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Awards Committee
Fayette County Bar Association
Via email: info@fcba.com

RE: FCBA Outstanding Young Lawyer Award - Maureen C. Malles

Dear Members of the Awards Committee,

I am writing to enthusiastically recommend Maureen Malles for the Outstanding Young Lawyer Award. Maureen is an exceptional attorney whose contributions to the legal profession, her clients, and the Bluegrass region make her a standout candidate for this award.

Maureen's journey to becoming an attorney is a testament to her persistence and determination. Starting as an art major, she transitioned to a paralegal position where she discovered her passion for the law. Despite the challenges, Maureen took a leap of faith, quitting her job to attend law school full-time. Her hard work paid off as she not only excelled academically, earning her J.D. from the University of Florida Levin College of Law *cum laude*, but also became a mentor and recruiter for other women pursuing legal careers.

Since moving to Lexington to begin her career as an attorney in 2019, Maureen has brought a fresh perspective to the city's challenges and opportunities. As an attorney with Sturgill, Turner, Barker & Moloney, she successfully defends municipalities and public entities in various litigation matters, including civil rights and medical negligence defense. Her commitment to staying current with legal developments and constitutional principles is evident in her work, and she represents one of the largest correctional healthcare providers in the Commonwealth, a complex and challenging area of the law. She has been recognized as Best Lawyers in America® "Ones to Watch" for 2025.

Maureen's contributions to the legal community extend beyond her professional achievements. She serves as Marketing Vice Chair for the Defense Research Institute's national Governmental Liability Committee, where she has worked to increase awareness and encourage more women to pursue careers in governmental defense law. As Vice Chair, she has led outreach to the Young Lawyers division, the Women in the Law Committee, and spoken about her practice to University of Kentucky law students to encourage them to think about municipal law as a career. Her leadership has significantly increased attendance at the annual program, as well as membership of the Committee, including among both government and private practice

attorneys. Today, the Committee's leadership group is 45 percent women, including the immediate past chair and the upcoming Program Chair.

Additionally, Maureen is a member of this year's Leadership Lexington class, a premiere leadership development program for professionals in the greater Lexington area. With a competitive application and selection process, the program allows just fifty class members annually. Maureen's team project focuses on promoting and supporting composting in Lexington schools, demonstrating her commitment to environmental sustainability and community engagement.

In addition to her professional and organizational involvement, Maureen is passionate about addressing substance abuse disorder (SUD) in Lexington. As one of a few attorneys in the region, and even fewer women, who practice in the area of police law and jail law, including healthcare in jails, she has seen firsthand the impact of SUD on individuals and the community. Maureen advocates for increased community engagement and collaboration to provide effective treatment and prevention programs. Her vision for a healthier community is inspiring and aligns with the goals of the Outstanding Young Lawyer Award.

Maureen's dedication to her profession, her proactive approach to community issues, and her commitment to mentoring and supporting women attorneys make her an exemplary candidate for this award. I have no doubt that she will continue to make significant contributions to the legal profession and the community.

Thank you for considering Maureen Malles for the Outstanding Young Lawyer Award. Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information.

Sincerely,



Andrew DeSimone
Member