



June 3, 2013

Re: Best LGBT Lawyer Under 40

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of Christian Dowell's nomination for the "Best LGBT Lawyer Under 40" Award. I have had the privilege of working with Christian for several years and in several capacities during his time (and mine) here at Yahoo! – first, when he was a summer intern, working with my (trademark domain and copyright) group within legal; second, reporting to me as a permanent Yahoo! employee, when we were lucky enough to lure him away from his law firm, Keats McFarland and Wilson (now a part of Kilpatrick Townsend); and currently as an intellectual property colleague, where he plays a critical role in the trademark, domain and copyright group and I have moved over into public policy/government affairs. I treasure his ability to cut right to the heart of a complicated issue. His sense of humor and smarts make working together a joy.

I could go on at length about how impressive Christian has been at Yahoo! – complex intellectual property litigation he has managed (and won), his creative thinking and business savvy, his willingness to tackle virtually any challenge, the respect he is accorded as a result of his work for the company, and the way he consistently exceeds expectations and stands out as a stellar performer. All of this will serve him well as he moves up the company ladder. All of this goes to show the bright, energetic team player and leader he is.

Awards he has received show the same depth of knowledge and skill. Among the awards Christian has received are the Yahoo! Superstar Award (for outstanding performance) in 2012; the Out & Proud Corporate Counsel Award from the National LGBT Bar Association in 2011 and the ABA Section of Intellectual Property Law Award for Academic Excellence in 2004.

You should also be aware of Christian's activities outside of pure legal work, which activities, in my view, speak volumes about his character:



- Vice President on the Board of Directors of the Yahoo! Employee Foundation ("YEF," a philanthropic program through which Yahoo! employees have given over \$15 million to deserving non-profit organizations).
- Secretary on the Board of Directors for the Trevor Project. As a corporate officer and member of the board, Christian manages the day-to-day legal operations of the corporation acting as general counsel.
- Co-Chair, Ambassador Counsel for the AIDS Project of Los Angeles. In this role, Christian works with other executives to build sustainable financial relationships with the community for one of the nation's leading AIDS healthcare organizations.

Christian is also an organizing member of Yahoo! Pride, an LGBT resource group within Yahoo!, which develops hands-on programs to drive the awareness of LGBT issues.

It should be clear from this letter that Christian is not only a fine lawyer, but also a fine person who cares passionately about others and making the world a better place. He's not only one of the best LGBT lawyers under 40, but one of the best lawyers under 40, period. I hope you will seriously consider him for the award, and if I can provide any further information, I would be happy to do so.

Sincerely yours,



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