

Young Lawyer Selection Committee
Attn: Adam Ghrist c/o Mary Sellmeyer
104 W. Front Street
Bloomington, IL 61701

Dear Committee,

I am writing asking for your consideration of Brad Rigdon as McLean County Bar Association's Young Lawyer of the Year. I am writing this letter based upon my observations of Brad in court and his administrative duties in the McLean County States Attorney Office. I must admit, it is difficult for me to consider Brad as a young lawyer because he exhibits so many traits of a seasoned and well respected trial lawyer.

I cannot tell you a date that Brad first appeared in my courtroom but I can tell you he left an impression. His pleadings were well researched and thought out. In argument, he not only addressed the strengths of his case, but its weakness as well. His argument was concise and on point. It was obvious he was well prepared to address the issues in the case. The ruling did not work out in his favor. Despite this, I observed him taking notes on the Court's ruling and while he may have disagreed with the decision, it was clear that he respected the process with which it was made. The level of maturity exhibited during this first hearing is something that I rarely see. I recall after the hearing commenting to a colleague that "this Brad Rigdon kid was someone who was going places." Obviously, I was not the only one who saw his potential as he had one of the fastest ascensions to First Assistant State's Attorney as I have ever seen.

Since that first hearing, Brad's skills as an attorney and a leader have only improved. As First Assistant State's Attorney, he handles cases of a significant nature which attract a lot of community interest. Before taking any of these cases to trial, it is clear that Brad has given thoughtful consideration to all aspects of the case; he has listened and understood the opposing party's position and has attempted to resolve the matter prior to trial. If a resolution cannot be reached, he has the courage to test the water of uncertainty to attempt to find what he believes to be a fair and just result.

There are many words and phrases which could describe an effective attorney and leader- integrity; passion; focus; trustworthy; and honesty. Brad exhibits all of these traits. Yet, to me, the aspect that sets Brad apart is his actions speak louder than his words. It is not unusual to see him helping a first year assistant set up video equipment for a traffic trial, appear in Bond Court or appear for a search warrant at 3 a.m. Not once have I ever heard him complain of such tasks.

My impression is that Brad considers it a privilege to practice law. Our profession is fortunate to have him. Selecting Brad as Young Lawyer of the Year is a decision that would not be questioned by anyone that knows him. He has my highest recommendation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Casey Costigan', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

J. Casey Costigan