

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	:	San Francisco Women's Motorcycle Contingent
Mark	:	DYKES ON BIKES
Serial No.	:	78,281746
Filing Date	:	July 31, 2003

Commissioner for Trademarks  
P.O. Box 1451  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1451

Attention: Sharon A. Meier, Examining Attorney  
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DECLARATION OF AMANDA GOAD UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 2.20

I, Amanda Goad, being hereby warned that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any resulting registration declare that:

1. I am a law clerk at the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR), which joins the law firm Brooke Oliver Law Group, P.C. in filing Applicant's Request for Reconsideration.
2. NCLR is a national legal resource center with a primary commitment to advancing the rights and safety of lesbians and their families through a program of litigation, public policy advocacy, free legal information, and public education.
3. One of my responsibilities as a law clerk at NCLR is to conduct on-line research. I often use the Lexis and Westlaw legal databases, and other methods of on-line research.
4. I was requested by Pablo Manga, counsel at Brooke Oliver Law Group, P.C., and Shannon Minter, legal director at NCLR, to undertake on-line research regarding the

nature and extent of the use of the word “dyke” in connection with the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (“LGBT”) community. I conducted the following on-line research between March 10, 2005, and April 21, 2005. My research indicates that dyke is commonly used, in both the American mainstream media and the LGBT press in reference to lesbians, and that its use in this context is almost always positive, not derogatory.

5. On March 31, 2005, I performed a search for articles containing the keyword “dyke” in the Alternative Press Index, an archive of alternative magazines, newsletters, and journals in North America which report and analyze issues of cultural, economic, political, and social change. I found at least 51 articles that had appeared in U.S. publications and used the word “dyke” to reference lesbians in a clearly positive way. Records from this search are attached herein as Attachment A.
6. On April 14, 2005, I used LexisNexis to perform a search of articles from the New York Times from the past ten years which included the terms “dyke” and “lesbian.” The search returned 39 results, of which 23 articles included one or more uses of the word “dyke” in reference to lesbians. At least 18 of these articles used “dyke” in a positive or value-neutral way. Records from this search are attached herein as Attachment B.
7. On April 14, 2005, I conducted a search of the “U.S. Newspapers” database within LexisNexis for records from the past year containing the term “dyke” within the same paragraph as “lesbian.” The search returned 73 results, of which 65 articles included one or more uses of the word “dyke” in reference to lesbians. At least 52 of these articles used “dyke” in a positive or value-neutral way. Records from this search are attached herein as Attachment C.
8. The records in Attachment C illustrate that the word “dyke” is used in a non-derogatory fashion by a wide variety of publications, ranging from SF Weekly, an alternative newspaper in San Francisco, to the Austin American-Statesman in Texas, to the News & Record in Greensboro, North Carolina.
9. In one of the articles included in Attachment C, the reporter described a lesbian woman in Durham, North Carolina, who “found words like ‘dyke’ empowering, explaining that she uses them proudly.” (see document 26). In another, a Colorado lesbian describes being “born again” into the LGBT community when she first spoke to the feminist pioneers who had begun to use “dyke” as a term of pride. (see document 24). In a third, a Kentucky woman identifies herself in this way: “I am a political dyke and I am sexually a lesbian.” (see document 30). These stories demonstrate the ways in which many lesbian women in the United States take specific pride in the use of the word “dyke” as a self-identifier.
10. Attachment C includes an article from the Seattle Times about the local gay pride march, which mentions the participation of “the perennial favorite, the lesbian motorcycle club DYKES ON BIKES.” (see document 49). It also includes an entry

from the “Sunday Datebook” event listing of the San Francisco Chronicle, describing the upcoming San Francisco GLBT Pride Parade: “The DYKES ON BIKES contingent starts it off.” (see document 51). These references show that DYKES ON BIKES is warmly welcomed by name into LGBT Pride celebrations every year.

11. On April 21, 2005, I conducted a search of the Alternative Press Watch database, a database of articles from independent and alternative newspapers and magazines, for records containing the search terms “dyke” and “lesbian.” The search returned 49 results, of which 38 were U.S. articles from the past year that used the word “dyke” to reference lesbians in a positive or value-neutral way. The results of this search are attached herein as Attachment D.
12. At least ten of the articles in Attachment D appeared in The Advocate, a highly regarded national gay and lesbian news magazine. The February 12, 2005 issue of The Advocate featured “DYKE DRAMA” as its main front cover headline. In the public waiting area of the NCLR office, visitors are encouraged to browse recent issues of The Advocate, as well as of a magazine called Velvetpark: Dyke Culture In Bloom.
13. In addition to legal research, my responsibilities as an NCLR law clerk frequently include responding to phone calls and emails from individuals seeking legal information and attorney referrals in regard to LGBT issues. In the four months I have worked here, numerous callers have described themselves as “dykes” in the course of explaining their legal situations. They were using this word not in self-deprecation, but as a positive affirmation of their lesbian identities.
14. In addition, from 2002 to 2004, I was a Legal Information Hotline Volunteer at Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, a Boston-based organization that focuses on securing equal justice under law for LGBT individuals and families in New England. In that capacity, also, I received numerous calls from lesbian women who spontaneously and positively identified themselves as “dykes.”
15. I have identified as a lesbian and a “dyke” since I started college at Rice University in Houston, Texas in 1996. From 1997-1998 I served on the Steering Committee of Rice University PRIDE, and from 1999 to 2000 I served as PRIDE’s president. For building the organization to a membership of several dozen students and a position of visibility in the Houston GLBT community, I received an IMPACT Award from the Rice University Women’s Resource Center and a scholarship from the Rice Gay and Lesbian Alumni Association. Through my PRIDE responsibilities and social networks, I interacted with hundreds of LGBT people, and became familiar with the language and culture of the Texas LGBT community. The term “dyke” was frequently used by members of the community to refer to themselves and one another. When used by lesbian women, the word “dyke” was considered a term of pride and not of derogation.

16. From 2003 to 2004 I also served as president of HLS Lambda, an organization of LGBT students and their allies at Harvard Law School. This organization recently held its 25-year reunion; during my time as president, it had a regular meeting attendance of several dozen and an e-mail list of more than 100 members. While I was president, HLS Lambda filed an *amicus* brief in the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, and I won the Gary Bellow Award for public service by an HLS student in conjunction with my activist work through Lambda. In this capacity I interacted with hundreds of LGBT people in the Boston area, as well as with hundreds of LGBT law and graduate students across the country via e-mail. Again, I frequently heard and saw the term "dyke" used in a positive or value-neutral manner.

All statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true.

Dated: April 22, 2005

By: Amanda Goad

Amanda C. Goad, Law Clerk  
National Center for Lesbian Rights