

MICHAEL C. RICHARDS

MIKERICHARDS@DAVISBROWNLAW.COM

CONCENTRATION

Mike is a senior shareholder of the Davis Brown Law Firm, and currently serves as chair of the firm's Insurance Defense Department and the Product Liability Department. Mike joined Davis Brown in May 2011 after practicing for a decade in Washington, D.C. and Virginia. During the last fifteen years, his litigation practice has focused on all stages of complex civil litigation, with an emphasis on defense litigation.

Mike regularly represents individuals against claims of professional negligence and liability, including architects, engineers, medical providers, lawyers, brokers and others. In addition, he represents businesses, companies and insurance carriers in a wide variety of commercial claims and litigation, including contract and employment related disputes.

His practice also includes municipality litigation, intellectual property litigation, construction litigation, premises liability, products liability, tractor trailer and motor vehicle accident litigation, employee benefits litigation, casualty insurance defense, general insurance defense litigation, and general civil litigation. Mike is also routinely engaged to provide coverage opinions for insurance carriers and insureds.

In addition to many bench trials, Mike has first-chaired over 20 jury trials to verdict in state and federal courts. He has negotiated and mediated several hundred other cases, many of which involved multimillion dollar claims.

Mike is licensed to practice law in Iowa, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

- BV® Distinguished™ rated by Martindale-Hubbell. The BV certification mark is an excellent rating for a lawyer with more experience.
- 2015 *Great Plains Super Lawyers* "Rising Star" - Civil Litigation: Defense. Mike was also recognized as a "Rising Star" in 2014.
- Recognized by *Super Lawyers* as a "Virginia Rising Star" in Civil Litigation for the years 2010 and 2011.

ACADEMICS

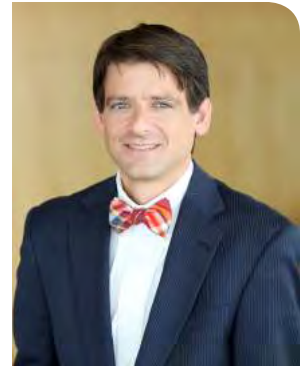
Mike graduated with High Honors from Drake University Law School in 2001. He attained a Bachelors of Business Administration in Finance from the University of Iowa in 1998.

OF NOTE

Prior to accepting a position with the Davis Brown Law Firm, Mike lived in Virginia and was a senior partner at a Roanoke, Virginia law firm.

PERSONAL

Mike and his wife Leighton (also a Drake University School of Law graduate) have three children, Maggie, Fletcher and Sam. Mike loves spending time with his family, coaches youth soccer, and enjoys running as frequently as his schedule will allow. He also volunteers and serves on the board of directors for several non-profit entities in Central Iowa.



CONTACT INFORMATION

PH: 515-288-2500
FAX: 515-243-0654

BORN
OMAHA, NEBRASKA

EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA (B.B.A., 1998)

DRAKE UNIVERSITY LAW
SCHOOL (J.D., WITH HIGH
HONORS, 2001)

ADMITTED TO BAR
2001, IOWA (REACTIVATED IN
2011)

2002, VIRGINIA

2002, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

AREAS OF LAW
COMMERCIAL LITIGATION
CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS
AND LITIGATION LAW
INSURANCE DEFENSE
LITIGATION AND APPEALS
PERSONAL INJURY
PRODUCT LIABILITY
PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY
DEFENSE

MEMBERSHIPS
IOWA STATE BAR
ASSOCIATION
VIRGINIA STATE BAR
ASSOCIATION
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BAR
ASSOCIATION

December 14, 2015



Forty Under Forty
Des Moines Business Record
100 4th Street
The Depot at Fourth
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Dear Forty Under Forty Committee:

It is my honor to submit this letter in support of Mike Richards' nomination for the 2016 Forty Under Forty class.

Mike is a senior shareholder of the Davis Brown Law Firm. He joined the Litigation Division in May 2011. His litigation practice has focused on all stages of complex civil litigation, with an emphasis on defense litigation. He currently serves as chair of the firm's Product Liability Department.

Mike is not only committed to his career, but to the Des Moines community. Mike has been involved with Variety since 2013 and currently serves on the Variety State Board. Mike has raised thousands of dollars for Variety in conjunction with the annual Telethon, provided numerous volunteer hours and served on Variety's Grants Committee.

Mike's involvement with Variety has resulted in improving the lives of underprivileged, at-risk and special needs children throughout Iowa. His efforts have helped provide thousands of children with a new bike, helmet and lock; Variety vans to transport children to educational, medical and cultural activities; neonatal intensive care equipment for tiny infant patients; and backpacks full of school supplies so that children get a good start to the school year.

He also supports and serves on the boards of Dowling Catholic High School Foundation and the Broadlawns Advocate Circle. His focus with Dowling is fundraising and endowment management. Mike is also helping raise awareness and funds for mental health facilities at Broadlawns, an issues that he feels needs to be addressed.

Mike is one of Des Moines' young professional leaders. He is respected and admired by his peers and others in the community. His commitment to the community is noted in both the business and volunteer area. He has a strong focus on making our community the best that it can be!

