



THE ★ CAUCUS

14TH ANNUAL EQUALITY BRUNCH

UNBREAKABLE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

LIZZIE
PANNILL FLETCHER
U.S. CONGRESS

VICE CHAIR,
CONGRESSIONAL EQUALITY CAUCUS

WORKING TO PROTECT THE
DIGNITY,
FREEDOM,
AND EQUALITY
OF OUR LGBTQI+ NEIGHBORS

BOARD MEMBER,
EQUALITY PAC
WORKING TO ELECT MORE
EQUALITY CHAMPIONS
TO CONGRESS

*Cheers to
the Houston
LGBTQ+
Caucus!*



PAID FOR BY ELIZABETH PANNILL FLETCHER FOR CONGRESS

PROGRAM

WelcomeTamara Siler
Emcee

President's Remarks.....Austin Davis Ruiz

Keynote Speaker.....Liliana Bakhtiari
Atlanta City Council Member

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

PerformanceHarrison Homer-Guy

Remarks.....Jack Valinski

AWARDS CONTINUED

PerformanceHarrison Homer-Guy

AppealAustin Davis Ruiz

FINAL AWARDS

Closing Remarks.....Tamara Siler

2023 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Jim Owens Newcomer of the Year Award

Ryan Wright

Excellence in Media Award

OutSmart Magazine

Bayard Rustin Civil Rights Award

Ian L. Haddock

Kristen Capps Social Conscience Award

Transgender Education Network of Texas

Eleanor Tinsley Ally Award

Commissioner Lesley Briones

Don Hrachovy Lifetime Achievement Award

Jovon Alfon B. “LuJack” Tyler

AWARD RECIPIENT BIOS



LESLEY BRIONES

Harris County Commissioner Lesley Briones is a native Texan and proud Latina who grew up on the U.S.-Mexico border. She is the daughter of teachers, who taught her the importance of education, hard work, and serving others—values that have defined her and which she now brings to the office of County Commissioner for Precinct 4.

Upon graduating with honors from Harvard University, she began her career

as an 8th and 10th-grade teacher. She then attended Yale Law School, where she led the Latino Law Students' Association's public service initiatives and provided pro-bono assistance to survivors of domestic abuse and juvenile offenders. Commissioner Briones returned to Texas and next became the Judge of Harris County Civil Court at Law No. 4. Briones co-founded the statewide nonprofit Texas Latinx Judges and serves as an adjunct professor at the University of Houston Law Center. She and her husband, Adán, live in Houston with their three daughters and worship at St. Ambrose Catholic Church.



IAN L. HADDOCK

Ian L. Haddock (he/they) serves as the Founder and Executive Director of The Normal Anomaly Initiative. Haddock has a unique lens to this work as he began in this field as a homeless LGBT youth in a frontline position. Since then, Haddock has worked in mid-level and senior-level leadership including being the Program Manager of the first County HIV Prevention Department.

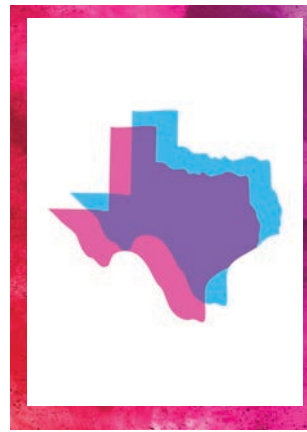
He served concurrently as President of the Board of Directors for Impulse Group Houston from 2017- 2022. Haddock has written for The Grio, Logo/NewNowNext, Houston Chronicle, and The Statesman. Haddock has done capacity building professionally outside of his career positions and has been awarded Trailblazer of the Year from African American State of Emergency Task Force and Emerging Leader of the Year from the National African American Gay Leadership Conference (NAESM).



OUTSMART MAGAZINE

OutSmart, established in 1994, is an independent media company that focuses on delivering local and national news to the LGBTQ audience. Serving Houston's LGBTQ community for 30 years, OutSmart's mission is to educate and inspire the community, advance voices, visibility and representation, and interests, and connect readers to valuable services and resources of our community.

