



Out & Equal Goes to San Francisco

October/November 2014



Out & Equal Workplace Advocates' (O&E) annual Workplace Summit, taking place in San Francisco from Nov. 3-6, will bring together working professionals, employee resource group leaders, diversity managers, individuals and allies in the name of workplace safety and equality for lesbian, gay, transgender and bisexual workers.

"The Workplace Summit represents the global gathering of a growing movement that's dedicated to a world free of discrimination," said Selisse Berry, founder and chief executive officer of Out & Equal Workplace Advocates. "With 29 states still able to fire employees simply based on their sexual orientation, our work to eliminate this blatant discrimination is among our top priorities."

More than 3,000 attendees are slated to participate in dozens of workshops and caucuses at this year's conference, which takes place in the organization's home city – and the hub for LGBT rights and advocacy. In addition to LGBT activists, allies and community leaders including Billie Jean King and Olympia Dukakis who will be speaking, new findings from the annual Workplace Survey, conducted in partnership with Harris Interactive, will also be released.

During the conference, Out & Equal will also announce the recipients of its annual Workplace Awards, or "The Outies." The awards honor individuals and organizations who lead the way in advancing LGBT workplace equality, while providing the community with stellar examples of innovative and successful leadership strategies. In 2013, The Dow Chemical Company earned The Workplace Excellence Award and Kevin Jones, a lifelong LGBT advocate, received the Selisse Berry Leadership Award.

The Out & Equal Workplace Summit provides a powerful platform for participants across multiple industries, sexual orientations and gender identities to make connections, discuss LGBT workplace issues and brainstorm best practices to fighting inequality. All activities are designed to support the organization's mission to create safe and equitable workplace environments for LGBT workers who often experience harassment and discrimination while on the job. Although 2014 has seen significant gains in marriage equality across the country, employers are still legally able to fire employees simply for being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, thus highlighting the need for increased equal rights advocacy in the workforce. Through initiatives like the Workplace Summit, Out & Equal has worked tirelessly for more than a decade to improve the lives of LGBT employees and to advocate on their behalf in response to injustices.

For more details on this year's Workplace Summit or to register for the event, please visit www.OutandEqual.org or <http://oesummit2014.wordpress.com/>.

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