

112 Robinson Woods Drive  
Charlottesville, VA 22901  
434.996.6780  
[Ridge.Schuyler@gmail.com](mailto:Ridge.Schuyler@gmail.com)

May 31, 2013

LGBT Bar Association  
1301 K Street, NW,  
Suite 1100, East Tower  
Washington, DC 20005

Re: Aaron Tidman, Best LGBT Lawyer under 40

Dear LGBT Bar Association:

I am writing on behalf of Aaron Tidman, a fine lawyer under consideration to be designated the best LGBT lawyer under 40.

Of course, I don't know all the LGBT lawyers under 40, but I do know Aaron, and I would be surprised if there are better lawyers, or better lawyers for the LGBT community, than Aaron.

From May to November of 2012, I served as the Voter Protection Director for President Obama's campaign in the swing state of Virginia. We recruited, trained, assigned and managed 1,928 lawyers who worked on Election Day to make sure eligible Virginia voters were permitted to vote and that their votes were counted. On Election Day, over 1.25 million Obama voters cast their ballots in precincts overseen by our attorney volunteers. Their votes helped secure the reelection of the first president in American history to support marriage equality.

Aaron Tidman served as one of our seven regional directors, charged *inter alia* with the crucial job of protecting voters in the two critical swing counties in our critical swing state—the counties of Loudoun and Prince William. I chose Aaron for this most important post because I saw in him the legal acumen, personal demeanor, and utter commitment that would be necessary to achieving our goals of winning the outer suburbs of northern Virginia—areas we had to win to secure the state for the President. Aaron left his secure job in private practice to volunteer for this duty, and worked tirelessly to get the job done. Succeeding in the job required him to learn a new area of law—election law, train and manage hundreds of volunteer attorneys on Election Day, and work successfully with local registrars, who did not always share our goal of making sure every eligible voter could get registered and could vote without impediment. Aaron accomplished all of our objectives masterfully, and did so with great intellect and a great sense of humor.

Prior to working for the President, I served as the chief policy advisor for U.S. Senator Charles S. Robb, one of only 14 Senators—and the only one from the South—who had the courage to vote against the inaptly named “Defense of Marriage Act.” When President Obama announced his support for marriage equality, many pundits suggested that it would make places like

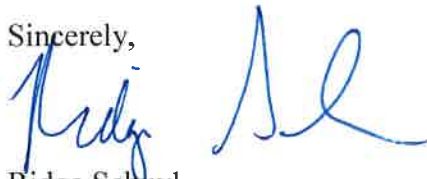
Virginia more difficult for the president to win, since Senator Robb's opposition to DOMA many believed contributed to his defeat in 2000. As a result, the President's announcement discouraged many of the President's Virginia supporters. But it did not discourage Aaron. It simply caused him to redouble his efforts on the President's behalf.

As Senator Robb's chief policy advisor, and as Chief of Staff for U.S. Congressman Rick Boucher and District Director for U.S. Congressman Tom Perriello, I have had the opportunity to hire and manage a substantial number of staffers, including many lawyers. Aaron ranks among the best I have had the opportunity to engage. He exudes confidence without being cocky, he displays intelligence without being arrogant, and he cares deeply about people without being sanctimonious. With these attributes, he was able to master the intricacies of election law which allowed him to advocate successfully on behalf of voters, he was able to train lawyers about all that was required of them on Election Day, and he was able to manage the substantial egos of a subset of our attorney volunteers whose help we needed but who had to be convinced to be team players. Aaron accomplished all of that and more, not because of a potential for glory or great financial reward, but because he was committed both to reelecting the President and to guaranteeing that the fundamental right of Americans to vote was honored in all cases.

For these and a whole host of other reasons, I highly recommend Aaron Tidman to receive the designation as best LGBT lawyer under 40.

If you have questions or desire more information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Ridge Schuyler  
*Former* Voter Protection Director  
Organizing for America—Virginia (2012)