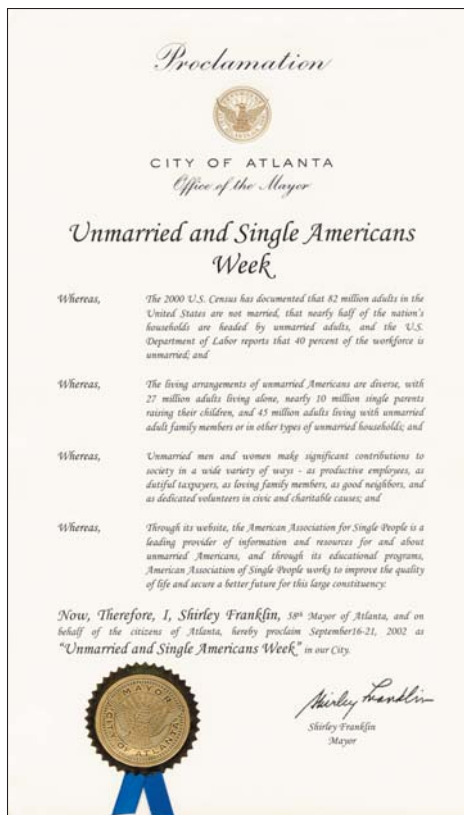
A greeting from Nevada Governor Kenny C. Guinn recognized "the contributions of our single citizens to our great state and commend them for their dedication to their families and communities". He added: "We would like to thank the American Association for Single People for their support of singles throughout the nation and the State of Nevada".



A proclamation issued by Portland, Oregon Mayor Vera Katz recognizes AASP as "a leading provider of information and resources for and about unmarried Americans".



A proclamation signed by Dayton, Ohio Mayor Rhine McLin acknowledges that through our educational programs, "AASP seeks to improve the quality of life and secure a better future for this large constituency".



The following proclamations and greetings have been received as of the time the newsletter went to print. We expect to receive others. To view copies of these proclamations, visit our special website at: [www.nationalUSAweek.org](http://www.nationalUSAweek.org).

**Governors:**

- Alaska - Tony Knowles
- California - Gray Davis
- Hawaii - Ben Cayetano
- Kansas - Bill Graves
- Maine - Angus S. King Jr.
- Minnesota - Jesse Ventura
- Nevada - Kenny C. Guinn
- New Jersey - James McGreevey

**Mayors:**

- Tempe, AZ - Neil Giuliano
- Costa Mesa, CA - Linda Dixon
- San Mateo, CA - Sue Lempert
- Lakewood, CO - Stephen A. Burkholder
- Hollywood, FL - Mara Guilianti
- Ft. Lauderdale, FL - Jim Naugle
- Jacksonville, FL - John A. Delaney
- Miami, FL - Manuel A. Diaz
- Atlanta, GA - Shirley Franklin
- Marietta, GA - William Dunaway
- Hawaii County, HI - Harry Kim
- Honolulu, HI - Jeremy Harris
- Topeka, KS - Butch Felker
- Lafayette, LA - Walter Comeaux
- New Iberia, LA - Ruth Fontenet
- Minneapolis, MN - R. T. Rybak
- Biloxi, MS - A. J. Holloway
- Independence, MO - Rondell Stewart
- Las Cruces, NM - Ruben A. Smith
- Wilmington, NC - Harper Peterson
- Cincinnati, OH - Charlie Luken
- Dayton, OH - Rhine McLin
- Portland, OR - Vera Katz
- Salt Lake, UT - Ross C. Anderson
- Portsmouth, VA - James W. Holley III
- Madison, WI - Susan J. M. Bauman

**City Councils:**

- Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- Hollywood, FL
- Miami, FL
- New Orleans, LA

## Congratulations to the Recipients of National USA Week Awards

As part of our activities commemorating Unmarried and Single Americans Week, AASP is conferring a series of awards on individuals and organizations for Excellence, Leadership, and Outstanding Contributions.



Some awards will be delivered to recipients while representatives of AASP are in Washington D.C. during National USA Week.

Congratulations to the recipients of these awards! More information about the awards and about the recipients can be found on the National USA Week website which is located at [www.nationalUSAweek.org](http://www.nationalUSAweek.org).

