

For Immediate Release

For Information

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Franklin J. Smith, Jr.

Richardson Plowden's Smith recognized as Construction Lawyer of the Year

COLUMBIA, S.C., February 22, 2010 - - Richardson Plowden is pleased to announce *Best Lawyers in America*® has named [Franklin J. Smith, Jr.](#) as the Columbia, S.C. *Best Lawyers* Construction Lawyer of the Year for 2010.

A shareholder in the Firm, Smith is a seasoned construction law attorney with more than 25 years of experience. His practice is focused primarily on [construction law](#), including construction litigation, contract drafting and negotiation, claims resolution and avoidance, professional malpractice, and insurance defense. A certified mediator and arbitrator, Smith also maintains an active practice in the mediation and arbitration of construction and business-related disputes. Prior to practicing law, Smith was an engineer with Wilbur Smith & Associates.

Each year, *Best Lawyers* compiles its list of outstanding attorneys by conducting exhaustive peer-review surveys in which thousands of attorneys evaluate their peers. Those honored as Lawyer of the Year have received particularly high ratings in the *Best Lawyers* surveys by earning respect among peers for their abilities, professionalism and integrity. Only one lawyer in each legal specialty in each community is honored as the Lawyer of the Year.

“We are delighted that Frank has been named the best construction lawyer in Columbia,” says Steve Pugh, managing shareholder for Richardson Plowden. “This honor recognizes his experience in construction law, the sound legal counsel he provides to his clients, and the respect he’s earned from other attorneys.”

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Smith is a member of the American Bar Association, South Carolina Bar, and Richland County Bar Association. He is past chair of the Construction section of the South Carolina Bar, a member of the Dispute Avoidance and Resolution Division of the Forum on the Construction Industry of the American Bar Association, has been selected as a *Best Lawyer in America* for the last three years, and was recognized as a *South Carolina Super Lawyer* in 2008 and 2009.

About Richardson Plowden

Established in 1973, Richardson, Plowden & Robinson, P.A., is among the 15 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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For 300 dpi image of Mr. Smith, contact Jean Triskett at jtriskett@luxandassociates.com.