

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910838324003321
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Titolo	Before Lawrence V. Texas : The Making of a Queer Social Movement
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Piraí : , : University of Texas Press, , 2023 ©2022
ISBN	1-4773-2666-9 1-4773-2665-0
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (303 pages)
Disciplina	342.7308/7
Soggetti	HISTORY / General
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	Intro -- Contents -- Introduction. Before Lawrence v. Texas -- Chapter 1. Buchanan v. Batchelor and the Evolution of the Texas Sodomy Statute, 1965-1974 -- Chapter 2. The Texas Homosexual Conduct Law in Action, 1974-1982 -- Chapter 3. Resisting the Effects of the Texas Homosexual Conduct Law, 1974-1982 -- Chapter 4. Baker v. Wade, 1975-1986 -- Chapter 5. Morales v. Texas and England v. City of Dallas, 1986-1994 -- Conclusion. Lawrence v. Texas Reconsidered -- Acknowledgments -- Notes -- Photo Credits -- Index.
Sommario/riassunto	In 2003 the US Supreme Court overturned anti-sodomy laws across the country, ruling in Lawrence v. Texas that the Constitution protects private consensual sex between adults. To some, the decision seemed to come like lightning from above, altering the landscape of America's sexual politics all at once. In actuality, many years of work and organizing led up to the legal case, and the landmark ruling might never have happened were it not for the passionate struggle of Texans who rejected their state's discriminatory laws. Before Lawrence v. Texas tells the story of the long, troubled, and ultimately hopeful road to constitutional change. Wesley G. Phelps describes the achievements, setbacks, and unlikely alliances along the way. Over the course of decades, and at great risk to themselves, gay and lesbian Texans and their supporters launched political campaigns and legal challenges, laying the groundwork for Lawrence. Phelps shares the personal

experiences of the people and couples who contributed to the legal strategy that ultimately overturned the state's discriminatory law. Even when their individual court cases were unsuccessful, justice seekers and activists collectively influenced public opinion by insisting that their voices be heard. Nine Supreme Court justices ruled, but it was grassroots politics that vindicated the ideal of equality under the law.

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