LEGAL AND POLITCAL HISTORY
OF THE TRANSGENDER MOVEMENT

By Phyllis Randolph Frye

September 2015

Dear Readers,

The attached pdf, jpg and tif files are a compilation of some of the history of the transgender movement primarily from the mid 1970's through to approximately 2001 as recorded by me, Phyllis Randolph Frye of Houston, Texas. My short bio is file 02 below.

Recently, the New York Times ran a comprehensive article about TG history that featured my life. It and a radio link are in file 02b.

You are invited to copy this flash drive or any of the files within in order to share with friends, to post online, to send with email or to use however for the purpose of encouraging people to know more of this history. Bloggers and researchers are also welcome to do the same.

PLEASE NOTE as you read my short bio that I am not, Not, NOT retired from practice as a lawyer. For some reason, many potential clients who contact my office state that they have heard that I am retired, and they hope for a referral to another lawyer for TG documents work in the courthouse. I can and do still practice law as per file 02 and file 27 below. SO WHOEVER IS TELLING PEOPLE THAT I AM RETIRED – QUIT IT, PLEASE!

PLEASE ALSO NOTE as to the archival storage of my papers and such, I have given them to the LGBT Archives located in the Cushing Library at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. I have known the curator, Michael Jackson, for some time now. I trust him, and I am most impressed at how all archival material is preserved in the collection. For more information about any LGBTI docs, magazines, local programs, photos or other items (no matter how few or small), contact Michael at 979-255-4952 or mgj@library.tamu.edu. Even if few or small, Michael has shown me how several folks' few or small collections have filled missing gaps in other combined collections.

TABLE OF CONTENTS BY FILENAME:

02 – Frye Short Bio 20141028: This is my short, one page biography that is current as of October, 28, 2014.

02b – NEW YORK TIMES: This is the August 29, 2015 online version, edited by me, with links to the actual online version and a photo of the Sunday NYT, front page (above the fold) feature article.

03 – Frye28-WarStories: This is a collection of seven short stories that reflects many of the early struggles that my wife and I encountered as I came out of the closet as to being transgendered in the mid 1970's. Included is a story about us being so financial strapped that we received our church's offering of canned food one Christmas. Also included is the story about my attending law school while "out", about my lobbying to repeal a law that made transfolks subject to being arrested, and about some of my early work in the local women's organizations.

04 – Frye22-Creating Change: This is from the textbook **CREATING CHANGE: PUBLIC POLICY, AND CIVIL RIGHTS**, edited by John D'Emilio, William B. Turner and Urvashi Vaid, St. Martins Press, 2000, ISBN: 0-312-24375-8. This is the chapter that I was invited to author entitled "FACING DISCRIMINATION, ORGANIZING FOR FREEDOM: THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY". It is inclusive from the early 1970s through to 1999.

05 – FRYE11a-HistoryOfICTLEP: My proudest achievement was the founding of the International Conference of Transgender Law and Employment Policy (ICTLEP) in the early 1990's.

This organization was the beginning of the national transgender legal and political movement. Prior to this, there had been significant work by other transfolk in local or statewide TG issues. But nothing had happened on a national scope either in the legal or the political field for transgender rights. All national LG (and I do mean LG-only) groups had shut both the B's and the T's out. This organization, ICTLEP, began in 1991 with its first annual conference in 1992. ICTLEP was allowed by me to willow away after the 1997 conference due to my becoming ill at that time and also do to the organization which later became the National LGBT Bar Association (also known as Lavender Law) adopting and acting on a TG inclusive thrust. I remain active with Lavender Law, and it has remained TG inclusive.

06 – FRYE11b-IBGR: One of the best of the many good things that came about because of the six annual ICTLEP conferences was the IBGR or the **International Bill of Gender Rights**.

Note that this document is not entitled "transgender rights" but is instead entitled "gender rights". It should be adopted today by the full LGBTI movement and by the worldwide women's movement. Why it has not been fully adopted remains a mystery to me. Please read and share, noting as you read that it was adopted by ICTLEP in its final form in 1995. Twenty years have passed and so many of the ten rights in the IBGR have come very far.

07 – FRYE13-IndexOfProdeedings-Links: There were five published Proceedings from the first five ICTLEP conferences. Unfortunately the sixth never was published. (NOTE: everything remaining to deal with the sixth is in the LGBT Archives at Cushing Library at Texas A&M University along with my other archival material.)

