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May 19, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Deb Tharnish has helped to empower low-income Iowans through her work with Iowa Legal Aid's Board of Directors, the Iowa Legal Aid Foundation Board of Directors, and as a volunteer attorney with the Polk County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project.

Deb was a member of the Iowa Legal Aid's Board of Directors from May 2004 through May 2013. She served as Vice President of the Board for two years, and then as President in 2009 to 2011. As Board President, Deb worked to carry out the organization's mission of providing hope, dignity and justice for thousands of low-income Iowans in need of legal assistance. She shepherded Iowa Legal Aid's first comprehensive strategic planning process, a joint board and staff initiative that took place over a year and resulted in the adoption of the Iowa Legal Aid Strategic Plan in 2010. The plan, which was to be implemented over a four-year period, established standards of service for the delivery of legal services through Iowa Legal Aid's regional offices that serve residents of all 99 Iowa counties. Most aspects of the plan were implemented as anticipated and the Board of Directors at its meeting in November 2014, adopted a revised and extended plan to continue work in some areas, as well as adopt new goals and strategies in others.

When Deb was term-limited off of the Iowa Legal Aid Board of Directors, she continued to serve on the Iowa Legal Aid Foundation Board. She currently serves as the Vice President of the Foundation Board. In this capacity she provides leadership to the Foundation in its efforts to increase philanthropic giving among law firms, businesses and private philanthropy.

Deb has assisted pro bono efforts through working with the infrastructure of pro bono while as a member of the Board of Directors of Iowa Legal Aid. She brought to this work an understanding of the contributions pro bono activities can make in the lives of low-income Iowans. This understanding came through Deb's active participation as a volunteer lawyer.

Deb has also acted as a sounding board for Iowa Legal Aid staff with regard to service delivery and other matters. Her insights on the practice of law, community engagement and collaboration have been invaluable to Iowa Legal Aid's staff. While Deb served as President of the Board, Iowa Legal Aid took many steps to encourage attorneys to participate in Iowa's volunteer lawyers projects. One of these initiatives involved establishing a system for formally recognizing volunteer attorneys, at districtwide events, for their pro bono contributions. Justices of the Iowa Supreme Court are now involved in these annual events in each judicial district to recognize attorneys who contributed 50 or more hours of pro bono work during the prior year. Deb has also spoken at the swearing-in ceremony for new admittees to the Iowa Bar about the importance of pro bono work and has encouraged these new lawyers to sign-up and be active participants in a volunteer lawyers project.

In addition to her work on Iowa Legal Aid's Board of Directors, Deb has been a volunteer attorney with the Polk County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project (PCBA VLP) since at least 2000. (PCBA VLP records only go back to 2000.) The Volunteer Lawyers Project records show that since 2001, Deb has closed 24 cases, contributing almost 400 hours of pro bono time on those cases. Deb also served a one-year term on the Board of the Polk County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project in the late 1990's.

Deb's commitment and dedication through her contributions as a volunteer attorney, her encouragement of fellow attorneys to join the effort, and her donation of time to serve on the boards of Iowa Legal Aid and the Iowa Legal Aid Foundation in order to expand the resources available to help low-income Iowans make her a worthy recipient of the Women of Influence award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis Groenenboom".

Dennis Groenenboom
Executive Director
Direct Phone: 515-243-2980, Ext. 1620
dgroenenboom@iowalaw.org

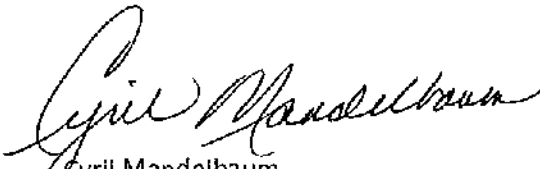
DG/ak

May 27, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I have known Deb Tharnish since the 1980's. Initially I worked with her on litigation matters as an accountant. She is an outstanding litigator and a pleasure to work with. Later our paths crossed on the Des Moines Public Library Foundation Board. Arthur Davis had a passion for libraries and gave the money for a needs assessment resulting in the concept for a new library. After his death, Deb stepped up to help raise funds, both within her law firm, Davis Brown Hockenberg Shors and Koehn, and in the community. She chaired the Iowa Authors' Dinner and became Board Chair of the Board of Directors of the Des Moines Public Library Foundation. Everything Deb has accomplished has been done with great competence and grace. I am proud to nominate Deb Tharnish for a Woman of Influence.

Very truly yours,



Cyril Mandelbaum