

SEXUAL LAW REPORTER

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THOMAS F. COLEMAN
Publisher

October 3, 1978

Barbara Levy, Esq.
Margot Karle, Esq.
Lambda Legal Defense
& Education Fund, Inc.
22 East 40th Street
New York, NY 10016

Re: National Educational Foundation for Human Rights

Dear Barbara and Margot:

First I would like to say that I enjoyed meeting you both. I tried to combine business and pleasure while in San Francisco and so I did not spend all of my time at the conference. As a result I was not able to spend more time with you. I am sure that we will be able to get together again to discuss the legal aspects of the gay rights movement. I look forward to that happening in the near future.

My main reason for writing is to inform you that I will not be joining the board of the N.E.F.H.R. As you recall, at the meeting at Don's office I expressed concern that the main thrust of this organization would be money. I felt that the needs for exchanging information, pleadings, briefs, articles, and ideas could best be accomplished by way of a National Conference (similar to the National Conference on Women and the Law) and by a cooperative effort of our individual organizations. A new corporation need not be established for this purpose. The Hastings Gay Law Students Brief Bank and the Sexual Law Reporter should be able to provide the foundation for such a cooperative effort at better communications. I really think that the main purpose for N.E.F.H.R. is money. Again, I think that a new national organization need not be established for this purpose. Lambda, G.R.A., and Sexual Law Reporter each have 501(c)(3) status. Each of us individually or some or all of us jointly can put together funding proposals.

Furthermore, upon reflection I decided to maintain my policy of not becoming a board member of additional organizations. As you may recall, when Shepherd Raimi came to California he advised me that I was being considered for a board position on Lambda. I told him that I would be happy to cooperate with Lambda and to be an "official consultant" and even attend board meetings, but

I did not want to be a voting board member.


As the publisher and managing editor of a legal periodical, I do not think that I should get entangled in the inner politics of organizations. I can foresee philosophical, economic, and other differences which may arise which will infringe upon such things as objectivity and cooperation.

I would rather remain in a position of cooperating, advising, and supporting the efforts of other organizations. This, rather than being involved in internal politics.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the others who attended the meeting at Don's office so that everyone is aware of my position.

I hope that this letter reaches you before you have actually filed for incorporation. If you have any questions or comments I would be happy to speak or correspond with either of you.

Yours truly,



THOMAS F. COLEMAN

cc: Don Knutson and staff
John Ward
Mort Schwab