

June 2, 2013

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

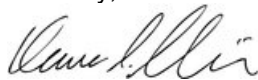
Re: Nomination of Madeleine Findley for Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40

I am writing in enthusiastic support of Madeleine Findley's nomination for the National LGBT Bar Association's Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40 Award. A dedicated former board member, Madeleine needs no introduction. She is known to me and to leadership of the Bar as an excellent lawyer, a committed advocate for the LGBT community, and a good friend.

I first met Madeleine at Lavender Law in 1999 when we were both law students – I was the outgoing co-chair of the Law Student Division (now Law Student Caucus) and she was a co-chair of the University of Michigan Law School LGBT student group. After the conference, we continued exchanging ideas about organizing and advocacy. She replaced me as a Law Student Division co-chair and we served together as board members of the LGBT Bar for several years. The Solomon Amendment was a hot topic for the Association, and she worked on advocacy around Don't Ask, Don't Tell, organized teach-ins and responses to the Solomon Amendment, interned with Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, and facilitated speakers' series and other events designed to increase awareness of and support for LGBT rights and equality. She eventually took on the role of Treasurer of the Bar, working to help its underdeveloped systems and books catch up with increasing cash flow activity related to the immediate success of the then new Lavender Law Career Fair. She did all this while a student, then a judicial clerk, then an over worked law firm attorney. It required a true commitment to the Bar, some very late nights, and good humor.

In her law practice, Madeleine has continued to advocate on behalf of the LGBT community. While at her first law firm, she recommended that the Executive Committee include gender identity in the firm's nondiscrimination policy – which it did. She also participated actively in the firm's Women's and Diversity Committees. Her commitment to equality and inclusion continues at her current firm, where she is a partner in the telecommunications regulatory group, and facilitates the firm's gender and diversity issues group. She is committed to advancing LGBT equality, a thoughtful and incisive member of the community, and a warm and engaging person. I am pleased to support her nomination, and I hope the Bar will recognize her unique contributions to it and to the profession's success.

Sincerely,



Kara S. Suffredini
Executive Director
MassEquality