



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Michael T. Dougherty, District Attorney

Laura Ruth
Executive Director
Boulder County Bar Association
1942 Broadway Suite 319
Boulder, CO 80302

April 30, 2018

Dear Ms. Ruth,

I write to nominate Lys Runnerstrom for the 2018 Boulder County Bar Association Young Lawyer's Award. Lys began her career as a Deputy DA in the 20th Judicial District in 2014, earning a fellowship from her law school, Boston University, to pay her initial salary. The office hired her as a permanent employee in June 2015, recognizing her stellar writing and research skills. As with most young Deputy DA's, she began learning the craft of trial lawyering in county court, handling several hundred misdemeanor and traffic cases at any given time. At the same time, Lys became well known in the office for her writing skills and detailed preparation. She also worked to improve her trial presentation skills to the point that her nickname among others in county court was "trial raptor."

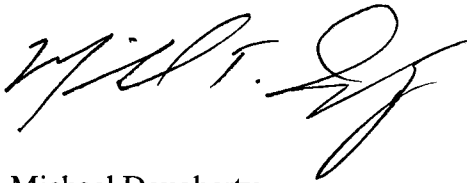
After several years in county court, Lys moved to District Court to handle a felony caseload. Before this move, however, Lys was selected to be the Office's new domestic violence specialist. In this role, Lys leads the domestic violence task force; organizes the Beth Haynes awards, recognizing outstanding law enforcement work on domestic violence cases; and serves as the point person for questions on domestic violence cases.

Lys was also selected to be part of the trial team to prosecute Adam Densmore—a particularly gruesome domestic violence driven first degree murder case. The jury in that trial returned a verdict of guilty on all counts last week. That Lys was chosen to be the Office's domestic violence specialist and to be part of the Densmore trial team—both before she had even begun regularly prosecuting felonies—is demonstrative of the high regard with which other attorneys view her.

Also on that trial team were Assistant DA Ken Kupfner, and Chief Trial Deputy Catrina Weigel, both highly experienced trial attorneys. Ken reported that after Lys delivered the opening statement in the trial, "Catrina and I looked at each other and agreed neither of us were sure we

could even come close to what she did. She forced 2 very experienced DA's to step up their games just to be in the same courtroom with her."

I wholeheartedly recommend Lys for the BCBA Young Lawyer's Award. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Dougherty", written in a cursive style.

Michael Dougherty
District Attorney