

PFLAG Straight for Equality Gala
Straight for Equality in the Workplace Award acceptance remarks
John B. Veihmeyer
New York Marriot Marquis
April 2, 2012

- Good evening and thank you so much for this award. It's a great honor. I'd also like to recognize KPMG partners John Tantillo and Tim Stiles, who lead pride@KPMG, our firm's national Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender diversity network. John and Tim are outstanding leaders for our efforts and I congratulate them on this accomplishment.
- I'm especially gratified that we're being recognized for our efforts to ensure equality for these employees and partners. Nothing is more important to me and to KPMG than having a diverse and inclusive work environment where everyone is treated equally and everyone can succeed.
- I'm very proud of what we've accomplished over the years. We've been leaders in the accounting profession for our hiring policies and benefits for same-sex partners.
- Just a couple of months ago, we took another significant and important step forward when we offered tax offsets for same-sex partners' medical benefits.

- KPMG has been on the DiversityInc Top 50 list for four years in a row. We're number one on their list of Top 10 companies for LGBT employees.
- Last year, Work Life Matters magazine named us a Top Company for GLBT Equality.
- For eight years in a row, we've received a perfect score on the Human Rights Campaign's Equality Index.
- We're also actively pursuing relationships with diverse suppliers. In the last 2 years, we've increased our spending with GLBT-owned businesses from about \$72,000 to more than \$800,000.
- I'm also very proud of our relationship with PFLAG – especially the Straight for Equality training we've been conducting throughout our organization.
- Thanks to PFLAG, our people are coming to understand how and why we need to have a strong ally base – an environment where GLBT professionals are comfortable bringing their whole selves to work and want to have long and rewarding careers at KPMG.

- We know we've got good practices and policies in place, and we've obviously gotten a great deal of recognition for it. But in some ways we're just getting started.
- The next chapter in this journey will be all about culture change – we need to make sure our attitudes match our policies.
- I'm confident that we can get where we need to be – especially with organizations like PFLAG helping to guide us.
- Thank you again for this honor. It tells us that we're on the right path. And it reminds us that we still have a long way to go.
- Thank you, and have a great evening.