

MAY 2016

EqualityCon Offers You the Opportunity to Learn and Share



EqualityCon 2016 in Chicago is just two weeks away on May 13-14! Do not miss your chance to register for Illinois' premier organizing and educational conference for the LGBT community and allies in our state! This is your chance to discuss the future of our movement and garner practical skills.

Sessions will cover: Employment, adoption, gender diversity, racial justice, Trans advocacy, faith, the rural experience, and senior care.

[REGISTER](#)

BRIAN C. JOHNSON NAMED AS NEW EI CEO



Brian C. Johnson

Equality Illinois' work on behalf of LGBT Illinoisans and their families enters its second quarter century under a new leader who has a history of social justice advocacy, building diverse coalitions and improving educational outcomes for youth.

Named as the Chief Executive Officer of Equality Illinois is Brian C. Johnson, who currently serves as a Vice President at Leadership for Educational Equity, a national organization that works to get teachers and former teachers more politically and civically active.

Johnson, a former public school teacher, has spent more than a decade leading high profile advocacy campaigns, including those centered on social justice and youth issues.

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*Gov. Bruce Rauner meets with
transgender student Finn DeLima*

CITIZEN ADVOCATES MEET WITH GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATORS TO SUPPORT TRANSGENDER ILLINOISANS

Advocates at Equality Illinois' 2016 LGBT Advocacy Day—including a transgender university student and the mother of a transgender child—met with Gov. Bruce Rauner and legislators in Springfield last month to advance a pro-LGBT equality agenda during the spring session of the General Assembly.

In a meeting in the Governor's Office arranged by Equality Illinois, the advocates urged the governor to support a bill to modernize birth certificate changes for transgender Illinoisans (HB 6073), to oppose a second measure that would stigmatize and discriminate against transgender students (HB 4474) and to adopt a responsible budget that protects vital services for Illinoisans.

[READ MORE](#)

Ever thought about being a food tasting judge on Top Chef, unique flavors exploding in your mouth? Equality Illinois is helping make dreams come true! Join more than 200 LGBT individuals and allies for a progressive dinner party and hand-crafted cocktails alongside the Chicago River at our annual Tribute Reception: A Taste of Pride, on Thursday, June 2. Get your tickets now to celebrate Pride and enjoy tastings from some of Chicago's most special restaurants!

[TICKETS](#)

Congratulations friend, you successfully survived winter; give yourself a pat on the back! Now that we are one month closer to consistent warm weather, let's celebrate on Lake Michigan. Equality Illinois' first annual PRIDE Cruise is the event to kick off Pride month, with over 200 LGB women, trans individuals, and allies on Sunday, June 5. What better way to celebrate all that we have to be proud of than by basking in the sun, enjoying an extensive brunch buffet, drinking a beer, and soaking in breath taking views of the Chicago Skyline. Get on board by

purchasing your tickets today at the limited time price of \$75.

TICKETS

EQUALITY ILLINOIS AT WORK AND AT PLAY

*Deval Patrick at Equality
Illinois Briefing*

In April...we heard from former Massachusetts Gov. **Deval Patrick**—frequently mentioned as a possible Democratic VP pick—at an Equality Illinois Briefing, hosted by GCM Grosvenor...our Director of Public Policy **Mike Ziri** addressed the PFLAG chapter in Charleston, IL and the DeKalb County Democratic Dinner...we toasted the arrival of spring at TGISpring social at Sidetrack...Director of Field Operations **Patty Medaury** attended the PFLAG Northern Illinois Council and she also offered a training on understanding transgender individuals and issues for Cisco Industries.

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS



SPRING WINE TASTING

Our Spring Wine Tasting returns Wednesday, May 11 at Sidetrack, and this is your chance to sample over 100 wines from around the world. No passport required! This event sells out every year — do not procrastinate.

Proceeds from the wine tasting benefit our work in Springfield. We need you to raise your glass to ensure that our work continues until we're all equal. VIP tickets include \$10 off voucher for purchased wines and an extra hour of tasting. General admission tickets include

two hours of wine tasting.

TICKETS

MOMOSA BRUNCH

Join us for a brunch cocktail event for you, your mother and all others who support equality! All proceeds benefit the work of Equality Illinois.

On Saturday, May 14, 1:30-3:30 pm, at Sidetrack Chicago, we'll toast our moms.

TICKETS



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS 'NETWORK AND CHILL'



Join us on Thursday, May 19 for NETWORK AND CHILL, a relaxing evening sharing space with 150 young at hearts on Uber's rooftop space.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and includes beer courtesy of Revolution Brewery and light bites from Potbelly.

TICKETS

OUT @ THE SOX

Take me out to the ball game! Join 150 LGBT fans and allies for Out at the Sox at U.S. Cellular Field for an afternoon game on Saturday, July 9. For \$50, you can get a reserved seat at the game with other LGBT and ally fans and gain entry to our TBA pre-game party which will feature giveaways, drink tickets, and light bites.

TICKETS

If you would like an Equality Illinois speaker at your event—at work, a local civic organization, on campus, a union meeting, a business group, your faith group, a home EI fundraiser—please contact us at info@eqil.org or call 773-477-7173.

Follow us on the web and social media!



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Stay informed of LGBT-equality matters by visiting us at www.equalityillinois.org, and follow us on: [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/equalityill) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/equalityill).

KEEP MOVING FORWARD

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE

Established 25 years ago, Equality Illinois builds a better Illinois by advancing equal treatment and social justice through education, advocacy and protection of the rights of the LGBT community.

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If you wish to no longer receive updates on LGBT-rights issues, click [here](#) to unsubscribe.