

MOFO PROUD

**HARRISON
FOERSTER**

We're Here. We're Queer. And MoFo Couldn't Be Prouder.

LGBTQ+ Partners & Of Counsel



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Senior Of Counsel,
Lending + Financial
Transactions



Philip Besirof
General Counsel
Securities Litigation,
Enforcement, and
White-Collar Defense



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Partner, Investigations
+ White Collar Defense;
Commercial Litigation
+ Trial



B. Chen Zhu
Partner, Commercial
Litigation + Trial; FCPA +
Global Anti-Corruption;
Investigations + White
Collar Defense

A Proud History

1984



Sexual orientation is added to the firm's nondiscrimination policy

1993



MoFo becomes one of the first law firms to expand benefits to include same sex partners

2001



MoFo becomes first major law firm to have openly gay chair

2007



An openly gay man is appointed head of MoFo's New York litigation practice

2010



MoFo begins offering tax offsets to lawyers and staff in same-sex domestic partnerships

2013



The firm names an openly gay man as the managing partner of its largest office

2014



LGBTQ+ lawyers participate in biennial MoFo Diversity Summit

2015



1L Diversity Fellowship Program is expanded to include LGBTQ+ law students

2018



MoFo launches its Gender-Inclusive Employment Policy

2019



MoFo adds preferred personal pronouns to signatures

A Proud Record

24 Number of Board and Committee Seats Held By LGBTQ+ Attorneys

19 LGBTQ+ Organizations Supported Through The Morrison & Foerster Foundation in 2022



Named "Outstanding Firm for Diversity & Inclusion" as part of the *Chambers* Diversity & Inclusion Awards: USA 2023

7 Affinity Groups For LGBTQ+ Attorneys

20 Number Of Times MoFo Has Received A 100% Rating On The Human Rights Campaign's Corporate Equality Index On LGBTQ+ Equality In Corporate America

An Inclusive Firm

The Front Runner



In 2001, MoFo made history by becoming one of the first major law firms to elect an openly gay man to serve as chair. Keith Wetmore led the firm for 12 years, during which time we grew our

presence in key technology and financial centers in the United States, Asia, and Europe. Keith also helped set new standards for LGBTQ+ equality within the legal profession.

Fellowship Program



Our Keith Wetmore Fellowship for Excellence, Diversity, and Inclusion program supports the development of promising law students from some of the top law schools in the United States.

LGBTQ+ Pro Bono Contributions

MoFo commits itself to performing countless hours of LGBTQ+ Pro Bono work representing individuals and families facing discrimination and violence based on their sexual orientation. Some of our notable and most meaningful work includes advocating in the fight for marriage equality, supporting the battle against HIV/AIDS by providing representation to organizations performing research and seeking a cure, challenging the U.S. military's "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy, supporting LGBTQ+ nonprofit organizations, and taking on some of the most challenging asylum cases for LGBTQ+ individuals fleeing persecution because of their sexual orientation.

MoFo Diversity Summit

Since the 1990s, MoFo has held biennial workshops for our U.S.-

based lawyers of color. In 2014, the workshops were expanded to include LGBTQ+ lawyers, and the two-day retreat was renamed the MoFo Diversity Summit. More than 150 diverse lawyers and staff attended the 2018 summit.



MoFo's Strong Partnership with Out Leadership



MoFo is a proud sponsor of Out Leadership, an organization devoted to advancing the LGBTQ+ business network. MoFo has hosted a number of Out Leadership events, including the 2018 and 2019 Out Leadership Quorum workshops in San Francisco, where attendees received guidance on advising clients who are interested in diversifying their boards. MoFo also hosted the inaugural west coast OutNEXT Salon, a talent development workshop for emerging high-performing LGBTQ+ professionals.

Mansfield Certification Plus

MoFo is among a select number of firms that has achieved “Mansfield Certification Plus” every year since Diversity Lab’s launch of the Mansfield Rule in 2017. Certification Plus indicates that we have at least 30% women, minority, LGBTQ+, and lawyers with disabilities representation across notable leadership roles within the partnership and lateral hires, as well as in the talent pools from which we select talent for leadership and lateral recruiting opportunities.

Leadership Council on Legal Diversity

MoFo is a long-standing participant in the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (LCLD). Founded in 2011, LCLD focuses on developing attorneys who are committed to promoting diversity, LGBTQ+, and women’s programs within their professional communities. Fellows are immersed in a year-long leadership development program. Past MoFo LGBTQ+ LCLD fellows include: Alfredo Silva (2017) and Katie Vigiani (2022).

Pride Month

We’re proud of our LGBTQ+ lawyers and the contributions that they make to the firm and our communities every month of the year, but each June we take time out to celebrate LGBTQ+ history, culture, and politics with presentations and entertainment sponsored by MoFo’s LGBTQ+ Affinity Network and Diversity + Inclusion Group. In 2020, we transitioned our celebration to a virtual environment in the wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic to include online events, a podcast series led by our LGBTQ+ partners, and a social media campaign highlighting the unique voices and viewpoints of our LGBTQ+ attorneys.



To learn more about MoFo’s LGBTQ+ initiatives, contact [Natalie Kernisant](#), Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, nkernisant@mofo.com.