WHAT'S ON THE LINE? A FEDERAL LGBTQ+ RIGHTS TIMELINE

1973

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is passed, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in programs conducted by federal agencies, in programs receiving federal financial assistance, in federal employment and in the employment practices of federal contractors. Under Section 504, HIV/AIDS discrimination will be ruled illegal in the future.

1990

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is passed, because of which, discrimination that doesn't allow a person to participate in a service that is offered to others, or denies a benefit because of HIV disease becomes illegal.

1995

The Hate Crimes Sentencing
Enhancement Act is added to the
Violent Crime Control and Law
Enforcement Act, which allows a
judge to impose harsher sentences
if there is evidence showing that a
victim was selected because of
the "actual or perceived race,
color, religion, national origin,
ethnicity, gender, disability, or
sexual orientation of any person."

1998

Matthew Shepard is murdered by Russell Henderson and Aaron McKinney in Laramie, Wyoming.

1983

People v. West 12 Tenants Corp. is won by Lambda Legal, the first HIV-AIDS discrimination suit that sought to evict Dr. Joseph Sonnabend from his building because he was treating HIV positive patients.

1993

President Bill Clinton signs "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"— a military policy directly prohibiting openly gay or lesbian Americans from serving in the military.

1996

President Clinton signs the

Defense of Marriage Act,
banning federal recognition of
same-sex marriage and defining
marriage as "a legal union
between one man and one woman
as husband and wife."

2003

The US Supreme Court strikes down the "homosexual conduct" law, which decriminalizes samesex sexual conduct, with their opinion in Lawrence v. Texas.

The decision also **reverses Bowers v. Hardwick**, a 1986 US

Supreme Court ruling that upheld

Georgia's sodomy law.

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2013

2004

Under state law, the first legal American same-sex marriage takes place in Massachusetts.

2009

President Barack Obama signs the **Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention** Act into law.

In United States v. Windsor, the US Supreme Court strikes down section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act, ruling that legally married same-sex couples are entitled to federal benefits. The high court also dismisses a case involving California's Proposition

2016

Secretary of Defense Carter and the Pentagon lift the ban on transgender people serving openly in the military.

2008

Voters approve **Proposition 8** in California, which makes same-sex marriage illegal. The proposition is later found to be unconstitutional by a federal judge.

2011

President Barack Obama repeals The US Supreme Court rules 5-4 in "Don't Ask, Don't Tell", ending the ban on gay men and lesbians serving in the military. Transgender people are still deemed ineligible for military service.

2015

Obergefell v. Hodges that the fundamental right to marry is guaranteed to same-sex couples by both the Due Process Clause and the Eaual Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. This ruling legalized same-sex marriage in every state.

2017

The 7th Circuit Court of Appeals rules that the Civil Rights Act prohibits workplace discrimination against LGBTQ employees, after Kimberly Hively sues Ivy Tech Community College for violating Title VII of the act by denying her employment.

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2017

The US Department of Defense announces a delay on transgender individuals being able to enlist in the military, with President Donald Trump announcing via Twitter that the "United States Government will not accept or allow Transgender individuals to serve in any capacity in the US Military..."

2020

The 9th Circuit Court upholds a ruling that Adree Edmo, an inmate in custody of Idaho's Department of Correction must be provided gender affirming surgery, as it is medically necessary. An appeal by the Attorney General of Idaho, Lawrence Wasden, is denied as a moot point by the Supreme Court in October.

2020

Gavin Grimm wins his case in the
4th Circuit Court of Appeals,
which rules after a more than
four-year fight that policies
segregating transgender students
from their peers via restroom
policies is unconstitutional and
violates federal law prohibiting
sex discrimination in education.
The Supreme Court chooses not to
review the opinion in 2021.

2021

President Joe Biden signs an executive order that immediately lifts the ban on most transgender Americans serving in the US military.

2018

The Pentagon defies President
Trump and confirms that the first
openly transgender person has
enlisted to the US military. In
response, the Trump
administration announces a new
policy officially banning
transgender people from serving.
The Supreme Court allows the ban
to go into effect in January 2019.

2020

The Supreme Court rules that **Title**VII of the Civil Rights Act
protects LGBTQ workers from
discrimination. The landmark ruling
extends protections to millions of
workers nationwide.

2020

In Bostock v. Clayton County, the Supreme Court rules that an employer who fires an individual employee merely for being gay or transgender violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

2021

The State Department allows applicants to self-select their sex marker for passports and that it "will no longer require medical certification" if an applicant's self-selected sex marker doesn't match the sex listed on other official identity documents. The same year, gender marker X becomes an option as well.