

January 6, 2015

Business Record 40 Under 40
Business Record Publications Corp.
The Depot at 104th Street
Des Moines, IA 50309

Re: *2015 Class of 40 Under 40*

Dear Nominations Committee:

I am honored to support the nomination of Katie Graham for the 2015 Class of 40 Under 40. You get to know someone pretty well by working with them – but you really get to know someone by going to trial with them. Katie and I are fellow trial lawyers. I admire Katie Graham's dedication to her family, the community and the legal profession. In this age of shameless self-promotion and internet exaggeration, Katie Graham is breath of fresh air – someone who serves her community with quiet competence.

Katie is clearly a leader in the legal profession. Despite her youth, Katie is an experienced trial lawyer and recognized leader in the bar. She put herself through college and law school. She graduated magna cum laude from the University of Iowa School of Journalism and Mass Communications while working full-time and serving as the fundraising coordinator for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Katie was an editor of the Drake Journal of Agricultural Law while also serving as a law clerk to one of her mentors, Roxanne Conlin.

Katie is on the Board of Directors of the Iowa Defense Counsel and is active in Polk County Women Attorneys and Iowa Women Lead Change. I had the pleasure of watching Katie win one of her first jury trials – a hard fought case in which she convinced an Iowa jury to give a substantial award to a disabled veteran who was claiming that he was treated unfairly because of his service in Afghanistan.

Though petite in stature, Katie has the heart of a lion. She is fearless. She has the rare ability to communicate in a cogent and calm manner regardless of the occasion. Essentially, she has the Irish ability to tell someone to go to hades and make them look forward to the journey. Katie is calm under pressure. She no doubt developed this skill in her first career in the hospitality industry. Before going to law school, Katie served as a bartender and restaurant manager.

Katie's dedication to service obviously comes naturally. She is one of those people that is a "familiar face" when it comes to community activities. She has served as the Grand Cru co-chair for Winefest Des Moines. She has been a member of the Backstage Ball Committee and has chaired the Backstage Ball Committee of the Des Moines Music Coalition. She has been on the Central Iowa

Backstage Ball Committee of the Des Moines Music Coalition. She has been on the Central Iowa Steering Committee for the Iowa Women Lead Change. For years, she has been a patron lounge volunteer for the Des Moines Civic Center. Despite working extremely hard for her clients and serving the community, Katie is always willing to help.

I asked Katie to help me coach a Valley High mock trial team. She graciously agreed to assist. Let me be frank. I paid my mock trial dues when my four children were in junior high and high school. I only agreed to help one of the Valley teams because I was approached by one of my neighbors – a brilliant young man who is the son of Pakistani immigrants. The team was comprised of young people who could easily make up the cast of the Big Bang Theory -- brilliant and hardworking young people, but probably not the “in crowd” in their large suburban high school. Despite being fully committed to other worthy causes, Katie took over the team and molded them into a very successful team. While this may seem like a small thing, it was incredibly vital to a dozen immigrants who represent the future of our community and our country.

Katie is modest. She is not preoccupied with the material things of this world. In fact, the most “expensive” thing that Katie owns is a cat with leukemia that was given to her by one of her mentors.

In closing, and in all seriousness, the real puzzle with Katie Graham is how she finds time to sleep given her active legal practice and dedication to her community. I cannot think of anyone better qualified to be accorded the honor of 40 Under 40. I invite you to call me if you have any questions. You might also call my good friend, Roxanne Conlin. Roxanne becomes noticeably excited at the mention of Katie’s name because like me, Roxanne recognizes that Katie is one of the few bright lamps that light a sometimes dark road in this life.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Harty', with a stylized, cursive script.

