

Publications & News

OK Voices

Summer Abel on Creating Space for LGBTQ+ Voices in the Legal System

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How has your identity shaped your experience personally or professionally?

My identity as an LGBTQ+ attorney has shaped how I approach both advocacy and connection. It has helped me build meaningful relationships with clients who often feel unseen or misunderstood in the legal system.

What does Pride Month mean to you?

Pride Month is a time to celebrate progress while also recognizing the continued work ahead. It is a moment to honor the courage and resilience of the LGBTQ+ community, and to affirm that our lives, families, and voices matter. As an attorney, it is a reminder of my responsibility to protect the rights of others and ensure access to justice for everyone, regardless of identity.

“Your identity is a source of perspective and strength. Being authentic in your work can be empowering for both you and those you serve. Let your personal identity drive your professional path.”

What changes — big or small — would you like to see in your workplace or community when it comes to inclusion and support?

I would like to see more intentional efforts to integrate inclusion into the everyday culture of legal workplaces. That includes everything from inclusive client intake forms to comprehensive training on working with diverse families. In the broader legal community, I hope to see more representation, leadership opportunities, and policy discussions that reflect the full spectrum of family experiences.

Related People

- Summer Abel