

June 3, 2013

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

The National LGBT Bar Association
1301 K Street, NW
Suite 1100 East Tower
Washington, DC 20005
Nominations@LGBTbar.org

Re: *Statement of Support of Nomination of Madeleine V. Findley, Best LGBT Lawyers
Under 40 Award*

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to nominate Madeleine V. Findley as a Best LGBT Lawyer under forty. Madeleine is a truly excellent advocate, who has made equal rights for all both a professional and a personal focus.

I have the great good fortune to be Madeleine's law partner at Wiltshire & Grannis LLP. She is an outstanding lawyer and colleague, and I will turn to a discussion of her professional accomplishments shortly.

First, however, I would like to share her less visible work making our firm, and our world, better for everyone. Madeleine is a gentle but untiring advocate not only for GLBT rights, but for women, racial minorities, and others seeking justice and equality. She deploys her dry humor and sharp intellect to bring attention to injustice wherever she finds it, sharing articles and insights in an effort to broaden others' perspectives and invite dialogue.

I have been particularly impressed by her work within the firm. Although she is one of our newest partners, she often raises difficult issues around sexuality, race and gender at partnership meetings, and will not hesitate to raise these perspectives when others may unthinkingly overlook them. This can be a thankless job, but Madeleine has never shied away from it, insisting with gentle grace that we, as a firm, remain sensitive to these issues.

Madeleine has been particularly effective encouraging dialogue among our younger lawyers and legal assistants – many of whom plan their own careers in law. She has facilitated brownbags and reading groups to discuss issues of gender and sexuality in the workplace, and has encouraged others to think deeply about these issues as they plan their own legal careers.

This is not surprising, of course. Madeleine has made concern for GLBT rights an integral part of her legal career, beginning with her leadership of Outlaws at the University of Michigan Law School and continuing with her service (as Treasurer, Board Member, and Law Student Division Co-Chair) to the LGBT Bar Association. During law school, Madeleine interned with the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. Before joining our firm, Madeleine worked at Sidley Austin, where she served on the Women's Committee and the Diversity Committee, and worked to urge inclusion of gender identity in Sidley's non-discrimination policy.

Madeleine's profession accomplishments are no less impressive. She is a partner in our telecommunications practice with a particular focus on privacy law. As technology evolves, she is emerging as a young leader in the area of privacy, data protection, and cloud computing. Her work brings her before a wide range of federal agencies including the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of State, the Office of the United States Trade Representative, and other agencies and the courts. She also regularly counsels clients on international regulatory strategy – a particularly thorny area given the ability of data and communications to travel seamlessly across borders in our ever-changing information landscape. She has written and spoken on topics including undersea cable regulation, domestic telecommunications transactions, Indian telecommunications equipment requirements, and wireline telecommunications.

Her list of accomplishments does not begin to capture her effectiveness as a lawyer, however. I have been in the room many times when she has walked clients through complicated areas of privacy and telecommunications law, providing them with the perspective and counsel they need to make informed decisions in a difficult regulatory environment. Again and again, when I have brought her in to assist with my clients, I have heard that she is the most helpful and understandable lawyer they have found on these complex issues. Simply put, she is the model of a counselor and advocate.

She is undoubtedly the best LGBT lawyer under forty that I know, and hope that you will see fit to recognize her with your Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40 Award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BS" followed by a stylized flourish.

Brita Strandberg
WILTSHIRE & GRANNIS LLP