

May 30, 2013



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

To Whom It May Concern,

There are few attorneys deserving of the prestigious Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40 Award. Kinna Crocker is one of the few. Kinna is a bright, positive and energetic attorney and LGBT leader with outstanding people skills. Her achievements in the legal field and her dedication to equality make Kinna the perfect candidate for this award. I met Kinna fourteen years ago in San Francisco when I was speaking at a rally in support of marriage equality for same sex couples. She was a young lesbian from Tennessee who moved to San Francisco looking for a better life without oppression and fear with the goal of becoming a lawyer dedicated to LGBT issues. She approached me and said she wanted to be involved in the movement and from that day forward, she made it her mission to make change wherever she could. I am excited to have seen her grow in her journey over the years and assume her own leadership role. I am happy to nominate her for the Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40 Award.

#### Achievements in Legal Field

This year, Kinna created the first LGBT Law Section of the Sonoma County Bar Association, a section dedicated to educating the public and bar association members about LGBT issues in the law. Kinna organized the section's inaugural event, which was held on May 13, 2013 and featured attorneys who represent the plaintiffs in *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, recently argued before the United States Supreme Court. The event was heralded as the Sonoma County Bar Association's most successful first event of a newly formed section. Kinna clearly understood there was a need for LGB T awareness and education in Sonoma County and she has met that need. The section is only a few months old and Kinna already has events scheduled for the next year, featuring speakers from the National Center for Lesbian Rights, Lambda Legal and the State Board of Equalization.

Kinna has always been a high-achiever in the legal field, as demonstrated by her long standing commitment to the LGBT community both in Santa Rosa and in Sacramento. She has been instrumental in educating people in Santa Rosa and Sacramento about the importance of equality and fairness. From the passage of AB 205, to the success of AB 849, Kinna worked diligently organizing testimonial speakers and gathering supportive audience members at key legislative and administrative hearings. Most recently, Kinna recorded a four-part series for OutBeat Radio News, an FM radio LGBT news show, regarding LGBT family law issues. Kinna was also an active member of Sac L.E.G.A.L. (Sacramento Lawyers for the Equality of Gays and Lesbians) and was chosen by the group to receive the Unity Bar Award for Community Service to the LGBT community. She volunteered her time to NCLR as an "on-call" attorney for field volunteers who were countering signature gatherers at various locations throughout the state. When she worked for a solo family law practitioner in Sacramento, Kinna quickly established herself as one of few LGBT family law advocates and built herself quite a reputation for serving the community. Kinna was appointed to the State Bar Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Discrimination as well as the State Bar Council on Access and Fairness, and through these groups was



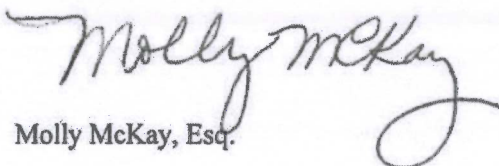
contacted by the American Bar Association Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity to join a panel on diversity in the legal profession. For a number of years she maintained a regular column in *Jane and Jane* magazine devoted to LGBT family law issues. She regularly presented and hosted seminars regarding family law issues relevant to the LGBT community, including AB 205, Proposition 8, and the marriage cases. Kinna injected education about LGBT issues everywhere she went. For example, while at Lozano Smith as an education law attorney, she continued her commitment to LGBT education by presenting seminars to school administrators and school officials regarding harassment, with specific attention to LGBT staff and student issues.

#### Commitment to LGBT Equality

As Co-Executive Director of Marriage Equality California, Media Director of Marriage Equality USA, and Associate Executive Director of Equality California, I had the pleasure of working directly with Kinna in her capacity as a grassroots leader. Kinna is a passionate advocate for equal rights, demonstrated by her work as the Sacramento Chapter leader for Equality California and Marriage Equality California for four years (when the two groups merged for a short time) and co-Chapter leader for Marriage Equality USA for two years. She spent countless hours organizing and directing a number of rallies as well as volunteering for Youth Lobby Days in Sacramento. Throughout her service, she worked with a number of wonderful organizations including the National Organization for Women, the Stonewall Democratic Club of Greater Sacramento, PFLAG, among others, and forged personal relationships with many community leaders, including prominent leaders of faith in the religious community. While in Santa Rosa, Kinna became a Board Member with Positive Images, an organization dedicated to assisting LGBT youth. She wanted to make a difference by helping youth who were struggling with the coming out process and with their peers in school. Kinna helped create a space for these young people to speak about their struggles and move forward to become productive and contributing members of society.

I always say that every moment is a "marriage equality moment" and Kinna has embraced this motto in her professional and personal life. As the officiant at her wedding, I witnessed a guest stand to say it was his first same sex wedding and that he was proud he brought his teenage daughter to see history in the making. Kinna is also a wonderful mother who is instilling good values and a thirst for equality in her own twin girls. Although she struggled with her family who disowned her when she came out as a lesbian, Kinna has created a new strong family unit while refusing to believe that things would not change. She once told me that if she could be legally married, she felt her family would move toward acceptance. More than ten years later, she is right. She is legally married and her mother, sister and grandmother are back in her life in a meaningful way. Kinna has made a difference not only for others but also for herself. I cannot think of a better candidate for this award and appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,



Molly McKay, Esq.