



Prestigious Publisher Adds First GLBT Title; By Local Gay Public Admins

The Handbook Of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, And Transgender Administration And Policy, edited by Dr. Wallace Swan, Minneapolis.

Marcel Dekker, Inc., the leading publisher of texts in the field of public administration www.dekker.com. 615 pages, \$175.00

It is by far the most extensive publication on GLBT public administration and non-profit administration available in the world.

Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin says about this book that "... Understanding the unique challenges and issues that confront the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community is an essential first step in addressing them... This Handbook will help to inform its readers of these challenges... The writings of those on the front lines of administration are valuable for colleagues, staff, academicians, and policy makers."

The handbook's broad reach takes in the most recent advances in GLBT politics and policy in the U.S., including domestic partnerships, civil unions, and gay marriages; political party support of gay rights in the legislative and executive branches; the influence that citizens have in shaping gay rights at the state level; legislation and challenges specific to transgender and bisexual rights; GLBT youth and aging issues in light of the current mainstream cultural climate; the disparity between developed and developing nations in tolerance and protection of gay rights; health and health care matters impacting the GLBT community; as well as criminal justice issues

In one of the early chapters in the book, Paul Mazur, a college

administrator who has specialized in international affairs and comparative government, and who is currently doing research on the Russian federal system wrote two chapters entitled "The Developed World" and "The Developing Nations These chapters are basically summaries of developments regarding the rights and treatment of gays and lesbians in various countries around the world. In "The Developing Nations" the struggle for gay and lesbian rights is placed in the context of the influence of culture and religion, particularly Catholicism and Christianity, Judaism, and Islam in many of the Third World countries.

Mazur's article shows that while gays and lesbians are at a beginning point in much of the Third World, there nevertheless have been some advances in some areas of the Third World. By contrast, "The Developed World" discusses the advances gays and lesbians have made in Europe, Canada, Australia and New Zealand and the United States in the context of diverse democratic societies with their belief in tolerance and mechanisms for aggrieved groups to organize and petition the government through their legislatures or courts for their rights.

The focus is on progress in the areas of civil rights (including sodomy laws) and domestic partnership issues.

Rodrick A. Colvin, the research director for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute, has published numerous scholarly articles on LGBT discrimination issues. In addition to his interest in nondiscrimination policy, he is also interested in hate crimes, and international human rights policies.

In his chapter "Policy Entrepreneurs and Gay Rights Policy," Colvin considers the role that policy entrepreneurs (people active and interested in policy change) play in changing laws involving sexual orientation. The chapter considers how different types of entrepreneurs influence the policy making process in different ways.

For example, a high-ranking public servant attempts to influence the policy process in a much different way that, say, a wealthy socialite. The results of the study, suggest that policy entrepreneurs are an integral part of the policy process, specifically policy adoption. In understanding how public policy is determined, consideration has to be given to the people who are active and interested in change.

In his second chapter entitled "Political Support and Policy Outcomes: Adopted State Gay Rights Laws", Colvin analyses the political and historical connections between the Democratic Party and affirmative gay rights laws. While many have argued that the Democratic Party has been more supportive than the Republican Party, this chapter scientifically examines 20 years of state public policy and party control of the state House and state Senate, and the office of the Governor in Washington state.

Based on the analyses of several

variables during the 20 year period, the results suggest that adoption of gay rights policies were most likely when Democrats controlled the state executive office.

Mark French, a principal of the Oak View Elementary School in the Twin Cities area, with extensive experience in both public and private K-8 settings wrote an important chapter entitled, "Dealing with GLBT Issues in Elementary and Secondary Schools."

He researched topics that apply to students, families and staff members. In the area of students, he looked at relevant federal, state and local polices and laws about harassment, school safety, and GSA's (Gay Straight Alliances--a general term used to describe all GLBT related student groups).

