Sullivan & Cromwell LLC (“S&C”) is pleased to nominate David Castleman for the National LGBT Bar Association’s “Best LGBT Lawyers Under” recognition. A seventh-year associate in the Litigation Group, Dave has distinguished himself in his profession, proven himself to be a valuable colleague and demonstrated a strong commitment to the LGBT community.

Dave’s practice focuses on representing and advising companies in complex securities and commercial litigation. He is currently representing a large financial institution in dozens of high profile securities cases. Dave is one of the lead lawyers helping to manage the day-to-day litigation of those cases, and he also advises on global litigation strategy and innovative resolution structures. In March 2012, the Southern District of New York dismissed a large securities case, in which Dave was one of the principal lawyers arguing for dismissal. Dave’s practice also reaches overseas, where he has advised foreign financial institutions on complex international attachment issues and has successfully protected clients from the initiation of litigation.

In addition to his work for financial institutions, Dave maintains an active pro bono practice. Over the past 16 months, he has initiated and developed a relationship between Immigration Equality and S&C. In that capacity, he has personally appeared before the asylum office and immigration court, recently winning asylum and other immigration benefits for gay men seeking protection from their home countries. He also supervises other S&C attorneys who have taken on cases from Immigration Equality.

In November 2012, Dave won an appeal in the Sixth Circuit on behalf of a habeas petitioner, in a published decision. The State of Michigan petitioned the Supreme Court for review, which Dave opposed on behalf of his client, and the Supreme Court denied certiorari in May 2013. Additionally, Dave was instrumental in the Firm hosting Immigration Equality’s 2013 pro bono breakfast in February, further strengthening S&C’s relationship with the organization and drawing a significant number of attorneys from outside the Firm who were interested in volunteering for the organization. Dave’s other pro bono efforts have focused on winning equal second-parent adoption rights in North Carolina for gay and lesbian parents, and fighting the practice of conversion therapy.

Beyond his practice, Dave is an active member of the Firm’s LGBT Network, previously serving as its co-chair. As a result of his involvement and leadership, the LGBT Network increased the number of programs and events it regularly organizes and enhanced its visibility at the Firm. Dave frequently serves as an informal mentor and trusted advisor to junior associates in the Network. He has played a pivotal role in ensuring that the Firm’s openly gay legal assistants and legal analysts continue to be included in Network activities. Over the years, Dave has been active in the Firm’s endeavors to recruit LGBT students, frequently participating in the Lavender Law Conference and Career Fair and being involved in recruiting efforts at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He also serves as an advisor in the Firm’s summer associate program.

Through his participation in the Network, Dave has also been instrumental in the Firm’s efforts to include clients in diversity-related, and more specifically LGBT-related, programs. For example, as part of the “S&C Celebrates Diversity Speaker Series,” Dave facilitated the Firm hosting a screening of *Trevor*, a 17-minute, Academy Award winning short film that inspired its creators to establish The Trevor Project, which is the nation’s leading crisis intervention and suicide prevention organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning young people. After the screening, Dave moderated a discussion with *Trevor*’s filmmakers about how making *Trevor* led them to found The Trevor Project. At Dave’s suggestion, Firm clients and their LGBT affinity groups were invited to attend, and more than 70 people attended the program and the networking reception that followed.

As a result of that event’s popularity, the Firm subsequently hosted *Trevor* filmmaker James Lecesne and writer Sarah Moon for a program regarding their recently released book, *The Letter Q: Queer Writers’ Notes to Their Younger Selves.* The reading, discussion and book signing were held as part of the Firm’s Summer Diversity Breakfast series and all lawyers, summer associates, legal assistants and analysts were invited to attend. Dave introduced the guests and facilitated the discussion.

Despite his busy practice and other activities within the Firm, Dave is also dedicated to serving the greater LGBT community. For example, he co-founded Trevor NextGen, an organization that brings together a group of volunteers, primarily in their 20s and 30s, who are committed to expanding the group’s programming and fundraising efforts, and increasing the visibility of The Trevor Project.

Dave received his law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law school and his undergraduate degree from Dartmouth College. Prior to joining S&C, he clerked for the Honorable Deborah L. Cook in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. He is a member of the National LGBT Bar Association and the Federal Bar Council.

Dave’s demonstrated legal expertise, leadership within the Firm, and ongoing and tireless commitment to promoting LGBT equality make him a deserving candidate for this recognition.