

Seth Phillips
2403 N. Washington Ave., #114
Dallas, TX 75204

June 2, 2013

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

Re: Omar Alaniz

Dear Selection Committee:

It is my privilege to recommend Omar Alaniz for the 2013 Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40 Award. As an advisor to the SMU Dedman School of Law chapter of OUTlaw, Omar has dedicated a significant amount of his time and talent to OUTlaw and the SMU Law student body at large.

In the general SMU Law community, Omar has built a stellar reputation. For example, this year SMU students coached by Omar competed in and won the 21st Annual Duberstein Moot Court Competition in New York City. SMU students on the team also won best brief for the competition.

Omar has served as an advisor for OUTlaw for three years. As an adjunct faculty member, he approached the OUTlaw leadership and sought ways he could support the organization even though he only taught one class. Omar has continued to be heavily involved with OUTlaw regardless of whether or not he was teaching in a given semester.

Omar encouraged OUTlaw officers to transform the organization from a “clandestine” group to a well-known minority student organization hosting well-attended on-campus events such as speaker panels and public debates.


Additionally, Omar has made a significant difference to our organization’s connection with the Dallas legal community in general and the LGBT legal community, in particular. These efforts have continued leading to new opportunities including an LGBT focused scholarship supported by the Gay and Lesbian Bar Association of Dallas.

In addition to the publicity on campus and in the legal community, Omar also encouraged officers to open the organization to supportive allies. This move, along with Omar’s personal example, helps provide encouragement on a conservative campus to be “out” attorneys.

Despite Omar’s commitments to his practice and his family, including twin toddlers, he is always willing to read resumes or meet one on one with students. He is not just a recommendation writer, however, he takes sincere interest in student’s lives and follows up with students on their career opportunities.

For these and many other reasons, it is my privilege on behalf of the SMU chapter of OUTlaw to recommend Omar Alaniz as a Best LGBT Lawyer Under 40.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Seth Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Seth Phillips
President, OUTlaw
Southern Methodist University
Dedman School of Law

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May 30, 2013

The National LGBT Bar Association
1301 K Street NW Suite 1100
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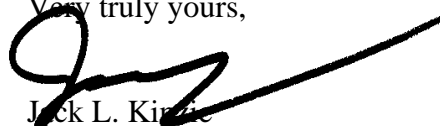
I write in support of the selection of Omar Alaniz for the “Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40” Award. Omar is indeed an outstanding young lawyer and well deserves this award.

I am the former partner-in-charge of the Dallas office of Baker Botts and former chair of the Firm’s Bankruptcy Practice. I was very active in recruiting Omar to our Firm in 2007, and since then I have worked closely with him on numerous professional and community projects. He reports directly to me and he has been my first lieutenant on many assignments. I thus have observed and evaluated his professional performance, his judgment, and his character and I am proud to report that he ranks at the highest level among his peers regarding both his professional skills and his ethical conduct.

Omar brings unremitting energy and enthusiasm to his work, which is always first rate. He is, even at his young age, an accomplished bankruptcy lawyer. He is committed to excellence, and he brings to bear not only a comprehensive understanding of the law but his own creative approach to solving our client’s legal problems. Consequently, Omar’s assignments at Baker Botts have included some of the Firm’s most complex and significant matters. These are difficult assignments for demanding clients (and equally demanding senior partners) under trying circumstances. In some instances, the stakes have been huge. I have seen Omar perform admirably under pressure. He is poised and unflappable. He works well with a team, he is eager to contribute, and he is modest about that contribution. He is quick with praise for others. He is an excellent mentor.

Omar brings that same creativity, commitment, and energy to his many *pro bono* and community activities. One wonders how he finds time to be an adjunct professor, the moot court team coach, an elementary school volunteer, and a leader of the bar (and, more recently, a parent of twins), and still perform at the highest level as a Baker Botts lawyer. But he does it all and he does it well.

