

Terri L. Combs

terri.combs@FaegreBD.com

Direct +1 515 447 4707

Faegre Baker Daniels LLP

801 Grand Avenue ▼ Suite 3100

Des Moines ▼ Iowa 50309-8002

Phone +1 515 248 9000

Fax +1 515 248 9010

January 4, 2013

Forty Under 40
100 – 4th Street
Des Moines, IA 50309

Re: Nomination of Jesse Linebaugh for Forty Under 40 Recognition

Dear Selection Committee:

It is with great pleasure that I support Jesse Linebaugh's nomination for the 2013 class of Forty Under 40. At the age of 36, Jesse is a leader within our law firm, an outstanding litigator and a compassionate and active member of the community. I am proud to call him my colleague and am increasingly impressed by his skill and dedication each time I work with him.

Because of his superior legal skills and obvious leadership acumen, Jesse was named co-leader of the firm's national securities and financial litigation practice group. In this role, he effectively coordinates a team of attorneys across the U.S. and in the UK in client development, client service and successful litigation. Jesse and the team have obtained dismissal or summary judgment in nearly all of the securities class actions the firm has defended in the last decade, an outstanding result for our clients.

During the time of his co-leadership of the national securities and financial litigation practice, the group has been ranked 8th in the nation (out of 650 law firms serving Fortune 1000 clients) in client service by BTI Consulting in its 2013 BTI Client Service A-Team report. BTI's research is based solely on objective, unbiased client feedback. No law firm can buy, self-recommend, self-nominate or influence the outcome. This year's report relies on more than 240 independent, one-on-one interviews with corporate counsel to delineate—by name and rank—precisely how 306 law firms perform along the 17 activities designated by BTI as drivers of superior client relationships. As co-leader, Jesse is a key member of this nationally-ranked practice group.

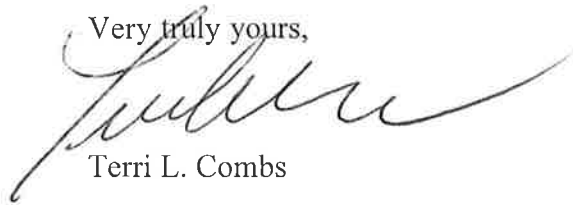
Jesse works tirelessly to defend insurance companies, banks and broker-dealers in litigation and regulatory inquiries throughout the United States. He has represented clients before state courts, federal district courts and the Court of Appeals, and has handled arbitrations in more than 20 states. He has also advised on regulatory investigations before the SEC, FBI, FINRA, state attorney generals' offices, and state security and insurance divisions.

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Jesse has certainly left his mark on the financial services industry through his outstanding legal representation. Through two cases he handled in district court and the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, he created case law and rulings helping to establish that banks do not owe a special duty as a matter of law. He has saved his clients millions of dollars in damages through successful rulings and summary judgments for notable clients such as Piper Jaffray & Co., New York Life Insurance Company and Annuity Corporation, ING Financial Partners and American Express Financial Advisors. I am always proud to work with Jesse, and I know that when I do, I have a teammate who is dedicated to getting the job done right. He examines each case with a critical eye and finds the most persuasive line of reasoning to defend our clients.

I am proud to call Jesse Linebaugh my colleague and to have the pleasure of working with him. Please consider Jesse for the 2013 Forty Under 40 class. His leadership in the firm, legal achievements and heart for the community have earned him this honor.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Terri L. Combs", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Terri L. Combs