



WELCOMES YOU TO

PRIDE

in The

GARDEN

TEA DANCE

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2026

AT THE HOME OF

**DR. NEAL NAFF &
NATHAN HUBLER**

*HISTORIC CEDARCROFT
BALTIMORE, MD*

MESSAGE FROM FREESTATE JUSTICE

Every year, FreeState Justice invites advocates from across Maryland to come together and celebrate Pride during our Pride Soirée. This year's **The Pride Soirée: Pride in the Garden** is a bold, new, and exciting celebration of our work and the LGBTQ+ community. It comes at an important time for FreeState Justice, which in the past year has managed to do more than ever before in service of LGBTQ+ Marylanders:

- Opened a historic number of pro bono legal cases
- Served residents state-wide, in every county in the State
- Helped pass major legislation like the Carlton R. Smith Jr. HIV Modernization Act
- Responded to a record number of requests for resource support
- Connected 1,318 LGBTQ+ Youth to the life-saving resources they need
- And more!

We are excited to bring together advocates, allies, and organizations committed to FreeState Justice's mission of making Maryland inclusive for all. We are also honored to award Delegate Bonnie Cullison with the Beacon of Justice Award for her many years of service to Maryland's LGBTQ+ community.

Hosted at the private garden of a longtime LGBTQ+ advocate, the Pride in the Garden will commemorate these achievements and the hard work of countless other groups fighting for LGBTQ+ Marylanders. At a time when hateful rhetoric and steep funding cuts force us to work harder and stronger to advance the rights of the LGBTQ+ community, we gather today to enjoy a true sense of community — all while raising critical funds for the life-saving services FreeState Justice provides year-round.

Thank you for being a part of this important mission. And welcome to Pride in the Garden!

Phillip Westry, Esq.
Executive Director of Freestate Justice

Andrew Adelman
FreeState Justice Board President

BEACON OF JUSTICE AWARD

FreeState Justice is honored to present Delegate Bonnie Cullison with the Beacon of Justice Award!

Bonnie Cullison has devoted nearly five decades of her life to public service; she dedicated 32 years as a public-school educator and 16 years as a member of the Maryland House of Delegates. Throughout her career, she has championed underserved communities and worked to unite diverse perspectives toward shared goals that benefit us all.



Elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in 2010 to represent District 19, she has led policy on insurance regulation and prescription drug costs, focusing on expanding access to affordable health care, strengthening safety nets, and supporting providers — while always speaking up for members of her LGBTQ+ community.

Delegate Cullison helped secure marriage equality, supported the 2014 Fairness for All Marylanders Act, and led on the 2023 Trans Health Equity Act, requiring Medicaid coverage for gender-affirming care. She also sponsored legislation banning conversion therapy in 2018 and continues to advocate for LGBTQ+ Marylanders across the state.

The Beacon of Justice Award is a symbol of appreciation for those who have made a significant impact on Maryland's LGBTQ+ community, tirelessly advocating for their rights and serving as a model for what advocacy should look like today. After four terms, Bonnie is not seeking reelection and plans to spend more time with her wife of 42 years. As she enters this new chapter of her life, FreeState Justice is honored to bestow her this Award as a token of gratitude for her many years of vital work.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

CHAMPION

Merck & Co.

LEADER

CareFirst

ADVOCATE

Brown Advisory

Gallagher LLP

Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs (Baltimore City)

SAGE

SUPPORTER

The Hon. Courtney Watson

Mark Yost & Kevin Galens

Brown, Goldstein & Levy

The Annie E. Casey Foundation

Chase Brexton Healthcare

Creative Print Group

LifeBridge Health

Miles & Stockbridge

Quiet Wealth

SEIU Local 500

Saul Ewing LLP

Venable LLP

Special thanks to Andrew Zill, Rouge Catering, The Illustrious Blacks, and Dr. Neal Naff & Nate Hubler for making this event possible!

