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Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40: Class of 2013 Statement of Support of Nominee

Nominee: Marek Bute

Nominee e-mail: mbute@swlaw.com

Position: Attorney

Company Name: Snell & Wilmer L.L.P

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It is a sincere honor to nominate Marek Bute for the Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40: Class of 2013. His tireless dedication and engagement in local community organizations makes him a unique candidate for this recognition.

Marek has shown a great commitment to making Las Vegas a dynamic and thriving place to live and it is because of his passion to assist people in need and commitment to human rights that Mr. Bute continues to influence us all to strive for a better community.

I met Marek over 2 years ago during a board of directors meeting and I was immediately captivated by his commitment to HIV/AIDS. As a member of the Board of Trustees of Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN), he was conscientious and highly involved in the direction of the organization by providing guidance and preparation for the agency's future. When he became the President of the Board of Trustees of AFAN in August 2012, he raised the expectations of the rest of board members by encouraging them to actively plan, execute and participate in innovative fundraising strategies. As a result, every board member is constantly looking for opportunities to raise funds for the organization such as Project Give, which in its first year brought \$12,000 in revenue without expending any funds from the organization. Marek has been instrumental in supporting the development of a new strategy to continue to make AFAN not only in being the best AIDS service organization in the state of Nevada, but in preserving it for future generations.

Marek's diligence in implementing new fundraising goals for all the board members and support in developing new fundraising efforts for the organization surpasses any expectation placed on a Board President. He is actively involved in representing the organization through our series of fundraising events throughout the year and is constantly establishing new relationships with potential donors for the organization. Our signature fundraising events such as the Black and White Party and The Annual AFAN AIDS Walk bring an average of \$600,000.00 a year. His leadership through his interaction with our supporters, elected officials and the public in general has been crucial in these events, as they are attended collectively by over 13,000 supporters. He spends an average of 5 to 10 pro bono hours per week to the affairs, direction and support of the organization in addition to extra time spent during the events. His dedication to the organization's mission has been and continues to be invaluable as he leads the organization towards its 30 year anniversary.





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Not only have I had the pleasure of working with Marek through his involvement with AFAN, but I have also had an opportunity to witness his commitment to human rights through his work as part of the legal team fighting for marriage equality in the state of Nevada. In the spring of 2012, my partner and I, along with 7 other same gender couples challenged the State of Nevada's denial of same sex marriage as prohibited by Nevada's Constitution and statutory laws in one of the many landmark marriage equality cases filed across the nation, *Sevcik v. Sandoval*. Working with Lambda Legal, O'Melveny & Myers LLP, and his fellow colleagues at Snell & Wilmer LLP, Marek and the legal team have devoted countless pro bono hours working to challenge the constitutional amendment that defines marriage as between a man and woman, while relegating same gender couples to register as domestic partners, a status achieved through a clinical process before a notary public. Because of their efforts, my partner and I are hopeful that one day, sooner than later, we will be able to get married in our home state and that status will be acknowledged and sanctioned by the state. The amount of hours spent in a pro bono case such as this can only come from a deep commitment to make our community a better place for all.

Marek's desire to improve the lives of others is evident in all that he does and he continues to make a difference in the LGBT community in Las Vegas. It is an honor to have a quality individual such as Marek Bute that not only resides in Las Vegas, but constantly seeks to improve the lives of others through his philanthropic involvement. As an individual committed to improving the lives of people living with AIDS through his dedication and support of non-profit organizations like AFAN and an attorney leading change in social cause that will improve the lives of many same gender couples, Marek Bute is the perfect candidate for the Class of 2013 Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40.

I thank you for your consideration of Marek for such a distinguished award.

Sincerely

Antioco Carrillo MSW, LADC
Executive Director
Aid for AIDS of Nevada
1120 Almond Tree Lane
Las Vegas, NV 89104

