



RONALD L. LEWIS
McLean County Public Defender
(309) 888-5235 | Fax (309) 888-5765
Law & Justice Center
104 West Front Street, Room 603, Bloomington, Illinois 61701

RE: Ms. Nicole Mannen, J.D.
Support of the Highest Order

To whom it may concern,

I feel compelled to stress that Ms. Mannen may possess greater potential than any attorney I have ever met in my life...and by supporting her, I am ensuring the growth of honor and integrity in a profession I care so deeply for.

I had the pleasure of supervising Ms. Mannen as she began her employment with the McLean County Public Defender's Office as a 711/Law Graduate and during her inevitable ascent through the office. No other attorney I have seen, began their career with such passion, self-motivation, confidence, and sincere care and concern for their clients. And, never have I seen a 711 take charge of a courtroom as she did. It was like the blink of an eye, before our roles reversed, and Ms. Mannen began instructing me how to assist her most efficiently, navigate the courtroom, and give the most time and consideration to our clients. I have never been a less necessary part of the legal system than when supervising Ms. Mannen while she was a 711.

Her talent was obvious, and I was once told by a judge that clearly my training was paying off. I will tell you what I told that judge-I wish I could take the credit for her unbelievable success, but I cannot. She is an attorney of the highest level of intelligence, confidence, and contains a passion to learn from all those around her. Without any supervision at all, she would have risen to the same level of admiration. I am so proud of how quickly she became a prominent figure in our office, and I am humbled and honored to have been given the opportunity to help guide her on her path to greatness.

She is an astounding trial attorney, seemingly obtaining not guilty after not guilty verdict. I obtained a not guilty on one of the biggest jury trial upsets in my career, in large part, because she was my co-counsel. She believed in our client, and her passion to provide our client the greatest possible defense, inspired our client to risk everything and trust in our advise.

Whatever she does, she does to a standard not frequently seen in any occupation. So, it is no surprise that in less than two years with the Public Defender's Office, she has joined the Felony Division. That in less than two years she has gone from being an attorney I was assigned to train and supervise, to a trusted colleague and friend.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH T. MORAN
McLean County Public Defender's Office
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