OutSmart's print magazine is published monthly, while their website boasts over 200,000 readers each month. OutSmart's loyal fan base spans from Houston to Los Angeles and has an international following in countries such as Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, Australia, and more. OutSmart can be found at over 375 locations in Houston and the surrounding areas, emphasizing the importance of the LGBTQ press in creating equality and accessible journalism in fostering an informed community and a fair democracy.



TENT - TRANSGENDER EDUCATION NETWORK OF TEXAS

Transgender Education Network of Texas is dedicated to furthering the cause of Gender Diverse people in Texas. We will accomplish this through education in both public and private forums. Through our efforts we will strive to halt discrimination through social, legal, legislative and corporate education.

TENT has been at the forefront of fighting against anti-LGBTQ+ legislation at the Texas legislature, killing many harmful and discriminatory bills in collaboration with the All In for Equality Coalition; made of up Equality Texas, Texas Freedom Network, the ACLU of Texas, Lambda Legal, the Human Rights Campaign, and, of course, TENT. We are indebted to TENT for all the work they have done to advance—and protect—our community's rights.



JOVON ALFON B. "LUJACK" TYLER

A native Houstonian, Jovon Alfon B. "LuJack" Tyler first served as a board member of The Caucus (the organization's youngest ever) from 1994 to 1998, working alongside other Caucus greats like Lane Lewis, Terri Richardson, and Pat Gandy. Jovon was elected to lead the organization as president in 2020, and served until the end of 2022. He carries on

the legacy of his mother, former Houston mayor Annise Parker, who led The Caucus during her early years as a community activist. An important focus during Jovon's tenure as president was diversifying The Caucus leadership team and wider body by working to increase the number of women, trans, and gender expansive individuals within the membership. When first elected president, Jovon hoped he would be "the best president The Caucus has ever had—and that would include my mother. That's a tall glass of water, but I hope every president feels that way."



RYAN WRIGHT

Ryan Wright is a licensed attorney and business owner with nearly a decade of experience in criminal defense and family law. After realizing that making married people single again wasn't her passion, she studied real estate investing and development to make the switch from law. It was while she studied real estate that she found her passion supporting LGBTQIA+ youth in need.

During the pandemic, Ryan founded The Texas Greenhouse Project, an organization that creates group homes & services for LGBTQIA+ kids in foster care. Their first group home in Houston, will provide housing & therapy for transgender girls ages 10-17. When asked about her journey to become a business owner, Ryan said, "I can't say, in entrepreneurship, that I know the final destination. Success is relative. What I can say, wholeheartedly, is that I'm fully committed to the journey."



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Judge Colleen Gaido
Judge Angela M. Lancelin, Judge Julia
Maldonado, Silvia Mintz,
and Judge Teresa Waldrop
Judge Kelli Johnson
Judge Jim Kovach and
Judge Megan Poissant



SPONSORS CONTINUED

Leaders of Equality Cont.

Katharine Ligon & Dr. Megan Mooney

Ana Martinez

Judge Fredericka Phillips

Pat Strong, Strong Strategies

Sean Teare for Harris

County District Attorney

Jeff Watters

Thank you to all that donated past the print deadline!

2023 Houston LGBTQ+ Political Caucus Officers, Board of Directors, and Leadership Team Members

Austin Davis Ruiz	President
Porscha Brown, J.D., M.P.A.	Vice President, Board Chair
Piper Mandland	Secretary
Aaron Rublein	Treasurer

Joëlle Espeut	René Mendiola
Maria C. Gonzalez, Ph.D.	Odyssey Oakengrove
Brandon Mack, M.Ed	Jack Valinski

Judson Dunn

Houston LGBTQ+ Political Caucus Pioneers

Pokey Anderson	Lee Marsters
Bill Buie	Jerry Miller
Hugh Crell	Gary Van Ooteghem
Rev. Robert Falls	Robert Schwab
Carl Hayes	

