



**Abbott Nicholson Attorneys Named Michigan Super Lawyers
Esshaki, Gilbride, Quilter, Weller, Youngblood and Weikert
Receive Prestigious Designation**

DETROIT, Mich., September 22, 2008 - Detroit law firm Abbott Nicholson, P.C. announced that attorneys Gene Esshaki, William Gilbride, Thomas Quilter, Robert Weller and John Youngblood were named "Michigan Super Lawyers 2008," and Michael Weikert was named a "Michigan Super Lawyers Rising Star 2008."

The Super Lawyer designation is awarded to outstanding Michigan attorneys by publisher Law & Politics. This is the third year Super Lawyers magazine has conducted a review in Michigan and those named to the list represent less than five percent of the state's licensed practitioners. Michigan Super Lawyers rates individual lawyers based on an annual statewide survey of all lawyers who have been in practice for at least five years, independent research and a peer review by practice area.

Gene Esshaki was recognized for his work in the area of alternative dispute resolution. A founding shareholder of the firm, Esshaki specializes in business and corporate law, complex commercial litigation and alternative dispute resolution. Esshaki was named a Super Lawyer in 2007 as well.

William Gilbride is the firm's managing shareholder and chief operating officer. He was recognized by Michigan Super Lawyers for his expertise in alternative dispute resolution. More broadly, Gilbride is a business lawyer whose primary areas of practice include representing business interests in the areas of contracts, business and corporate law, dispute resolution, real estate, zoning and land use law. He is also a former chairman of the firm's litigation section.

Thomas Quilter is a founding shareholder of the firm. His primary areas of expertise include business planning, corporate law and estate planning for high net worth individuals and business owners and he is recognized by Michigan Super Lawyers in the area of business/corporate. Quilter was formerly a member of the firm's board of directors and chairperson of the firm's business section. Quilter was also named a 2007 Super Lawyer.

Robert Weller was recognized for his work in general litigation. With over 28 years of experience, Weller is a member of the Abbott Nicholson's board of directors, and co-chairs the firm's auto dealer practice group. He concentrates on commercial litigation and business counseling, with an emphasis on automobile dealer law. Weller, along with auto dealer practice co-chair John Youngblood, leads the firm's representation of a number of retail motor vehicle dealerships and their affiliated dealer advertising associations.

John Youngblood has practiced law with Abbott Nicholson since 1979 and has over 35 years of practice experience. He was recognized by Michigan Super Lawyers for his expertise in the area of franchise/dealership law. Youngblood co-chairs the firm's Dealer Practice Group, is a member of the corporate and labor sections, and is a member of Abbott Nicholson's board of directors.



Michael Weikert was named a “Michigan Super Lawyers Rising Star 2008.” According to Super Lawyers, no more than 2.5 percent of lawyers are named to the Rising Star list. Weikert is a shareholder with the firm and is a member of the auto dealer and litigation practice groups.

Significantly, Weller, Youngblood and Weikert were the only lawyers in Michigan recognized in the franchise/dealership category.

“It is an honor to have such a high percentage of our attorneys named to the Michigan Super Lawyers list,” said Gilbride. “This is a testament to the deep knowledge and high level of service Abbott Nicholson provides to its clients.”

Abbott Nicholson, P.C. is a full service, Detroit-based, corporate law firm. It specializes in solving the legal, tax, and business issues confronting corporations, public entities, entrepreneurs, and individuals. It is a member of Meritas, a global alliance of more than 170 commercial law firms located in over 60 countries. Abbott Nicholson is the only law firm in southeast Michigan that is a member. Members are ranked among the top firms in most cities. For more information, visit www.abbottnicholson.com.

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