### Political Leadership Elected Republican



George Pataki, Governor of New York, was selected for this award because of his role in making single people eligible for Family Health Plus, a state-subsidized health plan for low income workers. Pataki convinced the federal government to give matching funds for this program.

As a result of his leadership, thousands of single people who previously lacked health care now have coverage. Governors in other states should adopt the Pataki model of inclusion. Most states with such programs limit participation to children in low income families, while some include low-income parents too. The health and the lives of all people should be protected, regardless of their marital or parental status.

Pataki also deserves credit for issuing an executive order in October 2001 to insure that surviving domestic partners of 9-11 victims would be eligible to receive benefits under the state's victims compensation fund. He also signed legislation which clarified that New York state law intended that surviving domestic partners should receive compensation from the federal compensation fund established by Congress.

### Political Leadership Elected Democrat



Eleanor Holmes Norton, Delegate to Congress from the District of Columbia, was selected for this award for her leadership and perseverance in advocating that her colleagues vote to allow the District of Columbia to implement two domestic partnership laws passed by the Council of the District in 1992.

One law established a registry whereby two unmarried adults could register as domestic partners with the District and thereby receive some basic humanitarian protections, such as the right to hospital visitation as a family member in a time of medical crisis. The other law allowed employees of the District to put a domestic partner on their health plan and thereby secure a low group rate for the partner.

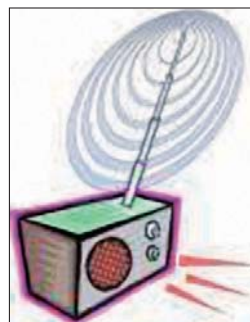
For nearly 10 years, conservative Republicans in Congress voted each year to prevent the District from using any funds to implement these laws. Most Democrats voted to allow the laws to be implemented.

Norton pursued the issue year after year, and in 2001 she finally convinced a majority of Congress to allow the District to implement these laws.

### Excellence in Media Broadcast Journalism



CBS Radio News was selected for this award for producing and airing the ten-part series entitled "Living Single".

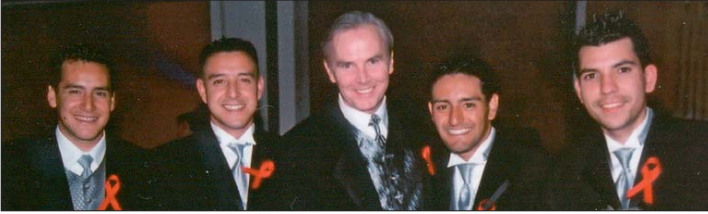


Each of the ten segments of this series of two-minute episodes focused on a different aspect of unmarried life in the United States, including living solo, single parents, unmarried workers and consumers, widows, and singles in rural America. The series was broadcast by local CBS affiliates throughout the nation in August 2001.

The lead producer of this excellent series was Constance Lloyd, General Manager of CBS Radio News. Receiving the award for Ms. Lloyd will be Howard Arenstein, Washington Bureau Manager for CBS Radio News.

## National USA Week Awards Recipients, continued

### Outstanding Single Father John Brown



This award is given to John Brown (center) in recognition of his contribution to the lives of four Guatemalan-born boys for whom he became a guardian in 1987 when they were in their early teens or younger. These young men are now adults and most of them have families of their own.

The story of John Brown and his sons was part of a documentary aired by KCET Public Television in Los Angeles entitled "We Are Family," which explained through several examples, including John's single parent home, a group home for seniors, a step-family, and two same-sex couples, how family diversity is now the norm in America.

The Desert Sun published a feature story about John and his chosen family in the Father's Day edition on June 18, 2000. John lives in Palm Springs, California, and is Executive Director of the Desert AIDS Project.

### Outstanding Humanitarian Larry Marino



from left: Thomas Coleman, AASP Executive Director, Larry Marino KRLA Radio Operations Manager, and Warren Currie, President of the Union Rescue Mission.

Mission in Los Angeles. As a result, 110 women can sleep safely each night.

