

Letter in Support of Professor Thomas Lombardi's Candidacy

I am writing in support of the candidacy of Professor Thomas Lombardi for a position at your university. As I will explain in more detail below, I wholeheartedly and without reservation support his candidacy and encourage you to hire him for the position.

In the 2009-10 academic year, Prof. Lombardi and I were colleagues at the American University in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition, we both served as deans of our respective colleges (I was the Dean of the College of International Law and Diplomacy and Prof. Lombardi the Dean of the College of Information Technology and Digital Economy), so that we were also *ex officio* members of the University Senate. As we work in different fields, I will not be able to comment on Prof. Lombardi's expertise in his field or the quality of his scholarly writings, but I will comment more generally on his work at the University, his interaction with colleagues and students, and his general ethos.

Prof. Lombardi is uncommonly energetic in his efforts, which is demonstrated first of all by the fact that he taught four separate subjects in a given semester. From my experience in law, I know that handling two subjects in one semester is challenge enough, but four is extraordinarily demanding. In addition to his teaching duties, he mentored the University's computer club, was active in more than one administrative position (Dean and Senate member being the main two), and also found time to do consulting work outside his university responsibilities. In addition, just as I did in our College, last year Prof. Lombardi undertook the major task of a comprehensive revision of the College's curriculum. The fact that he took on so much does not suggest to me that he did any of it in a shoddy or superficial manner. On the contrary, in my experience, he is not a person that does anything improperly or half-heartedly.

I learned from a number of his students that he is a very popular professor among the students. They like him on a personal level and appreciate his hard work and efforts in teaching. In addition to demonstrating excellence in teaching the subject matter of his courses, it was clear to his students that he cared about their intellectual development as well as their other interests.

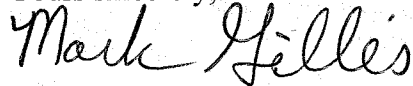
Since both Prof. Lombardi and I served on University Senate, I was able to observe his work most closely on that body. In the last year, our work there included the extraordinary task of reviewing and approving the University's Statute, the institution's basic legal charter. In that effort, he demonstrated a keen awareness of the weightiness of the matter, a conscientious dedication to the work, and an unwavering commitment to defending both the broader interests of our University and the ideal of a university. Despite receiving the English translation (from the original Bosnian) a mere few days before we were expected to vote on it, Prof. Lombardi, I and another colleague spent two full evenings going through it and pinpointing what we considered to be basic flaws in the draft of the document, in particular a lack of proper process and an excessive concentration of authority into the hands of one person. Prof. Lombardi was unafraid to voice his views to that effect before the Senate, despite the fact that they might not be welcome to our colleagues who wrote the draft

and to the Founder and President, whom we believed were being given an excess of authority. As a result of our efforts, many (although by no means all) defects in the document were corrected.

Finally, I would just like to add a personal*note by saying that apart from working with Prof. Lombardi, it was a great pleasure to come to know him as friend. He is a extraordinarily well-rounded person, very lively and engaged socially, has many interests, and is an excellent conversationalist. I came as well to see him as a very trustworthy and responsible person.

In sum, I consider that Prof. Lombardi would make excellent contributions to your university so that I wholeheartedly support Prof. Lombardi's candidacy. Should you have any further questions or wish further information from me, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark Gillis". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Dr. Mark Gillis, J.D.