



Out To Protect

Education And Support For Law Enforcement Professionals

Media Information

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ABOUT THE BOOK:

Coming Out From Behind The Badge – 2nd Edition

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Recommended Categories: Self-Help, Health and Sexuality, LGBT Studies, Law Enforcement, Diversity Studies, Anthologies

From The Book's Introduction:

"It's been more than 15 years since I wrote Coming out from behind the Badge and so much has changed. In 2004, same-sex marriage was a pipe-dream former San Francisco Mayor, Gavin Newsome attempted to make real. Now, in 2015, marriage equality is the law of the land and same-sex couples can marry in all 50 states. We are finally really talking about non-heterosexuality and gender identity in schools, in the workplace, and even in law enforcement training. I've always said, and still maintain, that law enforcement is 20 years behind the rest of society in its acceptance and understanding of diversity. In the 1970s and '80s, it was racial diversity and women that were issues of struggle in law enforcement. Today, it's gay and transgender people. The good news is that change is happening.



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I chose to produce a second edition rather than a third new book so I could update my own story and content in the first book in order to make it relevant for today. You will find some of the same stories as well as many new ones in this book along with a new section on LGBT history. I've included LGBT history that is relevant and important for law enforcement personnel to know. Like many minority groups that have had to fight for equality and civil rights, LGBT people have clashed with law enforcement.

Over the last century and a half, LGBT people have been targeted by police in ways that have left scars and a lack of faith and trust in law enforcement. It is important for anyone in law enforcement to know the origins of these scars and of the events that contribute to the lack of trust many LGBT people still carry with them.

This book's subtitle, "The history, events, and people who shape our journey," captures my belief that who we are today is very much influenced by the history we witness, the events we experience, and the people we meet. All of us have a journey in life, and for LGBT people, "coming out" can be as significant a part of that journey as one's own birth. It is a life-changing event that is often surrounded by tremendous fear and shame. But coming out is so very worth it and the experience of having done it is one I will always consider the most significant of my life.

I hope that you appreciate and enjoy the stories contained in these pages. Most importantly, I hope you learn from the experiences of everyone who shared their journey. If you are searching for a way to "come out," look for it here. And if you are an ally, student, or colleague, I offer you an explanation and insight to the LGBT community.

Thank you for taking the time to learn."

From About This Book:

Coming Out From Behind The Badge is a collection of short autobiographies of law enforcement personnel who have come out as gay, lesbian, or bisexual while preparing for or working in law enforcement. The goal of this book is to inspire those who are still in the closet to step out "from behind the badge" and live their lives fully as their true selves. It is also hoped that this book will help the straight members of law enforcement better understand the internal and deeply personal struggles many of their own co-workers are dealing with on the job.



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The second edition of Coming Out From Behind The Badge continues where the first edition left off with more stories and new chapters written to help law enforcement professionals and students gain a better understanding of sexual orientation and gender identity. Like the first edition, this book features personal stories from law enforcement professionals around the United States with new contributions from men and women who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender.

We added new sections on sexual orientation and gender identity, LGBT history related to law enforcement, and more guidance for coming out and for agency executives on how to create an accepting and inclusive workplace. This book is a recommended text for courses in community policing, the administration of justice, public administration, LGBT studies and other similar classes.

If you are a teacher or law enforcement trainer, we can provide you with course outlines, lesson plans, and an instructional guide with learning activities and critical thinking questions based on the content of the book. This material is available free of charge with proof of purchase or textbook adoption. [Click Here To Order An Instructor Guide.](#)

This book is perfect for you if you are...

- Working in law enforcement and thinking about coming out.*
- An out gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender person in law enforcement.*
- A friend or colleague who wants to learn how to be supportive.*
- A criminal justice student preparing for a law enforcement career.*
- An agency executive wanting a rank and file that reflects the community.*
- A law enforcement psychologist who wants to understand better.*
- A young gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender person seeking a law enforcement career.*

Law enforcement is a noble career that demands courage and personal commitment to serve our communities and society as a whole. Law enforcement personnel who are gay, lesbian, or bisexual have to have another kind of courage to be successful in a largely conservative and often homophobic profession.

