

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

VICTORIA NEILSON is the legal director of Immigration Equality. Ms. Neilson runs Immigration Equality's pro bono asylum project and provides technical assistance and mentoring on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT), and HIV immigration issues to attorneys around the country. She is the primary author of *The LGBT/HIV Asylum Manual*, a comprehensive guide for attorneys, and she has published extensively on legal issues facing LGBT and HIV-positive immigrants and refugees. Ms. Neilson received her law degree from the City University School of Law and her bachelor's degree from Harvard University. Ms. Neilson is the former co-chair of the New York City Bar Association's Committee on AIDS and an active member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. She is the former litigation director at the HIV Law Project in New York.

KRISTINA WERTZ is the legal director of the Transgender Law Center (TLC). TLC is a civil rights organization advocating for transgender communities. Ms. Wertz provides legal counsel to transgender people and their families throughout California as well as technical assistance to lawyers assisting transgender clients. She also oversees many of TLC's public policy advocacy programs, including leadership development, health care access, economic empowerment, student safety, and bathroom access. Ms. Wertz conducts trainings for community members, employers, attorneys, social service providers, health care providers, and other institutions. Prior to her role as TLC's legal director, Ms. Wertz practiced as a civil rights litigator at the Epstein Group in San Francisco where she focused on employment discrimination and housing rights for a diverse clientele. As an attorney, she has worked as a legal advocate for people with disabilities, workers, victims of domestic violence, renters, and recipients of public benefits. Ms. Wertz has a B.A. from New York University and a J.D. from Brooklyn Law School. During her law school years, she was awarded an Edward V. Sparer Public Interest Fellowship and a fellowship from the Brooklyn Law Students for the Public Interest and served as the chairperson of Outlaws, Brooklyn Law School's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) student organization.