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GAY LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION FUND CHARTERED

ALBANY, N.Y., Oct. 29 -- A Legal Defense and Education Fund for homosexuals was incorporated here today following the issuance on October 18 of an order permitting incorporation by the Appellate Division of the New York State Court System.

The organization is known as the LAMBDA Legal Defense & Education Fund, Inc. and is designed to aid homosexuals in the same way that similar organizations have helped Blacks, Puerto Ricans and American Indians.

Like its minority group counterparts, LAMBDA will provide free legal counsel and seek foundation support for its operation.

Because of the requirements of New York law, LAMBDA's Board of Directors will consist almost entirely of attorneys, but LAMBDA will also have a Board of Advisors to lend counsel and support. To date, the following have joined LAMBDA's Board of Advisors: Representative Bella Abzug, (Dem., N.Y.),

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Merrell E. Clark, Jr., Esq., Chairman of the Special Committee on Sex and Law, City Bar Association; Rev. John Corn, Director, Special Ministry in the Courts, Trinity Parish; Martin Duberman, Distinguished Service Professor of History, Lehman College, CUNY; Neal Johnston, Esq., Former Director, Council of New York Law Associates; Marilyn Haft, Esq., Director, ACLU National Litigation Project on Sexual Privacy; Carol Bellamy, Esq., New York State Senator; Howard Brown, M.D., Professor of Public Administration, New York University; and James Fishman, Esq., Director, Council of New York Law Associates.

Under New York law, incorporation papers for a Legal Defense and Education Fund must be approved by the Appellate Division before they may be submitted to the Secretary of State for filing. A petition for permission to incorporate was originally filed with the Appellate Division in April 1972. In accordance with required procedure, copies were simultaneously submitted to the New York State Attorney General, and the Bar Associations of the City of New York, the County of New York,

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and the County of the Bronx for review.

In November 1972, the Appellate Division, despite express recommendations for approval from the City Bar and the New York County Bar, denied the petition for incorporation in a 5-0 decision.

This denial was subsequently appealed to the New York Court of Appeals, which, in July of 1973, reversed the decision of the Appellate Division and remanded the petition for further proceedings. Rabinowitz, Boudin & Standard represented LAMBDA on the appeal.

The Greek letter LAMBDA, signifying light, has been widely adopted as a symbol of the homosexual civil rights movement.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

For Further Information Call

William J. Thom at

212-682-4567