Due to lack of funds, the Single Women's Shelter closed its doors on April 5, 2001. Larry Marino and KRLA Radio worked with AASP to raise \$325,000 – one year's annual budget – to reopen the shelter. For two months, Larry devoted several minutes each day on his radio show to raise funds from his audience.

As a result of the joint efforts of the Development staff at the Union Rescue Mission, the staff and members of AASP, and Larry Marino and the management at KRLA, the Single Women's Shelter was reopened on June 28, 2001.

Larry Marino (center) is operations manager at KRLA Radio in Glendale, California, and host of the Larry Marino Show.

This award is given to Larry Marino for his pivotal role in reopening the Single Women's Dorm at the Union Rescue

### Outstanding Single Mother Andrea Engber

This award is given to Andrea Engber in recognition of the many contributions she has made over the years to promote the well being of single mothers throughout the United States. Andrea's many accomplishments include:

- Founding the *National Organization of Single Mothers* in 1991, where she has donated her time ever since;
- Creating *Single Mother*, a national newsletter for single MOMs (mothers outside of marriage);
- Writing *Single with Children*, a syndicated column carried by dozens of newspapers;
- Producing *Single Mothers Online*, [singlemothers.org](http://singlemothers.org), a website filled with helpful information for single mothers;
- Writing and publishing *The Complete Single Mother*, a source book for single women with children.

Although she recently married, Andrea continues to work for free – 50 hours per week – for the National Organization of Single Mothers. She lives with her family in North Carolina. Andrea is the mother of a 15-year-old son.



### Outstanding Public Service Monster



This award is given to MonsterTrak, a national job placement service giving free job listings to nonprofit organizations seeking interns, and free access to job listings to college students.

This service has assisted thousands of college students – most of whom are single – to find internships with education, advocacy, and service organizations. AASP and other nonprofits have benefitted from the assistance of student interns recruited through the service of MonsterTrak.

MonsterTrak is a service of Monster, the leading global online careers website and flagship brand of TMP Worldwide Inc. Monster connects the most progressive companies with the most qualified career-minded individuals, offering innovative technology and superior services that give more control over the recruiting process.

## Mail Box

employed by the federal government, my spouse would receive a lump sum payment in the neighborhood of \$70,000 as well as a monthly allotment of about \$600 payable for life as long as he does not remarry before attaining the age of 55.

Since I am lacking a spouse, the payment to my sons is exactly zero! While this death payment is certainly one that a person hopes never to need, it is abhorrent to me that someone who is in the same situation as myself, but is married, will receive a very large benefit.

I believe that this situation exists because it is based on a time when men were breadwinners and the benefit was payable to the dependent female spouse. The time has come to revise this situation.

For the life of me, I cannot understand why my life has a lesser value than that of a married federal employee.

Thanks for letting me vent. Keep up the good work. I know that there are so many areas of single discrimination and that AASP can't fight them all at once. But each victory brings us closer to fair treatment.

And isn't that all that we are asking for?

Kay S.

### Issues will motivate more young adults to vote



Thank you for writing to me regarding the article "Secretaries of State Want More New Millennium Young Adults to Vote" that appeared in the Summer 2002 issue of *Unmarried America*.

You asked what your group might do to help get young adults politically motivated and involved in the election process.

I might suggest choosing one or two really big issues that will motivate a broad base of young people – perhaps an area of the tax code that is particularly unfair to young people, or employment benefits issues that are especially unfair to single people – and promote the idea of effecting change on these issues, through elections.

A great deal of emphasis has been placed on participation for participation's sake, but clearly people are motivated more by issues that affect them personally than by an innate sense of good citizenship.

Again, thank you for writing to me. Please do not hesitate to contact me with your ideas on how to get more young and single people involved in good citizenship activities like voting.

Sincerely,

Mary Kiffmeyer  
MN Secretary of State

### Candidate for California Insurance Commissioner Vows Action



John Garamendi, the former California Insurance Commissioner, recently wrote to AASP in response to an article in the Summer 2002 newsletter entitled "Insurance Commissioners should review marital

status pricing and surcharges".

Garamendi, who left office in 1995 to serve the President as Deputy Secretary of the Interior, is now running for reelection as Insurance Commissioner.

In his letter to AASP, Garamendi said that "The problem of 'marital status redlining' is one which will be addressed in my administration" after he is re-elected.

