

For Immediate Release

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**Six Richardson Plowden Attorneys Selected
to 2012 edition of *Best Lawyers in America*®**

COLUMBIA, S.C., September 6, 2011 - - The 2012 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*® has selected six [Richardson, Plowden & Robinson, P.A.](#) attorneys as *Best Lawyers*: Leslie A. Cotter, Jr., Frederick A. Crawford, Steven W. Hamm, Francis M. Mack, Frank E. Robinson, II, and Franklin J. Smith, Jr.

The Best Lawyers in America publication is highly regarded and is used as a referral guide in the legal profession. It represents attorneys in 80 specialties in all 50 states and Washington, D.C. Top lawyers in the nation are evaluated and selected by fellow attorneys for the award. The peer-reviewed publication is considered among the most reliable sources for legal referrals.

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[Cotter](#) was selected by *Best Lawyers* for his work in Legal Malpractice Law. This is the second consecutive year Cotter has been recognized by *Best Lawyers*. He 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 a member of the South Carolina Bar and 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'Neall Inn of Court.

For the third consecutive year, [Crawford](#) was recognized by *Best Lawyers* for his work in Health Care Law. Crawford focuses his practice on health care law, contracts, accounting malpractice defense, estate planning, and corporate law. He also represents dentists, hospitals and physicians and provides counsel on matters including, but not limited to, Anti-kickback Safe-harbors, Certificate of Need (CON), Corporate Compliance and Stark exceptions. He is a member of the Richland County Bar Association, American Health Lawyers Association and the Columbia Estate Planning Council.

[Hamm](#) was chosen by *Best Lawyers* for his work in Administrative and Regulatory Law. This is the second consecutive year that he has been recognized by *Best Lawyers*. Hamm focuses his practices on administrative and regulatory law and is the Firm's lead attorney on government relations. Hamm is a member of the South Carolina Bar, and is licensed to practice in the U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit; U.S. District Court, District of South Carolina; U. S. Supreme Court; and U.S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Court. His distinguished career includes past positions as the state consumer advocate and administrator, South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs; chairman, Federal Reserve Board's National Consumer Advisory Council; president, National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates; and president, National Association of Consumer Agency Administrators.

This is the eleventh consecutive year that [Mack](#) has been recognized by *Best Lawyers*. This year he was selected for his work in Commercial Litigation and Construction Litigation. Mack focuses his practice on complex commercial litigation in the areas of construction, contract disputes, fidelity and surety law, and insurance defense matters. He also is a certified arbitrator. A licensed engineer, Mack is a member of the American Bar Association, South Carolina Bar, Richland County Bar Association, South Carolina Defense Trial Attorneys Association, and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. He is a frequent speaker on the topic of construction law as it relates to design professionals. Mack has also been previously recognized as a South Carolina *Super Lawyer*.

[Robinson](#) was honored as a *Best Lawyer* in the area of Real Estate Law. This marks his eighteenth consecutive year as a *Best Lawyer*. Robinson focuses his practice on business and commercial law and real estate. His experience includes representing lenders and developers in various aspects of real estate finance and development. He is a member of the American Bar Association,

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South Carolina Bar and the Richland County Bar Association. He holds the title of Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Naval Reserve. In 2010, *Best Lawyers* distinguished Robinson as Columbia, SC, Real Estate Lawyer of the Year.

[Smith](#) was selected by *Best Lawyers* in the area of Construction Litigation. This is his eleventh consecutive year being recognized by *Best Lawyers*. Smith's practice is focused 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. In 2010, *Best Lawyers* distinguished Smith as Columbia, SC, Construction Law Lawyer of the Year. Smith has also been recognized as a South Carolina *Super Lawyer* for past four years.

These attorneys were selected for the 2012 edition of *Best Lawyers in America* out of a pool of more than three million entries nationwide.

About Richardson Plowden

Established in 1973, Richardson, Plowden & Robinson, P.A., is one of 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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