NOTE: The actual Proceedings are included on this flash drive. As an example they are formatted as "FRYE15- 083Proc2." This would be the 2nd Proceedings beginning on page 83. Another example of formatting the filename is "FRYE 16-AppGProc3" which is Appendix G of Proceedings 3.The links are included in this Index in the event someone wishes to include them on a website and make the links "hot". Even if links remain "cool,"

these links will help you as they are the filename (below) in the Proceedings where the referenced article is found.

08 – FRYE12-CombinedTableContents: from the 5 Proceedings

09 – FRYE25-HoustonPress: A nice article written about me called "The Transgender Menace Next Door."

10 – FRYE31-CiderHouseRules: My first law review – it is 85 pages long. The first half is a comprehensive legal history of the discrimination against transgenders. The second half contains strategies for change in the law. The strategy of which I am most proud was to instruct future litigators on how to win transgender employment cases using the precedent of the *Price Waterhouse v Hopkins* ruling by the US Supreme Court. Using my strategy, many employment gains were made beginning in this new century.

NOTE TO NON-LAWYERS WHO WISH TO READ THIS: It will go faster for you if you read through while skipping over the footnotes. If something is of special interest to you, then the footnote is available.

11 – FRYE35-TexasBarJournal: This was the first transgender legal article to be published in the Texas Bar Journal.

12 – FRYE32-AlbanyLawReview: This article discusses the history of transgender marriage in the United States.

NOTE: Anyone who says that same-sex marriage is about only lesbians and only gays is simply wrong.

13 – THE-GAY-AGENDA-B-July2006Edition: In 2005, the Houston LGBT community drafted and passed its own set of goals and future plans.

This "Gay Agenda" should be a model for other localities to use.

<u>Several Photos are on the disk.</u>

14 – Eagle Scout: Many M to F TGs were also Eagles, trying desperately to be who they, in later life, came to realize that they were not. Me included.

15 – TAMU Senior: Again trying to be the guy I was not, I went to military training in high school and in college. This is my senior picture at Texas A&M University. I have met many TG folks who are similarly graduates of the three national military academies.

16 – Honorable Discharge: I had a Regular Army Commission and was forced out in 1972 for being trans.

NOTE: Despite the change of law as to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" the military medical regulations are still being used to involuntarily force TG folks out of the military.

17 – MOW 1979: The first March on Washington in 1979 was for Gay (only) Rights. (Read the history of this in file 04 above.) IN 1979, I erred in thinking that transfolks were included

I poured myself into getting local Houston "gays" to attend. This picture was the front cover of a local "gay" weekly called OUTFRONT. I was very close to the front of the Texas section to the March.

18 – Sworn-in as Lawyer: In May 2001, I was sworn-in as a lawyer. This photo was taken immediately after that ceremony. In the background of this photo is the Harris County Clourthouse.

19 – MOW 1986 – The second March on Washington in 1986 was for Lesbian (only) and Gay (only) Rights. See note above for photo 17. I was again carrying a Texas flag while marching at the head of the Texas section and in front of the White House.

20 – Phil Donahue Show: The subject in 1989 was "Being Disowned by Families."

21 – MOW 1993: This march was for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Rights. Again see the note above for photo 17. I was asked to address the crowd assembled on the Mall from the stage located at the beginning of the March. There was a separate stage for other speakers who addressed those who had finished the March.

22 – 2nd National TG Lobby: This is covered in great detail in filename 04 above.

23 – ENDA TG-Incl Debate: The fight for TG inclusion into the language of ENDA was long and hard. Much of this is struggle is included in filenames 04 and 07 above.

24 – The Advocate: "The Advocate" did an article about me as a CRUSADER.

25 – 1st TG Judge: I am the first "out" TG Judge in the Nation and possible in the world. NOTE: If anyone can dispute the claim outside of the USA, please let me know.

26 – Old Lady Phyllis: While this photo was taken eight years and over 70 pounds ago, it remains one of my favorite photos. At the time of preparing this flash drive, I am 67 years old. I am very proud of my gray hair. From 2014 – 2016, I lost over 70 pounds through daily exercise and portion control. My waist went from 44" down to 32" and I have maintained it. I feel great and probably added 10 more years to my life.

27 – FSOB Law Firm: This is the current one page flier of my law firm. If you live in Texas and need a lawyer sometime in the future, I feel it makes sense to contact a firm that already understands LGBT issues and does lots of work representing supportive-straight clients.

<u>The Proceedings follow as discussed above in the NOTE to item 07.</u>

Best to you,

Phyllis