



Rea Carey Named New Head of Task Force

by Steve Weinstein
Wednesday June 25, 2008

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has named Rea Carey as its new executive director, replacing Matt Foreman.

"I believe our movement is on the cusp of taking the gains of the last 40 years and translating them into permanent and society-changing advances," Carey said in a press release. "The last two years alone have shown astonishing progress in nondiscrimination laws and relationship recognition in the states."

She emphasized that the movement had to become "a more racially diverse and dynamic force for change."

The appointment followed a four-month national search to replace Foreman, who left in April to head the Evelyn & Walter Haas, Jr. Fund, a gay private philanthropy.

Carey served as deputy executive director to Foreman for four years. She was appointed acting executive director following Foreman's departure. Initially, according to the release she asked not to be considered for the permanent position, preferring to remain as deputy executive director. The board, however, asked her to reconsider.

Under Foreman the Task Force grew to more than 50 staff and a \$10 million budget. Carey herself worked in HIV/AIDS prevention. In the 1990s, she was active in ACT UP and other direct-action groups. She also co-founded Gay Men and Lesbians Opposing Violence. Carey was founding executive director of the National Youth Advocacy Coalition.

She holds a master's degree from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.