



# Out of the Closets and into the Courts: Legal Opportunity Structure and Gay Rights Litigation

*Ellen Ann Andersen*

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Over the past 30 years, the gay rights movement has moved from the margins to the center of American politics, sparking debate from bedroom to boardroom to battlefield. *Out of the Closets and into the Courts* analyzes recent gay rights cases and explores the complex relationship between litigation and social change.

“An excellent book, enlightening and well-written. *Out of the Closets and into the Courts* should be highly useful in the classroom and of interest to a broad audience.”

--Evan Gerstmann, Loyola Marymount University

“A detailed historical analysis of changes in the law surrounding gay and lesbian relationships, *Out of the Closets and into the Courts* also breaks fresh ground in thinking about how and when law can be used to affect social change. The concept of a legal opportunity structure, which complements the concept of political opportunity structure, proves to be very useful in analyzing judicial changes in the law. A very impressive analysis.”

--Mayer Zald, Professor Emeritus, University of Michigan

“Ellen Andersen's book integrates sophisticated sociolegal theory and thorough empirical research into a compelling, insightful analysis of legal mobilization campaigns led by the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. This study makes a significant contribution to scholarship about struggles over gay rights in the U.S. and about legal reform politics in general.”

--Michael McCann, University of Washington

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