

National LGBT Bar Association
Attn: Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40 Nominations
1301 K Street, NW
Suite 1100 East Tower
Washington, DC 20005

May 28, 2013

Recommendation for David Castleman, Esq.

To Whom It May Concern:

Immigration Equality is a national organization fighting for equality under U.S. immigration law for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and HIV-positive individuals. Part of our mission is to ensure that indigent and vulnerable refugees are provided with free legal counsel in asylum proceedings. While we represent about 25% of our clients in-house, the other 75% are represented by outside attorneys who generously offer their services free of charge. One of our strongest pro bono partners is the law firm, Sullivan & Cromwell. The success of our partnership with the firm is due in large part to the efforts of Mr. David Castleman.

In the beginning of 2012, David offered to assist a 22 year old gay man from Honduras to apply for asylum. The client had received homophobic death threats from the police, and fled to the U.S. for safety. The case was a success, and David immediately offered to help another LGBT immigrant. Since then, David has agreed to represent another gay Honduran, 2 gay men from Ukraine, and a gay man from Ghana who is being threatened with deportation.

David approaches each case with patience and enthusiasm, and he produces the highest quality work product. Over the last year, he has agreed to take on increasingly more difficult matters, and has substantially strengthened our partnership with Sullivan & Cromwell. In part due to his leadership, the law firm agreed to host Immigration Equality's 2013 pro bono breakfast, which drew a large crowd of attorneys interested in offering our clients their assistance. David's zealous dedication to representing LGBT clients fleeing persecution and torture should be recognized and celebrated. For these reasons, I recommend that he be named as one of the best LGBT lawyers under 40.

Yours Sincerely,



Aaron C. Morris
Senior Staff Attorney