

NATIONAL COMMITTEE

FOR

SEXUAL CIVIL LIBERTIES

18 OBER ROAD

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY 08540

(609) WA4-1950

Co-Chairmen:

Prof. Walter E. Barnett
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Dr. Arthur C. Warner
Princeton, New Jersey

The National Committee for Sexual Civil Liberties consists of a group of lawyers with experience in the field of civil liberties and of authorities in related disciplines working for the dismantling of the entire structure of criminality and discrimination which surrounds private sexual conduct between consenting adults. The Committee's initial inspiration came from the American Civil Liberties Union, and its purpose has been to emulate in the special field of sexual civil liberties the work of the various chapters of the Union in the general area of civil liberties. Specifically, this means working for repeal of fornication, adultery, and sodomy laws to the extent that they punish private consensual conduct between adults, repeal of sexual solicitation statutes, and repeal of laws prohibiting prostitution, but reserving to the state its right to regulate prostitution where it involves a commercial enterprise, in the same way that the state now regulates other commercial establishments.

In addition to working for repeal of laws of the kind just enumerated, the Committee's efforts are directed toward the enactment of affirmative legislation prohibiting discrimination for reasons of sexual orientation in such areas as employment, licensing, housing, insurance, child custody and adoption, and related matters. In this connection, it works with like-minded groups for the enactment of legislation to remove the inequities to which single persons are exposed in such areas as taxation, inheritance, and community property.

The Committee also has an important academic dimension, reflected by those of its members with university connections. This involves research, publication, and teaching in the broad area of human sexuality. The most important disciplines represented are sociology, religion, and history, but three Committee members are professors of law. There is a close relationship between the scholarly work of these university members and the activities of the lawyers on the Committee, since the former provide important material for briefs and memoranda, not only for use in court cases, but for presentations to state legislative committees and penal law revision commissions.

The Committee was founded by Professor Walter E. Barnett, now professor of law at the University of California, Hastings School of Law, and Dr. Arthur C. Warner, who continue as co-chairmen. Professor Barnett is the author of Sexual Freedom and the Constitution: An Inquiry into the Constitutionality of Repressive Sex Laws. He was a visiting scholar at the Columbia University Law School for the academic year 1972-1973. Dr. Warner is the author of Why Reform the Sodomy Laws.