Previous Keynote Speakers

1986	David Scondras, Boston City Council
1987	Barney Frank, U.S. House of Representatives
1988	Dr. Mathilde Krim, Cofounder of AmFar
1989	Steve Schultze, Mayor of West Hollywood
1990	Art Agnos, Mayor of San Francisco
1991	Bill Scott, Texas Board of Health
1992	Andrew Sullivan, Editor of <i>The New Republic</i>
1993	Torie Osborn, Executive Director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force
1994	Michelangelo Signorile, Author of <i>Queer in America</i>
1995	Donna Red Wing, National Field Coordinator, GLAAD
	Jose Zuniga, Author of <i>A Soldier Of The Year</i>
1996	Jim McIngvale, Owner of Gallery Furniture
1997	Margo Frazier, Travis County Sheriff
1998	Kerry Lobel, Executive Director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force

Previous Keynote Speakers Continued

2012	Matthew Breen, Editor-in-Chief of <i>The Advocate</i>
2020	Pete Buttigieg, Mayor of South Bend & Democratic Candidate for President of the United States
2021	Malcolm Kenyatta, Pennsylvania State Representative
2022	Christian Manuel, Texas State Representative & Stephanie Byers, Kansas State Representative

Previous Equality Brunch Presenting Sponsors

2019	Sheila Jackson Lee, U.S. House of Representatives
2021	Sylvester Turner, Mayor of Houston
2022	John Whitmire, Texas State Senator

Houston LGBTQ+ Political Caucus Past Presidents

1975-1977	Gary Van Ooteghem
1977	Don Hrachovy
1977-1978	Jim Cotton
1978-1980	Steve Shiflett
1980-1981	Lee Harrington
1982-1983	Larry Bagneris
1984	Norman Guttman
1984-1985	Sue Lovell
1986-1987	Annise D. Parker
1988	David Fowler
1989	Ray Hill
1990	Dennis Spencer
1991	Larry Lingle
1991	Toni Knight
1992-1993	Christopher Bacon, Esq.
1993	Terri Richardson
1994	Gary Van Ooteghem
1994-1995	Terri Richardson
1996	Pat Gandy
1997	Lane Lewis
1998	Rev. Burton Bagby-Grose
1999	Carl Smith
2000	Sean Carter

Past Presidents Continued

2001	Debra Rogers
2002-2004	Dr. Kenneth Jones, MD
2005-2006	Maria Gonzalez, PhD
2006-2008	Jenifer Rene Pool
2009-2010	Kristopher A. Banks, Esq.
2011-2014	Noel A. Freeman, MPA
2014-2016	Maverick Welsh
2016-2017	Fransheneka “Fran” Watson, Esq.
2017	Frances Valdez, Esq.
2018-2020	Mike Webb
2020	Katharine Ligon, MSW
2020-2022	Jovon Alfon B. Tyler

AWARDS HISTORY

Kristen Capps Social Conscience Award

The Kristen Capps Social Conscience Award is given to a person whose deeds and life work exhibit social conscience concerns for the dignity and equality for the LGBTQ+ community.

2017	Alan Dettlaff
2018	Kandice Webber
2019	Landon Richie
2020	Chris Hollins
2021	JD Doyle+
2022	Christian Menefee

Don Hrachovy Lifetime Achievement Award

The Don Hrachovy Lifetime Achievement Award is given to the person who has shown a life-long commitment to the rights of the LGBTQ+ community. Don Hrachovy spent thousands of hours maintaining the confidential mailing list, the cornerstone of the LGBTQ+ voting bloc. The dedication of this early Caucus president continues to inspire volunteers today. This award was also named the Distinguished Caucus Member and Tim Brookover as a lifetime achievement honor.

