

# Basehor-Linwood VIRTUAL SCHOOL

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Dear LGBT Bar Association:

I am writing in support of Elizabeth Hodges-Williams' nomination for the LGBT Bar Association's 40 Under 40 Award. Elizabeth is a leader in the legal profession in the LGBT practice area. She is providing legal representation to a portion of the population that is definitely underrepresented. She is working to establish and improve the rights of the LGBT community while at the same time offering practical advice for her clients and their families about estate and tax planning and family within the current framework of the law. Preserving and protecting her clients' rights and assets with the current inadequate laws in this area of the law requires her to be innovative and resourceful.

Elizabeth has taken the very difficult and courageous step of opening her own law firm and focusing on an area of the law that is not well developed, especially in the Midwest. She has chosen to focus on this practice area because she feels passionately about it and has her own experiences to add to the representation she provides her clients. Having started and operated the first Virtual School in Kansas for almost 15 years, I appreciate the challenges involved in starting and maintaining a business. It requires one to bear many different responsibilities including personnel and office management, and marketing. Elizabeth is succeeding at juggling all those responsibilities all while delivering high-quality legal representation to her clients.

I hope you will choose Elizabeth to receive the 40 Under 40 Award. Please call if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Brenda DeGroot  
Director, Basehor-Linwood Virtual School

Dear LGBT Bar Association:

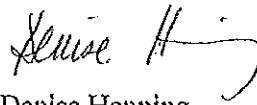
I am writing in support of Elizabeth Hodges-Williams' nomination for the LGBT Bar Association's 40 Under 40 Award. Elizabeth is a leader in the legal profession in the LGBT practice area. She is providing legal representation to a portion of the population that is definitely underrepresented. She is working to establish and improve the rights of the LGBT community while at the same time offering practical advice for her clients and their families about estate and tax planning and family law within the current framework of the law. Preserving and protecting her clients' rights and assets with the current inadequate laws in this subject area requires her to be innovative and resourceful.

Elizabeth has taken the very difficult and courageous step of opening her own law firm and focusing on an area of the law that is not well-developed, especially in Missouri. She has chosen to focus on this practice area because she feels passionately about it and has her own experiences to add to the representation she provides her clients. Having owned and operated my own firm for almost ten years, I appreciate the challenges involved in being a solo or small firm practitioner. The solo or small firm practice requires one to bear many different responsibilities including personnel and office management, marketing and rainmaking, and financial management in addition to the legal work. Elizabeth is succeeding at juggling all those responsibilities while delivering high-quality legal representation to her clients.

I hope that you will choose Elizabeth to receive the 40 Under 40 Award. Please call me if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

THE HENNING LAW FIRM, P.C.



R. Denise Henning

RDH:mb



## THE JARRETT JOHNSON LAW FIRM

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National LGBT Bar Association  
1301 K Street, NW  
Suite 1100—East Tower  
Washington, DC 20005

Re: Elizabeth Hodges-Williams (Kansas City, Missouri)  
Nomination for LGBT Bar Association's "Best Lawyers Under 40" Award

Elizabeth Hodges-Williams—for all she is as a lawyer and as a person—is a deserving recipient of one of the LGBT Bar's "Best Lawyers Under 40" Awards. A past recipient of this award, Elizabeth is a dear friend, to be sure. But above that, she is a dedicated lawyer who every day furthers the interests and causes of the LGBT community. It is the centerpiece of her practice and her life. She is a devoted wife and mother, a young lawyer who is wise beyond her years, and the personification of tenacity.

Growing up in rural Kansas, Elizabeth fought family alienation and social discrimination, but cleared those hurdles to excel in both college and law school. She also grew into adulthood without her mother, who tragically died when Elizabeth was a teenager. She was left with no meaningful emotional support, and overcame that like she overcame everything else. Where most people would make excuses, Elizabeth triumphed. Where many might not be brave enough to embrace who they are despite their environment, Elizabeth lived life differently and triumphed.

Before receiving her law degree at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, Elizabeth was ACLU President and a member of the Journal for the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, which published her article on cohabitation agreements. After passing the Missouri Bar, she obtained her L.L.M. in Taxation. At every step in her career, Elizabeth has demonstrated that she champions the legal causes of the LGBT community and tirelessly strives for the equality of its members. Her Kansas City law practice is dedicated to serving the LGBT community in adoptions and estate planning. She is a prominent member of the LGBT legal community here, and no doubt one of the entire Kansas City legal community's rising stars.

So, for all these reasons, I enthusiastically renew my recommendation that Elizabeth Hodges-Williams is once again a worthy recipient of the LGBT Bar's "Best Lawyers Under 40" Awards.

Sincerely,

Jarrett Johnson  
Attorney at Law