

GRAVES GARRETT NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF GRAVES GARRETT LLC | SUMMER 2015

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- > Firm Earns Victory in Wisconsin 1
- > Alan Simpson Joins Graves Garrett 1
- > Summary Judgment Awarded 2
- > Strack Appointed to Board 2
- > Garrett Presents at KC MBA CCI 2
- > Graves Delivers Keynote Speech 3
- > Martin Graduates from Academy 3
- > Garrett Shares Cybersecurity Tips 4
- > Graves Named Lawyer of the Year 4



Wisconsin Supreme Court Ruling Favors Firm's Clients; Garner National Attention

In a case that caught the attention of *The Wall Street Journal*, the Wisconsin Supreme Court issued a ruling in favor of the firm's clients, Wisconsin Club for Growth and Eric O'Keefe, in a complex campaign finance case relating to their support for Gov. Scott Walker's policies.

Continued on page 4

Letter from the Firm

We hope you have enjoyed a sunny and successful summer season.

We are happy to report that our firm has been embracing the warm weather and staying active through the summer months. Todd Graves was recently named the 2016 Lawyer of the Year by *Best Lawyers in America* and the firm was recently recognized by the *Kansas City Business Journal* for achieving three significant False Claims Act wins in the past 18 months. In addition, *The Wall Street Journal* singled out the firm for its defense of the Wisconsin Club for Growth, which had been under intense investigation in Wisconsin. We are grateful for the opportunity to have been involved in these and many other cases on behalf of our clients. ■

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Graves Garrett Grows Firm With Addition Of Alan Simpson

Graves Garrett is pleased to announce that Alan Simpson has joined the firm to support its growing complex commercial

Continued on page 3



Graves Garrett LLC

Graves Garrett Client Awarded Summary Judgment in False Claims Act Case



Graves Garrett is pleased to share that one of the firm's most valued clients, Black

& Veatch Special Projects Corp., was awarded summary judgment in a Federal False Claims Act ("qui tam") case in the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas on June 5, 2015.

U.S. District Judge Daniel Crabtree determined that "no rational jury" could find legal merit to claims that Black & Veatch Special Projects Corp. had defrauded the United States government. Black & Veatch Special Projects Corp.

tapped Graves Garrett Partner Nathan Garrett, a former federal prosecutor and FBI Special Agent, as lead defense counsel in the qui tam case, which is commonly referred to as a "whistleblower" case. Garrett and Partner Kathleen Fisher obtained the win on the heels of another recent successful outcome in a False Claims Act lawsuit against Bluebird Network LLC, as reported by *Missouri Lawyers Weekly*.

Garrett, alongside firm lawyers Paige Strack and Cheryl Wicks, successfully obtained summary judgment on behalf of Bluebird Network in an alleged multi-million dollar fraud filed in the Western District of Missouri. U.S. District Judge Nanette Laughery's decision in favor of

Bluebird Network was recently affirmed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

The Graves Garrett team was recently featured by the *Kansas City Business Journal* for achieving both these False Claims Act victories, in addition to another False Claims Act win for a different client, making a total of three wins in the past 18 months. The Graves Garrett team, which takes on both plaintiff and defense cases, includes a former U.S. Attorney, former federal and state prosecutors, and forensic accountants, among others with unique experience working with federal and state governments. ■

Strack Appointed to Community Capital Fund's Board of Directors



Graves Garrett Associate Paige Strack was recently appointed to the board of directors for the Community Capital Fund (CCF), a local 501c3 organization that supports innovative and measurable community development in historically underinvested and under-resourced areas of Kansas City, Mo.

During her three-year tenure as a board member, Strack will play a pivotal role in the strategic leadership of the organization, which was founded in 2012 with a grant from the KCMO CDE, a 501c4 community development entity that provides alternative, non-traditional financing to support investment in economically distressed communities in Kansas City. CCF works with organizations that strengthen and develop the financial, social and knowledge capital of the most challenged neighborhoods and communities in the heart of Kansas City.

In addition to her involvement with CCF, Strack dedicates her time to reStart, Inc., which has been working to end homelessness in Kansas City for more than 30 years. Strack is also a member of the American Bar Association and the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association. ■

Garrett Presents at KCMBACorporate Counsel Institute

Graves Garrett Partner Nathan Garrett spoke on the topic of internal investigations at the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association's Corporate Counsel Institute on June 17. Garrett also moderated a panel discussion on the emerging topic of cybersecurity.

The annual KCMBACorporate Counsel Institute is an all-day event that features timely topics specifically geared to corporate counsel. Chapter members had the opportunity to learn about topics of interest, earn several hours of CLE credit, and enjoy networking opportunities with other in-house counsel. ■

Graves Delivers Keynote Speech at Jackson County Prosecutor Training

Graves Garrett Partner Todd Graves presented the keynote speech at the Jackson County Prosecutor Office's Annual Spring Training Conference this May. His speech, titled "Confessions of a Former Prosecutor," focused on the lessons he learned as the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Missouri and as the Platte County Prosecuting Attorney.

Graves shared stories of the experience he acquired during his service including his observations on law and society as well as things he wished he would have known at the time. He also reaffirmed the great responsibility that prosecutors bear to keep criminals off the street.

