2026 Year in Review

Chosen Family Law Center is fighting for bodily autonomy and self-determination through lasting policy protections, impactful education programs, and free legal services.

We've had a powerful year as national leaders in utilizing city and state policy to protect civil rights! At the NYC Trans and Queer Advocacy Coalition, we're advocating on behalf of the entire LGBTQIA+ community to NYC Council and Mayor's Office for the funding and policy changes needed to meet this moment - *and we're being heard!*

Our team were lead drafters of a precedent-setting family structure nondiscrimination law, and in coalition we shared an open source legislative toolkit to teach others how to engage with democracy at a municipal level. As a result, **in 2026 our nondiscrimination law passed in 6 cities nationwide!**

Read on below for 2026 highlights and our plans for 2027 – and please make a donation so we can keep up the fight!



Diana & Andy at CFLC's Pride Gathering





CFLC team at a City Hall rally.

New York Trans & Queer Coalition rally

CHOSEN FAMILY LAW CENTER

Meet This Moment! Protect Your Future.

When the world feels like it's on fire, we stay steady and persevere. Join us in this fight to make a difference by supporting our on-the-ground activism and advocacy!

At Chosen Family Law Center, we focus on **concrete legal protections via direct services, education, and advocacy** - helping people exercise self-determination and protect their chosen families.

Our grassroots team is led by attorneys who personally understand the communities and issues at the heart of our work.

We turn that understanding into action: helping TGNCNBI people with wraparound identity document support, and helping queer families secure documentation that recognizes their relationships.

We need to raise at least **$65,000 by December 31 to sustain our community-rooted legal work**.

To be able to meet increased client demand and seize the opportunity to pass civil rights laws, **we need to raise $300,000**.

We choose each other. *We stand up for each other.*



Democracy *still* works at the local level.

Whatever happens federally, we need strong protections in our cities and states, and we are doing just that by using our experiences with clients to inform lasting legislative change.

Let's build on the momentum from the midterms and keep up the fight now that we have more sympathetic legislators in power!

Chosen Family Law Center's multifaceted approach includes:

- free legal representation for individual clients
- expansive public & professional education that's cited nationwide
- drafting & passing laws in New York and beyond to protect LGBTQIA+ and non-nuclear communities



Chosen Family Team (L to R): Megan Kendzior (Development), Diana Adams (Executive Director), Amy LeBlanc (Operations), Ariel Wolf (Communications & Program), Andy Izenson (Senior Legal Director)

Our work is deeply personal and incredibly practical. It defends democracy and civil rights for all of us! Local civil rights advocacy matters, but is massively underfunded. Especially in this political moment, our multi-faceted approach is so important.

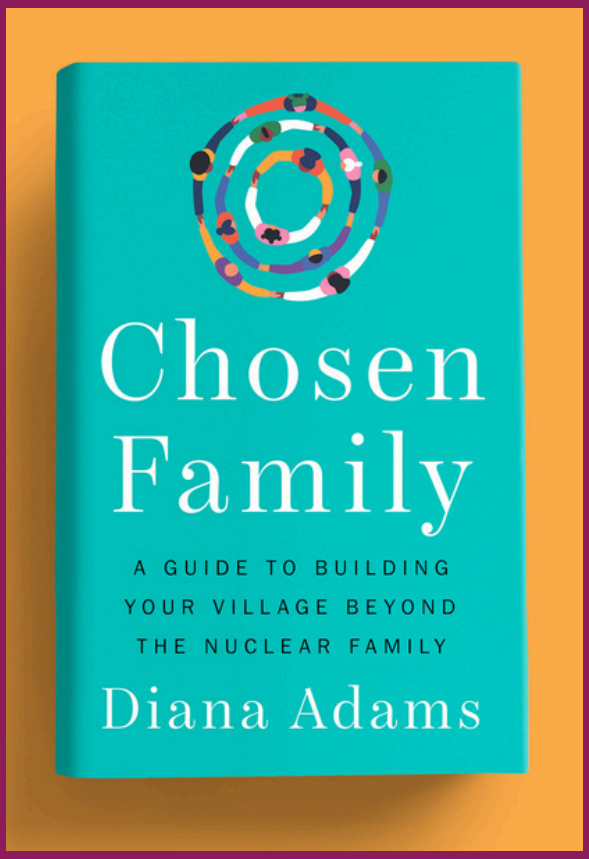
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This year is different!

Help us bridge the gap.

We've made huge strides this past year, changing lives for the better by drafting and passing non-discrimination laws nationwide, advocating for NYC and NY State protections for queer and non-nuclear families, and expanding our education programs so that more people receive access to culturally-competent legal services.

For the first time, CFLC was awarded **discretionary funding from NYC Council for Gender Affirming Care for TGNCNB youth!** We're grateful for this recognition, but NYC contracts require the money to be spent first and will not be paid out for up to two years.



We need your help to bridge the gap in our budget so that we can provide these services up front, and apply for reimbursement afterwards as NYC Council requires.