THANK YOU TO OUR PRIDE IN THE GARDEN HOST COMMITTEE

Host Committee Members

Aaron Tomarchio	Doug Stanley	Kip Castner
Adam Farra	Elias Buchanan Ohrstrom	Lauren Fleming
Andre Frake	Gino Cardinale	Louis Panos
Andrew Adelman	Helene Grady	Mark Yost
Angela Donovan	Jan Bledsoe	Matt Gallagher
Christian Vazquez	Jayne Miller	Richard Bennett
Curtis Decker	Jesse Salazar & Tom Williams	Sami Ritter
Cynthia Leppert	Katie O'Malley	
Danni Donovan	Kevin Hunter	

Executive Hosts

Anthony Evans
Kevin Sowers
Lindsey Young
Meredith Boram

Co-Hosts

Alex Bauer
Andrew Ansel
Aubrie Rhines
Colleen Martin-Lauer
Lauren DiMartino

Rising Hosts

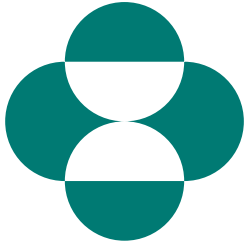
Anthony May
Brianna January
Diane DiSalvo
Eric Freedman
Helene Luce
Kevin Sforza
Ryan Ratliff
Vanessa Bowling-Ajavon

THANK YOU TO OUR SILENT AUCTION CONTRIBUTORS!

The Baltimore Orioles
Chesapeake Shakespeare Company
Drayden Hebb Photography
Emma Childs
Everyman Theater
Heavy Seas Beer
Joy & Stever Sakamoto-Wengel
Mount Royal Soaps
Partnership Wealth Management
Patsy Shifrin Calligraphy

Peabody Heights Brewery
Pickles Pub
SNF Parkway
Sagamore Tours
Tenth Ward Distilling Company
The Lord Baltimore Hotel
The Motzi Shop
Tony Foreman
Windgate Wellness

CHAMPION



MERCK

For over a century, MERCK has improved global health through the development of innovative medicines and vaccines. As a leading research-intensive biopharmaceutical company, MERCK uses cutting-edge science to prevent and treat diseases in people and animals. MERCK's mission is to save and improve lives while fostering a sustainable, healthy future for communities worldwide.

LEADER

CareFirst[®]



CareFirst is a nonprofit health insurer serving 3.4 million people in Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Northern Virginia. Its mission is to provide affordable, accessible health coverage, support healthcare initiatives for uninsured individuals, and strengthen an integrated healthcare system that meets the needs of all residents in the communities it serves.

ADVOCATE



Guided by the vision of Mayor Brandon Scott, the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ+ Affairs works to ensure LGBTQ+ Baltimoreans are seen, supported, and empowered through advocacy, community partnerships, and meaningful engagement.

ADVOCATE

Gallagher^{LLP}

Gallagher LLP is a trusted partner to businesses and non-profits across the Baltimore region and nationwide.

We pride ourselves on offering innovative, practical solutions with a personal touch. We are here to help you navigate the complex legal landscape with confidence.

ADVOCATE



Brown Advisory is an independent investment management and strategic advisory firm committed to delivering a combination of first-class performance, strategic advice, and the highest level of client service. The firm's clients—including individuals, families, family offices, endowments, foundations, charities, institutions, consultants, and financial intermediaries—are served by more than 1,000 colleagues worldwide, all of whom are equity owners of the firm.

ADVOCATE

VENABLE[®]^{LLP}

Committed to Your Success

- Venable delivers services globally in every area of regulatory compliance, government affairs, corporate and business transactions, IP, and complex litigation. But no matter the practice, we are united by our passion for the work, all meant to empower you, our client, to be the best version of yourself in any circumstance.



MARYLAND'S LGBTQ ADVOCATES

At FreeState Justice, we envision a Maryland where all LGBTQ+ people are free to live authentically, with safety, dignity, and respect in all communities throughout the state. Many Marylanders face discrimination because of their identities, stopping them from living authentically and making achieving their goals an uphill battle. Through our free legal services, legislative advocacy, and education and outreach programs, FreeState Justice hopes to eliminate these barriers to create a Maryland where truly anyone can thrive.

Contact FreeState Justice

Website: www.freestate-justice.org

2601 N. Howard St, Suite 120

Baltimore, MD 21218

General Phone: 410-625-5428

Legal Intake Phone: (443) 977-4254



Donate to FreeState Justice

FreeState Justice is proud to provide life-saving services all year round, and none of that would be possible without the generosity of advocates like you. Your financial support makes it possible for us to continue to advocate for LGBTQ+ civil rights across the state of Maryland.



FreeState Justice is a 501(c)3 organization. Contributions to the organization are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

