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May 16, 2013

National LGBT Bar Association  
1301 K Street, NW  
Suite 1100 East Tower  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am delighted to submit this letter in support of Alan Schoenfeld for recognition as one of the Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40.

In 2007, the Massachusetts Attorney General decided to challenge the federal Defense of Marriage Act ("DOMA") on behalf of the state and our residents. Shortly thereafter, I asked the law firm WilmerHale LLP to join the AG's litigation team to assist in developing and bringing the case. Alan has served as co-counsel to the Commonwealth in *Massachusetts v. Department of Health and Human Services et al.* from its inception, including through successful proceedings before the U.S. District Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, and before the U.S. Supreme Court where a petition of certiorari is currently pending.

During this time, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Alan and have only the highest regard for his skills as a lawyer and advocate for LGBT equality. Alan played a key role in drafting the Commonwealth's complaint, developing the successful and robust summary judgment record presented to the District Court, and drafting numerous briefs filed in the District Court, Court of Appeals, and Supreme Court. Having worked closely with Alan throughout this litigation and on related litigations, I have come to know him, both personally and professionally.

Alan is a gifted and brilliant attorney. He has an ability to work deftly with the important details of a case as well as to see and understand how to best advance claims within a larger picture and context. His legal research and writing, litigation strategy, and judgment are superb. He is both practical and creative, and his energy and passion for LGBT equality and civil rights is unbounded. Alan contributed several hundred, if not thousands, of pro bono hours to our case, and always made himself available for conference calls, meetings, brief drafting and review, and oral argument moots and preparation. He also worked closely with counsel for the plaintiffs in the parallel DOMA challenge brought by Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, *Gill v. Office of Personnel Management*. I know those attorneys similarly valued and continue to value Alan's



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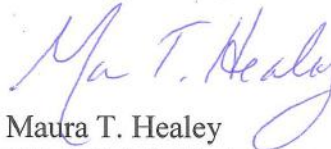
involvement in that case. Put simply, Alan's excellent advocacy, careful lawyering, and considered judgment has been integral to the Commonwealth's success to date in challenging DOMA.

In addition to serving as counsel in the DOMA challenge, Alan has contributed to LGBT equality efforts in other ways. Alan has authored important amicus briefs in support of parties challenging California's Proposition 8 in the Ninth Circuit and the Supreme Court, as well as in the DOMA challenge, *U.S. v. Windsor*. This work is significant and is born of Alan's personal initiative and desire to see LGBT equality advanced.

As counsel in a major international law firm, Alan has significant demands on his schedule and workload. Nevertheless, Alan has consistently found a way to contribute his skills as a lawyer to LGBT equality efforts on several substantial fronts. This has required Alan to take on additional pro bono work and he has generously given his time to this effort. Over the years I have had an opportunity to work with many lawyers on issues of LGBT equality in Massachusetts and nationally. Alan is top notch and I am grateful for his effort and commitment.

An unassuming and humble person, Alan is not one to seek recognition for his work. Because of this, and because of all that Alan has done to further civil rights and LGBT equality, it is with great pleasure that I submit this letter in support of recognizing Alan as a Best LGBT Lawyer Under 40.

Sincerely,



Maura T. Healey  
Chief, Public Protection and Advocacy Bureau