

January 10, 2014

Business Record Forty Under 40  
Business Publications Corp.  
The Depot at Fourth  
100 Fourth St.  
Des Moines, IA 50309

RE: 2014 Class of Forty Under 40

Dear Nominations Committee:

As a proud alumnus of the Forty Under 40 Class of 2001, I'm honored to support the nomination of Jason Giles for the 2014 Class of Forty Under 40. I have had the pleasure of working with Jason for twelve years, and admire his dedication to his family, community and the legal profession. Based upon his professional accomplishments and work on behalf of our community, I can think of no one who would be a better representative of this year's Forty Under 40 class.

This past year Jason was recognized in several different ways for his legal work. In April, Jason was selected to be a member of the 2013-14 Meritas Leadership Institute. Meritas, an established global alliance of independent, full-service law firms, consists of 176 law firms with over 6,000 attorneys worldwide. Nyemaster Goode is the only Meritas law firm in Iowa. The Leadership Institute is a year-long program which identifies future Meritas leaders, provides a forum for working with leaders of other Meritas firms and permits participants to develop leadership skills while working on a project for the benefit of the organization. Jason joins 8 other young attorneys in this year's Meritas Leadership Institute class.

In September, Jason was named a 2013 Great Plains Rising Star in Business/Corporate law practice by *Super Lawyers*. The *Rising Stars* list recognizes the top up-and-coming attorneys across the country. These attorneys are 40 years old or younger, or have been practicing for 10 years or less. No more than 2.5 percent of the lawyers in each state are selected by the research team at *Super Lawyers* to receive this honor. Also in September, Governor Branstad appointed Jason to a three-year term as a member to the Iowa Public Broadcasting Board.

These recognitions carry on Jason's strong tradition of service both professionally as well as on behalf of his community. After completing his undergraduate degree at Utah State University, Jason came to Des Moines to study law at Drake University Law School as an Opperman Scholar, a prestigious scholarship and alumni program made possible by the Opperman Scholar Program endowed by Dwight D. Opperman. He graduated with a juris doctorate (J.D.) in 2003 with highest honors, was admitted to the Order of the Coif and received the Public Service Certificate, which is given to a select few students each year that have demonstrated a commitment to public and community service by completing a specified number of public service hours while attending the law school. Many of Jason's hours were performed on behalf of the Drake Small Business Development Center where he volunteered his time and Spanish-language skills to assist in translating for Spanish speaking clients of the Center as well as translating into Spanish many of the pamphlets and other materials made available by the Center. In addition to receiving his J.D., Jason also attended the Drake University College of Business and Public Administration and graduated in 2003 with a Master in Business Administration (M.B.A.) degree. Jason's first job following law school was as a federal law clerk for the Honorable James E. Gritzner, District Court Judge for the United States District Court for the Southern District of Iowa.

In 2005, following his 2-year federal judicial clerkship, Jason joined Nyemaster Goode's Business, Finance and Real Estate practice group. He uses his legal skill and business acumen to serve his clients' best interests, staying ahead of the curve by being active in a variety of legal industry and business groups including the American Bar Association Business Section and Intellectual Property Law Section and the Iowa State Bar Business Section and Intellectual Property Law Section, where he also serves as a member of the ISBA's Legal Forms Committee. He regularly speaks on corporate and intellectual property matters to various legal, educational and business groups. Jason has also demonstrated his commitment to improving our law firm by serving on a number of firm committees.

Jason combines his professional life with his sense of community by serving on the Polk County Bar Association's Law Day Committee, which oversees an annual visual and performing arts, music, poetry and essay competition in celebration of Law Day for 6-12<sup>th</sup> grade students in Polk County which is sponsored by the Polk County Bar Association. Jason is also a member of the Federalist Society and served on the Steering Committee of the Des Moines Iowa Attorney Chapter at its inception. He is a member of the J. Reuben Clark Law Society, for several years was the attorney sponsor for the student chapter established at Drake Law School, and has been a driving force behind establishing an attorney chapter in central Iowa. Jason also actively represents several area non-profit organizations, regularly donating over 150 hours annually in pro bono matters and serving on various boards and committees for local non-profits.

