

January 10, 2019

Jason Swanson, Vice President
Business Publications Corporation
100 SW 4th St.
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

To Whom This Concerns:

I write to apply for this year's Forty Under 40 class, after being nominated by my friend—and former Forty Under 40 honoree—Wayne Reames.

I am a Des Moines transplant. I didn't grow up here, but my wife and I chose to move here directly after graduate school because we liked what we saw (and we got good jobs). One attribute of this community we recognized right away is that there is a culture that empowers young people to get involved and take up leadership positions. As my career has matured over the almost 14 years since we've moved here, I've taken advantage of the opportunities that culture of empowerment has provided.

While I started practicing law in the private sector at the Belin firm, within a couple years I moved to public service, where I've now spent the bulk of my career. After working on the Obama campaign and then briefly moving to DC to work for Secretary Vilsack at USDA, I came back home and have been working for Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller for over seven years now. It is an honor to go to a job every day where I work to better the lives of my fellow Iowans.

Over the years, I've served on the boards of Oakridge Neighborhood Services, Al Éxito, Plymouth Church Board of Christian Social Action, Sherman Hill's neighborhood association, and the local chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens. Late last decade, I was appointed by Governor Vilsack to serve on the Iowa Commission on Latino Affairs at the state level. In local government, I spent time as a board member of the Des Moines Public Schools and currently serve as Vice Chair of the City of Des Moines Zoning Board of Adjustment. I've also gotten involved in politics, running and losing a close race for State Senate in 2014, and serving on the Polk County Democratic Central Committee. As our three kids have gotten older, I've volunteered my time coaching little league and toddler soccer and now teaching Sunday School to kindergarteners.

Even though I'm not a native of Des Moines, I love this place with the zeal of a convert. This is where I've chosen to settle and bring up my kids, and I consider it my duty to contribute to the community as much as I can. I hope you can sense that commitment in this application. Regardless of whether I am chosen for this year's class, I intend to keep working to make Des Moines and Iowa an even better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Sincerely,

Nathan Blake

NATHAN BLAKE

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Des Moines, Iowa 50321
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EXPERIENCE

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, Des Moines, Iowa 2011-present

Deputy Attorney General for Policy (2017-present) • Primary advisor to the Iowa Attorney General on legal and public policy issues in Iowa and nationally • Direct the office's multistate enforcement efforts in conjunction with other State Attorneys General and federal agencies • Advocate on behalf of the Attorney General and the people of Iowa before the Iowa legislature • Oversee the Consumer Protection Division.

Assistant Attorney General, Consumer Protection Division (2011-2017) • Investigated and prosecuted violations of the Iowa Consumer Fraud Act, focusing on complex financial litigation, auto repair fraud, health care fraud, and privacy abuses • Led, managed, and coordinated multistate consumer protection investigations into the recruiting practices of for-profit colleges • Lobbied for Iowa consumers on proposed legislation.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, Washington, DC 2009-2011

Special Assistant to the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services • Staffed policy officials overseeing the nation's fifteen nutrition assistance programs • Aided in policy formulation, legislative strategy, preparation for Congressional hearings, and outreach to media and stakeholders • Reviewed all memos, rules, regulations, reports, and correspondence for signature • Managed budget and emergency planning processes.

OBAMA FOR AMERICA, Iowa, California, Ohio, Mississippi, North Carolina 2007-2008

Iowa Research Director • Headed state-based research, fact-checking, and vetting process • Led efforts to counter viral misinformation in Iowa • Provided policy content for pioneering state-specific website.

Caucus/Primary Field Organizer • Engaged and persuaded voters • Organized and planned events for Senator Obama and surrogates • Directed volunteers in get-out-the-vote campaigns in my region of each state.

BELIN MCCORMICK, PC, Des Moines, Iowa 2005-2007

Associate • Represented diverse group of clients in complex civil and criminal litigation: drafted briefs and motions; wrote memoranda detailing legal research; assisted in settlement negotiations, mediations, and trials.

EDUCATION

YALE LAW SCHOOL, New Haven, Connecticut June 2005

Juris Doctor

YALE DIVINITY SCHOOL, New Haven, Connecticut May 2005

Master of Arts in Religion: *Ethics*

UNION COLLEGE, Lincoln, Nebraska May 2001

Bachelor of Arts: *International Studies*, summa cum laude

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

DES MOINES ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT 2014-present

SHERMAN HILL ASSOCIATION BOARD 2011-2016

DES MOINES SCHOOL BOARD 2015

IOWA COMMISSION OF LATINO AFFAIRS 2005-2008