During his tenure as U.S. Attorney, Graves was responsible for prosecuting federal crimes. Additionally, he served as a member of the Attorney General's Advisory Committee in which he advised the Attorney General on Department of Justice national priorities and policies and participated in drafting policies.

Now in private practice, Graves continues to play an active role in bettering the community through his work with the Kansas City Missouri Police Foundation, of which he is a founding board member. KCMPF provides support to the police department's underfunded programs and initiatives including education, training, technology, community outreach and youth intervention. ■

Simpson Joins Graves Garrett, continued



litigation, white collar criminal defense, and free speech, campaign finance and election law practice groups.

Prior to joining Graves Garrett, Simpson served as a law clerk to the Hon. Julie A. Robinson in the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas. Simpson's practice is also uniquely informed by his clerkship with the Hon. Arthur I. Harris in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Ohio and his experience as a full-time intern with the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. Simpson also has prior experience in the defense of False Claims Act whistleblower cases, an area in which the Graves Garrett team specializes.

Simpson earned his law degree from Washington University in St. Louis School of Law and his undergraduate degree from the University of Missouri in economics and statistics. He is a member of The Missouri Bar, the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association and the Lawyers Association of Kansas City, where he serves on the board of directors for the Young Lawyers Section. ■

Martin Graduates from KCMBA Trial Academy



Graves Garrett is pleased to announce that Associate Dane Martin was among the

2014-2015 graduating class of the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association's esteemed Ross T. Roberts Trial Academy.

The academy is an annual program that is organized by the KCMBA's Young Lawyers section in conjunction with the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri. The mission of the program is to help shape and build trial advocacy skills among new lawyers. As a student of the Ross T. Roberts Trial Academy, Martin and his classmates received training and guidance from experienced and highly regarded litigators and judges in the Kansas City community. The class also participated in mock trials, utilizing the techniques they acquired during the training sessions.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert E. Larsen led the trainings for the Trial Academy, which covered a wide range of subjects including voir dire, opening statements, direct and cross examinations, evidentiary foundations, expert witnesses and closing arguments.

In addition to his participation in the KCMBA Trial Academy, Martin's honors include being inducted into Order of the Coif by the University of Missouri School of Law. ■

Nathan Garrett Shares Insights on Cybersecurity in LegalTech News

Graves Garrett Partner Nathan Garrett was recently featured as a guest author in *LegalTech News*, sharing his insight on recent updates in the world of cybersecurity in an article titled, "Game of Threats: Cybercrime Takes a Bite Out of the Bottom Line."

Data breaches at national corporations like Anthem, Blue Cross and Sony, just to name a few, have begun to secure a regular spot among headline news. And as cybercrime becomes even more sophisticated, company executives need to be prepared, reports Garrett. The federal government has also declared cybersecurity to be a top national priority and has put forth numerous initiatives to promote enhanced cybersecurity among both government and private entities.

"Effectively responding to the threat of breaches, as well as to the new regulations, comes down to creating a comprehensive cybersecurity policy that addresses planning, preparing and reacting to breaches," according to Garrett's article. "It's no longer a matter of 'if' your company will suffer a breach; it's a matter of 'when.' And when the time comes, you'll need to demonstrate that you took appropriate and responsible actions to protect your and your customers' data."

As a former federal prosecutor serving as Chief of the National Security and Terrorism Section in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Missouri, and as a former FBI special agent who worked on a wide range of federal crimes including cyber fraud, Garrett is regularly sought for his experience and breadth of knowledge on cybersecurity and the quickly emerging liability faced by data holders. ■

Wisconsin Supreme Court Rules in Favor of Firm's Clients, continued

Graves Garrett Partner Todd Graves served as lead counsel for Club for Growth and O'Keefe with co-counsel Edward Greim, also a partner at Graves Garrett.

Graves Garrett was featured in *The Wall Street Journal*, as well as other national media, following the victory. In an editorial titled "Free Speech Liberation Day," *The Wall Street Journal* commended the Court's ruling and applauded Graves Garrett for its role in bringing "the constitutional issues into public focus."

"The government acted as if key protections in our nation's Bill of Rights simply did not apply," Graves said. "They used their unlawful investigation to try to threaten and embarrass groups they do not like, specifically because of the groups' constitutionally protected efforts on libertarian and conservative issues." ■

Graves Named 2016 Kansas City 'Lawyer of the Year'



Graves Garrett Partner Todd Graves was named the 2016 "Lawyer of the Year" for Kansas City, Mo., by *The Best Lawyers in America* within the practice area of Regulatory Enforcement Litigation. Only one attorney is selected per practice area in a community for the annual honor, which recognizes those lawyers who focus their practice on litigation within the industries of Energy, SEC and Telecom. In addition to his recognition as "Lawyer of the Year" in Regulatory Enforcement Litigation, Graves was also included among the attorneys recognized in *Best Lawyers'* 22nd edition in the practice area of White Collar Criminal Defense, along with fellow Partner Nathan Garrett. ■

The choice of a lawyer is an important decision and should not be based solely upon advertisements.