Regarding his community leadership, Jason is a graduate of the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute (2008-09) and just completed a three-year term on the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute's Board of Governors. He previously volunteered as the Youth Leadership Initiative (YLI) Council Chair, where he oversaw the YLI transition from a board under the

Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute to a council under the Greater Des Moines Partnership. Over the past several years Jason has been very involved in YLI, a program that seeks to develop and nurture leadership skills in youth in the greater Des Moines area by providing experiential mentoring and leadership experiences in a year-long course. His service to YLI has included terms as curriculum chair, program chair elect and as a member of the selection committee. Jason can regularly be seen interacting with the YLI participants at YLI's annual retreat and monthly meetings. Jason also just completed a two-year term on the Greater Des Moines Partnership's Regional Workforce Development/Education Board.

Jason is an Eagle Scout and remains committed to the ideals of the Boy Scouts of America through his participation in various leadership positions at the local troop and district level. He has previously attended the LDS Priesthood Leadership Conference on Scouting held at Philmont Scout Ranch by invitation and currently serves as a trained Unit Commissioner. He also serves on the Mid-Iowa Council Membership Committee and as Chair of the LDS-BSA Relationship Committee covering scouting for the Des Moines Iowa Stake and Ames Iowa Stake scouting units located in the Mid-Iowa Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Jason has previously spent time as a troop representative, troop committee chair, Varsity Scout Team Coach, Venture Crew adult leader, and Assistant Scoutmaster for local BSA troops and as a pack representative for a local Cub Scout pack.

In addition to his community and scouting involvement, Jason is also very active as a leader with his church, currently serving as Second Counselor in the Stake Presidency for the Des Moines Iowa Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He has previously served as a Bishop, High Councilor, Seminary Instructor and Young Mens President in the church, all unpaid, volunteer positions. The Des Moines Iowa Stake Presidency (President and 2 counselors) oversees 14 units (wards/branches) with a membership of over 4,300 that covers a geographic region stretching north to south from Grimes to the Missouri border and east to west from Oskaloosa to Adair. As part of his duties as 2<sup>nd</sup> Counselor, Jason chairs the Audit Committee, Aaronic Priesthood Committee and the AP/YW Committee, is a member of the Stake Priesthood Executive Committee, the Stake Welfare Committee and the Stake Council, and has direct oversight over the following Stake organizations: Young Men; Young Women; Sunday School; Scouting; Young Single Adult; Primary; Cub Scouts; Facilities; Financial Audits; Seminaries and Institutes; and BYU-Idaho Pathway. Recently, as part of his ecclesiastical responsibilities, Jason helped plan and oversee a large scale community service project where his church (over 300 volunteers) joined with the local chapter of the American Red Cross and the Des Moines Fire Department to visit and educate residents and check existing and install new smoke alarms in nearly three thousand homes in the Des Moines Metro area.

Jason's leadership talents also have reached well beyond Greater Des Moines. As a young man, he served a two-year, unpaid, voluntary proselyting and service mission to Ecuador, and in October, 2012, Jason was a teaching professional with the Leavitt Institute for International Development and spent two weeks in the Ukraine teaching legal courses in to law

January 10, 2014

Page 4

students at 7 different universities located in Kyiv and Kharkiv as part of Leavitt's BUILD (Building Ukrainian Independence and Lasting Democracy) Initiative.

In addition to a very busy legal career, community involvement and church service, Jason finds time to spend with his family. The parents of 6 biological children (with another due next month), Jason and his wife, Teresa, have also impacted the lives of local children through being licensed foster parents and having several placements over the past several years. In addition to attending school events, dance recitals, choir and orchestra concerts, baseball, football, basketball and softball games and the many practices related to these events, Jason has volunteered as a coach or assistant coach on numerous youth baseball and basketball teams and served for a time as Secretary on the Holiday Park Baseball Club Board of Directors. Jason's ultimate accomplishment is his family, and his work at the firm and in the community is instilling in his children a strong work ethic, a sense of pride in the community and a desire to give back through service.

After you review all of this information, I assume you will probably have the same question as do I—how on earth does Jason ever find time to sleep? I don't know if I've ever met anyone who is as busy with professional, community and family activities as is Jason, but somehow he manages to pull all of this together to make such a tremendously positive impact on the lives of so many.

In sum, I'm honored to nominate Jason Giles for the 2014 Forty Under Forty Class. I believe he would make an excellent representative for this year's class, and his record of community leadership and service certainly qualifies him for this honor. If you have any questions on this, please feel free to give me a call. Thank you for your consideration of my nomination of Jason Giles.

Sincerely,

*Jeff Courter*

Jeffrey W. Courter

JWC/mks  
Enclosure