



Summit: Save the date for the 2009 Out & Equal Workplace Summit

Mark your calendar for the [2009 Out & Equal Workplace Summit](#) for LGBT Equality, set for October 6-9 at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Florida.

We will be providing regular updates over the coming months on registration, workshops, keynote speakers and all aspects of the event.

The Out & Equal Workplace Summit is the world's premier conference on LGBT workplace equality, providing a unique opportunity to build alliances, share ideas and take actions that foster safe as well as equitable work environments for everyone.

More than 2,500 participants are expected to take part in workshops led by some of the country's leading workplace experts, participate in unique networking functions and also listen to inspirational, unforgettable speakers.

2009 Out & Equal Workplace Summit

October 6-9

Disney's Coronado Springs Resort, Florida

Town Call: Learn how to apply for Out & Equal Workplace Awards and Summit workshops

RSVP for this month's [Town Call](#) to learn everything you will need to know about submitting award nominations and workshop proposals for the 2009 Out & Equal Summit.

Our discussion will include:

- Insights into the screening committee's perspectives and criteria of the [Out & Equal Workplace Awards](#), commonly known as the Outies, our most prestigious honor given to individuals and organizations that are leaders in advancing LGBT workplace equality
- Discovering what last year's Outie winners did in their quest for equality that set them apart from other nominees

- Exploring the workshop submittal process, as well as previous topics that have included human resources, Employee Resource Groups and LGBT employee concerns
- Learning about core concepts that will be addressed during the Summit, and seeing how your workshop can compliment and enhance the event for attendees

Applications for both the awards and workshops will be available [online](#) beginning April 1. Deadline for the award nominations is May 1; deadline for workshop proposals is May 22.

This webinar will provide you with some great and timely guidance and is open to all. It is recommended for people and organizations with a record of support for LGBT workplace equality.

Presenters: 2008 Outie Award Winner and Workshop Presenter: Chris Crespo; Out & Equal Associate Director of Summit & Events Anthony Bannon.

Town Call

March 26

Pacific: 12 p.m. | Mountain: 1 p.m. | Central: 2 p.m. | Eastern: 3 p.m.

LGBT CareerLink: New employment networking site offers rare opportunity

Join Out & Equal Workplace Advocate's unique employment and professional networking website to expand your career network by connecting with others like you as well as employers who are looking for top-notch talent.

Unlike other websites, [LGBT CareerLink](#) allows you to upload job ads, articles, tips as well as other career-building resources that you believe will help others, creating a vast network of people working together in their career development and job search. The site is free for users.

LGBT CareerLink was created in response to employers' desire to reach the talented LGBT workforce and its allies. Recently launched, LGBTCareerLink is already surpassing benchmarks for websites of its size. Visitors in the first month came from as far away as India and spent more time, looking at more pages, than existing benchmarks. Membership is free to LGBT and allied career builders.

Competitive advertising package rates are available for employers of all sizes and in all sectors, around the United States as well as internationally. Since O&E is a nonprofit, portions of your LGBTCareerLink fees may be tax deductible.

Out & Equal welcomes new Deputy Director Kevin Jones

In February, longtime Out & Equal Workplace Advocates member and supporter Kevin Jones joined the organization's executive staff as its new deputy director.

Kevin joins the staff after spending nearly 25 years in the corporate world, most recently as a managing director for Citigroup in New York City.

It was during his 11 years at Citigroup that Kevin developed a passion for LGBT workplace equality issues and became a leading voice for the LGBT employee community at the company.

While there, he co-founded the company's national and Metro NYC Pride employee resource groups and worked closely with the Office of Workforce Diversity on numerous issues specific to LGBT equality.

It was also during his time at Citigroup that Kevin developed a relationship with Out & Equal that would include launching the Metro New York regional affiliate in 2001, serving on its Board of Directors from 2003 to 2006, co-chairing the 2004 Workplace Summit and co-chairing the Summit's Workshop Committee for five years.

Outside of his Out & Equal responsibilities, Kevin serves on the HRC Business Council and co-chairs the board of directors of True, the only national organization helping all children – boys and girls – break through stereotypes and become their true selves. Prior to relocating to the Bay Area, he was involved in many aspects of life at Christ Church in Ridgewood, New Jersey and is looking forward to connecting with fellow Episcopalians in the Diocese of California.

Kevin is originally from outside of Pittsburgh, PA. He holds a juris doctorate, a master's degree in business administration and a bachelor's degree from Washington University in St. Louis, MO and is in a civil union (working on marriage) with his partner of over twelve years, Tony De Sousa.

Out & Equal applauds new criteria Corporate Equality Index

Out & Equal Workplace Advocates applauds the planned changes announced today for the HRC Corporate Equality Index, which sets a benchmark for major U.S. employers to provide a more equal workplace for their LGBT employees.

To achieve a 100 percent rating on the 2012 CEI report, businesses will need to meet a series of new requirements that include:

- Health insurance access for transgender employees

- Equal benefits for same-sex partners and spouses
- Competency training and accountability on LGBT issues
- Overall involvement with the LGBT community

“Having a visible and meaningful index for benchmarking progress towards an equal workplace is critical to our movement’s progress,” said Out & Equal Executive Director Selisse Berry. “The new changes – especially those related to health insurance access for transgender employees – will help move our workplaces closer to full LGBT equality. As always, Out & Equal is ready to assist human resources professionals, LGBT employee leaders, and our allies in making full workplace equality a reality. I am pleased to see the bar being raised on the Corporate Equality Index. I look forward to gathering as a community at the 2009 Out & Equal Workplace Summit in Orlando this October for the important task of helping all of our organizations achieve a 100% for LGBT equality.”

California Supreme Court to hear arguments on validity of Proposition 8

The California Supreme Court will begin hearing arguments on Thursday in the case to overturn Proposition 8 and assure that basic rights cannot be taken away from a protected class of citizens by a popular vote.

Out & Equal Workplace Advocates has been at the forefront of the fight to secure marriage equality. In 2007, Out & Equal and Levi Strauss & Co. submitted an amicus brief in support of challenging marriage exclusion for same-sex couples in California law.

“It’s time for the LGBT community to no longer be treated as second class citizens,” Out & Equal Executive Director Selisse Berry said. “I hope the justices will do the right thing by acknowledging that the LGBT community has been targeted, treated unequally and the court will change the arc toward equality for all.”

[Out & Equal™ Workplace Advocates](#) is a national nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization headquartered in San Francisco, California. Out & Equal champions safe and equitable workplaces for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people. The organization advocates building and strengthening successful organizations that value all employees, customers, and communities.