



BALIF'S 2015 MENTOR OF THE YEAR: DENNIS RAGLIN

The BALIF Board is proud to announce that Dennis Raglin, a partner at Sedgwick LLP, has been selected to receive BALIF's 2015 Mentor of the Year Award. Dennis has done a spectacular job providing professional guidance and support to mentee Raymond Rollan, a third-year law student at University of San Francisco School of Law.

In Raymond's words, Dennis has been an "extraordinary mentor" who "truly and genuinely cares about my progress as a law student and my overall well-being." Raymond nominated Dennis for the award because Dennis "took the time to get to know me and support my professional aspirations, provided advice about applying for and choosing summer opportunities, and graciously introduced me to a broad range of attorneys at many BALIF events." The pair has met monthly over the past two years, and Dennis also accompanied Raymond when Raymond received the Filipino Bar Association of Northern California Student Scholarship Award. Raymond is grateful to BALIF for creating his connection with Dennis, and says that "it is a professional and personal relationship that I will cherish forever."

Dennis has been a longtime supporter of BALIF's mentoring program, which he ran from 2010-2012. Julie Wilensky, who runs this year's mentorship program as Chair of BALIF's Young Lawyers Committee, says "The tremendous impact Dennis has had on Raymond's professional development is a great example of how to support the next generation of LGBT attorneys by making a big difference to one person." Dennis says "I thank the Board for this award and am humbled and honored to have been selected." He notes that "mentoring makes us – both the mentor and mentee – better lawyers and people, and we as an LGBT bar have an obligation to provide guidance, make introductions, and open the doors where we can for those in our community starting their careers. It has been my distinct privilege to assist Raymond as he navigates these early steps in what I have no doubt will be a most stellar career and life, and I am proud of all he has achieved at this early age." BALIF thanks Dennis and the thirty other BALIF members currently serving as mentors for generously donating their time and energy to the program.

BALIF will celebrate Dennis at the Mentorship Program/Law Student Spring Happy Hour on April 2, 2015, from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm at the Patriot House, 2 Embarcadero Center, San Francisco.