

*AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
FOR
PERSONAL PRIVACY
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The American Association for Personal Privacy consists of a group of lawyers with experience in the field of sexual civil liberties and of authorities in related disciplines working for the dismantling of the entire structure of criminality and discrimination surrounding private sexual conduct between adults. The Association's initial inspiration came from the American Civil Liberties Union, but, unlike the Union, the Association concentrates in the area of sexual civil liberties. Specifically, this means working for repeal of fornication, adultery, and sodomy laws to the extent that they punish private consensual conduct between persons above the sexual age of consent, repeal of sexual solicitation statutes, and repeal of laws prohibiting prostitution, although reserving to the state the right to regulate prostitution where it involves a commercial enterprise in the same way that states now regulate other commercial enterprises.

Since its founding in 1971, the Association has initiated legal challenges in numerous states, as a result of which it has succeeded in having the consensual deviate sexual conduct (sodomy) laws of both Pennsylvania and New York struck down by their respective state supreme courts. Similarly, as a result of cases brought by the Association's attorneys, the highest courts in Oregon, Colorado, Massachusetts, and New York invalidated sexual solicitation laws which had been enforced almost exclusively against gay persons, while a separate Association action in California resulted in the Supreme Court of that state judicially rewriting in its entirety a similar California statute which had accounted for almost all the arrests of gay people in that state. Finally, through the Association's legislative efforts, the sexual solicitation laws of Nebraska and New Jersey were repealed by their respective legislatures.

In addition to working for legal changes of the kind kind just enumerated, the Association's efforts are directed toward the enactment of affirmative legislation prohibiting discrimination for reasons of sexual orientation in such areas as employment, licencing, housing, insurance, child custody and adoption, and related matters. In this connection, it works with like-minded groups for the enactment of laws to remove the

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inequities to which single persons are exposed in such matters as taxation, inheritance, and community property.

One of the Association's most important dimensions is its Academic Council, which is composed of a group of eminent scholars in a host of fields related to human sexuality. The Council is headed by Professor Wayne R. Dynes of Hunter College of the City University of New York, and includes scholars in such diverse fields as religion, history, sociology, psychology, archeology, and biology. Over the years it has published numerous scholarly articles and papers on different aspects of homosexuality. Professor Dynes himself is well known for his editorship -- in conjunction with other members of the Council -- of the Gai Saber monograph series and of the Gay Books Bulletin, which later appeared under the name of the Cabirion. His Homolexis, an historical and cultural lexicon of homosexuality, is a unique production, which has been widely acclaimed. His most recent publication is his magisterial critical bibliography of homosexuality, published earlier this year by Garland Publishing Company, New York. This 800 page publication is destined to remain the definitive bibliographic reference for at least this generation, encompassing as it does virtually every book and article, not only in English, but also the seminal scholarship on the subject which has appeared in this century in Dutch, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish and the Scandinavian languages, as well as "significant contributions on Far Eastern themes in Chinese and Japanese."

The Association is a voluntary organization in its entirety, without a paid staff, and is completely dependent on private contributions for the furtherance of its work. As a 501(c)3 non-profit educational association, all contributions to it are deductible for Federal income tax purposes by the donors.