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September 25, 2012

Mr. Bill Thom
Northern Manhattan Rehab & Nursing
116 East 125th Street - 7th floor
New York, NY 10035

Dear Mr. Thom:

I am one of the current Co-Chairs of Lambda Legal's Board of Directors and am writing to thank you on behalf of Lambda Legal and the millions of members of the LGBT community who have benefited from Lambda Legal's work since you founded it nearly 40 years ago.

Earlier this summer, I was contacted by Sheperd Raimi and Al Baum who pointed out that Lambda Legal's website did not mention your involvement as a founder of Lambda Legal. While the press of daily work and a couple of unexpected medical leaves by staff members prevented us from expanding the website sooner, I wanted to let you know that the website has been updated and now expressly and prominently recognizes the heroic role you served in founding Lambda Legal.

The first paragraph of the History tab of the website mentions you by name and identifies you as founder. Your name also functions as a live link that leads to the "In My Own Words" article from the 2008 issue of Impact Magazine that profiles your efforts to launch Lambda Legal (as well as a very handsome photo of you). Your involvement in Lambda is also mentioned in a 2009 story marking the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall riots.

On a personal level, I also wanted to express my own appreciation for your courage in founding Lambda Legal so long ago. I've been involved with Lambda Legal for about 14 years and serving as its co-chair ranks as one of my proudest professional achievements. I share my life with my partner of 20+ years (and my lawful husband since 2010) and our two children, now 10 and 14. I work at one of the most traditional law firms in the country that nonetheless proudly supports my work with Lambda Legal and has dedicated substantial pro bono resources to a variety of LGBT cases. The world is a vastly better place for LGBT people than when I started practice 20 years ago and is almost unrecognizable from the world in which you took on the heroic and unprecedented task of fighting back. We all owe so much to you and others who stood up and demanded equality in the face of enormous consequences.

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On behalf of Lambda Legal, on behalf of the LGBT community and on behalf of my family, we thank you for making Lambda Legal a reality in 1973.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. Deming', is written over the typed name.

Bruce Deming

cc: Kevin Cathcart, Executive Director
Robbin Burr, Co-Chair