

Statement of Support of Nominee Alexander Edelman

By: Katherine Myers

The Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40 Award should be presented to individuals who make a notable difference in the legal and LGBT community. These individuals should be making an effort to promote equality for LGBT individuals both through community outreach and by using their legal expertise. LGBT attorneys are in a unique position to fight for legal equality and they have a duty to their peers to work towards this goal.

I can think of no one more adept in fighting for the goal of legal equality for LGBT individuals than attorney Alexander Edelman. Alexander graduated summa cum laude from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law. With a Bachelor's Degree from Harvard University, Alexander clearly could have obtained a job anywhere he desired. Instead, he made the choice to open his own practice, with two partners. These three attorneys had the dream to create a firm that truly promotes individual rights, including those of LGBT people.

Almost one year later, Alexander is actively working at a firm that cares about its clients and promotes the rights of individuals. Not only does the firm protect rights that are already granted under the law, but it takes cases that will help pave a road for new rights. For example, the firm currently has multiple pending lawsuits that could possibly assist in making sexual orientation and gender identity effectively protected classes in the State of Missouri.

Outside of owning a law firm, Alexander is extremely involved in the legal community, the LGBT community, and the Kansas City community at large. He is on the Board of Directors for the Kansas City Estate Planning Symposium, where he serves as the Chair of the Technology Subcommittee. Bridging the gap between LGBT individuals and the community at large, Alexander teaches on estate planning issues for LGBT individuals and families. Alexander has

been published in the UMKC Law Review, authoring the article *Show-Me No Discrimination: The Missouri Non-Discrimination Act and Expanding Civil Rights Protections to Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity* 79 UMKC L. Rev. 741 (Spring 2011). This article discussed the Missouri Non-Discrimination Act (MONA); proposed legislation that would expand Missouri's human rights' act to cover sexual orientation and gender identity.

Since 2010, Alexander has served as the Vice President of Empowering Queer Activists and Leaders (EQUAL), a for youth by youth leadership and social justice advocacy organization. In this role, Alexander assisted EQUAL through the process of becoming a 501(c)(3) organization. He also teaches a "Know-Your-Rights" seminar to high school students at the organization's annual EQUAL Empowerment Summit.

The above-mentioned activities show how Alexander is truly combining his two greatest passions: promoting equality for the LGBT community and the practice of law. Alexander also has volunteered at the Lesbian and Gay Community Center of Greater Kansas City, served on the Board of PROMO PAC (the political action committee for Missouri's Statewide LGBT rights organization), and served as President of UMKC OutLaws (the law school LGBT group).

After reading about his experience promoting LGBT rights and his achievements in the legal community, I hope you will come to the conclusion, as I have, that Alexander is more than deserving of the Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40 Award. He has only been an attorney for a short amount of time, but has already achieved amazing things. Alexander works from his heart; he believes in LGBT equality and has dedicated his livelihood to the promotion of this goal and the fight to promote individual rights. He is an asset to the legal community as well as the LGBT community and he is more than deserving of this award.