

June 3, 2013

Nomination Committee
LGBT Bar Association
(by email)

RE: Letter of Support for Daniel Torres
Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40

Dear Nomination Committee:

I am writing this letter of support for the nomination of Dan Torres as one of the Best LGBT Lawyers under 40. I am the Regional Counsel for Health at Legal Services of Northern California (LSNC). LSNC serves 23 Northern California counties – both urban and rural.

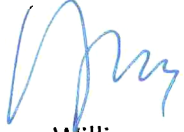
Dan's influence in my life began before we met. Dan and his classmates founded UC Davis School of Law's Lambda Law Students Association ("Lambda Law") in 2000. It is a safe space for queer law students to identify, mentor, and socialize. The program matched admitted law students with mentors one week prior to the commencement of introductory classes. I am still friends with my mentor. Without the support network and the opportunities Lambda Law provided, I do not think I would have made it through law school. I commend Dan for his vision. He created a safe space for queer law students for years to come.

In 2004, I met Dan at the UC Davis Law School Clinic building. Dan was passionately teaching law students how to advocate in front of the Ninth Circuit on immigration issues. I envied those students. Dan supervised the UC Davis Immigration Law Clinic. It consistently maintained a two semester waiting list. The waiting list was a testament to not only his savvy lawyering, but also his extraordinary teaching skills.

Over the last few years, Dan, Cathy Sakimura, and I have worked closely on issues facing low-income LGBT people. We started a roundtable at the LGBT Bar Association's Lavender Law Conference to provide an opportunity for advocates to gain cultural competency, discuss service delivery models, and explore funding opportunities. Dan and others spearheaded the creation of the first "LGBT Public Benefits Guide." The guide is the "go-to" for advocates working with low income LGBT clients. He created the first "Train the Trainers" curriculum teaching attorneys how to incorporate LGBT cultural competence into their practice.

Dan is passionate about law, law students, underrepresented people, and seeing the world as it should be. I appreciate Dan not only for his work for the poor, but also for his vision. I strongly recommend Dan for the Best LGBT Lawyers under 40 award.

Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Amy Williams', with a stylized, cursive script.

Amy Williams
Regional Counsel