

Sellmyer, Mary

From: no-reply@weebly.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 7:44 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

Deborah White

Email

dwhite@mccainc.org.

Comment

Please see nomination for comments regarding my support of Jenna Kearns as the 2020 Young Lawyer of the Year award recipient. Thank you.

Sellmyer, Mary

From: no-reply@weebly.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 7:41 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

Jenna Kearns

Nominee's phone #

309-310-9622

Nominee's Date of Birth

08/08/1984

Nominee's Email

jkearns12@gmail.com

Nominee's Law Firm, Company/Organization and Address

Regional Program Manager, Illinois JusticeCorps

Illinois Bar Foundation

104 W. Front Street, Room 313

Bloomington, IL 61701

1. Statement in Support of Nomination

Ms. Kearns graduated from the Saint Louis University School of Law in May 2011. She was admitted to the State of Missouri Bar in 2011 and the State of Illinois Bar in 2013.

Ms. Kearns' diverse professional experiences, her commitment to vulnerable populations, and her dedicated service to our community make her a deserving recipient of the Young Lawyer of the Year award.

Ms. Kearns demonstrates respect for people, processes, and policies.

It is with unequivocal support that I nominate Ms. Kearns for this recognition of her character and contributions.

2. Employment History - written or upload resume

Prior to earning her law degree, Ms. Kearns worked as an Appellate Citation Verifier/Proofreader for the IL Supreme Court and subsequently as a Management Support Clerk for the U.S. Housing and Urban Development.

Ms. Kearns served as a Staff Attorney for the Land of Lincoln Legal Aid in East St. Louis, IL from 2012-2014. Her responsibilities included negotiating and mediating loan modification agreements or foreclosure alternatives with mortgage services and local counsel.

From 2014-2017, Ms. Kearns served as the Director of Next Step & Housing Opportunities for Mid Central Community Action (MCCA). In this position she led three (3) MCCA LOBs. Her responsibilities included strategic planning, budget preparation, staff supervision, customer satisfaction, outcome reports, and community liaison. Ms. Kearns also assisted MCCA in updating residential lease agreements for program participants and advised MCCA leadership on residential real estate transfers.

Since 2017, Ms. Kearns has served as the Regional Program Manager, IL Justice Corps, IL Bar Foundation. In this role, Ms. Kearns acts as a liaison with key court personnel in seven (7) courthouses to implement an overall strategy to best serve SRLs. She develops training objectives for volunteers, reports programmatic outputs/outcomes, and monitors program execution for compliance with laws and regulations.

Ms. Kearns fosters an inclusive, welcoming, and accepting environment for self-represented litigants and volunteers. It is her holistic perspective and implementation that resonates excellence.

3. Individual achievements in the practice of law

Ms. Kearns is part of the inaugural Leadership Academy through the IL State Bar Association. Ms. Kearns is a strong supporter for increased access to justice. She also serves as a member of the Public Interest Law Initiative's 11th Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee.

While representing indigent clients by defending all aspects of foreclosure actions, Ms. Kearns was known to be relentless in her pursuit of positive outcomes for her clients.

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

Since August 2019, Ms. Kearns has served as MCCA's Pro Bono Attorney at house closings for the IL Attorney General National Foreclosure Settlement Award grant. MCCA acquired and rehabbed homes for sale to low-to-moderate income homebuyers. Ms. Kearns is instrumental in preparing the documents, such as the IL Statutory

Warranty Deed and the Settlement Sheet. She is also present at the closing to explain the process to MCCA staff prior to signatory requirements.

Ms. Kearns also volunteers for Prairie State Legal Services. Many community members rely on the Legal Fairs to learn about their rights and options. Ms. Kearns provides her pro bono expertise at these events, which is important since the number of participants continues to grow.

Since November 2018, Ms. Kearns has served as an Approved Mediator for the 11th Judicial Circuit.

It is without reservation that I submit this nomination. Thank you for your consideration of Ms. Kearns for this award in 2020.