

# GRAVES GARRETT NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF GRAVES GARRETT LLC | FALL 2015

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- > Super Lawyers Recognition 1
- > Bailey & McGroder Join Firm 1
- > Victory in Fraud Trial 2
- > Two Named 'Best of the Bar' 2
- > Firm Among Ingram's Largest 2
- > Graves Presents at National Event 3
- > Greim Featured by KCBJ 4
- > Strack Moves to Saint Luke's 4



## Eight Graves Garrett Attorneys Recognized by Super Lawyers

Graves Garrett is pleased to announce that eight of the firm's attorneys were included among *Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers'* 2015 roster of attorneys. Partners Todd Graves and Nathan Garrett were recognized as "Super Lawyers" while Partners Eddie Greim and Kathleen Fisher, as well as Counsel Miriam Bailey and Associates Lucinda Luetkemeyer, Dane Martin and Paige Strack, were named "Rising Stars."

*Continued on page 4*

## Graves Garrett Grows Firm With Addition of Bailey and McGroder

Graves Garrett is pleased to announce that Miriam Bailey and Joseph McGroder have joined the firm's Kansas City office.

*Continued on page 3*

## Letter from the Firm

### Wishing you a warm and pleasant Autumn

As the season turns, we are pleased to report that there have been many positive changes at our firm. First and foremost, we are thrilled to welcome Miriam Bailey and Joseph McGroder to the firm as Counsel and Associate, respectively. Additionally, several of our attorneys were recently recognized for their hard work by the *Kansas City Business Journal* and *Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers*. As always, the firm is honored to have had the opportunity to continue effectively serving its clients and is proud to share that Dane Martin recently achieved a significant trial victory on behalf of three companies. We appreciate your continued support of the firm and wish you a wonderful fall season. ■

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Graves Garrett LLC

## Graves Garrett Successfully Defends Three Companies in Fraud Trial



Graves Garrett attorney Dane Martin recently obtained a major victory at trial on

behalf of clients Pitman Utility Products, Inc., Ashton Family Limited Partnership and Crash Rescue Equipment Service, Inc. Graves Garrett was retained on the matter specifically for representation at trial, which commenced in June and was decided in September. The firm joined co-counsel Schlagel Kinzer, LLC, led at trial by partner Lance Kinzer.

The plaintiff, a creditor of Pitman, brought suit against the

defendants, alleging that they had violated the Missouri Uniform Fraudulent Transfers Act (MUFTA). In particular, the plaintiff asserted that Pitman had fraudulently transferred its assets to Crash Rescue under an asset purchase agreement.

Furthermore, the plaintiff alleged that Pitman had considered monies loaned by friends and family of its president as debt when it should have been classified as equity and, thus, not included in the purchase agreement.

The plaintiff sought the value of its debt, collection costs, attorneys' fees, interest at 1.5 percent per month, expert witness fees, and punitive damages. The total potential damages were in excess of \$1 million.

The defense argued that Crash Rescue had provided "reasonably equivalent value" to Pitman under the purchase agreement and also engaged in a "battle of the experts" regarding the fair market value of Pitman's assets. The defense also put forth evidence supporting the transaction and proving that Pitman had no intent to defraud the plaintiff.

The court agreed with the defense, finding that the plaintiff had failed to meet its burden of proof on all claims and that the arguments and expert testimony provided by the defense were more credible on the matter. The court also found that the defense proved its affirmative defenses. Circuit Judge Jennifer M. Phillips ruled in favor of the defendants on all eight counts. ■

## Graves and Greim Named 'Best of the Bar' in Kansas City Business Journal

Graves Garrett Partners Todd Graves and Eddie Greim were included among this year's "Best of the Bar" feature in the *Kansas City Business Journal*. The annual recognition highlights the city's most prominent legal talent and is based on a vote by metro-area peers. Graves was recognized in the practice areas of Commercial and Business Litigation as well as White Collar Criminal Defense and Corporate Compliance. Greim received recognition for his Constitutional Law and Campaign Finance practices as well as Commercial Litigation. Graves Garrett Partner Nathan Garrett was included in last year's Best of the Bar and both Graves and Garrett were included in this year's edition of *Best Lawyers in America*. In addition, eight of the firm's attorneys were recently recognized as "Rising Stars" or "Super Lawyers" by *Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers*. ■



## Ingram's: Graves Garrett Among KC's Largest Law Firms

Graves Garrett is pleased to announce that the firm was included in *Ingram's* 50 Largest Law Firms list for 2015. The annual feature ranks the largest firms in Kansas City based on the number of attorneys practicing at the firm.

