

## MIAMI LAW ALUMNA ELIZABETH SCHWARTZ TO RECEIVE ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

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Elizabeth Schwartz, J.D. '97, will receive the Alumni Achievement Award from the Law Alumni Association on Saturday, August 28, at the Lavender Law Conference reception in Miami Beach.

"We applaud Elizabeth's dedication to the profession and in particular to the cause of equality of rights for the GLBT Community," said Jerry M. Markowitz, J.D. '74, President of the Law Alumni Association.

An attorney in private practice in Miami, Schwartz's work includes assisting with the legal aspects of adoption, insemination and surrogacy. Her practice also focuses on traditional and non-traditional families, estate planning and probate, as well as divorce and creative conflict resolution. A certified family mediator, she treats the law as a therapeutic profession, helping clients protect their families and facilitating relationship dissolution with minimal investment of emotional and financial resources.



Elizabeth Schwartz (Photo/Silvia Ros Photography)

With an emphasis on addressing the unique legal needs of the gay community, Schwartz lectures locally and nationally about family formation issues and the importance of gay couples protecting their loved ones through estate planning and contract.

Among her many professional affiliations, she is a chair of the Gay and Lesbian Lawyer's Association of the Miami-Dade Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce and serves as the Second Vice President of the Miami Beach Bar Association. Schwartz is also a founding member on the board of the Aqua Foundation for Women, raising money by and for South Florida's lesbian community, and the Collaborative Family Law Institute, an organization reforming the divorce process.

She is the recipient of several awards, including the National LGBT Bar Association's Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40 Award, the Daily Business Review's Sookie Williams Award and the Leadership Award from the Aqua Foundation for

While a student at Miami Law, Schwartz was a member of the Society of Bar and Gavel, Equity Playhouse and Miami Law Women.

"I had the privilege of meeting Liz in law school, and, even then, I was impressed with her dedication and passion for the LGBT cause," said Elizabeth Honkonen, J.D. '98, President-Elect of the Law Alumni Association. "The Law Alumni Association is honored to present her with this award in recognition of her commitment. The care and devotion with which she provides much needed services to this community is a reminder that one lawyer can make a real difference."

For more information on the Lavender Law Conference Alumni Reception, click here (http://www.law.miami.edu /pdf/lavender\_law\_evite\_2010.pdf).

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