

May 31, 2013

Dear Nomination Committee:

It is my great pleasure to nominate Alan Schoenfeld for recognition as one of the Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40 for 2013. Alan is a truly exceptional attorney and human being. There is no one who deserves this recognition more than Alan does, and it is an honor to be able to nominate him.

In terms of academic and professional accomplishments, Alan's resume is superlative. He graduated *summa cum laude* from Yale College where he was named Phi Beta Kappa and received the Alpheus Henry Snow Prize for intellectual achievement and character—the highest prize awarded to a graduating senior. He then studied at Cambridge University as a Gates Scholar and went on to Yale Law School. After law school he clerked for then-Judge Sonia Sotomayor on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and Judge Denise Coate on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. He is now Counsel at Wilmer Hale's office in New York, where he works on complex commercial and financial institutions litigation, federal Indian law, and appellate and Supreme Court litigation.

Alan also has unrivalled dedication to working on behalf of the LGBT community. Indeed, through his pro bono work, Alan virtually has a second job as a public interest lawyer. He is currently lead counsel in *De'lonta v. Johnson* (W.D. Va.), where he represents a prisoner in Virginia seeking sex-reassignment surgery under the Eighth Amendment. Before that, he was co-counsel to the Attorney General of Massachusetts for Massachusetts' Spending Clause and Tenth Amendment challenge to the Defense of Marriage Act. Alan has also authored countless amicus briefs for important LGBT rights cases in federal and state courts, including amicus briefs in:

- *Christian Legal Society v. Martinez* (U.S. Supreme Court). Brief for *Amicus Curiae* American Bar Association.
- *Cook v. Reinke* (9th Cir.). Brief for *Amici Curiae* ACLU Foundation, ACLU of Idaho Foundation, and National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.
- *Demiraj v. Holder* (U.S. Supreme Court). Brief for *Amici Curiae* Human Rights and Refugee Organizations (Immigration Equality, *et al.*).
- *Minnesota v. Rick* (Minn. Sup. Ct.). Brief for *Amici Curiae* Association of Nurses in AIDS Care, HIV Medicine Association of the Infectious Disease Society of America, and National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors.
- *Perry v. Hollingsworth* (9th Cir., U.S. Supreme Court). Ninth Circuit: Brief for *Amici Curiae* Legislators from United States Jurisdictions That Have Legalized Same-Sex Marriage. Supreme Court: Brief of *Amici Curiae* Kenneth B. Mehlman *et al.*
- *Port v. Cowan* (Md. Ct. Appeals). Brief for *Amici Curiae* Equality Maryland, Inc., Rainbow Families, and American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland.

- *United States v. Windsor* (U.S. Supreme Court). Brief for *Amici Curiae* Former Senior Justice Department Officials and Former Counsels to the President on Jurisdiction.
- *Utah Coalition of La Raza v. Herbert* (D. Utah). Brief *Amicus Curiae* of Immigration Equality in Support of Plaintiffs.
- *Ward v. Wilbanks* (6th Cir.). Brief for the American Counseling Association as *Amicus Curiae*.

As a staff attorney at the ACLU's LGBT & AIDS Project, I have personally had the chance to work with Alan on many of his pro bono projects, and the quality of his work and the level of his dedication are unmatched. When we are looking for pro bono counsel to take on a complicated case or file a brief in a short amount of time, Alan is the first person I turn to.

These are just a small sample of Alan's many, many accomplishments. But Alan is also, quite simply, an amazing human being. I have known Alan since law school and count him as one of my very closest friends. He is the smartest, warmest, kindest, most loyal, and most generous person I know. Whether you need expert legal advice or a friend to talk to, there is no one I trust more than Alan.

Alan is going to be one of the leading lights in the LGBT legal community for years to come. It is an honor to be able to nominate him.

Very truly yours,

/s/

Joshua A. Block
Staff Attorney
ACLU LGBT & AIDS Project