



## Gray Plant Mooty's John Nichols Named Minneapolis "Lawyer of the Year" in Employee Benefits Law

October 25, 2011

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (October 25, 2011) — The Minneapolis-based law firm of Gray Plant Mooty is pleased to announce that Best Lawyers, a respected, peer-reviewed legal publication, has named John M. Nichols the "Lawyer of the Year" in Minneapolis in Employment Benefits (ERISA) Law. This is the second consecutive year that a Gray Plant Mooty attorney has been named Minneapolis "Lawyer of the Year" in Employment Benefits (ERISA) Law; in 2010, Richard Hackett, who was a Gray Plant Mooty shareholder at the time and is now of counsel with the firm, received the honor.

After more than a quarter of a century in publication, Best Lawyers is designating "Lawyers of the Year" in high-profile legal specialties in large legal communities. Only a single lawyer in each specialty in each community is being honored as the "Lawyer of the Year."

Best Lawyers compiles its lists of outstanding attorneys by conducting exhaustive peer-review surveys in which thousands of leading lawyers confidentially evaluate their professional peers. The current, 18th edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* (2012) is based on more than 3.9 million detailed evaluations of lawyers by other lawyers.

The lawyers being honored as "Lawyers of the Year" have received particularly high ratings in surveys by earning a high level of respect among their peers for their abilities, professionalism, and integrity.

Steven Naifeh, president of Best Lawyers, says, "We continue to believe—as we have believed for more than 25 years—that recognition by one's peers is the most meaningful form of praise in the legal profession. We would like to congratulate John M. Nichols on being selected as the 'Minneapolis Best Lawyers Employee Benefits (ERISA) Law Lawyer of the Year' for 2012."

With over 30 years of experience in employee benefits, Nichols has been involved in virtually every phase of this area of practice, ranging from plan design to employee benefits litigation. He is also a frequent lecturer and speaker on a variety of employee benefits topics.



**About GPM:**

Gray Plant Mooty is recognized as one of the leading corporate law firms in Minnesota and one of the top franchise firms in the world. Our roots go back to 1866. Today, we are a 170-attorney, full-service firm with offices in Minneapolis and St. Cloud, Minnesota, and Washington, DC. Our attorneys and staff provide exceptional client service and value to our clients, and directly or with our global affiliations, we provide comprehensive legal services on a regional, national, and global basis.