Since its founding, the firm has experienced growth in a number of practices. As noted in the article, "Led by a pair of former federal prosecutors, Graves Garrett represents clients nationwide, both businesses and individuals, in commercial and white-collar litigation." ■

## Bailey and McGroder Join Graves Garrett, continued



Miriam Bailey has joined the firm as counsel in its Complex Commercial Litigation practice group. Before joining Graves Garrett, Bailey was in private practice at a national law firm where she focused on commercial and professional services litigation.

Her past experience also includes serving as a judicial intern to the Hon. Duane Benton of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit and the Hon. Robert E. Larsen of the United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri. Bailey was also recently recognized as an "Up and Coming" attorney by *Missouri Lawyers Weekly* and as a "Rising Star" by *Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers*.



Bailey earned her law degree *magna cum laude* from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where she was the managing editor of the *UMKC Law Review*. Bailey earned her bachelor's degree in psychology *magna cum laude* from William Jewell College, where she was a member of the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

Outside of the office, Bailey is involved in a number of philanthropic organizations including Operation Breakthrough and Special Neighbors, Inc.

Joseph McGroder has joined Graves Garrett as an associate and will support the firm's Commercial Litigation, White Collar Criminal Defense and Free Speech, Campaign Finance and Election Law practice groups. Prior to joining Graves Garrett, McGroder worked at a regional personal injury firm where he managed mass tort campaigns and individual claims through all phases of litigation.

McGroder earned his law degree from the University of Kansas School of Law where he served as an editorial board member of the *Kansas Journal of Law and Public Policy*. During his tenure, he authored "The Death of Campaign Finance Regulation: Anticipating *McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission*." McGroder was appointed by the University of Kansas School of Law faculty to serve as the official representative of the School of Law to the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association. He remains a member of the KCMBA Young Lawyer's Section.

In his spare time, McGroder dedicates himself to numerous philanthropic organizations including Harvester's – The Community Food Network, Operation Breakthrough, Catholic Charities and the National Relief Network. ■

## Graves Speaks at Federalist Society's 2015 National Lawyers Convention



Graves  
Garrett  
Partner  
Todd  
Graves was  
asked to  
speak at  
the 2015  
National

Lawyers Convention hosted by the Federalist Society in Washington, D.C. The theme for this year's convention was "The Role of Congress" and featured a Governors' Roundtable including Kansas Governor Sam Brownback, Georgia Governor Nathan Deal, Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts and Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker.

Graves' speech focused on the "Criminalization of Politics" and the need for companies to proceed with caution when entering the political arena. In his presentation, Graves outlined the potential damage that a government investigation into improper political behavior can inflict upon a company as well as steps companies can take to prevent such an outcome.

In addition to Graves, the convention featured a number of other speakers and panelists including professors from esteemed universities including Princeton and Northwestern, as well as renowned scholars, politicians and numerous state supreme court justices. ■

## Greim Shares Insight on Constitutional Law in Minimum Wage Article



Graves Garrett Partner Eddie Greim was recently tapped by the *Kansas City Business Journal* to provide insight on the latest developments in the minimum wage dispute. As an attorney who specializes in constitutional and election law, Greim was able to shed some light on the legal options available to the participants of the minimum wage debate.

According to Greim, current law would nullify any attempts made by the Kansas City Council or other citywide efforts to raise the minimum wage. The only legally viable path forward at this juncture would be to file a statewide initiative petition and put the question to a vote in the next election, which would most likely be the November 2016 general election.

In addition to his shared knowledge in the *Kansas City Business Journal*, Greim was recently sought out by local television station NBC 41 Action News in its coverage of a political retaliation lawsuit filed against Jackson County Sheriff Mike Sharp.

Greim has been dubbed a “go-to lawyer” on policy issues and has extensive experience in handling constitutional challenges on controversial issues, including trial and appellate challenges to the Missouri Court Plan. He has argued before the Missouri Supreme Court on four separate occasions. ■

## Eight Graves Garrett Attorneys Recognized by Super Lawyers, continued

*Super Lawyers* recognizes the top lawyers in the state annually through a multi-phase selection process.

Graves has been selected for the honor each consecutive year for the past decade and Garrett, Greim, Fisher and Bailey have all been recognized for the past several years as well. In addition to *Super Lawyers*, Graves Garrett attorneys have earned numerous accolades and esteemed recognitions throughout recent years, including “Influential Lawyer of the Year” and “Up and Coming Lawyer” by *Missouri Lawyers Weekly* as well as “Best of the Bar” by the *Kansas City Business Journal*. ■

## Strack Accepts Compliance Position with Saint Luke’s Hospital



Graves Garrett recently bid farewell to our colleague and friend Paige Strack who accepted a new position with Saint Luke’s Hospital as one of the hospital’s ethics and compliance officers.

Strack’s practice with the firm encompassed both civil law and white collar criminal law matters, primarily at a federal level. Joining the firm in 2009, Strack has been a valued member of our team and to our clients. We look forward to watching her achieve great success in her new role. ■