

Mary Pat Gunderson
5905 Harwood Drive
Des Moines, IA 50312
January 9, 2019

Forty-under-40 Selection Committee
Business Record
The Depot at Fourth, 100 4th Street
Des Moines, IA 50309

Dear Forty-under-40 Selection Committee:

I am writing to support the nomination Allison “Layne” Huey for the 2018 class of Forty-under-40. Layne spent her childhood and college years in Cedar Rapids where she learned the importance of public service. Layne works to make life better for those in her community. This is reflected most recently in her work with the non-profit organization Kids First Law Center in Des Moines. Prior to moving to Des Moines Layne was active in her hometown of Cedar Rapids volunteering for Junior Achievement of East Central Iowa and Kids First Law Center in Cedar Rapids. Layne also served on the board of directors for the Cedar Rapids Uptown District.

I first met Layne when I was working as a District Court Judge in Polk County and she was working for Des Moines University as a recruitment and admissions specialist. Our paths crossed because I was very interested in opening a Kids First Law Center office in Des Moines. Layne had been an active volunteer with this organization in Cedar Rapids and knew how much it benefitted children at a time when they are most vulnerable; during a high conflict divorce. Without hesitation, Layne offered to assist in bringing this much-needed service to Des Moines.

Throughout 2017 Layne worked tirelessly as a part of a small exploratory committee raising over \$100,000.00 for Kids First Des Moines. In October 2017, the Kids First office opened its doors on Fleur drive in Des Moines and started representing children caught in the middle of a high conflict divorce. Although Layne was still fairly new to Des Moines and working a full-time job (which involved a great deal of travel) she was relentless in her volunteer efforts. She never missed a fund-raising event or an exploratory committee board meeting all the while juggling a full-time job and the responsibilities of a young family.

It is my strong belief that Layne’s commitment to bringing Kids First law center to Des Moines is informed not only by her personal experience working as a volunteer for Kids First

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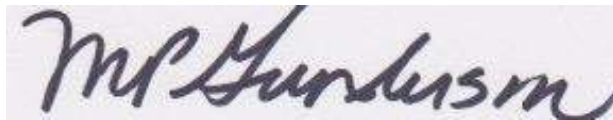
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in Cedar Rapids but her clear desire to make the community in which she lives better starting with the youngest and most vulnerable.....our children. Des Moines is lucky to have Layne and I urge you to encourage and honor her efforts by selecting her for the 2019 class of Forty-under-40.

Please feel free to contact me directly at (515) 865-4502 if you have any questions.

Best,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "MP Gunderson", on a light-colored background.

Mary Pat Gunderson