Don Hrachovy Award

1986	Cicely Wynne
1987	Don Hrachovy
1988	Joe Thornton
1989	Jack Valinski
1990	David Fowler
1991	Pat Hall
1992	Ray Hill
1993	Annise Parker
1994	Eugene Harrington
1995	Jim Owens
1996	Toni Knight
1997	John Kellett
1998	Carmen Pollock
2020	Monica Roberts
2021	Ray Ramirez
2022	Lane Lewis

Distinguished Member Award

2014	Kirsten Capps
2015	Leslie Jackson
2016	Maria Gonzalez
2017	Kris Banks
2018	Jim Taylor
2019	Judson Dunn

Tim Brookover Award

2013	Marion Coleman
2014	Ellen Cohen
2016	Greg Jeu
2018	Bill Baldwin
2019	JD Doyle

Monica K. Roberts Trans Advocacy Award

The Monica K. Roberts Trans Advocacy Award recognizes someone who has educated, advocated, and created political change for the BIPOC trans community.

2020	Ana Andrea Molina
2021	Roxanne Collins
2022	Joëlle Espeut
2023	Adri Pérez

Bayard Rustin Civil Rights Award

The Bayard Rustin Civil Rights Award is given to a person who has advocated for the recognition and civil rights of the LGBTQ+ community. The award was created to commemorate the 1988 Silver anniversary of the March on Washington for Civil Rights and Jobs, is named after the gay civil rights pioneer who organized the historic march.

1988	Craig Washington
1990	Eugene Harrington
1991	Beverly Clark
1992	Sue Lovell
1993	Phyllis Frye
1994	Brian Bradley
1995	Keith Stewart
1996	Dale Carpenter
1997	Gary Van Ooteghem
1998	Annise Parker
2020	Black Lives Matter: Houston
2021	Harrison Homer-Guy
2022	Jolanda Jones

Eleanor Tinsley Ally Award

The Eleanor Tinsley Ally Award goes to the distinguished community ally who fights for civil rights for the LGBTQ+ community.

2009	Garnet Coleman
2010	Sheila Jackson Lee
2011	John Whitmire
2012	Anna Milliken Eastman
2013	Shondra Wygal
2014	Jerry Davis
2015	Sarah Schimme
2016	Erika Richie
2017	Sylvia Garcia
2018	Alan Rosen
2019	Project Curate
2020	Lillie Schechter
2021	Al Green
2022	Adrian Garcia

Annise D. Parker Award

The Annise D. Parker Award honors the public official who shows great courage on behalf of the LGBTQ+ community. This award was previously named for the first openly gay supervisor of the City of San Francisco, Harvey Milk.

Harvey Milk Award

1987	Lance Lalor
1989	Debra Danburg
1990	Art Agnos
1991	Bob Bullock
1992	Katy Caldwell
1993	John Whitmire
1995	Sheila Jackson Lee
1996	Garnet Coleman
1997	Debra Danburg

Annise D. Parker Award

2020	Mary Gonzalez
2021	Ann Johnson
2022	Maria C. Gonzalez, Ph.D.

Excellence in Media Award

The Excellence in Media Award honors members of the community for their significant contributions in media to the LGBTQ+ community.

2020	Isiah Carey
2021	Dalton DeHart
2022	Queer Voices

Jim Cotton President's Award

The Jim Cotton President's Award is given to an individual who has contributed to the LGBTQ+ community in significant ways. Originally named The Caucus President's Award, it was renamed after Jim Cotton, who served as the organization's first Black president in 1977.

2009	Steven Kirkland
2010	Christina Gorcynski
2011	Kathy Hubbard
2013	Liz James
2014	Mark Eggleston
2016	Melanie Espinosa Pang
2018	Atlantis Narcisse
2018	Parker Sheffy
2019	Lorin Roberts
2020	Julie Mabry
2021	Larry Bagneris
2022	Alexis Melvin

Dennis Spencer Service Award

The Dennis Spencer Service Award, named after the 1990 Caucus President, is an award given for an individual's contributions to The Caucus and the LGBTQ+ community.

1991	Dennis Spencer
1992	Brian Keever
1993	Kevin Davidson

Dennis Spencer Service Award Cont.

1994	Cicely Wynne
1995	John Freeman
1996	Gary Grant
1997	Chris Bacon
1998	Jimmy Carper
2022	Francisco Sanchez, Jr.

Barbara Cigainero Volunteer of the Year Award

The Barbara Cigainero Volunteer of the Year Award is given to an outstanding volunteer who has contributed significantly to The Caucus. It recognizes individuals for their time, talent, and efforts given to the organization.

