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**For Immediate Release**  
Mailed March 1, 1996

## Gay/Lesbian Law Scholarship Awarded; Reception Planned

SAN FRANCISCO — Caren Jenkins, a third-year student at Golden Gate University School of Law, is the winner of the Michael A. Zamperini/W. Clay Burchell Scholarship, designed to benefit lesbian and gay law students.

Now in its third year, the scholarship was established by a \$15,000 gift to the law school by Michael Zamperini, Associate Professor of Law and Director of Writing and Research at Golden Gate, and his partner, Clay Burchell, formerly an official with the federal government. In the past two years, the endowment has grown with contributions coming from throughout the legal and local communities.

“We established the scholarship because we saw it as a positive way to provide financial support and encouragement to openly gay and lesbian law students, and, at the same time, reward their academic excellence,” Zamperini said. “Clay and I are extremely pleased that others are participating with us in this endeavor — we hope to see the endowment grow even larger.” The scholarship award has doubled in the past three years, from \$500 its first year. This year, Jenkins received \$1000. “As the endowment grows, the amount of scholarship will increase,” Zamperini said.

Jenkins spent the fall semester as an extern to Judge Thelton Henderson, Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California. She is the editor of the “Ninth Circuit Survey” law review journal at Golden Gate, and participates as a member of the Moot Court Board. After her graduation in May, Jenkins plans to clerk for Justice Charles Springer of the Nevada Supreme Court.

Before starting law school, Jenkins worked for the Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau. “During my last legislative session as a staff member, Nevada repealed its statute criminalizing ‘infamous crimes against nature.’ As I watched and listened to those hearings, I felt enormous conflict. I wanted to testify, but felt constrained to

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Gay/Lesbian Law Scholarship  
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remain closeted in that professional environment,” Jenkins said. “However, at Golden Gate, I decided that I could no longer sit quietly at the back of the room. In the past three years, being an out and vocal lesbian has brought many, many benefits.” Jenkins served as an officer in LEGALS — the lesbian and gay law students at Golden Gate and served on the board of directors of the Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom — the lesbian and gay bar association in San Francisco.

Jenkins credits Zamperini and Burchell for establishing the scholarship. “Michael and Clay have been a real inspiration to me. Not only am I grateful for the scholarship, but their warm and genuine support has been invaluable. This fund is just one example of their leadership in the gay and lesbian community.”

A reception honoring Zamperini and Burchell, and soliciting contributions to the scholarship fund will be held on Wednesday, March 27, 1996 at 5:30 p.m. at Golden Gate University School of Law, Faculty Library, 14th floor, 49 Stevenson Street. The public is invited to attend.

The scholarship is awarded annually to a gay or lesbian law student in his or her final year at Golden Gate University School of Law, and is based on overall academic achievement and academic performance in the legal writing and research courses. Contributions to the endowment of the Michael A. Zamperini/W. Clay Burchell Scholarship are welcome. Call Susan Worth at 415/442-7829 for information on how to contribute to the fund.

Founded in 1901, Golden Gate University School of Law is located on the San Francisco Campus of Golden Gate University at 536 Mission Street. The Law School is approved by the American Bar Association, and the University is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.