

Andy Izenson, Esq. LGBTQIA Family Lawyer & Thought Leader



Andy Izenson is Senior Legal Director for [Chosen Family Law Center, Inc.](#) and Senior Associate at the family law and mediation firm [Diana Adams Law & Mediation, PLLC](#), both based in New York City, working with and advocating for LGBTQIA, polyamorous, and non-traditional families.

Andy is a thought leader on LGBTQIA issues, and a popular speaker available to give talks on issues including same-sex marriage and transgender and gender non-conforming youth issues; the Supreme Court and the fate of LGBTQIA Americans; cultural competency and sensitivity for attorneys and other professionals serving transgender and gender non-conforming clients; and opportunities for corporate leadership with LGBTQIA employees.

Transgender and LGBTQIA+ Cultural Competency

Andy is an outspoken leader in transgender advocacy and cultural competency training. They teach many CLEs and workshops on cultural sensitivity and legal topics for those serving LGBTQIA communities, and consult directly with organizations. Clients and audiences include private businesses, community groups, medical and educational organizations, law schools, and legal associations.

- *“Representing the Transgender Client Through the Arc of Life”* presented to the New York City Bar Association
- *“Non-binary and Intersex Rights: Explosion of Growth; Vacuum of Understanding”* presented with a panel at the 2018 Lavender Law Conference
- *“Transitioning Families: Serving the Needs of Queer & Transgender Clients in Family & Divorce Mediation”* presented to the Family & Divorce Mediation Council of Greater New York
- *“How To Be Nice To Trans People”* presented at the World Fellowship Center

Polyamory, Evolving Family Structures and Nontraditional Family Law

Andy is a leader in support of polyamorous families and nontraditional family structures. Andy is passionately dedicated to supporting family self-determination and interdependence, whether between couples, platonic co-parents, polyamorous families, or networks of queer kinship, by facilitating conversations that support the creation of clear and informed legal and extralegal agreements.

- *Polyamory and the Future of Marriage* has been presented at the LGBT Bar Association Conference, Goldman Sachs, OUTProfessionals, and Harvard and Yale Law Schools.
- Panel on *“Where Do We Go From Here? A Roundtable Discussion on Future Fronts in the Battles for Family Diversity”* presented at the [After Marriage Conference: The Future of LGBTQIA Politics and Scholarship](#) at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. The full recorded presentation is available on [YouTube here](#).

Transformative Justice, Mediation, and Conflict Resolution

Andy is a trained mediator and collaborative lawyer who utilizes these skills to bring peace and respect to family transitions, and to support collaborative and de-escalated conflict resolution in other contexts. Andy has extensive training in alternative dispute resolution and justice systems, including as a mediator through the New York Center for Interpersonal Development, as a collaborative attorney through the New York Association of Collaborative Professionals, in facilitating Newburgh Model Restorative Justice processes through the Restorative Center, and in transformative justice processes by Dr. Mimi Kim and Kay Pranis.

- *“Queering the Law: Mediation and Collaborative Law and the Movement Towards Peacemaking”* presented at Columbia School of Public Health
- *“Tear Down the Prison in Your Head: Restorative and Transformative Justice In Practice and in Context”* presented at the World Fellowship Center

Title IX-Compliance, Consent, and Sexual Assault Prevention

Andy has extensive experience teaching cultural competency regarding Title IX compliance, consent, student safety, and sexual assault prevention on college campuses, including the Cooper Union and Columbia University, as well as for workplace environments and other businesses, organizations, and community groups.