

Sellmyer, Mary

From: no-reply@weebly.com
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 12:04 PM
To: Sellmyer, Mary
Subject: New Form Entry: 19 nominator form (optional)

You've just received a new submission to your 19 nominator form (optional).

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Submitted Information:

Name

BRENDAN BUKALSKI

Email

BRENDAN@JLAWGROUP.COM

Comment

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION OF DOUGLAS JOHNSON FOR THE
YOUNG LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD.

Sellmyer, Mary

From: no-reply@weebly.com
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 12:04 PM
To: Sellmyer, Mary
Subject: New Form Entry: 2019 young lawyerNEW nomination form

You've just received a new submission to your 2019 young lawyerNEW nomination form.
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Submitted Information:

Nominee's Name
DOUGLAS JOHNSON

Nominee's phone #
3098273670

Nominee's Date of Birth
05-21-1984

Nominee's Email
DOUG@JLAWGROUP.COM

Nominee's Law Firm, Company/Organization and Address
JOHNSON LAW GROUP, LLC.
115 WEST FRONT STREET
BLOOMINGTON, IL 61701

1. Statement in Support of Nomination

Doug is someone I wish I could be. He is determined, resilient, cool under pressure, and always achieves what he sets his mind to. After obtaining his BS in Business Administration in 2010, he held many positions, working as a construction supervisor and carpenter for different companies as well as a Litigation Claim Adjuster and Bank Representative for State Farm. While working in these positions, he decided he wanted to become an attorney. Having already started a family and knowing practicing law was what he wanted to do, he set his sites on excelling at law school and to completing it early. Doug finished law school in only 2 years, and graduated cum laude. While in school, he always received A's and B's, made the Dean's List five of six semesters, was

awarded the Cali Award for Excellence in Advanced Legal Research and Writing as well as the Cali Award for Excellence in Bar Strategies, and became a published author of an article about therapeutic jurisprudence in our criminal courts. After becoming licensed in Illinois, he soon after became licensed in the District of Columbia as well.

Doug makes everything look easy. Since becoming licensed in 2016, he has worked for Johnson Law Group in criminal defense. Doug has tried nearly a dozen cases to juries, winning the last five jury trials in a row. Most notable among those successes is a Not Guilty verdict in a First Degree Murder case he co-chaired. His work in a federal jury trial just a year after being licensed resulted in the federal judge who presided over the case soliciting him to serve as a CJA, so that he could be appointed by the federal court to represent people when the public defender had conflicts, and he's taken several appointments since. During his time with Johnson Law Group, he won two appeals, and assisted on a petition for writ of certiorari to the U.S. Supreme Court. In addition, Doug's won more than two-thirds of the nearly two dozen protective orders that have gone to hearing. Meanwhile, he simultaneously obtained pardons for four people during Rauner's administration when most pardons were denied, helped hundreds of people clear up their criminal histories through expungements and pardons, and avoided countless years in prison and jail for his clients.

Doug's accomplishments go beyond professional ones, and his clients appreciate his compassion, attention, and willingness to listen. He is also a great guy, and he began the practice of law with already having a history of service. Prior to becoming licensed to practice law, Doug routinely volunteered his time both personally and professionally, including with Home Sweet Home Ministries, helping to provide food for needy families, and Habitat for Humanity, building and repairing houses for low income families. He also served on various professional committees and groups, including the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, the Mediation and Arbitration team, and the Young Business Professionals Group. Since becoming licensed, he provided pro bono services through Prairie State Legal Services, handling almost a dozen expungement/sealing cases and volunteering three consecutive times at their legal advice fairs.

Even were Doug not a partner and friend, I would still believe him worthy of the Young Lawyer of the Year Award. He helps personify what people want in a lawyer, and epitomizes when knowledge, compassion and generosity meet.

Doug is a member of the McLean County Bar Association, the Illinois State Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the Illinois Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and the District of Columbia Bar Association.

2. Employment History - written or upload resume

4/1/16-Present Attorney/Partner, Johnson Law Group

04/11-07/13 Litigation Claim Adjuster, State Farm

02/10-04/11 Bank Representative, State Farm

01/09-02/10 Legal Assistant, Johnson Law Group

11/07-01/09 Construction Supervisor/Carpenter, Virginia Building Services of Roanoke, Inc.

05/05-11/07 Office Manager/Investigator, Illinois Investigations

06/02-05/05 Property Manager/Carpenter, JC Homebuilders, Inc.

08/01-05/02 Collections Representative, Anderson Financial Network, Inc.

08/00-05/01 Subrogation Services Assistant, State Farm

3. Individual achievements in the practice of law

- Tried nearly a dozen cases to juries, winning the last five jury trials in a row, including a Not Guilty verdict in a First Degree Murder case he co-chaired.
- Tried a federal jury trial, which led to the federal judge who presided over the case soliciting him to serve as a CJA, and he's taken several appointments since.
- Won two appeals, and assisted on a petition for writ of certiorari to the U.S. Supreme Court.
- Won more than two-thirds of the nearly two dozen protective order hearings.
- Obtained pardons for four people during Rauner's administration when most pardons were denied.
- Helped hundreds of people clear up their criminal histories through expungements and pardons.
- Avoided countless years in prison and jail for his clients.

2010 BS

2015 JD

2015 certified mediator

2016 licensed in IL

2017 licensed in DC

2017 US District Court for the Central District

Criminal Justice Act (CJA) Panel

4. Service to the MCBA - community - pro bono service

Pro Bono work with Prairie State Legal Services

Home Sweet Home Ministries

Habitat for humanity

Diversity and inclusion committee

Young business professionals

Meditation/arbitration team member

Claim consistency committee