



AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES
UNION OF IDAHO
P. O. BOX 1897
BOISE, ID 83701
Telephone 208.344.9750
Fax 208.344.7201
<http://www.acluidaho.org>

May 31, 2013

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

To Whom It May Concern;

Idaho is not often considered a bastion of cutting edge civil rights work and often times working on LGBT Equality in the second reddest state in the nation can feel isolating. Because of Amanda Goad's commitment to and advocacy on behalf of the LGBT community over the past few years and specifically her legal work ensuring LGBT Equality in Idaho, I am honored to support her nomination for the Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40.

Amanda's expertise and knowledge has helped us in Idaho with nondiscrimination ordinances at the state and municipal levels. While I could go in to detail about how she has helped us with her creation of a toolkit with advocacy and legal materials, the endless phone conversations about strategy, best practices and information about what is happening around the nation, our recent work on Transgender ID Markers highlights Amanda's stalwart commitment to this work, especially in the hinterlands.

For four years the ACLU of Idaho had struggled with how to address the outdated and cumbersome surgical requirement policy of the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD). Over the course of three months Amanda helped the ACLU of Idaho compile an informational packet to have discussions with ITD about changing the policy. While we were having ongoing conversations with ITD, Amanda was preparing for litigation, prepping our potential clients and preparing the brief. Although we did not have to go to trial, our clients were prepared. Her ability to produce advocacy materials with legal research and policy helped guide the conversations and ended with ITD amending its policy regarding changes to driver's licenses in April 2013 to allow transgender individuals to correct the gender markers on their licenses without showing proof they have undergone surgery.

After this momentous win our office received several "thank yous" from transgender individuals around the country asking that we pass those thank yous along to our clients, who had received some media attention. We always applaud the courageous effort of our clients to come forward, to demand full equality and justice. However, many times attorneys like Amanda celebrate the victory quickly, quietly and just continue their work. This is an opportunity to celebrate her commitment, her expertise and indeed her compassion for her clients and this work. Our affiliate is deeply thankful for the work she has done on behalf of LGBT Idahoans which helps advance LGBT Equality across the nation.

I am honored to know someone so passionate about LGBT Equality and whole heartedly nominate my colleague, Amanda Goad, for this year's Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40.

Regards,

Monica Hopkins
Executive Director