Frank Harty

FBH/jse

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Roxanne Barton Conlin

Certified in Civil Trial Advocacy by the National Board of Trial Advocacy

January 6, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I have known Katie Graham since she came to work as my law clerk in 2009. I immediately recognized in her intelligence, the courage of her convictions and the willingness to work as hard as necessary to achieve her goals. Her work for us was uniformly excellent. She was instrumental in preparing for a trial involving a child who was molested by a temporary part time maintenance man at a low income apartment building who was on the sexual offender registry. Katie wrote the brief opposing the defendant's late attempt to have the molested child examined by a psychologist of the Defendant's choice. The effort to preclude the examination was successful. The case settled on the eve of trial due in part to the great work Katie and the other law clerks did in our pretrial filings, including a brilliant trial brief and proposed jury instructions. The settlement resulted in resources sufficient to provide education for the child and psychological care for him for his lifetime.

She worked on two cases involving the rights of deaf people to understand the medical care they or their loved ones are receiving. One involved a deaf woman whose deaf husband died in the hospital without either of them ever understanding the nature of his condition or the treatment he was being given, despite federal law requiring that they be supplied with a sign language interpreter. The second case involved the hearing daughter of a deaf woman who died without ever being provided with the federally required sign language interpreter while she was in the same hospital. The settlement in that case, which occurred after she left us recognized the problem and addressed everything our clients thought would help to assure that deaf patients and their families would never again face the terror these two families faced while their family members died.

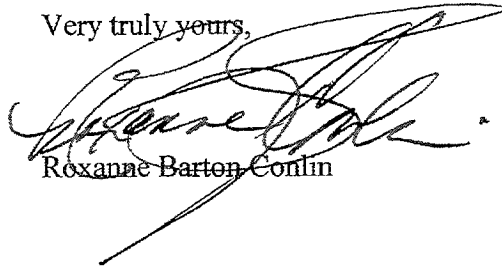
Katie was particularly gifted at dealing with clients and potential clients. Our clients are frequently people in crises who can be depressed, hysterical or difficult or all of those things at once. . Katie invariably dealt with every single one of them with compassion and concern. Many complimented her to me because they felt she was so helpful to them.

She has, since her graduation continued her fine work, though now most of her cases are representing businesses. We have had some cases against each other, and I have learned again about her creativity and fierce devotion to her clients and their cases. She was one of my most accomplished law clerks and one of my favorite people.

Katie has also continued her community and professional service, volunteering on boards and commissions and lending her expertise to many worthy causes. She has great organizing and management skills together with boundless energy and a sincere desire to improve our profession and our community.

Katie has overcome many daunting obstacles with courage and tenacity. She certainly deserves to be honored. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roxanne Barton Conlin", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Roxanne Barton Conlin



January 5, 2015

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To the 2015 Forty Under Forty Selection Committee,

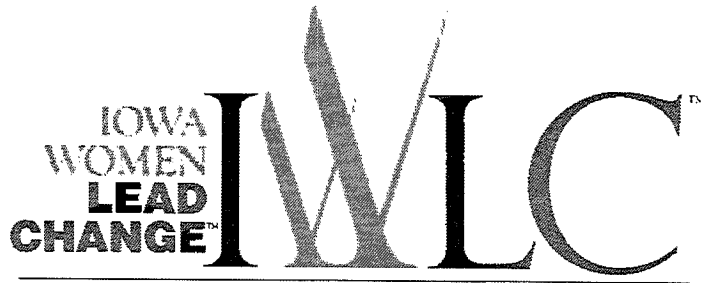
It is an honor to write you in support of Katie Graham's nomination to the 2015 Forty Under Forty class. As a 2013 Forty Under Forty honoree, I can assure you, Katie exemplifies all the qualities upheld in this distinction.

I worked with Katie during my tenure at the Des Moines Wine Festival Foundation. Kate was a member of the Grand Cru, the organization's young professional board and her "can-do" attitude was a huge asset to the board. Not only was she enthusiastic about her Winefest responsibilities, she was dependable as well. It's not a surprise that after only one year on the board she is now leading the Grand Cru as one of its co-chairs. She leads with grace and in a manner that easily inspires others.