We look to law enforcement officers to be role models, community leaders, and in some ways, "heroes." But even law enforcement officers need good role models to be successful and this is particularly important for current or aspiring law enforcement officers who happen to be gay, lesbian, or bisexual. The Law enforcement profession, as a whole, needs strong gay, lesbian, and bisexual personnel to be out at work in order



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to correct the misinformation, misperceptions, and definitions of what it means have a sexual orientation other than heterosexual.

According to the United States Bureau of Justice Statistics, there are over 1,000,000 full time employees working in law enforcement throughout the United States. If the famous psychologist, Alfred Kinsey, is right about his research and that 1 out of every 10 people is gay, lesbian, or bi-sexual, that would mean there could be 100,000 members of law enforcement in United States who are gay. So where are they all?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Short Bio: Greg Miraglia is a Dean Emeritus at Napa Valley College and currently serves as a teacher and coordinator of the Administration of Justice Program and LGBT Studies Program at Napa Valley College. He is also a teacher in the Administration of Justice Program at City College of San Francisco and Santa Rosa Junior college. He's worked in law enforcement since the age of 15 and rose to the rank of deputy chief. Greg has also been teaching at the police academy in Napa for over 35 years. He serves on the board of the Matthew Shepard Foundation and is the host and producer of the Outbeat News radio program on PBS station KRCB in northern California.

Full Bio: Greg Miraglia is the author of Coming Out From Behind The Badge and American Heroes Coming Out From Behind The Badge. Mr. Miraglia has a Masters Degree in Education Administration and Bachelors Degree in Business. He was named Dean Emeritus by the Napa Valley College Board of Trustees in 2016 and continues serving as a teacher and program coordinator for the Administration of Justice Program and LGBT Studies Program at Napa valley College. Mr. Miraglia is also a teacher in the Administration of Justice Program at City College of San Francisco and Santa Rosa Junior College. He also teaches a variety of law enforcement courses including all human relations, work place harassment, community policing, and one of the only state certified hate crimes investigations courses in the State of California.

In 2011, he authored curriculum for an accredited LGBT Studies Program now offered by Napa Valley College. This was the second program of its type offered by a California college. In July of 2013, Mr. Miraglia was awarded the "Dr. John W. Rice Diversity Award" by the Chancellor of the California Community College system for his work developing hate crime prevention and diversity education programs. He is a nationally recognized speaker and expert on LGBT issues in the law enforcement profession.



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Mr. Miraglia serves as the vice president of the Board of Directors for the Matthew Shepard Foundation and is the National Program Coordinator for Campus Pride's Stop the Hate Program and Safe Space Program. He is also a radio program host and producer on Outbeat Radio, a weekly LGBT program on PBS station KRCB Radio. Mr. Miraglia has over 35 years of experience in law enforcement with three different police departments working most recently as deputy chief of the Napa Valley Railroad Police Department.

After coming out himself in 2004, Mr. Miraglia decided to work with others in law enforcement who are still struggling with the pervasive homophobia that still exists in many areas of the law enforcement, the fire service, and EMS profession.

ABOUT OUT TO PROTECT

In 2009, author Greg Miraglia formed Out To Protect Incorporated, a 501(c)(3) tax exempt non-profit organization. "Part of my dream for the book was to use the proceeds to support LGBT law enforcement students."

Out To Protect has the mission of "creating a greater awareness of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender professionals working in law enforcement and to support those pursuing a law enforcement career."

Since it's creation, Out To Protect has awarded multiple scholarships to LGBT students enrolled in a law enforcement training programs around the country. The first training grant was awarded in 2015 to the New England Gay Officers Action League to fund 7 LGBT awareness training classes for law enforcement in the region. Out To Protect offers a library grant program that provides copies of Coming Out From Behind The Badge and American Heroes Coming Out From Behind The Badge to law enforcement agency libraries and public libraries in the United States.

In 2016, Out To Protect began offering LGBT awareness training to law enforcement through an online course developed by Mr. Miraglia. Since then, new training programs including an LGBT Awareness Training For Trainers class, Hate Crimes Investigations class, and the LGBT Law Enforcement Liaison Academy have been added to the catalog of training offered by Out To Protect.

Out To Protect is funded entirely by proceeds from the sale of Greg Miraglia's two books and by private donation. The organization is governed by a small board of straight and gay law enforcement and education professionals.