

May 22, 2013

D'Arcy Kemenitz
National LGBT Bar Association
1301 K Street, Suite 1100 East Tower
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear D'Arcy Kemenitz:

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Craig Konnoth for recognition as one of the Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40. Over the past three years, I have come to know Craig as a friend, a co-worker, and someone I admire for his commitment to civil rights, including securing equal rights for LGBT people.

Craig's interest in LGBT law and policy work began when he was a law student at Yale. As a law student, Craig served as a student supervisor for the Yale LGBT Litigation Group. In that capacity, he worked with several impact litigation groups and contributed to briefs in LGBT-rights cases including *Pratt v. Indian Hill Cent. Sch. Dist.* (LGBT student bullying case) and *Strauss v. Horton* (challenging the validity of California's Proposition 8). Craig also provided research support to Professor William Eskridge, and in that capacity, helped to draft chapters of the most recent edition of Professor Eskridge's casebook on sexuality in the United States (co-ed. Nan D. Hunter).

Craig spent his law school summers at non-profit organizations focused on advancing LGBT rights: the ACLU and IGLHRC. While interning at the ACLU, Craig helped brief *Schroer v. Billington* (gender identity employment discrimination case) and at IGLHRC, he worked on a brief challenging Nicaragua's sodomy law in the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights.

After law school, Craig accepted a one-year fellowship position at the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law. It was at the Williams Institute that I met Craig and had the chance to work with him. During his year with us, Craig made significant contributions to many of the Williams Institute's key areas of LGBT law and policy work. He provided in-depth research and analysis on how the federal government could protect LGBT individuals and same-sex couples from discrimination in its benefits programs; identified gaps in research and NIJ funding regarding LGBT individuals; and wrote a series of reports about how states could amend their Medicaid laws to protect same-sex couples from impoverishment when one partner has to enter a care facility. That year, Craig also provided testimony to the American Bar Association on LGBT Latino/a demographics and discrimination.

I had the opportunity to work closely with Craig during his year at the Williams Institute in drafting the problem for the Williams Institute's annual moot court competition. Through this project, I came to appreciate Craig for his incredible work ethic and

impressive intellect. After this experience, I can firmly attest to the great future that Craig will have as an LGBT lawyer and leader in this movement.

After his year at the Williams Institute, Craig clerked for Judge McKeown of the 9th Circuit. He then went on to become the Deputy Solicitor General at the California Office of the Attorney General.

Throughout the last 6 years, Craig has not only demonstrated his intellectual capabilities in a number of different positions, but has also shown that he is a natural leader. During law school, Craig created the first national and regional network of LGBT law students while on the Board of the National LGBT Bar Association. He has also organized and spoken at several events for the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Constitution Society.

After his tenure as Deputy Solicitor General, Craig plans to return to the movement; as either a practitioner or as a director of a law school clinic focused on legal rights for LGBT people.

While there are so many impressive young LGBT lawyers in this country, I sincerely believe that Craig is among the very best. I am positive that he will continue to use his skills and talent to take the LGBT movement forward for years to come, and hope that his commitment will be recognized this year as one of the Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40.

Thank you for the time you have taken to review this nomination and for considering Craig for this prestigious honor.

Sincerely,

Christy Mallory

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