Dear Nominations Committee:

I am writing a letter of support for the nomination of Dan Torres as one of the Best LGBT Lawyers under 40.  Dan is one of those rare individuals who has both the vision to develop a solution to one of the most pressing problems in our community—the lack of competent legal services for LGBT farmworkers and other rural LGBT workers—and the drive and commitment to implement that solution.  Through the innovative legal services program that Dan oversees at California Rural Legal Services, he has brought precedent-setting cases on behalf of LGBT farmworkers, provided legal assistance to hundreds of LGBT people who otherwise would have no access to legal help, trained other legal services programs across the country, and brought national visibility to the urgent need for the LGBT movement to partner with legal aid organizations to address the pervasive discrimination and violence faced by LGBT people in rural areas.

In the coming years, it is critical that the LGBT movement find creative new ways to make progress in more conservative areas.  Dan’s groundbreaking work sets a powerful example for how to tackle this challenge with integrity, compassion, and respect.  In my twenty years of working in the LGBT legal movement, I have never seen a more innovative, dedicated, or effective advocate. Truly, I am in awe of Dan’s breadth of understanding of the complex issues facing LGBT workers in rural areas and of his ability to present those complex issues to courts in such clear and powerful ways.  Recognizing Dan’s accomplishments would be both a well-deserved honor and an inspiration to other young LGBT attorneys who are seeking role models for how to do this type of challenging intersectional work.  Thank you very much for considering his nomination, and please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Shannon Minter

**Shannon Price Minter Esq.** | Legal Director

**National Center for Lesbian Rights** | [www.nclrights.org](http://www.nclrights.org/)

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