

For Immediate Release

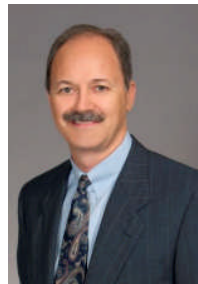
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Leslie A. Cotter, Jr.



Franklin J. Smith, Jr.

Two Richardson Plowden attorneys selected as “Lawyers of the Year” by *Best Lawyers*®

COLUMBIA, S.C., November 7, 2011 - - [Richardson, Plowden & Robinson, P.A.](#) is pleased to announce that two of its attorneys were selected by *Best Lawyers in America*® as Columbia, SC “Lawyers of the Year” in their respective fields. Leslie A. Cotter, Jr. was selected for Legal Malpractice Law and Franklin J. Smith, Jr. was selected for Litigation-Construction Law.

Best Lawyers designates “Lawyers of the Year” in high-profile legal specialties. Only a single lawyer in each specialty in each community is honored as a “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 lawyers designated as “Lawyers of the Year” have received particularly high ratings in the *Best Lawyers* surveys by earning a high level of respect among their peers for their abilities, professionalism, and integrity.

[Cotter](#) focuses his practice on professional malpractice defense, insurance defense litigation, governmental liability defense, employment and civil rights litigation, and products liability and personal injury defense. Cotter is also a certified mediator and arbitrator. He is an active member of the South Carolina Bar where he has continuously served in the House of Delegates since 1992, serves on the Nominating Committee of the Bar and is immediate past Chair of the Practice and Procedure Committee. Cotter is a member of the Bar of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and is a permanent member of the Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference. He also is a member of the American Bar Association, Defense Research Institute, South Carolina Defense Trial Attorneys’ Association and the John Belton O’Neill Inn of Court.

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Richardson Plowden – Lawyer of the Year 2012
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[Smith](#) focuses his practice on construction law, federal contract law, fidelity and surety law, insurance defense, and professional malpractice. Smith also is a certified mediator and arbitrator. He is a member of the American Bar Association, South Carolina Bar, and Richland County Bar Association. He is also a member of the Dispute Avoidance and Resolution Division of the Forum on the Construction Industry, is a member of the panel of arbitrators for the American Arbitration Association, is on the Board of Advisors for the Clemson University Civil Engineering Department, and is a member of the South Carolina Defense Trial Attorneys' Association. This is the second year that *Best Lawyers* has distinguished Smith as a "Lawyer of the Year."

About Richardson Plowden

Established in 1973, Richardson Plowden Robinson, P.A., is among the 20 largest law firms in South Carolina, with more than 30 attorneys in offices in Columbia and Myrtle Beach. A full service law firm, Richardson Plowden has more than 25 practice areas providing legal counsel to local, state and national clients. For more information, visit www.RichardsonPlowden.com.

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