

June 29, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is my recommendation for Julianne Di Benedetto to be considered for the American Bankruptcy Institute's 40 Under 40 designation. I am the Program Chair of the Paralegal Studies Program at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, and Julianne is my former student. Julianne has demonstrated excellence both as a student and as a paralegal in the bankruptcy and tax fields, and provided outstanding service to the college as an active and engaged alumnus. As a result, it is my pleasure to recommend her for this recognition from ABI.

While in the paralegal program, Julianne was the president of the college's chapter of the LEX National Paralegal Honor Society, the vice president of our Paralegal Club, and the student representative to the Paralegal Studies Program Advisory Council. Julianne was my student worker where she assisted me in the process of our program's re-approval from the American Bar Association. As a student, Julianne was inducted into the LEX Paralegal and Phi Theta Kappa national honor societies for her academic achievements. She was awarded the College of DuPage Paralegal Studies Program scholarship and won the program's "Search for Academic Excellence" writing contest.

Since her graduation from the program in 2017, Julianne has earned certifications and accreditations to improve her skills as a bankruptcy and tax paralegal. She has returned to the college to complete additional certificate programs in both accounting and office technology. Although no longer a paralegal student, she is still closely connected to our program by giving numerous presentations, demonstrating outstanding public speaking skills. Each semester, Julianne volunteers her time to speak to my practicum class about succeeding as a paralegal, overcoming setbacks, and building a LinkedIn profile for paralegals. She also gives a presentation on the relationship between bankruptcy law and taxes to our program's Bankruptcy Law class. Finally, Julianne has presented to our program's Paralegal Club on general bankruptcy law and navigating paralegal certifications and credentials.

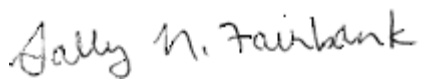
As a career paralegal, Julianne is a member of our program Advisory Council which provides industry advice to me to ensure our program is teaching our students skills that are needed in the workplace, and to offer additional resources to future paralegals. After reigniting graduate interest in connecting to the paralegal program, Julianne built a new website for the college's Paralegal Alumni Association. She heads the Paralegal Studies Alumni Association, which focuses on celebrating alumni milestones and achievements, offering networking opportunities, and providing resources for paralegal certification. Each semester, Julianne assists the Paralegal Studies program at the Paralegal Portfolio Expo, which is similar to a mock job fair, and is the capstone event for graduating students. Before the pandemic, she was the Peer Reviewer Coordinator for the expo where she directed and trained student peer reviewers. Now that our Portfolio Expos are all done via Zoom, she serves as an evaluator where she engages in mock interviews with the graduating students to help them prepare to enter the workforce.

To continue her history of leadership in our program, Julianne is the Vice President and Alumni Relations Officer of both our Paralegal Club and our chapter of LEX Honor Society. This past spring, Julianne was recognized as an Outstanding Club Officer throughout the entire college for her work and leadership in the college's clubs and organizations.

In light of Julianne's outstanding accomplishments, she is clearly worthy of receiving the American Bankruptcy Institute's 40 Under 40 designation. I cannot think of any more deserving candidate than Julianne to receive this honor.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Sally N. Fairbank
Program Chair and Faculty
Paralegal Studies