

January 5, 2014

RE: Natalie Nguyen

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of Natalie Nguyen's nomination for the *Business Record's* 2014 class of Forty Under 40.

I met Natalie in 2004 when in the University of Iowa's MBA program and participated in work groups with her in several of our classes. Early on, I was impressed by her organizational skills, her focus, and her direct communication style.

One very noticeable aspect of Natalie's communication style is that she speaks English impeccably—better than many who are native to the language. This trait is noteworthy in that her family immigrated from Vietnam when Natalie was a teenager, settling in Sioux City, IA, and English was not their native tongue. When Natalie shared her background with me, I was struck by her statement that she knew she had to master English in order to be successful in the USA, so she disciplined herself to read and write English—often working on her own at home when her brothers were outside playing.

This effort is indicative of the ambition and commitment Natalie brings to:

- getting an education -- she is the first in her family to graduate college and attain a Master's degree, for which she herself paid,
- her work -- she has been promoted several times at Holmes Murphy,
- her family -- she is close to her parents, her siblings and nieces and nephews, and, of course, her husband and two daughters, whom she is raising as bi-lingual children,
- her community and, specifically, the Vietnamese American Community in Iowa (VACI), with which she has been actively involved since 2006. Currently the vice president of this organization, Natalie has also helped Vietnamese refugee families by serving as an interpreter (especially vital for medical appointments and procedures!) and helping them file/apply for government documents such as green cards and citizenship tests. Natalie has also taught English and citizenship test classes.

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Natalie Nguyen is an extraordinary young woman, one I am proud to call a friend. I have benefited from her positive influence and wise counsel and urge you to make her a member of the 2014 class of Forty Under 40. She is deserving of this honor!

Thank you for the opportunity to share these thoughts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Muriel A. Pemble". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'M' and a decorative flourish at the end.

Muriel A. Pemble
Technical Communications Writer
Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield