

Forty under 40 100 4th St. Des Moines IA 50309

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Christopher James to the Business Record's Annual Forty Under 40 Award.

I met Christopher in 2007 during the early stages of founding My Angel Foundation (MAF), a non-profit organization dedicated to raising organ and tissue donation awareness. As a board member and pro bono legal counsel, Christopher offered a wealth of legal knowledge and was highly instrumental in establishing MAF and ensuring the foundation's success during the critical first years. During his tenure, he helped raise more than \$300,000 for the organization through fundraisers such as the annual C.A.R.E. Run & Walk and Des Moines Dragon Boat Races. His passion and selfless dedication are invaluable to MAF and our community as a whole.

Christopher's focus, high degree of professionalism and strong work ethic are also very impressive. He is a respected attorney and is extremely knowledgeable in the areas of business and tax law. In 2010, I once again asked for his legal guidance in relation to the formation of my business, Joy Ride Transport, LLC, a para-transit company located in Des Moines. As counsel, Christopher assisted me with employee retention matters, drafted contracts, procured a license to operate and continues to manage ongoing licensing issues, provided advice on expansion, business models, and changing the ownership structure. He continues to be a trusted resource for general legal advice and tax law issues related to my business.

Given Christopher's professional accomplishments, commitment to assist local non-profits, and dedication to our community, I strongly believe he is perfect candidate for the Forty Under 40 Award. He is an authentic and respected influence and I look forward to public recognition of his achievements.

**Best Regards** 

Ted Cochran

P.O. Box 1223 Waukee, IA 50263 515.339.6721 MyAngelFoundation.org



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December 23, 2013

Mr. Jason Swanson *Forty under 40* Business Publications Corp. 100 4th Street Des Moines, IA 50309

Dear Members of the Selection Committee:

It is my distinct privilege to submit this letter of recommendation supporting the nomination of Chris James for the 2014 class of the *Forty under 40*. This has been an exceptional program and having followed the careers of several prior laureates, I compliment you on the selection process. Chris belongs with that august group.

I have known Chris for three years and have mentored him. He is competent, involved and caring. Chris has a very bright future ahead of him. He is a dedicated professional who understands and embraces the concept of paying his "civic rent." He has been engaged with the Greater Des Moines Institute, My Angel Foundation and the Iowa State Bar Association. He has given it his all and has held significant positions with all three organizations.

Chris has a very impressive academic background and I am always in awe of anyone with his exceptional skills. He has received significant honors and is yet very humble. In other words, this young man really "gets it." Chris chose Des Moines when he could have located anywhere he chose. Recently, Chris and his wife adopted an infant. Their lives have been irrevocably changed for the better.

He has a great knack for balancing work and life. I urge you to give this fine young man favorable consideration and will be happy to respond to any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

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SR/mih



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 DesMoinesPerformingArts.org

January 7, 2014

Dear friends:

It is my privilege to write to you today to recommend your consideration of Christopher James as a member of your "40 under 40" class for 2014.

As you are aware, Mr. James is a shareholder and attorney at Davis, Brown, Koehn, Shors & Roberts, PC and his law firm provides legal services to Des Moines Performing Arts. I first met Mr. James in 2011 and then worked closely with him over the course of a year as our organization sought an opinion on some tax issues. And since that time I have worked with him on several other issues related to our business.

While my experience with Mr. James is limited to his work with us, it is very clear that he is talented, bright and exceptionally articulate. His work with us has been extraordinary, and he has an ability to get to the core of an issue quickly, and is also able to communicate the issues to clients in a way that is engaging and enlightening. And we have benefited greatly from his knowledge and from his work on our behalf.

It is my hope that you will consider Mr. James for inclusion in your 40 under 40 class of 2014.

Very truly yours,

Jeff Chelesvig President/CEO