

June 3, 2013

Dear Selection Committee:

I write to emphatically add my support to Doug Champion's nomination for the National LGBT Bar Association's Best LGBT Lawyers under 40 Award.

Doug has served as a mentor, role model and friend since I met him during the summer after my first year of law school. Doug contacted me that summer because he heard through a mutual friend that I was in the process of planning my next career steps in Los Angeles. Doug took it upon himself to meet with me and other LGBT law students, not to recruit us to Gibson Dunn, but to give us general career advice and tips on navigating the Los Angeles legal market as openly gay law students.

Doug's candor, professionalism, and sheer enthusiasm convinced me that not only did I want to work wherever he was working, but I also wanted my legal career to look like Doug's. Arriving at Gibson Dunn, I was not disappointed. When my colleagues found out that I was gay, they would, without fail, ask me if I had met Doug and sing his praises. I almost felt like I had an advantage when I walked through the door: If my colleagues associated me with Doug, that is a good thing.

I am convinced that it is, and continues to be, Doug's efforts and commitment not just to diversity but also to legal excellence that has helped to make Gibson Dunn a place where gay attorneys feel valued, supported and respected. Simply put, Doug is the glue that keeps the LGBT community at Gibson alive and thriving. Doug is involved in the recruitment of almost all of the gay associates that come to the Firm, and if he is not officially on the recruiting schedule, he makes it a point to reach out to those attorneys informally. Internally, Doug actively brings the LGBT community together. He organizes opportunities for the LGBT associates to interact, and acts as a support system both for LGBT issues but also a shoulder to lean on during pivotal moments of our legal careers.

Doug also serves as a gateway for all Gibson Dunn attorneys (both gay and straight) to get involved in the LGBT community. I have been to countless events and volunteered my time

GIBSON DUNN

June 3, 2013

Page 2

for countless organizations that I wouldn't have known about had it not been for Doug. Doug organized a Gibson Dunn team to play in a volleyball tournament that donated the proceeds to the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center and brought together twenty lawyers to participate in the Aids Walk Los Angeles. He also facilitates volunteer opportunities for Lambda Legal and makes sure all the gay associates have the opportunity to attend the best networking events.

Doug has touched every part of my legal career, from recruiting me, to making sure I was walking into a welcoming environment, to mentoring me on legal and political questions, to being a shoulder to cry on during difficult moments in my life. I can't imagine my career without Doug by my side (and frankly I don't want to). But what is unique about Doug is that my experience with Doug is not at all unique. There are countless current, former and future associates who would tell the exact same story. Doug is not only a leader in the LGBT community; he is also an LGBT leader in the straight community. I can think of no one more deserving of your 40 Under 40 Award.

Sincerely,



Abbey Hudson

AJH/lcj