1986	Phil Batdorg & George Coe
1987	Carmen Pollock
1988	Sylvia Ayers
1989	Bill Willis
1990	Richard Prawitz
1991	Kevin Davidson
1992	Bill Willis
1993	Robbie Cavanaugh
1994	Lou Vanech
1995	Patrick McKee
1996	Patrick McIlvain
1997	Scott Tillinghast
1998	Dr. Clari Koepsel
2020	Luis Adame
2021	Christyna Lewis
2022	Pat Strong

Jim Owens Newcomer of the Year Award

The Jim Owens Newcomer of the Year Award goes to a new Caucus member that has contributed significantly within their first year of membership.

1986	Jim Owens
1987	Lou Vanech

Jim Owens Newcomer of the Year Award Cont.

1988	Rev. Glynn Harper
1989	Harry Livesay & Michael Hollier
1990	Larry Lingle & Bill White
1991	Duncan Allen
1992	Carol Clark
1993	Terri Richardson
1994	Dale Carpenter
1995	Jovon Alfon B. "LuJack" Tyler
1996	Jay Seegers
1997	Robert Johnson
1998	Michelle C. Myers
2020	Austin Davis Ruiz
2021	Porscha Brown
2022	René Mendiola

John Paul Barnich Award

The John Paul Barnich Award is named after the first, openly gay man to become a sitting judge in Texas (appointed in 1999). The award is given to those who make outstanding contributions to advance justice for the LGBTQ+ community.

2009	Judge Phyllis Frye
2010	John Nechman
2011	Judge Steven Kirkland
2012	Maria C. Gonzalez, Ph.D.
2013	Lou Weaver
2014	Noel Freeman
2015	Brad Pritchett
2016	Monica K. Roberts
2018	Ana Andrea Molina
2019	Fran Watson
2020	Judges Steven Kirkland & Daryl Moore
2021	Judges Shannon Baldwin, Jason Cox, Jim Kovach, Beau Miller & Jerry Simoneaux
2022	Jeff Watters

George Thomas “Mickey” Leland Humanitarian Award

Formerly the Caucus Humanitarian of the Year Award, this award recognizes an individual for their extraordinary humanitarian contributions to the LGBTQ+ community.

1988	Dr. Mathilde Krim
1989	George Thomas “Mickey” Leland (<i>Posthumous</i>)
1990	Carmen Pollock
1991	Bill Scott
1992	Dr. Clair Koepsel
1993	Ben Reyes
1994	John Paul Barnich
1995	Kathy Hubbard
1996	James Grace & Lee Masters
1997	Gordon Crofoot MD
1998	Donald L. Skipwith
2023	Brian Klosterboer

Larry Bagneris Leadership Team Member of the Year Award

Named after Larry Bagneris, the sixth Caucus President (1982-83), this award is voted on by the board and is given to the board member who has exhibited outstanding contributions to the organization.

2021	Katharine Ligon, MSW
2022	Mario Castillo

RE-ELECT
DR. LETITIA PLUMMER
HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL
AT-LARGE POSITION 4

2023



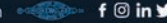
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- ✓ Will Hold City Hall Accountable
- ✓ Fights for positive LGBTQ+ policies

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SPECIAL THANKS

The Equality Brunch could not have happened without the help and support of the following individuals and businesses:

Liz Bellinger and TVision
Atlanta City Council Member Liliana Bakhtiari
Nicholas Cappon
The Caucus Board and Leadership Team
The Caucus Volunteers
Gaston Galvao
McKenzie Hayles
Harrison Homer-Guy
Javier Jiminez at
The Golden Leaf Floral & Design
The Post Oak Hotel at Uptown Houston
Tamara Siler
Jovon Alfon B. Tyler



**WE WILL NEVER GIVE UP
WE WILL NEVER GIVE IN
WE WILL NEVER
STOP FIGHTING
FOR TEXAS**



