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Westminster, CO 80030

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September 12, 2023

To Whom it May Concern on Ministerial Search Committee,

My name is Ashley Harrington and I am the Managing Attorney of the Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN) Children's Program. The RMIAN Children's Program provides free legal services to indigent immigrant children and families across the State of Colorado. We rely heavily on volunteer attorneys to provide pro bono legal representation to the individuals we serve. I have been working in the RMIAN Children's Program for nearly ten years. In that time, there is no volunteer attorney that stands out in my mind more than Bridget McCann.

Bridget is a family law expert who has represented dozens of children and families in their family law matters on a pro bono basis through RMIAN. Bridget provided expert legal advice and representation to these individuals who would otherwise have been unable to secure legal counsel. The majority of these cases were for indigent parents and caregivers from Central America seeking orders of Allocation of Parental Responsibilities (custody) for their children along with additional orders establishing children's eligibility for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status—a pathway to achieve permanent residency, safety and stability in the US. In addition, Bridget regularly took on complex legal matters including registrations and modifications of foreign decrees. Whenever we had a family law question, Bridget would be the first person I would call to consult with. She mentored me and my staff as we learned Colorado family law, and she served as a patient mentor to countless of our volunteer attorneys new to these legal matters. Perhaps my favorite experience of working with Bridget was when she devoted numerous hours over the Christmas holiday in 2018 to help us craft legislation impacting custody and guardianship proceedings for older immigrant youth seeking Special Immigrant Juvenile Status orders in Colorado. That legislation has benefited hundreds of older immigrant youth who were otherwise shut out of the Colorado court system and unable to apply for protection from deportation.

Bridget is not only a dedicated and brilliant lawyer-- she is a compassionate, kind, selfless, humble and caring human who truly cares about helping those less fortunate. She helped ensure many youth were protected from deportation and able to establish their lives permanently and safely in the US with their families. She lit up when she talked about being of service to these children and families in need. I have no doubt she will bring the same care, compassion, dedication and service to this position as she has brought to all her clients.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can offer any further information.

Thank you,

Ashley T. Harrington

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