

Nick Cooper: Forty Under 40 Nomination Executive Summary

The attorneys and staff at Whitfield & Eddy, P.L.C. (W&E) are excited to nominate Nick Cooper for the 16th Annual Forty Under 40 awards. Nick has demonstrated skill, patience and exceptional leadership skills both in the firm and community since he joined us thirteen years ago in 2002 as a Law Clerk while attending the Drake University School of Law. Even as a law student, he was racking up awards, honors, and scholarships.

Nick is one of three attorneys at W&E on the firm's management committee. As a managing partner, he is responsible for various major business decisions and matters including strategic, financial, staffing and operations. In addition to those duties, his full-time business and litigation practice keeps him burning the midnight oil with local, regional and national firms doing business in Iowa. He is proud of his growing legal practice and relationships built with top businesses and those looking to grow in Iowa.

He has had a continuing passion for indigent service in the community and backs up his pro bono services with a long-standing leadership role in the Polk County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project (PCBA VLP). The PCBA VLP is where Polk County lawyers donate more than 5,000 hours of their time valued at over \$750,000 to ensure access to the justice system. As a two-term president and Board member since 2009, he helped improve the finances to operating in the black. In 2014, he was appointed to the Iowa State Bar Association (ISBA) Access to Justice Committee by the ISBA President to identify ways to improve access to justice in Iowa by the underserved.

Nick Cooper has a strong foundation with our firm and community and a bright future ahead as one of his lead projects in 2015 is helping the firm move to a new downtown location in early 2016. His vision is for a firm that honors its past as a strong business and litigation firm and is making a commitment to the future with a new space that will improve collaboration and teamwork in the firm.

We hope the nominating committee finds Nick to be as engaging as we do and adds him to the honorees in 2015.

NICHOLAS COOPER

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West Des Moines, Iowa 502066

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LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Admitted to Iowa Supreme Court,
U.S. District Court for the Northern and Southern Districts of Iowa, and
U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit.

AV Preeminent rated by Martindale-Hubbell.

WHITFIELD & EDDY, P.L.C.

Des Moines, IA

Member Attorney

1/2010 –

Extensive experience representing businesses and commercial lending institutions in complex civil and commercial litigation; Contractual and commercial real estate loan transaction practice throughout the country; Extensive experience representing national restaurants, hotels and grocery stores; Weekly court appearances and considerable appellate experience; Daily client interaction; Independent case management; Member of firm Executive Committee; Member of firm Logistics Committee; Past chair of firm Professional Recruitment Committee; Past member of Marketing Committee; Past member of Business Succession Plan Committee; Selected for inclusion in the Great Plains Super Lawyers in the field of Business/Corporate Law (Rising Stars: 2013-2014).

Associate Attorney

9/2004 – 12/2009

Extensive motion practice, court experience and independent trial experience with an emphasis in representing businesses, lending institutions and domestic relations; Annually a top billing associate; Co-chair of Associate for Professional Development Committee.

Law Clerk

8/2002 – 9/2004

Research and draft numerous pleadings, motions and memorandums for members and associates.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA

Des Moines, IA

Intern to the Honorable James E. Gritzner, District Court Judge

8/2003 – 12/2003

Legal research; Draft proposed opinions and bench briefs.

ELVERSON, VASEY & PETERSON, L.L.P.

Des Moines, IA

Law Clerk

5/2002 – 8/2002

Legal research and draft research memorandums.

