

June 13, 2013

2013 Women of Influence Nominating Committee  
Nominee's name: Terri Combs

Dear Nominating Committee,

I am writing to recommend Terri Combs for a 2013 Women of Influence Award. Terri and I have been friends for about 10 years, and in that time, I have come to respect, love and admire her as a lawyer, businesswoman, and dear friend.

If I were to describe Terri to bring her alive to you, I would tell you that she has the rare combination of tenacity and compassion and she brings these qualities consistently to all aspects of her life. Terri has diverse interests and experiences, has served on the Des Moines Metro Opera Board for years, and supports numerous community events. She even created one of her own supporting women business owners called "The Exchange." Terri approaches her work and all of her relationships with the same gusto as she bombs around a hunt field on her horse – and that's a sight to see.

Terri loves practicing law. Although she has risen through the ranks of her firm to serve as Des Moines Office Leader and Management Board Member, she is most happy when she is simply practicing law and advocating for her clients. She has won the admiration and respect of those clients she's served, but also the judges that she's come before. After trials, they have commended her on her abilities, approach, and integrity. They've asked her to serve on committees and consider judgeship. There are few lawyers, let alone *female* lawyers who have achieved the level of success and respect throughout the legal community that Terri has.

Beyond her prowess in practice, Terri mentors and supports her co-workers. In the June 7 issue of the Des Moines Register, Jesse Linebaugh said that he had the "great fortune" of working for Terri Combs, citing her as his mentor.

If I contemplate what the Business Record intended when they created this award, Terri Combs is the woman they had in mind. I cannot think of anyone who has achieved more professionally, used her influence and success to help others within and outside her firm, given back to her community, promoted women in a traditionally male-dominated profession, and all while earning the friendship and esteem of so many in the community.

Sincerely,

Natalie Tomaras, CPA  
VP Strategy Mobilization, Aviva USA