Mike would be a great addition to the 2016 Forty Under Forty Class! Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sheri McMichael
Executive Director

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505 5TH AVENUE, SUITE 310
DES MOINES, IOWA 50309
TEL 515.243.4660 FAX 515.243.5873

WWW.VARIETYIOWA.COM EMAIL - STATEOFFICE@VARIETYIOWA.COM



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

December 15, 2015

To whom it may concern,

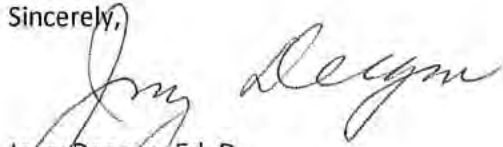
It is my pleasure to recommend Mike Richards to you for *Forty Under 40* recognition. I have known Mike and his family for most of his life and currently work with Mike as a member of the Dowling/St. Joseph Foundation Board.

Mike is an exceptional young man. In high school he excelled in academics, was involved in a wide variety of activities and was well liked by his classmates and instructors. He was always focused and did very well in his academic pursuits and was active in volunteering in the community. After high school he pursued his goal of becoming an attorney and now is engaged in practicing law in Des Moines.

It has been a treat to watch Mike mature into a wonderful young man. He has maintained high standards, excellent judgment, and a willingness to give back throughout his entire life. I applaud Mike's decision to move back to Des Moines to raise his family and become engaged in the community. I worked with his father, mother and uncle over the years at Dowling Catholic and am inspired by the fact he continues the family legacy by being a member of our Dowling/St. Joseph Foundation Board. He possesses the same strong work ethic and enthusiasm that his family has shown for more than 40 years. His work on the Foundation Board helps maintain the annual support of the school as well as helping to insure its future. He is engaged in committee work and gives valuable contributions to board discussions.

We are blessed to have young folks like Mike decide to live and work in Des Moines. I am sure he could pick anywhere to live. His strong love of this community and his commitment to family is a great benefit to the Des Moines area. I feel fortunate to have Mike engaged as a leader in the Dowling Catholic community. His talent and dedication will make a difference. I believe the same for the Des Moines area. Mike's skills, drive, determination and willingness to get involved will help make Des Moines a better place for all of us. He has much to offer and over the years I am sure will leave a positive mark on the Des Moines area. It is without reservation that I give Mike my highest recommendation.

Sincerely,



Jerry Deegan, Ed. D.
President



January 4, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to nominate Mike Richards for inclusion in this year's 40 under 40 class.

I've known Mike and his caring family for many decades. Young Mike has distinguished himself every step of the way. After a brilliant academic career, beginning a family and a profession, Mike chose to return to Des Moines. He joined a prestigious law firm and has been extremely successful. His family has grown (three children) and is Mike's # one priority. He has found time to volunteer as a board member, fund raiser, etc. for multiple important causes.

I'm familiar with and thankful for the 40 under 40 program. Mike Richards is a worthy candidate for inclusion.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Cownie", written over the "Very Truly Yours," text.

Jim Cownie



January 4, 2016

To Whom it May Concern:

I write this letter in support of Mike Richards' candidacy for 40 Under 40.

I feel that I am uniquely situated to provide you with a candid and thorough evaluation of Mike. I have known Mike since he was a boy. Mike went to school with one of my children and they have maintained a lifelong friendship. Mike's father regularly works with me, and from time-to-time Mike has done some work for my businesses. During that time, I have found Mike to be a highly motivated individual, with a passion for family, faith, community and hard work.

In addition to knowing him for nearly his whole life, I have also had an opportunity to see him advocating for a community project not too long ago. Mike is part of the Broadlawns Hospital Advocate Circle, whose goal is to raise funds to expand and remodel the mental health facilities at Broadlawns Hospital, so it can provide better care for the community. A critical piece of the Advocate Circle's project was to obtain Five Million Dollars in funding from the State of Iowa. When it looked like a specific member of the legislature might not support the project, Mike contacted me and asked me to set up a meeting with that person. I did, and Mike and that person were able to meet and discuss their views on why the funds were needed and how they would be used. After speaking with Mike, that legislator became one of the group's biggest advocates, and Broadlawns was ultimately successful in getting the requested funds from the State.

This is just one example of his community service for non-profit organizations. Mike is also a member of the board directors for Variety, the Children's Charity, and Dowling Catholic High School Foundation. I am a longtime supporter of both of these institutions.

In addition to advocating for others, Mike has also been successful in advancing his career. After graduating from law school, he worked in Washington, DC and Virginia for over a decade. In 2011, he and his family returned to Des Moines, and Mike began practicing law at the Davis Brown Law Firm. He was recently elected a senior shareholder of his firm.

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But I think that if you asked Mike, he would tell you his family is most important to him. He's doing well in that category too. He has a lovely wife and three happy children. He coaches soccer, volunteers at school, and spends as much time with his family as possible.

In closing, I believe that Mike Richards would be a stellar addition to the 2016 40 Under 40 class.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald M. Kirke", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gerald M. Kirke

GMK/nlc