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LGBT Bar Association
1301 K Street, NW
Suite 1100 East Tower
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Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing to wholeheartedly support Aaron Tidman's nomination for Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40. My name is Winsome G. Gayle and I am an attorney practicing civil rights law in Washington, DC. I currently work at the Department of Justice. I also worked at the Washington, D.C. office of the law firm Debevoise & Plimpton, LLP. I have been a friend of Aaron since 2007. From the time of our meeting until now, Aaron has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to LGBT issues and the rights of all people.

I was a senior associate at Debevoise when I met Aaron. Aaron was assigned to work with me on a difficult international case. We traveled together to Germany, England, Belgium, and a number of other countries. Throughout this time, Aaron never shied away from being himself. He was diligent, professional, and capable. He was also out and proud. I was proud to have him on my team. While I was also out, Aaron was a good partner in showing other associates and partners the importance of being free to focus on our work and not being consumed by life in the closet. Aaron and I worked together on a securities matter, but he also worked with the Lambda Legal Defense Fund on a number of pro bono matters. This work continued his passion for contributing to the community, not only by living his truth, but also by helping to advance our civil rights.

Aaron left Debevoise to work on the 2012 Obama Presidential Election Campaign. While still at Debevoise, Aaron held a number of outreach events targeted to the LGBT community on behalf of the Obama campaign. In particular, Aaron organized a Lawyers for Obama event featuring Paul Smith, a partner at Jenner & Block who has argued 14 cases before the Supreme Court, including *Lawrence v. Texas*. Aaron also assisted in organizing a Women for Obama event featuring leaders such as Sec. Kathleen Sebelius. When he started working fulltime for the campaign, he focused on LGBT events, including a Vice Presidential debate forum and an LGBT outreach event featuring Dr. Jill Biden.

Aaron has continued his support for elected officials who are advancing LGBT civil rights. He is currently working on the Heather Mizeur gubernatorial campaign. Ms. Mizeur is an openly gay Delegate in the Maryland House of Representatives who spearheaded the marriage equality bill. Aaron has also worked to help Scouts for America's fundraising efforts to aid in its mission to end the membership ban barring LGBT people from the scouting program.

Finally, in addition to being a consistent advocate for gay rights, Aaron has demonstrated that we can be an activist and maintain a good family life. It has been truly inspirational to witness Aaron and Chris's relationship. They have been very caring, nurturing, and loving to each other. Their relationship reminds me that sometimes the best advocacy is simply living our lives and being true to our love.

I fully support Aaron's nomination to the honor of being one of the Best LGBT Lawyers under 40. I am available to answer any questions that you may have to assist in your decision-making.

Sincerely,
Winsome G. Gayle