Very truly yours,



Jack L. Kinzie



SMU | DEDMAN
SCHOOL OF LAW

Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

May 30, 2013

Re: Nomination of Omar Alaniz for the Best LGBT Lawyers under 40 Award

To Whom It May Concern:

I am very pleased and happy to nominate Omar Alaniz for this award. He truly is an outstanding young lawyer who represents the best of what we aspire to in the profession. I have come to know him both personally and professionally. As the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs at SMU Dedman School of Law I have worked with him both as an adjunct where he has co-taught our Advanced Bankruptcy Law class teaching with the Honorable D. Michael Lynn and this fall will be co-teaching Creditors Rights with the Honorable H. Dewayne "Cooter" Hale. His student evaluations are outstanding and we have been blessed to have him teach here. But teaching is only one of his gifts to the law school. He also serves as the coach of our Duberstein Bankruptcy Moot Court Team and I know that he spends countless hours working with the students as they prepare for this prestigious competition. The students love him and his mentorship is an inspiration. He has done all of this while managing a very busy practice at Baker Botts and accumulating an impressive list of speeches and publications which belie the fact that he has only been practicing since 2003. He is a lawyer's lawyer, scholar, teacher and mentor.

Prior to becoming the Dean of Students at SMU Dedman School of Law, I was a partner for over 20 years with Jones Day. In that capacity I served on many recruiting and hiring committees. I was also in charge of New Associate Development in the Dallas office of Jones Day for many years. In that time I interviewed, hired and trained hundreds of new lawyers. I can honestly say I have rarely met a young lawyer who is as impressive and committed as Omar. His enthusiasm is contagious. His commitment to the profession is deep and sincere. I know that he is and will continue to make his mark on the practice and those who have the privilege to work with and mentor under him. I also know that the work load facing young lawyers can be fierce and few are willing to use precious personal time to give back to the community. The time that he spends writing, speaking, mentoring, teaching and coaching is sacrificial time squeezed into a very busy professional life. It demonstrates an extraordinary response to the call to public service that we hope all will aspire to in our profession. It affirms the old adages that if you want something done and done right, find a busy person! Omar is that busy person, always willing to lend a hand in the midst of the chaos of the lives of young lawyers. What an example and inspiration his is.

I can think of no more deserving lawyer for this award. I am happy to include my name with his other recommenders.

Sincerely,

Martin L. Camp

**United States Bankruptcy Court
Northern District of Texas
1100 Commerce Street, Room 1254
Dallas, Texas 75242-1496**

Chambers of
Stacey G. C. Jernigan
Judge

Telephone
(214) 753-2040

May 30, 2013

To Whom it May Concern:

Re: Recommendation for Omar Alaniz

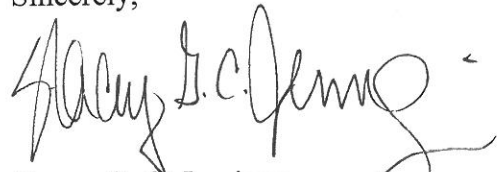
I write this letter in support of Omar Alaniz, for consideration for the "Best LGBT Lawyer Under 40" award.

I have known Omar for almost as long as he has been practicing law. I first met Omar when I was practicing law at the Haynes and Boone law firm in Dallas, when Omar was a first or second-year lawyer practicing at a bankruptcy boutique firm. We were both working on a very large bankruptcy case. Omar was very mature and knowledgeable and appeared as though he had been practicing law for a very long time, even at this early stage of his career. I then became more familiar with Omar after I became a Bankruptcy Judge in Dallas in 2006. By that point in time, Omar was serving as law clerk for my colleague, Bankruptcy Judge D. Michael Lynn, and I had interaction with Omar in that capacity. In addition to seeing Omar in Bankruptcy Court, I have worked on CLE activities with Omar, as well as Bar organization activities, and the Duberstein Moot Court Competition (as a "guest judge" for him); I consider Omar a friend at this point—not merely a professional colleague.

After ample exposure to Omar, in all of the above endeavors, I can very strongly endorse Omar for the "Best LGBT Lawyer Under 40" award. Omar constantly gives more to our profession than any young lawyer I have ever seen. He is smart, very knowledgeable about his specialty area of bankruptcy, hardworking, and cares about our profession. No matter how busy he is, he gives everything 100%. Everyone I know holds Omar in very high esteem.

