

DANA LOOPER LAW

a professional limited liability company

May 28, 2025

Dear Members of the Awards Committee,

It is with great honor and heartfelt conviction that I nominate **Jenna Matthews** a second-year law student at Nashville School of Law for the **Outstanding Law Student Award**. I have had the privilege of working closely with Ms. Matthews in her role at my law office, where she assists survivors of child abuse and neglect, demonstrating unwavering commitment to justice, compassion, and advocacy.

Ms. Matthews is not only an exceptional emerging legal professional—she is also a survivor of child sexual abuse herself. Her lived experience informs her work with remarkable empathy and depth, enabling her to connect meaningfully with young clients navigating trauma. Her strength, resilience, and capacity to channel personal adversity into transformative advocacy is nothing short of inspiring.

Throughout her time in law school, Ms. Matthews has demonstrated outstanding excellence in advocacy for children and families. She has worked tirelessly to support survivors in the child welfare system, providing trauma-informed, client-centered support that prioritizes dignity and agency. She approaches each case with cultural humility and a keen awareness of the systemic injustices that disproportionately affect all children and families within the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

Her dedication to equity and anti-racist practice is evident in her engagement with community-based legal education and her efforts to elevate the voices of marginalized youth. She consistently goes beyond what is expected of a law student, volunteering to lead community outreach efforts, and contributing to policy conversations on how to improve the system for those most affected by it.

Ms. Matthews is a natural leader. Despite the emotional toll of this work, she remains grounded, collaborative, and solutions-oriented. She has shown early initiative in shaping her legal education around child advocacy, seeking out opportunities in both the classroom and the field to deepen her expertise and impact. Her work reflects not just promise, but action—real, sustained action toward a more just and compassionate system for vulnerable children and families.

In sum, Ms. Matthews exemplifies the values and vision of the Outstanding Law Student Award. She brings intelligence, integrity, courage, and deep empathy to every facet of her work. I cannot think of a more deserving candidate.

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Thank you for your consideration of this extraordinary student.

Sincerely,

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Attorney at Law

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