EDUCATION

DRAKE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Des Moines, IA

Juris Doctor, *with Honors*

6/2001 – 5/2004

Law School Bar President; Midwest Academic Scholarship; James P. Irish Scholarship; Drake University Journal of Agricultural Law; Outstanding Note of the Year Award, for the best note published in the 2003-04 Drake Journal of Agricultural Law; Drake University President of the Year Award Recipient, awarded to the one student who demonstrated outstanding leadership and strengthened the character and unity of campus; Carlucci Award Recipient, determined by the faculty as the one law student who best exemplifies civility and professionalism in dealing with students and others in the profession; Tollefson Award Recipient, the highest form of law school student recognition for leadership and service to the Drake University Law School as determined by the graduating class; Dean's Service Award, presented to a student who has provide outstanding service to the Law School; Neal and Bea Smith Legal Clinic; Senior Research Assistant for Professor James Albert; CALI Excellence for the Future Award, highest grade, Pretrial Advocacy; Public Service Certificate; ABA Lieutenant Governor for the Eighth Circuit.

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Iowa City, IA

B.B.A.

8/1997-5/2001

Degree in Finance with an emphasis in Business Management Organizations.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

East Lansing, MI

Study Abroad Program

5/2000 -8/2000

Selected for international internship in Sydney, Australia.

ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA International Internship

Sydney, AU
5/2000 – 8/2000

Worked within the Financial Markets Division of the second largest bank in Australia to develop a recovery matrix.

ADVENTURELANDS OF AMERICA, INC. Senior Supervisor

Altoona, IA
Summers, 93-01

Supervised staff of 75 employees; Handled guest relations, guest complaints and guest injuries

PUBLICATIONS

AUTHOR AND PRESENTER

"The Key to Getting Started," National Business Institute, A Roadmap through Divorce Proceedings, April, 2009.

AUTHOR (with Mr. Kevin Reynolds)

"Some 'Unique' Defenses Applicable to Punitive Damage Claims in Iowa," Defense Update: The Iowa Defense Counsel Association Newsletter, Summer 2006.

AUTHOR

"Annexation in Iowa and the 'Textbook Example' of a Voluntary Annexation that Hardly Seems Voluntary," Drake Journal of Agricultural Law, Spring 2004.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE, MEMBERSHIPS AND CIVIC WORK

GREATER DES MOINES LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE - GRADUATE

Central Iowa's premier and longest standing leadership program; A select group of emerging and existing leaders from the private, public, and non-profit sectors are selected to participate in this nine-month program designed to raise awareness of the needs that affect the region, and enhance leadership skills; Class of 2009-10.

IOWA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Appointed by the ISBA President to identify ways the bar can improve access to justice to people who are unable for free civil legal services in Iowa.

IOWA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION (YLD) – DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

Elected representative for the 5th district of Iowa; YLD provides programs, education and services to groups ranging from elementary students to the elderly; YLD further seeks to raise the interest of law students of Iowa and young members of the Bar in the Iowa State Bar and American Bar; 2004 – 2013.

DRAKE LAW SCHOOL BOARD OF COUNSELORS – BOARD MEMBER

An association of distinguished attorneys serving as advisors to the Dean of the Law School; 2003 – 2011.

POLK COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elected by membership of Iowa's largest local bar association to the Board of Directors, 2014-.

POLK COUNTY VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT – BOARD OF DIRECTOR/PRESIDENT

A volunteer attorney program created to provide civil legal assistance to low-income residents of Polk County; 2009 – current; Recipient of the 2008 Outstanding Volunteer Award by Iowa State Bar Association.

POLK COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION – CO-CHAIR

PCBA/YLD committee provides young lawyers in Polk County with an opportunity to make connections through social events and to foster the professional development of its members; 2009 – 2011.

ENCLAVE OF ASHWORTHY HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION – BOARD OF DIRECTORS, VICE PRESIDENT

Elected; 2014-.

BROWN-CAMP AND TONE LOFTS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION – BOARD OF DIRECTOR

Elected; 2009- 2013.

THE HONORABLE SOCIETY OF THE BLACKSTONE INN OF COURT – MEMBER

A society of advocates promoting collegiality and legal education to the Inn; 2005 – 2011.

UNITED WAY

Campaign Coordinator for Whitfield & Eddy, P.L.C.; 2005.

INTERESTS

Golf, fishing, physical exercise and Iowa athletics.