Please do not hesitate to call me for more information or insights about Omar. Thank you for considering this letter. I hope Omar is chosen for this award. I cannot think of anyone more deserving.

Sincerely,



Stacey G. C. Jernigan
United States Bankruptcy Judge

SJ:as



UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
501 WEST TENTH STREET, ROOM 128
FORT WORTH, TX 76102-3643

CHAMBERS OF
DENNIS MICHAEL LYNN
U.S. BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

Telephone: (817) 333-6020

Facsimile: (817) 333-6002

May 30, 2013

National LGBT Bar Association

Gentleman and Ladies:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Omar J. Alaniz for the "Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40" Award.

I have known Omar since the Fall of 2004, when he received the top grade in a 12 week course I taught for young attorneys through the John C. Ford American Inn of Court. His outstanding performance then was indicative of my experience with Omar since. Indeed, on several occasions Omar has taught with Judge Harlin Hale the very same course for young lawyers that he took from me.

I have had good reason to keep up with Omar. In 2006-2007 he served as my law clerk and from 2007 through 2009 we jointly taught annually a course in corporate reorganization law at SMU's Dedman School of Law. During that time I know that Omar actively participated in CLE programs for the State Bar and the University of Texas, coached SMU's successful Duberstein moot court team, served on the board and as president of the Dallas Association of Young Bankruptcy Lawyers and was an active member of the Hon. John C. Ford American Inn of Court. In none of these activities was he merely a placeholder building his resume: to each task he brought creativity, enthusiasm, and commitment.

Omar also has displayed excellent personal skills. I know of no one who does not like Omar. During his tenure as my law clerk he often put these skills to work with consumer debtors going through tough times.

In the 8 1/2 years I have known Omar he has consistently displayed the sort of integrity

and professionalism that brings credit to the legal profession. I cannot urge too strongly his selection to be the recipient of the "Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40" Award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Michael Lynn", with a stylized, flowing script.

D. Michael Lynn

DML: pl

United States Bankruptcy Court
Northern District of Texas
1100 Commerce Street, Room 1254
Dallas, Texas 75242-1496

Chambers of
Harlin D. Hale
Bankruptcy Judge

Telephone
(214) 753-2016

May 30, 2013

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

Re: Omar J. Alaniz

To whom it may concern:

It is my honor to wholeheartedly support Omar Alaniz as a nominee for the 2013 Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40 award. In my ten years on the bench, I have observed and worked with Omar when he was a law clerk, for a year, to my colleague, Bankruptcy Judge D. Michael Lynn, and during his years of bankruptcy law practice. In my opinion, there is no one more deserving of this prestigious award than Omar Alaniz.

He is tireless in his service to his profession, the community, and the furtherance of education, both professional and public, as witnessed by his many activities, including:

1. *Dallas/Fort Worth Association of Young Bankruptcy Lawyers.* Omar served as the first elected president of this group in 2009, and continues to be a "go to" person for all of its events.
2. *State Bar of Texas Bankruptcy Section.* I chaired this section and work with Omar regularly. He serves as Vice President of Membership.

Omar has served as the Regional Coordinator of the Moneywise Program sponsored by the section. This program provides financial education to high school students. He helps run the program and regularly goes into the schools.

May 30, 2013

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Starting Out Right is another program which our section sponsors. This program provides basic legal education to beginning lawyers. Omar has chaired and facilitated this event for the last five years.

3. *SMU Dedman School of Law.* Omar is the lead coach of the Bankruptcy Moot Court Team, and has mentored many law students. His teams have fared quite well in the Texas and the national Duberstein competitions.

As an adjunct faculty member, Omar has taught Advanced Bankruptcy with Judge Lynn and Creditors' Rights with me. He is a great teacher and colleague.

I could run on more about Omar, but my printer would run out of ink. Suffice it to say that Omar Alaniz makes me proud that I am a lawyer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "He Dany He".

Harlin D. "Cooter" Hale
United States Bankruptcy Judge

HDH:jh