



June 3, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

As Amanda Goad's direct supervisor at the ACLU LGBT & AIDS Project for the last two years, I can attest that Amanda is extraordinarily smart, dedicated, and a tremendous asset to the LGBT bar. I am delighted to nominate her for the LGBT Bar Association's 2013 "Best LGBT Lawyers under 40."

During just two years at the ACLU, Amanda has participated in cases on a wide range of LGBT and HIV issues. Among her other work:

- Amanda was an integral part of the trial team that challenged Alabama's segregation of prisoners with HIV, culminating in a five week bench trial. She cross-examined fact and expert witnesses, and put on two local HIV medical care providers as rebuttal witnesses to show that the state's claim that segregation was necessary to provide adequate medical care was a sham. Her work ultimately helped prove that the segregation policy violated the Americans with Disabilities Act, according to a decision from the trial court. As of the date of this letter, she is in Alabama for a week, assisting with the mediation of that case.
- Amanda represents a group of same-sex couples in Michigan who faced losing domestic partner health insurance after the state passed a law banning local governments from offering those benefits to their employees. She argued the preliminary injunction motion in that case, and we are awaiting a decision.
- Amanda represented a transgender TSA employee experiencing harassment and discrimination, managed significant discovery, and helped negotiate a successful settlement.

In addition to litigation, Amanda has taken on a leadership role at the ACLU on advancing nondiscrimination protections. She has authored a toolkit on how to pass nondiscrimination laws, and has worked closely with the ACLU's state affiliates and other national and local partners, particularly in areas of the country with limited rights for LGBT people. She has also worked extensively on rights for transgender people to access appropriate identification documents, including successful advocacy in Idaho that led to a change in state policy regarding the standards for changing gender marker on state drivers' licenses. In all this work, she is viewed as a trusted resource, and a skilled team player.

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES
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LESBIAN GAY BISEXUAL
TRANSGENDER &
AIDS PROJECT

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As a supervisor for legal interns at the Cardozo Law School's LGBT clinic, which has sent several students to work with the ACLU during the school year, Amanda has also committed to nurturing and developing the next round of LGBT advocates. While supervising students can be challenging, Amanda is unfailingly supportive and encouraging.

Success as a lawyer requires smarts and legal expertise, which Amanda of course has. But our work also demands the ability to balance compassion for each individual, with limited national resources and the need to think strategically about how to advance our goals. To that end, Amanda brings both compassion and clear critical thinking to bear on the work. For example, she effectively developed rapport with her clients in the Alabama prison segregation case to gain a deep understanding of their individual needs, while simultaneously advocating for the systemic change that was the goal of the lawsuit. And in her advocacy for individual LGBT students and parents, she consistently goes the extra mile for her clients to ensure that they are given constructive ways to advocate for themselves, even while recognizing that there are times when we are unable to assist with litigation.

The depth of Amanda's commitment to LGBT equality cannot be questioned. Amanda has worked on LGBT rights throughout her entire legal career. From serving as president of the Harvard Law School LGBT group, to internships at GLAD and National Center for Lesbian Rights, and subsequently spending five years volunteering at the West Village Trans Legal Clinic's Name Change project (while working full-time for the New York City Law Department), she has consistently proven herself as an advocate for LGBT people. At the same time, despite her expertise, she approaches her work with a refreshing combination of directness and modesty.

In short, Amanda's credentials, commitment, and legal acumen make her, in my view, one of the best LGBT lawyers under 40. I hope that the National LGBT Bar Association is able to provide the recognition she deserves, and I would be more than happy to provide any additional information you might need about Amanda.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rose Saxe
Senior Staff Attorney