



## It's Important to File for Social Security Benefits Before the Supreme Court Decides on DOMA

In September, the organization known as GLAD (Gay and Lesbian Advocates & Defenders), published a report entitled "Social Security Benefits and the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)." In the report, GLAD urged legally married same-sex couples to file for benefits now. The report explained that it is important to file even before the Supreme Court renders a decision on the law.

"DOMA prevents married same-sex couples who paid into the system their entire lives from receiving vital protections as other married couples do," the report states. The report details the types of benefits for which you, as a spouse or child, might be eligible, but will be denied because of DOMA.

On December 12, 2012, some 200 advocates and others attended a webinar entitled "Social Security Benefits Now Based on Same-Sex Marriage." National Senior Citizens Law Center Directing Attorney, Gerald McIntyre, explained why individuals who would qualify for Social Security or survivor

benefits based on a same-sex marriage (if DOMA were ruled unconstitutional by the Court) should file an application for those benefits now even though it will be denied. According to McIntyre, as long as you file a timely appeal of the denial and your appeal is pending at the time the Court rules DOMA to be unconstitutional, you will have a right to retroactive benefits based on the date of the application.

To read the GLAD report: <http://www.glad.org/uploads/docs/publications/social-security-benefits-and-doma.pdf>

□ To view and hear the NSCLC webinar: <http://www.nslc.org/index.php/webinar-social-security-benefits-now-based-on-same-sex-marriage/>

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### WHAT DOES INTERWEAVE CONTINENTAL DO?

We work to end LGBTQ oppression, and through that work, we seek an end to all oppression.

We strive to be a nationwide source of resources, advocacy, and activism.

We strive to be a community for all.

During this past year, Interweave Continental has:

- initiated a newly-expanded electronic newsletter, which is emailed monthly to ~1100 UU congregations and their LGBTQ organizations, providing a vibrant network of communication
- developed a transgender curriculum, funded by the UUA (first draft currently under review)
- provided two \$125 youth awards to groups serving LGBTQ youth
- initiated formation of a Youth Advisory Board and a service project for LGBTQ youth
- sponsored a new LGBTQ Minister's Reception at General Assembly, with the UUA
- identified winners of our annual Mark deWolfe Award and our annual sermon contest
- sponsored our annual Interweave banquet at General Assembly
- worked to update our website – [www.interweaveuu.org](http://www.interweaveuu.org)