

From: no-reply@weebly.com
To: [Sellmyer, Mary](#)
Subject: New Form Entry: 2022 LINCOLN nomination form
Date: Monday, April 4, 2022 11:13:19 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

You've just received a new submission to your [2022 LINCOLN nomination form](#).

[Mark as Spam](#)

Submitted Information:

Lincoln Award of Excellence Attorney Nominee's Name

Todd C. Miller

Nominee's phone #

309-827-9551

Nominee's Law Firm, Company/Organization and Address

Ogar & Miller
108 W. Monroe Street
Bloomington, IL 61701

Statement in Support of Nomination

I have worked with Todd Miller as his paralegal for over ten years, and I believe that I have a unique insight into his character that lends support to my nomination for him to be the 2022 recipient of the Lincoln Award of Excellence. I believe that the combination of his dedication to the legal profession, his commitment to his clients, his servant's heart, and his character and compassion, reflects well on the legal profession and certainly benefits our local community.

I think that an important demonstration of Todd's dedication to our community is evident in how he helps to provide a much-needed service, by way of his leadership in Recovery Starts Today (RST). RST is a local non-profit organization that provides support and assistance to people who participate in the McLean County Drug Court. Drug Court benefits society in so many ways, particularly in steering participants toward recovery from addiction, and reducing recidivism. Todd has been on the board of RST for several years,

and is committed to its main goal of helping people recover through the supervision of the court.

Many attorneys participate on bar committees, or work with pro bono clients, but I can't imagine any that do so with the level of effort and commitment that Todd has.

For longer than I've worked for him, Todd has provided pro bono services to clients of Prairie State Legal Services, and volunteered weekend time for PSLS's semi-annual Legal Advice Clinic. I have volunteered with him at many of these clinics, and was always impressed with not only the breadth of his knowledge of the law, but with his level of care for people with whom he only had a half hour of time to assist. As with his paying clients, Todd always speaks to pro bono clients at their level – not at all in a condescending way, but in a manner that ensures that they understand their case, the pleadings, their rights, and how they can best proceed in their situations, without using the 'legalese' that lawyers are sometimes prone to use. His commitment to helping people on a pro bono basis earned him Prairie State's Lifesaver Award. Further, in recognition of his commitment to provide pro bono service, Todd was asked to spearhead the Prairie State Conflict Referral Program, which matches attorney volunteers with people who qualify for pro bono services, but do not qualify for services through Prairie State Legal Services due to conflicts of interest.

I have a first-hand view of the painstaking level of care he puts into being a Guardian Ad Litem. Todd really digs into the details of what each person involved has to say – the children, the parents, teachers, etc. - and he has a keen talent for seeing through the façade that many parties try build in a vain effort to get the GAL to side with them. Despite their efforts, Todd stays committed to investigating and determining the children's best interests. As a father to two boys, he takes his role as a GAL very seriously, and he is amazingly available to talk to the children on whose behalf he is working, and to get to the bottom of the bad positions that their parents sometimes put them in. On top of Todd's commitment to help children, his intense level of detail and care, I think, is why he has been so involved in the GAL Certification Planning Committee, helping to procure great CLE speakers, cooperatively with the rest of the committee, in order to put together a respected and popular program for GAL recertification.

Not only as his paralegal, but also as the former President of the Central Illinois Paralegal Association, I have a great appreciation for his support of the paralegal career path for his students, the interns he takes in, and for me. Many attorneys view paralegals as low-level administrative staff and do not take any ownership interest in helping them improve their skills and grow in their paralegal roles. Todd is quite the opposite and is knowledgeable on how to properly utilize paralegals in order to improve his practice.

In addition to being an adjunct professor at Illinois State University, Todd regularly takes in interns for training and mentoring, ensuring that his students and interns are equipped to either begin their career as paralegals after graduation, or transition to law school. As his paralegal, I have appreciated that Todd not only fairly compensates me, but he encourages me to take whatever CLE I feel is useful, and he supports my membership in the local and national paralegal associations.

With regard to Todd's clients, every day I see that he is dedicated to ensuring that they get the best outcome within the bounds of the law, but also within the bounds of what is ethical and right. He has the demeanor and presence of mind to always thoughtfully – and calmly – consider difficult situations before reacting, and has always practiced in an ethical, fair, and thoughtful manner. His level of compassion toward others demands that he help clients from all walks of life, and whether or not he agrees with their choices, he is committed to serving them as best as he possibly can. His strong, impeccable character means that he won't fall in line with clients who intend to proceed unfairly or unethically, and in fact, he either redirects those clients to better options, or parts ways with them.

I cannot imagine working for a better attorney than Todd Miller, and I believe he is an excellent example of what any lawyer should aspire to be. It is for all of the reasons I've provided above, and surely more that I've not mentioned, that I believe him to be more than worthy of receiving the 2022 Lincoln Award of Excellence.

Individual achievements in the practice of law

PSLS Lifesaver Award Winner (year unk.)

Employment History - written or upload resume

Partner, Ogar & Miller

Former Chief of Child Support Enforcement Division, McLean County State's Attorney's Office (8 years)

Former Chief of Child Support Enforcement Division, Peoria County State's Attorney's Office (4 years)

Service to the MCBA-the Community-pro bono service

Community:

Board of Directors for Recovery Starts Today (Drug Court);

Past VP of Board of Directors for Crossroads Areas Student Theatre

MCBA:

Co-Chair, Bar/Bench committee;

Chair, CLE Committee;

GAL Certification Planning Committee;

Mediator's association;

Mock Trial judging

General:

Adjunct Professor, Illinois State University

Prairie State Legal Services - pro bono case work

PSLS - Semi-annual Legal Advice Clinic;

Central IL Paralegal Association - Assists with the Seminar Planning

Committee;
Coordinator of Prairie State Conflict Referral Program.