

## Statement of Support of Nominee

I write to recommend Holly Lincoln for the Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40: Class of 2013. I have known Ms. Lincoln since 2005, starting when we were students at Boston University School of Law and colleagues on the *Boston University Law Review*. For the past six months, I have also had the privilege of being her colleague in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. I can attest to her achievements within the legal field, her commitment to LGBT equality, and her lifetime commitment to the service of others.

From the very beginning of Ms. Lincoln's career, she evidenced her commitment to public interest. Both of her summers were public-interest minded, working at the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General her first summer, and spending half of her second summer serving abused and neglected children in protective services at the New York Legal Aid Society. In addition, Ms. Lincoln served as a board member and auction co-chair for Boston University School of Law's Public Interest Project. The Public Interest Project raises funds, including through a major annual charity auction, to support law students in unpaid public interest summer internships; Holly played a crucial role in all aspects of this effort. It should also be noted that Ms. Lincoln was also Editor-in-Chief of the *Boston University Law Review*, a position in which she demonstrated great leadership abilities while also earning the trust and admiration of her peers.

After law school, Ms. Lincoln held a prestigious clerkship for the Honorable Solomon Oliver, Jr., United State District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio. From there she earned the rare honor of being hired directly into the Department of Justice as part of the Honors Program in 2008, a recognition of her caliber as an attorney and her commitment to civil rights. Ms. Lincoln joined the Housing and Civil Enforcement Section, where she has excelled in all aspects of representing the United States in investigations arising under the Fair Housing Act, the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA), the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act, and engaging in settlement negotiations or litigation where appropriate.

As an example of her work, Ms. Lincoln was second chair of the attorney team in *United States v. Wells Fargo Bank, NA*, a major fair lending investigation resulting in a \$234.3 million settlement, the second largest monetary settlement and the largest per victim recovery in Division history. Ms. Lincoln's contributions in all aspects of the development and resolution of this case were vital to our success. Ms. Lincoln assisted in drafting the revised recommendation memo, complaint, victim identification and damages models, and various correspondence with the bank. She participated in numerous strategy sessions, including with the litigative consultant and the Division's front office. She took the lead in presenting the Department's damages methodology to the bank. She also drafted parts of the toolkit for Assistant U.S. Attorneys and press materials.

As another example of her work, Ms. Lincoln was instrumental in ensuring that the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA) rights of a small Jewish synagogue seeking to locate in the Hancock Park neighborhood of Los Angeles were protected. In December 2010, Ms. Lincoln wrote a Statement of Interest for the United States, submitted in

the synagogue's private lawsuit, *Congregation Etz Chaim v. City of Los Angeles*, arguing that state proceedings had not precluded the synagogue's RLUIPA claim. Then, in April 2011, Holly wrote a Statement of Interest in the case explaining how the City's actions had violated RLUIPA. The court ruled consistent with Holly's arguments on both issues. This protected the rights of the congregation that had brought the case, but also set important precedent on key RLUIPA issues.

Most recently, Ms. Lincoln was selected for a detail to the Department's Office of Legal Policy, where she was responsible for vetting potential federal judicial nominees.

Ms. Lincoln has been an active member of the Civil Rights Division's LGBTI Working Group since she joined the Department. She has worked diligently to support the efforts of the Working Group, including its work around issues of sex discrimination and sex stereotyping, as well as policy and legislative issues impacting the LGBTI community. Notably, Ms. Lincoln was one of the key individuals involved in organizing, editing, and producing the Division's powerful "It Gets Better" video contribution. With several other members of the LGBTI Working Group she scripted the video, recruited participants, planned the shooting, and spent countless hours crafting the final video. Ms. Lincoln is proud that she could help create a final product from Assistant Attorney General Tom Perez and the Civil Rights Division that continues to be part of the national dialogue on LGBT bullying (and one of the few videos to include a discussion of intersex issues).

Ms. Lincoln is a very talented and hard-working attorney who is truly committed to the work of the Division. She works exceptionally well with her colleagues, but whether working as part of a team or individually, she is successful in achieving positive results. She is an asset to the Housing and Civil Enforcement Section, and the Department of Justice, generally. It would be only fitting that the National LGBT Bar Association recognize such achievement.