



NAME OF EVENT: ACS South Florida: Upending the Standard of Care for Trans-Youth: Florida's Proposed Laws Restricting and Criminalizing Gender Affirming Care for Minors

DATE | TIME | LOCATION: April 11, 2023 | 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM ET | Online

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

Join experts in the field as they discuss the recently enacted Florida Board of Medicine and Board of Osteopathic Medicine's rules that prohibit the provision of gender affirming care for minors, and the Florida Legislature's proposed bills that would, among other things, further erode parents' rights to determine the medical treatment for their children, would allow courts to modify custody agreements to favor non-affirming parents, and would prohibit the expenditure of public funds on gender-affirming healthcare. Panelists will discuss the status of the rulemaking and proposed legislation, opposition efforts, and resources for attorneys and their clients.

SPEAKERS' NAMES AND BIOS:

- **Simone Chriss**, Director, Transgender Rights Initiative, Southern Legal Counsel
- **Scott McCoy**, Deputy Legal Director, LGBT Rights, Southern Poverty Law Center
- **Brandon Wolf**, Press Secretary, Equality Florida

Hosted by: South Florida Lawyer Chapter

AGENDA OF PROGRAM:

- Introduction (5 mins)
- Moderated Discussion/Presentations (45 mins)
- Q&A (10 min)

READING MATERIALS:

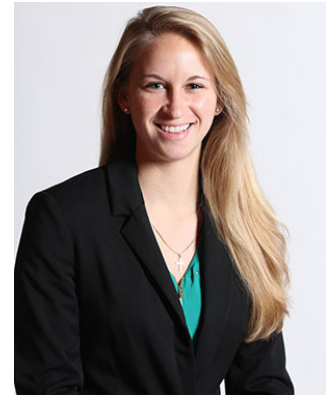
SB 254, 2023 Reg. Sess. (FL 2023). <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/254>

Ghorayshi, Azeen. 4 Nov. 2022 "Florida Restricts Doctors From Providing Gender Treatments to Minors." *The New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/04/health/florida-gender-care-minors-medical-board.html>

Sarkissian, Arek. 4 Nov. 2022. "Florida medical boards sign off on ban prohibiting gender-affirming care for kids." *Politico*. <https://www.politico.com/news/2022/11/04/medical-boards-ban-transgender-treatments-florida-00065251>

SIMONE CHRISS

E: simone.chriss@southernlegal.org
O: (352) 271-8890
1229 NW 12th Ave
Gainesville, FL 32601-4113
<https://www.southernlegal.org/>



Simone Chriss began working at SLC in 2016 after graduating from the University of Florida Levin College of Law, where she received her J.D. with honors. Chriss is the Director of the organization's Transgender Rights Initiative, developed by SLC to fill a gap in access to justice by systemically providing assistance to the transgender community in areas such as access to name and gender marker changes, obtaining accurate IDs, representation in educational proceedings, protection from discriminatory policies, and more. She conducts LGBTQ+ cultural competency trainings and transgender rights trainings statewide and nationally, and presents transgender name and gender marker change workshops throughout Florida. She is currently engaged in litigation against the State of Florida with federal lawsuits challenging the discriminatory exclusion of coverage for gender-affirming medical care through Florida's Medicaid Program and the State Employee health insurance program, as well as active federal litigation challenging the Florida law known as "Don't Say Gay/Trans."

Chriss utilizes federal impact litigation, policy advocacy, and community education/training to bring about systemic reform in the areas of LGBTQ+ rights, child welfare, implementing trauma-informed services, ending the criminalization of homelessness, and special education. Chriss also works with the UF Health Youth Gender Program through a Medical Legal Partnership ("MLP"), through which she screens transgender youth and families for health harming legal needs. She then provides the families free legal assistance on issues such as navigating discriminatory health insurance issues, ensuring access to bathrooms and consistent use of affirmed names and pronouns at school, and obtaining legal name/gender marker changes and amending government-issued identification documents, among others.

