

International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Intersex Law Association

# Peter Schieder receives Karl-Heinrich-Ulrichs Award

**The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Intersex Law Association (ILGLaw) awarded this year's Karl-Heinrich-Ulrichs-Award Peter Schieder, Honorary President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and member of RKL's board of trustees. ILGLaw-Director for Europe and RKL-President, Dr. Helmut Graupner, appreciated the life-achievement of President Schieder for LGBT-rights in Europe.**

The Karl-Heinrich-Ulrichs Award is conferred at each triennial ILGLaw-conference and it is named in honour of German lawyer Karl Heinrich Ulrichs, who was history's first gay rights activist and the world's first openly gay lawyer.

In publications, banned in several German states, he advocated decriminalization of homosexuality. In 1867 he came out very publicly before no less a group than the national assembly of his peers, the German Association of Jurists. Regrettably, his heroic act was unsuccessful. His speech caused an uproar and he was forced to silence and finally into exile in Italy where he had to die impoverished and where he is buried.

ILGLaw confers this award in remembrance to this great man and hero for important contributions to the cause of equality under the law for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered and intersex persons.

## **Never again „exul et pauper“**

This year's award has been conferred on 14 March at the international conference „*The Global Arch of Justice – Sexual Orientation Law Around the World*“ in West Hollywood (Los Angeles). It has been handed over to the winner by ILGLaw-director for Europe and RKL-president Dr. Helmut Graupner, who in his laudation stressed the life-time achievement of president Schieder. Already as a young member of Austrian parliament he played an essential role in the repeal of the total ban and later-on as early as in his inauguration speech Mr. Schieder made LGBTI-issues one of his priorities in his work as president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

In his acceptance speech President Schieder recalled the words enshrined in Ulrich's tombstone in L'Aquila: „exul et pauper“, „exiled and poor“: „No gay, no lesbian, no bisexual, no transgender should be „exul et pauper“ in our society because he or she (or undecided if he or she) is gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or undecided. And this is not their task – it is the task of everybody dedicated to equality, law and human rights“.

*Das 1991 gegründete Rechtskomitee LAMBDA (RKL) arbeitet überparteilich und überkonfessionell für die umfassende Verwirklichung der Menschen- und Bürgerrechte gleichgeschlechtlich l(i)ebender Frauen und Männer. In seinem Kuratorium vereinigt es so prominente Mitglieder wie Altbundeskanzler Dr. Alfred Gusenbauer, NRPräs. Mag. Barbara Prammer, die vormalige Justizministerin Mag. Karin Gastinger, den Ehrenpräsidenten der Parlamentarischen Versammlung des Europarates NRAbg.a.D. Peter Schieder, Volksanwältin NRAbg.A.D. Mag. Terezija Stoisits, den vorm. Generaldirektor für öffentliche Sicherheit Dr. Erik Buxbaum, die vorm. Präsidentin der Vereinigung der österreichischen Richterinnen und Richter Dr. Barbara Helige, die Vizepräsidentin der Rechtsanwaltskammer Wien Dr. Elisabeth Rech, den Vorstandsvorsitzenden der D.A.S.-Rechtsschutzversicherung Dr. Franz Kronsteiner, den Präsidenten des Weissen Rings Dr. Udo Jesionek, den Generalsekretär von Amnesty International Österreich Mag. Heinz Patzelt und die bekannten Menschenrechtsexperten Dr. Lilian Hofmeister und Univ.-Prof. Dr. Manfred Nowak, die Verfassungsexperten Univ.-Prof. Dr. Christian Brünner, Univ.-Prof. Dr. Bernd-Christian Funk, Univ.-Prof. Dr. Heinz Mayer und Univ.-Prof. Dr. Ewald Wiederin, den renommierten Kinder- und Jugendpsychiater Univ.-Prof. Dr. Max Friedrich und die Kinder- und JugendanwältInnen von Wien DSA Monika Pinterits und Dr. Anton Schmid, die Sexualwissenschaftler Univ.-Prof. Dr. Josef Christian Aigner, Univ.-Prof. Dr. Rotraud Perner und Univ.-Lekt. Mag. Johannes Wahala, den Theologen Univ.-Prof. Dr.*

Kurt Lüthi, Life-Ball-Organisator Gery Keszler u.v.a.m. Das 15jährige Bestehen des Rechtskomitees LAMBDA (RKL) wurde am 2. Oktober 2006 mit einem historischen Festakt im Nationalratssitzungssaal des Parlaments in Wien gefeiert. Dieser weltweit ersten Ehrung einer homosexuellen Bürgerrechtsorganisation in einem nationalen Parlament wohnten unter den über 500 TeilnehmerInnen auch höchste RepräsentantInnen aus Justiz, Verwaltung und Politik bei (<http://www.rklambda.at/festakt/index.htm>).

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