

## LGBTQ college confab at Navy Pier on Feb. 17-19

The Midwest Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, and Ally College Conference (MBLGTACC) will take place Feb. 17-19 at Chicago's Navy Pier, and will kick off with #BlackLivesMatter co-founder Patrisse Cullors.

Cullors, an openly queer performance artist from Los Angeles, started the Twitter hashtag #BlackLivesMatter (with Alicia Garza and Opal Tometi) in response to George Zimmerman's 2013 acquittal in the fatal shooting of Florida teenager Trayvon Martin.

In addition, it's been announced that Peter Staley, who has dedicated his career to advocating for awareness of the illness and eliminating barriers to treatment of those living with HIV/AIDS since the mid-1980s, will present the second keynote of the conference at 6 p.m. on Feb. 18. Staley is also prominently featured in the 2012 Oscar-nominated documentary *How to Survive a Plague*.

Also, transgender and undocumented immigrant-rights activist Jennicet Gutierrez—who famously interrupted President Obama during an address on LGBT Pride Month last June—will present the keynote of the conference on Feb. 19. Among other accomplishments, Gutierrez has fought on behalf of her organization FAMILA: TQLM (Trans Queer Liberation Movement) to raise



Jenicet Gutierrez.  
Photo from MBLGTACC

awareness for trans women in immigration detention centers.

In addition, Artists J Mase III and Vita E.—also known as duo #BlackTransMagick—will perform.

In their own words, "We are a multi-gendered piece of Black Trans, multi-faith, neurodivergent, clay seeking to make a world for ourselves and those like us to rebuild in. For the masses we exist as poets and beats, but to those who we call family, call artists, call Black & Brown trans creators, call queer artists of color, call wisdom seekers, we are part of the very real revolution centering Black trans people."

The 2017 MBLGTACC will mark the 25th anniversary of the first conference and will center on the theme of "United in Solidarity." Approximately 2,500 people are expected to attend.

For more information or to register for the conference, visit <https://mblgtagg.org>.

## Harris, Cassidy named committee chairs

In recognition of his years of commitment to fighting for equality and opportunity for all Illinoisans, state Rep. Greg Harris, D-Chicago, was named Majority Conference Chairman for the Illinois House Democrats.

Also, state Rep. Kelly Cassidy will chair the Public Safety Appropriations Committee in Springfield.

With his appointment as chairman, Harris becomes the first openly gay legislator in Illinois history to serve in a caucus leadership position. During the 100th General Assembly, he will also chair the Appropriations-Human Services Committee and as a member of the Executive, the Health & Life Insurance and Aging committees.

Also, as chief budget negotiator for the House Democrats, Harris is urging the governor to return to the table and compromise on a full-year budget that funds critical services, improves our business climate and restores fiscal stability to our state budget.

In a statement, Cassidy said, "As one of five appropriations committee chairs, I will help to lead the process that I hope will restore financial stability and true collaboration to our state.

"In addition to my work on the Appropriations Committee, I will continue to serve as vice-chair of Restorative Justice and am the newly appointed vice-chair of the Judiciary-Criminal Law committee. I will also serve as a member on the Labor & Commerce, Human Services, Economic Opportunity and Tourism & Hospitality committees."

## NYC nightclub owner attacked

BY MATT SIMONETTE

The owner of a popular New York City-based drag nightclub said that he suffered a brutal attack because he is gay.

Mark Zschiesche, who owns the LIPS Drag Queen Show Palace, Restaurant & Bar on Manhattan's Upper East Side, as well as other locations, posted a video to Facebook on Feb. 12 that shows his face bruised and his nose bleeding. On the video he said that he was assaulted because he is gay and that he blamed President Donald Trump and his supporters for the attack.

"This has never, ever happened to me," said Zschiesche, who frequently performs under the name Yvonne Lame, on the video. "So somebody hit me because I am gay, and I never, ever, in my entire life, have experienced this, and I blame this on Trump and all of you who supported him."

Sobbing and visibly shaken, Zschiesche does not explain the specific circumstances around the attack on the video, which was first reported by the San Diego Gay and Lesbian News (SDGLN).

There are several LIPS locations across the country. A Chicago location is currently scheduled to open in Sept. 2017 in the McCormick Square area being developed by the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority on the Near South Side.

SDGLN's article is at <http://bit.ly/2l0V9Pf>. Zschiesche's post is at <http://bit.ly/2lHAA2W>.

## RELATIONSHIPS & THE LAW TODAY



BY CHRIS HOPKINS

### Newly enacted responsibilities of a guardian making personal decisions for a disabled person in Illinois

While the law presumes that an adult 18 years of age or older is capable of handling their own affairs, a guardian may be appointed to serve as a substitute decision maker if a person is disabled because of mental deterioration, physical incapacity, mental illness, or developmental disability.

A guardian may be appointed if the disability prevents the person from making or communicating responsible decisions about their personal and/or financial affairs. The duties and responsibilities of a guardian for personal decisions are set forth in 755 ILCS 5/11a-17 and include, among other things, making decisions regarding the support, care, comfort, health, education ... maintenance and professional services for the person under a disability.

Recently, the Illinois Legislature added a subsection (g) to 755 ILCS 5/11a-17, effective Jan. 1, 2017, which expanded the rights of a disabled person's family members and added to the duties of a guardian of the disabled person's person. New subsection (g) expands the rights of a disabled person's adult children which the Court in *Struck v. Cook County Public Guardian*, 387 Ill.App.3d 867, 901 N.E.2d 946 (1st Dist. 2008) limited to alerting the court to potential harm and asking the court to intervene. While adult children seemingly still cannot challenge a guardian's decisions, 755 ILCS 5/11a-17(g) explicitly provides a disabled person's adult children with certain rights and provides a procedure through which an adult child can seek court-ordered visitation with the disabled person.

Subsection (g) requires that a guardian of the person make reasonable efforts to communicate with a disabled person's adult children regarding the disabled person's status and may require the guardian to authorize visitation between a disabled person and his or her adult children. Subsection (g)(1) requires that, absent a court order to the contrary, a guardian must use reasonable efforts to notify

a disabled person's adult children of: (i) the disabled person's admission to the hospital or hospice program; (ii) the disabled person's death; and (iii) the arrangements for the disposition of the disabled person's remains. Subsection (g)(2) authorizes adult children of a disabled person to take specific actions if they believe a guardian is unreasonably preventing them from visiting a disabled person by requesting the Court to order the guardian to permit visitation between a disabled person and the adult child. Before the court authorizes visitation between the adult child and a disabled person, the court must find that the requested visitation is in the best interests of a disabled person.

Actions by a guardian of the person under subsection (g)(1) and court findings under subsection (g)(2) must be made conforming as closely as possible to what the disabled person, if competent, would have done. Where possible, the guardian should consider a disabled person's previously expressed preferences and make decisions in accordance with those preferences. If the disabled person wishes are unknown or remain unknown, 755 ILCS 5/11a-17(e) requires decisions be made on the basis of a disabled person's best interest as determined by the guardian by considering, among other things, the benefits, risks, and any alternatives.

If you have a family member or loved one that has been or may be adjudicated a disabled person due to mental deterioration, physical incapacity, mental illness, or developmental disability, an experienced guardianship attorney can ensure your rights are protected and obligations fully understood. If you are interested in learning more about how to ensure the personal and financial security for a family member or loved one that has been or may be adjudicated a disabled person, please feel free to contact any of Clark Hill's experienced guardianship attorneys.

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