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June 3, 2013

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

**Re: Recommendation in Support of Craig Konnoth for
"Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40" Award**

Dear Nominations Committee :

Let this serve as a nomination for Craig Konnoth to be honored as a 2013 recipient of the "Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40" award.

Since law school, Craig has been a "stand out" attorney in many respects, not only on issues impacting the LGBT community, but also on much broader and important litigated issues, and in roles that many attorneys do not achieve in an entire career.

Craig is a graduate of the Yale Law School (J.D., 2010), the University of Cambridge (M.Phil., 2007) and Fordham University (B.A., 2005). At Yale, Craig was a student supervisor of the LGBT Litigation Project, where he worked and litigated on behalf of LGBT students and international human rights organizations. He received the Parker Prize for his history on early gay rights litigation strategies, which appeared in the Yale Law Journal. While in law school, he sat on the Board of the National LGBT Bar Association and headed its Law Student Division, during which time he helped to create the first system of regional representation for LGBT law student across the nation. He has also worked with the Lowenstein International Human Rights Law Clinic, and clerked for the ACLU LGBT Rights Project, and the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission as a Kirby Simon Fellow. He served as editor of the Yale Law Journal, the Yale Journal of Regulation and the Yale Journal of International Law, and Business Editor of Yale Journal of Law and Feminism.

As Chair of the LGBT Bar Board during that time, I learned a lot from Craig. He served on the Board in a dynamic way, challenging us along the way to be precise and purposeful in all Board actions. He was a stalwart activist on behalf of students, and our members in academia, and ensured that all aspects of the LGBT Bar membership of the organization had a voice at the Board level. He also assisted to raise awareness among academics by helping to plan, and participate in, Lavender Law presentations by young scholars.

Following law school, Craig was the 2010-2011 awardee of the R. Scott Hitt Internship in Leadership Development and a Research Fellow at the Williams Institute, and thereafter clerked for Judge Margaret McKeown of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals during the 2011-2012 term. Since that time, Craig has worked as a Deputy Solicitor General for the Attorney General of California, coordinating and strategizing the State's appellate submissions on crucial issues facing the California public. In this role, he has significant oversight on strategic issues, which is often surprising for someone so young. He also now serves in leadership roles in the Bay Area, participating actively with and serving on a BALIF committee.

From a leader in law school, an LGBT Bar Board Member, a Williams Institute Research Fellow, a Ninth Circuit Judicial Clerk and a Deputy Solicitor General, Craig has accomplished much more than many more senior and established practitioners within the California and/or LGBT Bars. He deserves recognition for being a standout practitioner, as well as someone who has taken an active interest in LGBT Bar activities, whether on the national or local level.

I recommend Craig highly for the "Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40" Award, and hope to see his name included in the 2013 class awardees.

Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding this nomination.

Best regards,

SEYFARTH SHAW LLP


Laura J. Maechtlen

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