We're also building up our infrastructure because our Executive Director Diana Adams' new book **"Chosen Family: A Guide to Building Your Village Beyond the Nuclear Family" is available for pre-sale**, and will be promoted worldwide by Penguin Random House in 2027. We need to have our systems ready since more people will be finding our work!

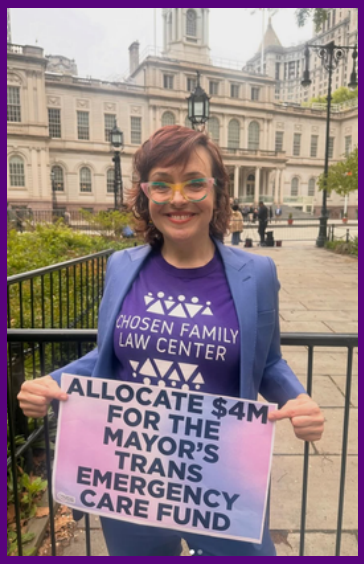
Consider making a year-end gift to bolster our advocacy. Every donation makes a huge impact!

www.chosenfamilylawcenter.org/donate

Legislative Advocacy

We're making a policy impact in NYC, NY State, and across the country.

In 2026, Diana was appointed to serve as the **Policy Co-Chair for the NYC Trans and Queer Advocacy Coalition, representing over 80 LGBTQIA+ organizations across the city. In that role, they interface with City Council Members and Mayor Mamdani's Office of LGBTQIA+ Affairs to regularly provide invited testimony** on how to best support LGBTQIA+ New Yorkers and advocate for the legislative and funding support needed to protect our community.



Diana after a rally with the NYC Trans and Queer Advocacy Coalition at City Hall.

Also this year, CFLC was invited as 1 of 12 organizations invited to present to offices across state government at the annual NY State Governor's LGBTQIA+ Convening in Albany.

We also continue to be leaders in municipal-level legislative drafting nationwide. We were 1/3 of the team at the *Polyamory Legal Advocacy Coalition* that drafted the **first precedent-setting laws on multi-partner domestic partnership and relationship structure/family status nondiscrimination** in MA. Then we crafted an open source **Legislative Toolkit** that provides tools for communities to mobilize together at a local level and pass our nondiscrimination ordinance.

We laid the legal foundation and, this year alone, grassroots activists helped pass our nondiscrimination law in 6 cities, including West Hollywood, CA; Portland and Astoria, OR; Hazel Park, MI; and Seattle and Olympia, WA. Plus our multi-partner domestic partnership law just passed in West Hollywood, CA!

Legal Services & Clinics

Our Senior Legal Director Andy Izenson supported dozens of low-income NY families with essential legal protection through services including:

- **Parentage Orders to protect same-sex couple parents**
- **Name and/or Gender Marker Change Orders**
- **Wills and Advance Medical Directives**
- **Known Sperm Donor Agreements**

We also referred many clients out to culturally competent providers in other states/areas of law.



Ariel & Diana share free legal information at NYC Pride's Open House in the West Village.

In 2026, we expanded our free legal information sessions and clinics to reach more people who need our help. This year, **we engaged with over 500 New Yorkers through advocacy and education events at The LGBTQ+ Center, Brooklyn Community Pride Center, House of Yes, NYC Pride,** and beyond – helping New Yorkers complete important legal paperwork and educating our community about their rights and options.



A name that reflects who you are.

Identity documents that match your life.

Parentage documents that protect your queer family.

Medical and legal paperwork to ensure your health and safety.

Andy, the CFLC team, and queer death doula Dee Dee Watters at "Queering Death", an end-of-life legal clinic at NYC Pride's office.

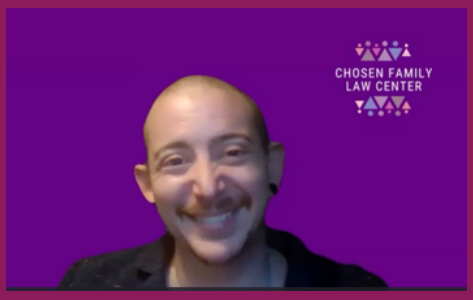
This is the essential work your donations support.
Help fund the legal work behind these deeply personal milestones.

Public & Professional Education

Our public education and know your rights materials have been some of the most cited nationwide. This year we've been featured on live television (**ABC Nightline**) on the rise of platonic co-parenting with two of our wonderful clients and their children.



We've also been featured in print (**The Guardian, Gay City News, LA Times, New York Time**s, among others) about enormous hurdles LGBTQIA+ people are facing and the laws we've helped to pass. Once again, Andy Izenson was a featured speaker at the **National LGBTQ+ Bar's Lavender Law Conference**, presenting to fellow legal professionals. Diana Adams educated thousands of therapists on legal issues for queer families at **Esther Perel's Sessions conference.**



Andy teaching a CLE on Zoom.

