

May 21, 2013

Dear D'Arcy Kemenitz,

I have known Craig Konnoth for over four years as a classmate, a colleague, and a friend. It is a pleasure to recommend him to you for the Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40. Craig has a wide range of interests and extracurricular activities, but they all relate to the law, to sexual identity, or, often, both. Craig is ambitious, a deep intellect, and someone with a clear sense of his own identity as a gay lawyer. I can think of no one better suited for this honor.

I first met Craig when we were both students at Yale Law School. I had spent a summer clerking for Justice Edwin Cameron on the South African Constitutional Court. The next fall semester, when Justice Cameron came to speak at Yale on gay rights issues, Craig was one of the most active participants in the discussion that followed. That interaction with Craig was the first of a series of fortuitous overlapping career choices that allowed me to build a strong relationship with him, both personally and professionally.

I know Craig best because of the intense year we spent as co-clerks in the chambers of the Honorable Judge M. Margaret McKeown on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. I went straight from law school, Craig had worked during an interim year on a fellowship at the UCLA Law School Williams Instituted working on a wide range of issues in the field of LGBT rights law.

In chambers we spent countless hours debating everything from division of powers between the three branches of government to the intricacies of the Immigration and Nationality Act. We traveled with the Judge for calendars across the circuit from San Francisco to Honolulu. We coauthored bench memos and edited each other's writing. I could always count on Craig for a critical, honest, thoughtful approach to any legal discussion.

After our clerkships ended, both Craig and I moved to San Francisco on fellowships. Mine sent me to the public defender and Craig's sent him to be a Deputy Solicitor General in the Office of the California Attorney General. While our work has taken us in different directions, through his activities in San Francisco's LGBT legal scene, Craig knows a number the Assistant District Attorney's that I oppose in court daily. Only Craig could have gotten me, a straight public defender, to join him and a handful of gay prosecutors at a birthday party pub crawl in the Castro.

In short, Craig is the epitome of a promising, successful, ambitious, young LGBT lawyer. I imagine you are choosing between a large number of qualified applicants, but I'm confident you can do no better than Craig.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



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