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Transgender Rights

Paisley Currah, Richard M. Juang, and Shannon Price Minter

"A cutting-edge book full of new information and ideas."
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"Transgender Rights packs a surprising amount of information into a small space. Offering spare, tightly executed essays, this slim volume nonetheless succeeds in creating a spectacular, well-researched compendium of the transgender movement." -Law Library Journal

Over the past three decades, the transgender movement has gained visibility and achieved significant victories. Discrimination has been prohibited in several states, dozens of municipalities, and more than two hundred private companies, while hate crime laws in eight states have been amended to include gender identity. Yet prejudice and violence against transgender people remain all too common. With analysis from legal and policy experts, activists and advocates, Transgender Rights assesses the movement’s achievements, challenges, and opportunities for future action. Examining crucial topics like family law, employment policies, public health, economics, and grassroots organizing, this groundbreaking book is an indispensable resource in the fight for the freedom and equality of those who cross gender boundaries. Moving beyond media representations to grapple with the real lives and issues of transgender people, Transgender Rights will launch a new moment for human rights activism in America. Contributors: Kylar W. Broadus, Judith Butler, Mauro Cabral, Dallas Denny, Taylor Flynn, Phyllis Randolph Frye, Julie A. Greenberg, Morgan Holmes, Bennett H. Klein, Jennifer L. Levi, Ruthann Robson, Nohemy Solórzano-Thompson, Dean Spade, Kendall Thomas, Paula Viturro, Willy Wilkinson. Paisley Currah is associate professor of political science at Brooklyn College, executive director of the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies at the CUNY Graduate Center, and a founding board member of the Transgender Law and Policy Institute. Richard M. Juang cochairs the advisory board of the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) in Washington, DC. He has taught at Oberlin College and Susquehanna University. He is the lead editor of NCTE’s Responding to Hate Crimes: A Community Resource Manual and coeditor of Transgender Justice, which explores models of activism. Shannon Price Minter is legal director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights and a founding board member of the Transgender Law and Policy Institute.

Book Information

File Size: 1643 KB
Print Length: 368 pages
Publisher: Univ Of Minnesota Press (August 18, 2006)
Publication Date: August 18, 2006
Sold by: Digital Services LLC
Transgender Rights is a must for any transperson, family member, or parent who is concerned with transgenders' legal rights. The book is separated into three sections: Law, which includes examination of recent and current laws and the application. History, which deals with gains achieved during this same period. Politics, which outlines the political actions taken or needed and their repercussions. Is gender variance a mental or physical condition? Is it fair to consider transgendered individuals disabled? Can these answers and questions be used independently, intermittently, or in conjunction to gain favorable decisions when petitioning authorities? The authors point out that many states’ laws define disability in a fashion that includes gender variance, thus allowing transgenders to sue for protection and/or accommodation under disability laws. Marriage questions similarly vary by state. Some will change the sex designator after gender confirmation surgery and thereby allow the transgender individual to marry in their self-identified gender. Some will insist on using their original birth sex designator through out their lives, regardless of GAS. Finally, some - the Supreme Court of Kansas, for example - refuse to consider transgendered individuals ANY gender; they are neither male no female. This results in NO law that specifies male or female applying to them. They cannot legally marry at all. All three parts contain a mix of what has been done, what could or should be done, and ideas on how to get from one to the other. Transgender Rights is at times a difficult read.