In 2026, we launched our **Continuing Legal Education** courses, utilizing our innovative work to train other professionals nationwide to provide culturally competent services to the LGBTQIA+ community. So far, we've provided courses about **"Protecting Transgender Youth in Family Law Proceedings", "Supporting Transgender Clients in Divorce & Custody Matters", and "Secondary & Vicarious Trauma: Creating a Work Culture that Supports Yourself & Employees."**

CLE participants said that the courses offered "amazingly honest and applicable content" with a "powerful, positive, hopeful lens."

With your support,

We'll have more capacity to work with legislators & further protect LGBTQIA+ & non-nuclear families!

As **Policy Co-Chair of the NYC Trans & Queer Coalition,** Diana will contribute heavily to NYC's **Pride in Policy** platform and advocate on behalf of the entire NYC LGBTQIA+ community to NYC government. In this role, Diana has been instrumental at building bridges between marginalized communities and policy makers, helping to secure record amounts of new funding to welcome the deluge of LGBTQIA+ people fleeing conservative states and countries for the safe harbor of NYC.

Andy is working with the Ulster County Executive and members of Ulster County Legislature to introduce **multi-partner domestic partnership and family structure nondiscrimination laws** in the Hudson Valley, the first in NY State.

Diana and Andy will **continue their impactful work at the New York State level in 2027**, following up on a powerful presentation at the **NYS Governor's LGBTQIA+ Convening in Albany.** They're working with the **NY State Division of Human Rights** to expand the definition of family across all NYS agencies.

Your donations make it possible for our attorneys to focus on passing laws to protect democracy, rather than fundraising, in 2027.



Diana at the NYS Governor's LGBTQIA+ Convening

Help us protect trans people, bolster the rights of queer parents and chosen families, and create a safe fortress around New York through legislative community-centered advocacy!

Chosen Family Law Center **Looking Ahead to 2027**

Expanding Education & Services Programs

We're increasing protections for our LGBTQIA+ community through cultural competency and access to free services.

In 2027, we'll grow our partnerships with community organizations - including PFLAG, the National Queer Theater, Hetrick Martin Institute and others - so that we can **reach more TGNCNB & LGBQIA+ individuals and non-nuclear families who need our free legal services.**

We're proud to have **increased our free legal education programs** through tabling, clinics and info sessions in 2026. Next year, we'll continue to offer more name/gender marker change clinics, LGBTQ+ parentage support sessions, and end-of-life directive clinics.

In 2027, we will continue to **expand our Continuing Legal Education program** to reach more people and cover more areas of law that affect our community. Our program is unique because of the vast experience of our instructors, plus we're building a National Referral Network of culturally competent attorneys.

Future CLE topics include: "Trauma-Informed Lawyering," "Expanding Your Practice to Support Polyamorous & Non-Nuclear Families," "Defending Polyamorous & Sex Positive Parents Under Attack."

Our CLEs provide professionals across the country with the skills and information they need to take great care of our LGBTQIA+ and non-nuclear communities.

2026 Year in Review

Top Row (L to R): Diana at Mamdani's Pride Party; Andy speaks to Congregation Beit Simchat Torah; Diana speaks on a panel at Esther Perel's Sessions Live; Diana wins NYC Bar LGBTQIA+ Award; Advocacy at a rally at NY City Hall.

Middle Row (L to R): Andy with long-time CFLC supporter Thomas Burt; CFLC Board Member Jay Austin with honoree Kate Bornstein; Andy and death doula Dee Dee Watters at Queering Death legal clinic; Diana with OUTRIGHT International gathering at Stonewall; Ariel, Diana and Andy at the Met Pride Party; Diana on the first float at NYC Pride Parade via ABC news.

Bottom Row (L to R): Andy, Bernie Wagenblast, Ariel at NYC Pride event; Andy with long-time CFLC supporter Sara Hames.



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Please give if you can!

And *share with your loved ones about why our work matters to you*

Every dollar makes a difference.

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- Contribute via corporate or matching gifts
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- Mail us a check
- Name us as a beneficiary in your will or trust
- Invite us for a pride talk at your work
- Spread the word via socials or email

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thanks for your support!



Staff

L to R:

- Megan Kendzior (Development Director)
- Andy Izenson (Senior Legal Director)
- Diana Adams (Executive Director)
- Amy LeBlanc (Director of Operations)
- Ariel Wolf (Communications & Program Director)

Board

- Mat dos Santos (President)
- Keila Torre-Santiago (Treasurer)
- Caroline Giuliani (Secretary)
- Jay Austin
- Kae Burke

Interns

- Abby King (Nonprofit Intern)
- Kendall Andrews (Legal Intern)
- Kennedy Campbell (Legal Intern)
- Lauren Fahrner (Legal Intern)
- Phoebe Wells (Legal Intern)
- Thao Williams (Legal Intern)

We're incredibly grateful to our major supporters:

- Callapitter Fund at SEI Giving
- Educational Foundation of America
- Freeman Foundation
- NYC Council 's Discretionary Fund for Gender Affirming Care for TGNCNBI Youth
- NYC Mayor's TGNCNB Empowerment Fund
- NYC Pride's Pride Gives Back Grant
- Polyamory Foundation
- Terry Moore
- Stonewall Community Foundation's Reclaiming Our Power Grant

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