

To: Business Record Forty Under 40

Re: Nicholas O. Cooper Nomination Executive Summary

We humbly submit Nicholas O. Cooper for recognition as one of the Business Record Forty Under 40 in 2016.

Nick has pursued a challenging path within our firm since he joined in 2004 in his professional practice and leadership roles, culminating in being a member of the firm's Executive Committee in 2014 and being elected chairperson of the committee in 2016. In his role on the leadership committee, he guided the firm through many directives in the past year building up to our move to the Hub Tower on January 18, 2016 after 48 years in the same location. He continues to build a practice in the areas of civil litigation, banking and licensing, serving clients in the metro and across the nation.

Balancing his time-consuming schedule in the firm and to his clients, Nick gives his time monthly to the Polk County Volunteer Lawyers Project serving pro bono clients and serving on the Board of Directors for the Polk County Bar Association. He also volunteers each month at the Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines on their out reach night.

If you review the past few years of nominations for Nick, you will find that every year, he continues to set the bar higher for himself. Settling for the status quo is never an option for him in his career, volunteer efforts or personal life. Where there is work to be done, he will put out the best presentation possible, every time.

We hope you see Nick in the same light that we do in the firm as a trusted leader, advisor and colleague. Outside of the firm, he added the role of dad in December 2015, and we can trust that he will excel in that area of responsibility as well.

NICHOLAS COOPER

982 66th Street
West Des Moines, IA 50266

Phone: 515-491-9344
Email: Cooper@whitfieldlaw.com

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Admitted to Iowa Supreme Court,
U.S. District Court for the Northern and Southern Districts of Iowa, and
U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit.

AV Preeminent rated by Martindale-Hubbell.

WHITFIELD & EDDY, P.L.C.

Member Attorney

Extensive experience representing businesses and lending institutions in complex civil and commercial litigation from origination to conclusion; Regular court appearances; Extensive agency and licensing experience representing numerous national restaurants and grocery stores; Contractual and commercial real estate and agricultural loan transaction practice; Considerable appellate experience; Daily client interaction; Selected for inclusion in the 2014 Great Plains Super Lawyers in the field of Business/Corporate Law; Co-Chair, Associate Professional Development Committee 2007-2009; Member, Professional Recruitment Committee, 2010-2012; Chair, Professional Recruitment Committee, 2013; Member, Executive Committee, 2014-2015; Chairperson, Executive Committee, 2016.

Des Moines, IA

1/2010 –

Associate Attorney

Extensive motion practice, court experience and independent trial experience with an emphasis in representing businesses, lending institutions and domestic relations; Annually a top billing associate; Co-chair of Associate for Professional Development Committee.

9/2004 – 12/2009

Law Clerk

Research and draft numerous pleadings, motions and memorandums for members and associates.

8/2002 – 9/2004

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA

Intern to the Honorable James E. Gritzner, District Court Judge

Legal research; Draft proposed opinions and bench briefs.

Des Moines, IA

8/2003 – 12/2003

ELVERSON, VASEY & PETERSON, L.L.P.

Law Clerk

Legal research and draft research memorandums.

Des Moines, IA

5/2002 – 8/2002

EDUCATION

DRAKE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Juris Doctor, *with Honors*

Law School Bar President; Midwest Academic Scholarship; James P. Irish Scholarship; Drake University Journal of Agricultural Law; Outstanding Note of the Year Award, for the best note published in the 2003-04 Drake Journal of Agricultural Law; Drake University President of the Year Award Recipient, awarded to the one student who demonstrated outstanding leadership and strengthened the character and unity of campus; Carlucci Award Recipient, determined by the faculty as the one law student who best exemplifies civility and professionalism in dealing with students and others in the profession; Tollefson Award Recipient, the highest form of law school student recognition for leadership and service to the Drake University Law School as determined by the graduating class; Dean's Service Award, presented to a student who has provide outstanding service to the Law School; Neal and Bea Smith Legal Clinic; Senior Research Assistant for Professor James Albert; CALI Excellence for the Future Award, highest grade, Pretrial Advocacy; Public Service Certificate; ABA Lieutenant Governor for the Eighth Circuit.

Des Moines, IA

6/2001 – 5/2004

**UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
B.B.A.**

Degree in Finance with an emphasis in Business Management Organizations.

**Iowa City, IA
8/1997-5/2001**

**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
Study Abroad Program**

Selected for international internship in Sydney, Australia.

**East Lansing, MI
5/2000 -8/2000**

ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

**COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA
International Internship**

Worked within the Financial Markets Division of the second largest bank in Australia

**Sydney, AU
5/2000 – 8/2000**

**ADVENTURELANDS OF AMERICA, INC.
Senior Supervisor**

Supervised staff of 75 employees; Handled guest relations, guest complaints and guest injuries

**Altoona, IA
Summers, 93-01**

PUBLICATIONS

AUTHOR AND PRESENTER

“The Key to Getting Started,” National Business Institute, A Roadmap through Divorce Proceedings, April, 2009.

AUTHOR (with Mr. Kevin Reynolds)

“Some 'Unique' Defenses Applicable to Punitive Damage Claims in Iowa,” Defense Update: The Iowa Defense Counsel Association Newsletter, Summer 2006.

AUTHOR

“Annexation in Iowa and the ‘Textbook Example’ of a Voluntary Annexation that Hardly Seems Voluntary,” Drake Journal of Agricultural Law, Spring 2004.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE, MEMBERSHIPS AND CIVIC WORK

GREATER DES MOINES LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE - GRADUATE

Central Iowa’s premier and longest standing leadership program; A select group of emerging and existing leaders from the private, public, and non-profit sectors are selected to participate in this nine-month program designed to raise awareness of the needs that affect the region, and enhance leadership skills; Class of 2009-10.

POLK COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION – BOARD OF DIRECTOR

Elected by the member by the Polk County Bar Association – 2014-2016

POLK COUNTY VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT – BOARD OF DIRECTOR/PRESIDENT

A volunteer attorney program to provide civil legal assistance to low-income residents of Polk County; 2009 – 2014, Vice President 2010-2011, President, 2011-2014; Recipient of the 2008 Outstanding Volunteer Award by the Bar.

IOWA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION (YLD) – DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

Elected representative for the 5th district of Iowa; YLD provides programs, education and services to groups ranging from elementary students to the elderly 2004 – 2013.

DRAKE LAW SCHOOL BOARD OF COUNSELORS – BOARD MEMBER

An association of distinguished attorneys serving as advisors to the Dean of the Law School; 2003 – 2011.

POLK COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION – CO-CHAIR

PCBA/YLD committee is provides young lawyers in Polk County with an opportunity to make connections through social events and to foster the professional development of its members; 2009 – 2011.

BROWN-CAMP AND TONE LOFTS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION – BOARD OF DIRECTOR

Elected; 2009- 2013.

THE HONOARABLE SOCIETY OF THE BLACKSTONE INN OF COURT – MEMBER

A society of advocates promoting collegiality and legal education to the Inn; 2005 – 2011.

UNITED WAY

Campaign Coordinator for Whitfield & Eddy, P.L.C.; 2005.

INTERESTS

Golf, fishing, physical exercise and Iowa athletics.