



Carroll M. Hunter - Criminal Justice Professional (LGBT Pioneer) - Carroll Hunter is a longtime pioneer in the equality movement serving LGBT criminal justice and law enforcement professionals, having had a distinguished career in law enforcement spanning over thirty years.

In 1979, Mr. Hunter was recruited to join the **New York City Department of Corrections** in providing counseling services to inmates on Rikers Island. Rising through the ranks, he retired as its Deputy Director of Guidance and Counseling. In that capacity, he was responsible for programming services for 20,000 inmates in seventeen jails.

As president of the **Gay Officers Action League of New York (GOAL-NY)**, established in 1982, Mr. Hunter participated in several landmark lawsuits brought against the New York Police Department (NYPD). These lawsuits addressed the right of LGBT police officers to wear their uniforms in the New York Pride Parade and for the NYPD marching band to accompany them. He was also a plaintiff in a successful landmark lawsuit against the Puerto Rico Police Department to stop harassment and discrimination against Puerto Rican Police Officers who were members of the Puerto Rican gay community.

In 1994, Mr. Hunter convened the First International Conference of LGBT Criminal Justice Professionals in New York. That conference went on to inspire what became **Law Enforcement Gays & Lesbians (LEGAL) International**, a network and umbrella organization for state and regional chapters supporting gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender law enforcement, public safety, corrections and criminal justice professionals, and non-gay allies. Similar events continue to be held regularly and internationally.

Mr. Hunter's other posts have included serving on the Executive Board of the **New York LGBT Community Services Center**; President of '**ALSO Out Youth**', an organization for gay youth in Sarasota, Florida; Vice President of **Florida Law Enforcement Gays and Lesbians (FL-LEGAL)**; and Vice President of **LEGAL International**.

Mr. Hunter holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Black Studies from Herbert H. Lehman College in New York, and a Master of Science in Education degree in Counseling from Hunter College in New York. He has served as an adjunct professor at Bethune Cookman University in Daytona Beach Florida, currently teaches 'Survival Strategies in the Age of AIDS' to black gay youth, and lectures regularly on LGBT issues. In 2010, Instinct Magazine named him one of the '20 Leading Gay Men in the United States'.

In 2000, I met Mr. Hunter at the 7th Annual LEGAL International Conference in Key West, Florida. The conference was amazing, and I could hardly believe I was surrounded by professional LGBT and Ally peers from around the country and the world! Attending this conference and meeting Mr. Hunter affirmed for me that I was, in fact, not alone as an openly gay Corrections professional. That new reality gave me a sense of relief that I would feel for years to come. Indeed, it had a significant impact on my personal and professional life. Mr. Hunter has served as a mentor and constant source of support for me ever since.

In 2010, with great assistance from Mr. Hunter and a talented and energetic group of Michigan professionals, I co-founded the **Michigan Gay Officers Action League (MI-GOAL)**, an affiliate chapter of LEGAL International and Michigan's statewide organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender law enforcement, public safety, corrections and criminal justice professionals, and our non-gay allies. I served as MI-GOAL's first president.

In 2012, Mr. Hunter came to Lansing, Michigan to attend the annual statewide Pride event, joining members and friends of MI-GOAL to celebrate the growing number of Michigan communities forging positive relationships between their public safety agencies, the LGBT professionals who work within them, and LGBT residents in the communities they serve.

Mr. Hunter has spent his life in service to the LGBT community, and officially retired from LGBT law enforcement advocacy efforts in July 2012. He lives in Sarasota, Florida with his husband Mr. Stephen Sanford.