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Linda Hirshman, Esq.
Author of "Victory - The Triumphant Gay Revolution"
Harper/Collins Publishers
10 East 53rd Street
New York, NY 10022

Dear Ms. Hirshman:

I read with pleasure and a touch of nostalgia your well-written and informative book. Should your book go to a second edition or to paperback, I do, however have a few suggestions for your consideration with respect to your coverage of Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, Inc., starting at page 148 of your book.

My name is Bill Thom and Lambda was my idea and my creation. I served as Lambda's first president for five years and on Lambda's board of directors for its first ten years. Lambda's initial board consisted of me, Cary Boggan, Mike Lavery, Rodney Eubanks, Nick Russo, and Shepherd Raimi. Although I listed Cary and Mike as co-incorporators with me in Lambda's certificate of incorporation, the other three members of the initial board deserve recognition as well. (I asked the only lesbian lawyer I knew to join the board but she declined.)

In page 149, you write "For many years Lambda was a sorry bunch," quoting another, and stating that we had no money, could not get volunteers, and could mostly only take basic cases in the New York metropolitan area. None of that is correct.

As president of Lambda, fundraising initially fell to me, a task for which my talent may charitably be described as modest. Nevertheless, to the best of my recollection, we never turned down a case because we could not fund it. Nor were we short of volunteers, the number of volunteers was always larger than the number of cases we had. Nor were we limited to local, basic cases. Fairly early on we were sending lawyers out of state to D.C. and to Kansas in pursuit of precedent setting results, although those particular cases were eventually settled.

Your subsequent discussion of activity at the American Bar Association omits the fact that the ABA went on record against consensual sodomy laws, a resolution that Cary Boggan and I were active in getting passed. I suggest that achievement be included in your chronology, along with the date of Lambda's founding.

Thank you again for a most enjoyable book.

Yours,

Bill Thom