

Collection title: Donna Groman

Collection ID: GROM

Size: .63 linear feet

Date: 1987- 1994

Abstract:

Donna Groman is a judge for the Los Angeles Superior Court. She has devoted her career to representing children, young adults, parents, and LGBTQ people. The collection contains t-shirts and ephemera from pride related events.

Accession information:

Donated by Marilee France and Wendy Avril in 2020.

Provenance:

The materials are collected from Donna Groman's personal life in the lesbian and larger LGBTQ community in Los Angeles.

Restrictions:

There are no restrictions on the collection. The collection is open for research.

Copyright:

Property rights to the physical objects belong to the June L. Mazer Lesbian Archives. All other rights, including copyright, are retained by the creators and their heirs. It is the responsibility of the researcher to determine who holds the copyright and pursue the copyright owner or heir for permission to publish where the June L. Mazer Lesbian Archives do not hold the copyright.

Biographical sketch:

Donna Groman was born in Brooklyn, New York and grew up in a blue-collar housing project. She is the daughter of a police officer and a teacher. Groman attended NY public elementary and secondary schools, receiving her B.A. in economics at the State University of New York at Stony Brook in 1976 and her J.D. from American University in 1979.¹ She is currently a judge for the Los Angeles Superior Court.

Groman is a member of the California Judges' Association, California Court Commissioners Association, National Association of Women Judges, Los Angeles County Bar Association, Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles, and The Lesbian and Gay Lawyers of Los Angeles.

¹ Donna Groman, biography, 2004. http://smartvoter.org/2004/11/02/ca/la/vote/groman_d/bio.html

As a practicing attorney, Groman performed pro-bono legal work for the Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles - Jail Project, the Felicia Mahood Senior Citizens' Center, the Los Angeles County Guardianship/Conservator Project, Public Counsel's Children's Rights Project, and several Los Angeles County Bar Association projects, including AIDS Legal Services Project, Barristers Northridge Earthquake Assistance Project and Immigration Legal Assistance Project.

Groman has worked as an educator and lecturer for CJER (Center for Judicial Education and Research), and participated in training for the Juvenile Court Bar, foster family agencies and the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services. She is part of projects to help children and youth in Los Angeles, including developing a collaborative court program for victims of domestic sex trafficking, programs with police and probation departments to reduce the number of referrals to the juvenile justice system, and strategies to ease transition back into school and the community for kids who've been sent to probation camp.² Groman was a tutor at Milliken Learning Center and Kenyon Juvenile Justice Center. She participates in Los Angeles Aids Walk and completed the California Aids Ride 2.³

Groman is an active member of Temple Beth Chayim Chadashim and has served on the Board of Directors and on the Rabbinic search committee. Groman also served 12 years in the United States Naval Reserve, achieving the rank of Lieutenant. She was honorably discharged in 2000.⁴

Donna and her domestic partner of 11 years, Cecilia Quigley, are legal guardians of Donna's 14-year-old nephew, Daniel.⁵

Chronology of her career:⁶

1980 Donna moves to Los Angeles and passes the California State bar exam

1980-1990 Works as panel attorney in the Juvenile Court system in the delinquency and dependency divisions

1991 Hired as supervising attorney for the Law Offices of Jo Kaplan, and admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court

1994 Donna and Mitchell Beckloff form Groman & Beckloff, specializing in dependency law.

1997 Groman is appointed as a Superior Court referee

² "Alumna Speaks Up for Those Who Can't: Judge Donna Quigley Groman '76 - SBU News." January 28, 2013. <https://news.stonybrook.edu/alumni/alumna-speaks-up-for-those-who-cant-judge-donna-quigley-groman-76-2/>.

³ Donna Groman biography, 2004.

⁴ Donna Groman biography, 2004.

⁵ "Alumna Speaks Up".

⁶ "Alumna speaks up"; Donna Groman biography, 2004.

1999, April She is appointed as Commissioner, overseeing juvenile dependency, juvenile delinquency, misdemeanor jury trials, small claims and traffic matters

2004-present Elected as Superior Court Judge in the County of Los Angeles, Office 69

2012 Awarded Wilmont Sweeney Juvenile Court Judge of the Year

2015 Publishes “Juvenile Shackling Reform: The Judicial Role in Ensuring Trauma-Informed Courts and Why States Are Rethinking Restraints”.⁷

2018 Honored by the California Courts Judicial Council for a commitment to reforming policies impacting youth and diverting their entry into the the court system

Scope and content:

The collection contains personal letters, t-shirts and ephemera like pamphlets, mailers, buttons, and passes for pride related events.

Processing notes:

This collection was processed by Laura Dintzis on July 19th, 2023 with the help of Daphne as part of the 2020 California State Grant.

Arrangement:

Series I: Personal Papers

Series II: Protest Materials

Series II: T-Shirts

Box level contents list:

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Box 1

Series I: Personal Papers

Series II: Protest Material

Scope and content: Letters Donna received; Pride festival ephemera including protest signs, stickers, buttons; Publications; Programs; VHS.

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⁷ Groman, Donna. “Juvenile Shackling Reform,” *Juvenile and Family Court Journal* 66, no. 2, (2015): 19-33. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jfcj.12027>

Box 1, Folder 1 Outwrite Conference Publication, 1991

Box 1, Folder 2 Letters

Box 1, Folder 3 Gay and Lesbian Pride Souvenir Program, 1989

Box 1, Folder 4 25th Annual Christopher Street Pride Celebration dogtags, 1994
Karen Wilson 1992 Pride=Power Access pass

Box 1, Folder 5 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights Newsletter,
1987

Box 1, Folder 6 Buttons

Box 1, Folder 7 Large Buttons

Box 1, Folder 8 Say No to 64 protest sign

Box 1, Folder 9 Framed anti-LaRouche Say No to 64 fundraising ad

Box 1, Folder 10 The Historic March on Washington VHS

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Box 2

Series III: T-Shirts

Scope and Content: T-shirts

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Box 2, Folder 1 LA World Conference of gLBT Jews, 2010

Sunset Junction Street Fair, 1992

Run for gay pride, 1986

SoCal Harvey Milk Democratic Club

Fire in the Rain, Holly Near National Tour, 1981