The good news he offers is that federal, state, and local policies and laws have been used to uphold decisions for improved student safety and inclusion. The bad news is that it has usually taken a significant, tragic incident to bring about necessary change in our nations K-12 schools. The strong, conservative, religious



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Dr. Wallace "Wally" Swan.

based right wing has a huge influence on local school boards and state and national policy tending to delete or water down specific support for GLBT students. The fact is that there is not enough being done on a national level to support, honor, and validate GLBT students. For GLBT school employees, he looked again at relevant federal, state and local polices and laws that offer protection in employment. The good news is that there are a few case precedents that have been used in support of GLBT educators but the bad news is that there is no overall federal policy to protect GLBT school employees (the Employment Non-Discrimination Act - ENDA - still has not been passed at the national level).

Most school employees are covered only by the polices and laws enacted and/or

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approved by their local school districts, municipalities and states, while those working in a progressive area (enjoying protection by my school district and state) enjoy more liberties.

Many educators still fear recrimination from students, families, the community and their district for being open and vocal in the school workplace. Small steps are being taken through contract language that is more inclusive to GLBT families and domestic partnerships.

The final piece, which complements the discussion by Mark French is entitled "A second complementary chapter entitled 'Coming Out of the Ivy Closet: Improving Campus Climate for GLBT Students and Staff'", is included in the book and is written by Beth Zemsky of the University of Minnesota (Co-Chair of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force).

Dallas Drake, Principal Researcher, for the Minnesota Gay Homicide Study (now the Center for Homicide Research) prepared a chapter entitled "Confronting and Managing GLBT Homicide and its Associated Phenomena" where he presents an overview and introduction to research and policy implications concerning gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender homicides.

Drake first describes the significant impact of this sub-type of violence, and then goes on to conceptualize gay homicide within the scientific framework of modern criminology. The chapter raises pressing questions about the nature of this type of crime, including technical issues related to crime measurement.

Several varieties of GLBT homicide are presented using numerous reference sources in an effort to provide the reader with a broad list of reading material on the topic. A thorough examination of the criminal justice system is given, followed by policy ideas for homicide prevention. In a second chapter, written with editor Wallace Swan, the broader area of GLBT criminal justice issues is discussed.

Sid Guthrie, RN, MA at the time of the writing was a Clinical Nurse Manager, who is currently finishing graduate studies as a Family Clinical Nurse Specialist. His chapter, entitled "A Survey of GLBT Health Issues" focuses on key health issues that affect GLBT people.

Sexually transmitted diseases, especially with the re-emergence of higher syphilis and HIV rates that seem to be occurring in younger men, are of

significant concern.

Mental health and chemical dependency also remain significant issues. The emergence of "out" families with children and the growing "out" aging population offer exciting new opportunities especially for GLBT health providers to meet the needs of these clients.

Some GLBT health centers nationally are incorporating pediatric and obstetric providers into their practices. In an age of consumer choice and focus on quality, the time is ripe for creating financial mechanisms to support choice for GLBT people in their desire for culturally appropriate care. He believes that is time to carve out medical insurance options so that GLBT consumers have choice on where and with whom they want their health care.

GLBT health centers can also provide more services and expand operations when they are reimbursed by medical insurance options and do not have to rely exclusively on shrinking government grants and philanthropy.

In a second chapter entitled "No Longer Silent: The Emerging Opportunity for Gay Men to Thrive and Survive Prostate Cancer", discussion involves the fact that while prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer related deaths in American men, little is mentioned about this issue in the GLBT media.

With good survival rates due to early detection and treatment, better information and screening need to be available to gay and bisexual men in the GLBT community. This chapter explores the reason for silence as well as offer suggestions on getting the word out. With the rapid advances in detection, treatment and prevention, gay and bisexual men need to be aware of the options.

The book also includes an "Introduction" and "Conclusion" by Dr. Wallace Swan; and chapters entitled "New GLBT Political and Policy Developments: Five Years of Progress", as well as "Transgender and Bisexual Issues in Public Administration and Policy", Hastings Wyman, nationally recognized columnist for the "Southern Political Review." "Developmental concerns are covered in "Issues in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Aging", by Professor Jean Quam at the University of Minnesota School of Social Work; and in "Queer Youth Issues", Tracy Phariss, who is an educator in Colorado.