Garamendi indicated that he will take the following steps to address the issue of marital status discrimination by insurance companies:

- Convene a *Task Force on Marital Status Redlining* to suggest responsible alternatives to the use of marital status for setting rates or issuing joint policies.
- Assign department staff to assist the Task Force in its research.
- Immediately audit the practices of a representative sample of companies.
- Prepare a brochure to inform agents and the public about current legal protections against marital status discrimination.

*The complete text of the letter from Mr. Garamendi can be viewed in the online version of this newsletter on the AASP website. A copy of the full letter has also been included in the print edition as a special insert.*



### AASP member peeved that Feds deny survivor benefits

I'm very pleased that AASP exists and is helping the cause of single Americans. I have been a member for over a year and have also given several gift memberships. My hope is that awareness of the plight of single Americans will help to correct many of the injustices. And that seems to be what AASP is doing.

I have read many of the issues that AASP has put efforts towards resolving and these are all very laudable. However, I am concerned that there is not a complete awareness that discrimination against single persons is perpetrated at the highest level of government.

The first is with the Social Security Administration. When a person is covered by Social Security, a death benefit (either \$200 or \$250, a negligible amount) is paid to the widow/widower to help with burial expenses. However, no help is given to bury or cremate a single person.

Let's take my personal case as an example. I'm 56 years old and have two grown sons. Their father has been dead for many years. I have worked with very few interruptions since I was 16 and consequently paid into Social Security for well over 30 years. For a number of years I have paid the maximum Social Security. Yet, when I die, there will be no death benefit payable because I lack a spouse.

While the Social Security issue is an example of the blatant disregard the federal government has for single people, the disregard it has for its own employees is far worse. I know this because I am a federal employee.

If I were to die today, while actively

# Meet Our New Honorary Members



Patty Sheehan  
Orlando, FL  
City Council  
Commissioner



Simone Spence  
Author of "Deadbeats:  
What Responsible  
Parents Need to Know  
About Collecting Child  
Support"



Henry Chang, Jr.  
Oakland, CA  
City Council  
Member at Large



Nancy Vogl  
Co-Author of  
"Chicken Soup for the  
Single Parents Soul"



Mary Ellen Otremba  
Minnesota  
State Representative



Dennis Clifford  
Co-Author of "A Legal  
Guide for Lesbian and  
Gay Couples"



Bob Holmes  
Georgia  
State Representative



J. Michael Clark  
Author of "Doing the  
Work of Love: Men  
and Commitment in  
Same-Sex Couples"



Becky Nace  
Kansas City, MO  
City Councilwoman



Adriane G. Berg  
Author of "Financial  
Planning for Couples"



Talmadge Branch  
Maryland  
State Representative



Ken Pirok  
Champaign, IL  
City Council Member



Cindi Hutchinson  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL  
Vice Mayor and  
Council Member



Betsy McKinney  
New Hampshire  
State Representative

## Mission Statement

The American Association for Single People promotes the well being of and fairness for 82 million unmarried Americans, whether they live with a family member or partner, a roommate, or live alone. The promise of equality applies to all people – as workers, taxpayers, consumers, and citizens – whether married or not. AASP's mission is fulfilled by conducting research and providing information and advice to members, elected officials, corporate policy makers, and the media.

## ✓ DONATE / JOIN

Yes, I want to help AASP create a better future for unmarried Americans.

Here is my tax-deductible donation for:

\$10  \$25  \$50  \_\_\_\_\_

check  credit card

card no \_\_\_\_\_

expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

I am renewing my membership.  
 I am joining as a new member.  
 I am giving a gift membership.

Name of donor of gift membership or person renewing existing membership.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

New member's name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Apt \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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for Single People**

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www.unmarriedAmerica.org

## Outstanding Unmarried American

The American Association for Single People is pleased to confer the Outstanding Unmarried American Award on Mr. Lloyd E. Rigler – philanthropist, human rights advocate, and founder of AASP.

For several decades, Rigler has contributed his time, talents, and financial resources to protect and broaden the rights of unmarried individuals, couples, and families.

