

# WASHINGTON BUSINESS JOURNAL

## BUSINESS OF PRIDE 2020

### Close up

**Age:** 41

**Education:**

Bachelor's in political science and gender studies, University of Southern California; J.D., Harvard Law School

**Residence:** Takoma Park

**Family:** Wife Jonna, children Max and Nava

**First job:**

Babysitting at age 10

**About the**

**honoree:** Lindsay Harrison works in Jenner & Block's complex commercial litigation practice and its appellate and Supreme Court practice. She is an active leader in the firm's LGBTQ affinity group, Forum, and is a member of the GLAD Equal Justice Council.

Her pro bono work includes LGBT rights cases, most recently focused on anti-transgender legislation with the ACLU and Lambda Legal.

**About Jenner & Block:**

Headquartered in Chicago, this general practice firm employs more than 500 attorneys across its branch offices in London, Los Angeles, New York City and D.C. with a reported 2019 gross revenue of \$448 million. The District office, launched in 1982, includes 90 attorneys.



### LINDSAY HARRISON | Partner, Jenner & Block LLP

The opportunity to create social change and move the country on civil rights issues has always attracted me to law. That's the main thing.

I'm open-minded and I'm able to think about things from the other side's position. The best skill you can have as a lawyer is thinking of the best argument the other side will make.

I came out in college, right about the same time Ellen DeGeneres came out. I was in Los Angeles at USC. It was a very welcoming and safe place to come out. When I was at law school, I put on my resume that I was the leader of our LGBTQ group. I didn't want to go to a firm that didn't want to hire me because of that, but one that wanted to hire me because of that.

One of the best experiences of my life was working on *Lawrence v. Texas*, the landmark case that overturned the *Bowers v. Hardwick* decision criminalizing same-sex sexual conduct. The opportunity to play a very minor role on that as a summer associate – well, I knew I had made the right decision going to law school and coming to Jenner & Block. It was very affirming.

There have been briefs and cases where the youngest person on the team has a different way of seeing the case, and it really helps the creativity of the team. For example, in the DACA litigation that we took to the Supreme Court, the theory that ultimately was the theme of our brief and was in the chief justice's opinion was first voiced by the youngest person on our team. For me, it's always about trying to make sure all the voices in a case are heard and trying to lift up those voices that typically get lost. The thing I care most about is being valued and everyone feels like their input is important.

The firm's LGBTQ Forum affinity group has been a place where I've been mentored and been able to mentor others. It's incredibly important to create a space where all voices are heard and I think the firm does that, and the Forum does that especially well for our community. The Forum was the force behind the firm's preferred pronoun policy. For me, it was about respecting people's self identity at zero cost. Law firms are not always the first to move, but we saw a greater sensitivity to respecting people's pronouns and thought we should be ahead of others on this.

We were one of the first firms to ask people to self identify on their business cards, website bios and email signatures. I'm really proud of it. It's made a difference and other firms have followed suit. Attorneys say it's made them feel like they are in a safe place. Law students have commented and said that it makes them feel like it's a safe place. That's how we all should feel at work.

– As told to Amanda Long