



Mautner Project
The National Lesbian Health Organization

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**MELISSA ETHERIDGE TO BE HONORED WITH SPECIAL AWARD
DURING MAUTNER PROJECT'S 15TH ANNIVERSARY GALA**

Mautner will Recognize Grammy Winner and Other Leaders in the
Fight for Lesbian Health

WASHINGTON – Mautner Project, the National Lesbian Health Organization, will celebrate 15 years of outstanding service in the lesbian community during a sold-out gala event Saturday, September 17, 2005 at the Washington Hilton & Towers. The Mautner Project will celebrate by honoring an array of lesbian activists and LGBT health supporters.

The organization is also proud to announce today, singer Melissa Etheridge is the recipient of the 2005 Mary-Helen Mautner Award for her public expression of courage throughout her fight against breast cancer.

"I'm truly honored to accept this award from the Mautner Project. I am truly delighted to be a part of Mary Helen Mautner's legacy of putting lesbians and healthcare on the right track," said Etheridge upon receiving the news of her award.

Receiving the Organizational Excellence award is lesbian health activist and NCLR Executive Director Kate Kendell, Esq. Kendell has been at the helm of NCLR for 9 years expanding the legal center's budget, programs, putting lesbian family issues center stage in the national debate for civil rights and equality.

Local gala honorees include Sheila Alexander-Reid a Black Lesbian Activist and founder of the DC-based Women In The Life (WITL) non-profit organization. Alexander-Reid will receive the *Healing Works* award for empowering the lives of lesbians of color, through educational, social, and cultural support services.

Mautner Project is also recognizing the work and dedication of its volunteer support network. Direct Service volunteers Chris Cobb and Janet Jones both will be recognized with the Mautner Project Client Services Award.

The 15th Anniversary of Mautner Project, the National Lesbian Health Organization, is a celebration and benefit for the Mautner Project which improves the health of lesbians and women who partner with women through advocacy, education, research, and direct service. The Mautner Project envisions a healthcare system that is guided by social justice and responsive to the needs of all people.

Gala tickets are \$160 and can be purchased by calling 202.332.5536. A sell out crowd is expected. For details or to donate to the Auction, purchase an Ad, or for sponsorship opportunities, please contact abroccolino@mautnerproject.org.

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The Mautner Project is the national lesbian health organization. The Mautner Project's mission is to improve the health and wellness of lesbians and women who partner with women through advocacy, education, direct services, and research. To obtain information, or learn more about the Mautner Project, call 202-332-5536 or visit www.mautnerproject.org.