What impresses me so much about Katie is how involved she is in our community while at the same time managing a very demanding legal career at Nyemaster Goode. It's quite amazing what she has accomplished in just three short years out of law school. She is committed to making our community a better place to live whether that is through cultural events like Winefest and 80/35 or by volunteering in cases involving adoptions and termination of parental rights. We are lucky to have Katie as an advocate for Des Moines, and hope you agree that Katie is the ideal candidate for the next class of Forty Under Forty honorees.

Warmest regards,

Nikki Syverson
Director of Development
Des Moines Community Playhouse



200 First Street SE, Suite 2100 | Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

December 30, 2014

The Business Record
Forty Under 40
100 4th Street
Des Moines, IA 50309

Dear Forty Under 40 Selection Committee:

This letter is to enthusiastically support Katie Graham's nomination for recognition in the *Business Record's* 2015 Forty under 40 Awards.

Katie Graham joined the local Iowa Women Lead Change (IWLC) conference steering committee in 2011 and has been an active participant, a voice for young professionals and a tireless advocate for those requiring financial support to attend IWLC programs. IWLC's mission is to inspire leadership growth through education, collaboration and engagement to empower women. Our conferences are the primary vehicle for advancing our mission. Since 2011, our Des Moines event has grown from 225 to 825 full conference attendees plus another 135 student track participants. That growth is due in large part to the efforts of the local steering committee and their advocacy for IWLC and its mission. Katie has been a tremendous resource for tapping into the under forty demographic.

In addition to Katie's work with IWLC, she volunteers her time and leadership skills for a number of Des Moines based cultural, social and educational groups including her position as co-chair of Winefest Des Moines Grand Cru, co-chair of Des Moines Music Coalition's Backstage Ball Committee, serving as a mock trial coach at Valley High School and the Des Moines Civic Center.

Katie is committed to ensuring that Des Moines is an attractive place for young professionals to live, work and play and has aligned herself with likeminded organizations. She plays a critical role in helping us appeal to a younger audience.

On top of that, Katie is a successful lawyer. How she meets the demands of a challenging profession *and* her community involvement is a testament to Katie's dedication, focus and ability to get things done. And, it's all accomplished with a wonderfully positive approach.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane H. Ramsey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Diane" being more prominent.

Diane H. Ramsey
CEO



January 7, 2015

Re: Nomination for Katie Graham

Dear 2015 Forty Under 40 Selection Committee:

I am writing this committee today to share the passion, enthusiasm, and dedication Katie Graham has for Central Iowa. Over the last few years I have had the privilege of working with Ms. Graham on several fund raisers and events for both the Des Moines Music Coalition and Winefest Des Moines.

Normally when I meet someone while volunteering for a fundraiser or on a board, our paths don't cross outside of meetings until it comes time to plan the next annual event. However, with Katie I keep bumping into her at meeting after meeting, event after event. She isn't just volunteering to build clientele or because her firm requires her to get involved, she is volunteering because she cares and is passionate about keeping her community the great place that it is.

Last year Katie and I co-chaired the Backstage Ball Fundraiser for the Des Moines Music Coalition after previously serving as committee members. Besides setting records for the event with both attendance and money raised, Katie was diligent in not only planning and fundraising for the event, but putting sweat labor into the set up and orchestration of the event, something few volunteers are willing to do. During the planning process when some of the committee members became less passionate due to other circumstances, she remained determined and made the Backstage Ball a success.

On the Winefest Grand Cru board, Ms. Graham yet again proves that the future of Des Moines has a great future with young people like Katie giving selflessly of their time and talents. Now on her third year as a Grand Cru member she is serving as Co-Chair; with a force like Katie behind it, the group is going to have a significant impact on this year's lineup of events and its overall success.

Katie is the prime example of a young professional that will lead her generation of philanthropists in the types of endeavors that will ensure that Central Iowa will continue to be a successful, growing and evolving region.

Sincerely,


Brad M. Magg

Goldie's Ice Cream Shoppe, LLC
304 West 2nd Street
Prairie City, IA 50228