Chriss serves as an Attorney ad Litem for the Eighth Judicial Circuit's registry for dependent children with special needs. She is a member of The Florida Bar, and the U.S. Northern, Middle, and Southern District Courts of Florida. Chriss is a member of the National LGBTQ+ Bar, a member of the Executive Council of the Public Interest Law Section (PILS) of the Florida Bar, as well as the PILS Children's Rights Committee and the Advocacy Committee, and was appointed to the Florida Bar's Standing Committee on Diversity and Inclusion. Chriss is a recipient of the National LGBTQ+ Bar Association's 2022 Award 40 Best LGBTQ+ Lawyers Under 40, and was awarded the 2021 "Voice for Equality Award" by statewide LGBTQ+ advocacy group Equality Florida.



SPLC
Southern Poverty
Law Center

SCOTT MCCOY

Scott D. McCoy is the interim deputy legal director for LGBTQ rights and special litigation at the Southern Poverty Law Center. His work focuses on LGBTQ people, their families and the communities in which they live, particularly communities in the Deep South.

McCoy was a member of the trial team in the landmark *Ferguson v. JONAH* case which resulted in a unanimous jury verdict that found conversion therapy — a dangerous practice that purports to change a person’s sexual orientation — is consumer fraud under New Jersey law. He has worked across the country to bar conversion therapy for minors.

McCoy’s duties also include bringing cases designed to disrupt and counter hate and extremist groups as well as cases on behalf of people targeted and victimized by such groups.

Before joining the SPLC, he was a senior litigation associate at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton in New York City. Earlier, he served as the first openly gay member of the Utah State Senate, representing portions of Salt Lake City. McCoy also served on the Utah Sentencing Commission and chaired the Salt Lake City Police Civilian Review Board.

He was a board member of Equality Utah, the state’s LGBTQ advocacy group. In 2004, he ran the statewide campaign against Amendment 3, Utah’s anti-gay marriage constitutional amendment.

He was a clerk for Associate Chief Justice Leonard H. Russon of the Utah Supreme Court. McCoy also served as legislative director for U.S. Rep. Tom Latham of Iowa. Additionally, he was the professional staff and committee liaison to U.S. House leadership for the House Committee on Agriculture.

McCoy earned a bachelor’s degree from William Jewell College and a Master of Arts degree in international affairs from the George Washington University. He is a graduate of Cardozo School of Law, earning his law degree in 2001.



BRANDON WOLF

Brandon Wolf is a nationally-recognized gun safety and LGBTQ civil rights advocate and dynamic public speaker. He currently serves as the Press Secretary for Equality Florida, the state's LGBTQ civil rights organization.

On June 12, life changed for Brandon. He crouched in a bathroom while a gunman opened fire at Orlando's Pulse Nightclub, killing his best friends, Drew Leinonen & Juan Guerrero, and 47 others. Rather than be swallowed by the anger and fear of tragedy, Brandon set out to honor the victims' legacies with action.

In the immediate aftermath of the shooting, Brandon co-founded The Dru Project, a nonprofit organization that works to empower youth and provide future leaders in the LGBTQ community funding for higher education. To date, the organization has given over \$100,000 in college scholarships to rising leaders. He also became an outspoken activist in the gun violence prevention movement, partnering with March For Our Lives, Everytown, Giffords, and others to demand legislative solutions to the epidemic. In 2019, he became the first survivor of the tragedy at Pulse Nightclub to testify before Congress.

A powerful public speaker, Brandon Wolf is a frequent guest on MSNBC (The Reid Out & American Voices), CNN, and in print publications (CNN.com, USA Today, Newsweek, Teen Vogue, Washington Post, The Advocate, Out Magazine) weaving his story into calls to action. He has been recognized by HuffPost as one of "30 modern-day LGBTQ pioneers" and Business Equality Magazine as one of 40 LGBTQ Leaders Under 40.

In all things, Brandon is driven by the reminder that we are obligated to honor those we've lost not with empty words or hollow platitudes - but with action.