During the late 1960s and early 1970s, he was active with the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS). SIECUS promoted the inclusion of comprehensive and age-appropriate sex education in public schools. Rigler believed that having accurate and complete information was necessary for young people to make responsible choices.

After voters added the right of privacy to the California Constitution in 1972, Rigler worked for passage of a Consenting Adults Act to get the government out of the bedrooms of its unmarried citizens. Private sexual conduct was then a felony.

He knew that enacting such a law would require a progressive Governor in the state Capitol. Rigler became treasurer of Jerry Brown's first campaign for Governor, successfully working with campaign aide Gray Davis to get Brown elected.

In 1975, the Legislature voted to decriminalize the private sexual conduct of consenting adults. Governor Jerry Brown signed the privacy bill into law.

In the 1980s, Rigler's human rights activities shifted to family diversity and domestic partner benefits. In 1983, he was introduced to attorney Thomas F. Coleman by then-Los Angeles City Attorney Burt Pines.

Rigler and Coleman shared a similar philosophy of inclusion. As a result, advocacy efforts focused on generic issues such as protecting personal privacy, the use of inclusive definitions of family, and promoting equal rights for domestic partners, as well as ending marital status discrimination against workers, consumers, and taxpayers.

Rigler's philanthropic organization, then known as the LEDLER Foundation, supported Coleman's legal work in important court cases and helped to underwrite major public policy studies.

The LEDLER Foundation also helped to



*Lloyd E. Rigler*

subsidize the first law school class in the nation on Rights of Domestic Partners. Coleman started teaching the class at the University of Southern California in 1985 - a time when only two cities in the nation had passed domestic partner laws.

With Rigler's financial support and Coleman's educational work and advocacy, the concept of gender-neutral domestic partnership rights began to catch on. Various types of legal protections and benefits for domestic partners now exist in many states and dozens of municipalities. Thousands of private employers now offer such benefits to their employees.

Support from the LEDLER Foundation enabled Spectrum Institute, the precursor to AASP, to file legal briefs in major test cases, resulting in precedents such as:

- A decision by the highest court in New York broadening the definition of family to include people not related by blood, marriage, or adoption.
- A ruling by the Georgia Supreme Court validating domestic partnership laws passed by the City of Atlanta.
- A landmark decision by the California Supreme Court prohibiting landlords from refusing to rent to unmarried couples.

The LEDLER Foundation also assisted the work of the Los Angeles City Task Force on Family Diversity, City Attorney's Consumer Task Force on Marital Status Discrimination, California Legislature's Task Force on the Changing Family, and California Insurance Commissioner's Anti-Discrimination Task Force.

In 1999, Rigler decided to create the American Association for Single People. He asked Coleman to direct AASP.

"Mr. Rigler was firm in his belief that unmarried and single Americans needed a major organization to advocate for their rights," Coleman said. "He believed that such an organization could stimulate economic and legal changes in the workplace, marketplace, and government programs such as unfair tax policies".

"When he founded the organization, Mr. Rigler said that he wanted AASP to be his human rights legacy to the nation," Coleman added. "If we can broaden the base of financial support by securing grants from other foundations, sponsorships from corporations, and create a large membership of unmarried and single people, then his dream will come true".

Over the years, Rigler has been a major benefactor of the A.C.L.U. and the National Organization for Women.

Now 87, Rigler would like AASP to become a viable national organization with strong financial backing and a mass membership.

"The best way for people to pay tribute to Mr. Lloyd E. Rigler for all of his human rights activities over the years, would be for them to become involved in AASP and to invite others to support the organization", Coleman emphasized. "The vitality and endurance of his legacy requires broad-based participation". ▲▲

*Mr. Rigler may be contacted by email at: [mail@unmarriedamerica.org](mailto:mail@unmarriedamerica.org).*



The Academic Advisory Board of Spectrum Institute met in June. Spectrum Institute is the Research and Policy Division of AASP. The Board plans to conduct a survey of professors at universities throughout the nation to determine which classes are being taught and what studies have been done on issues affecting single people. (from left to right) Dr. Michael F. Valente, Professor E. Kay Trimberger, AASP Executive Director Thomas F. Coleman, Professor Bella DePaulo, and Professor Stan Charnofsky.