

GRAVES GARRETT NEWS

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NATHAN GARRETT NAMED 2018 KANSAS CITY "LAWYER OF THE YEAR"

Graves Garrett Partner Nathan Garrett was recently named 2018 "Lawyer of the Year" for Kansas City, Missouri, by *Best Lawyers in America* for white-collar criminal defense. Only one lawyer in each practice area and community is honored annually with a Lawyer of the Year award.



In total, Garrett was named a Best Lawyer in America for his work in three practice areas including commercial litigation, white-collar criminal defense, and qui tam (False Claims Act) law. *Best Lawyers* is a highly regarded and *U.S. News & World Report*-sponsored peer review guide honoring legal professionals worldwide. ■

Letter from the Firm

Graves Garrett is pleased to share with you an update on our firm, which has been fortunate to experience new growth while also achieving meaningful outcomes on behalf of our clients. Notably, we are pleased to share news of a settlement on behalf of the NorCal Tea Party Patriots, which involved more than 400 groups in a nationwide class-action lawsuit that was the first of its kind filed against the IRS.

Todd Graves and Nathan Garrett continue to be recognized for their achievements and experience, as well as tapped to serve our community in new ways. Additionally, we have added a few new team members, including two associates, and a former Department of Justice tax attorney who joins us from Los Angeles.

We are grateful for the opportunity to share these updates with you, and we continue to appreciate your support of our firm. We wish you and your loved ones a blessed holiday season. ■

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GRAVES GARRETT WELCOMES THREE NEW ATTORNEYS

We are pleased to welcome three attorneys to our team, including former Department of Justice Tax Attorney Benjamin Tompkins, who joins the firm as Counsel, and associates Garrett Hunkins and Matthew Mueller.



Benjamin Tompkins

Catching the attention of the *Kansas City Business Journal*, Tompkins adds depth to the firm's nationwide tax litigation practice, and brings highly relevant experience to the firm that complements its depth on matters involving the government.

As a former Assistant United States Attorney in Los Angeles and Department of Justice Tax Division Trial Attorney, Tompkins offers clients a unique depth and breadth of experience in civil and criminal tax matters involving a range of issues, including unreported income, nonfiler enforcement, undisclosed foreign bank accounts, tax return preparer, employment taxes and related trust fund recovery penalties, excise taxes, IRS bankruptcy claims, IRS examinations and collection efforts, and identity theft.

"We're very pleased to have Ben join our team," said Todd Graves, partner at Graves Garrett. "His unique and extensive tax experience that spans coast to coast will continue to add value to our client offerings in every phase of civil and criminal litigation."

Prior to his work at the U.S. Attorney's office, Tompkins served almost eight years as a trial attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. While there, he litigated more than 100 civil tax cases, recovered some of the largest recoveries in the Tax Division, and earned the high honor of Department of Justice Tax Division Outstanding Attorney Award for six consecutive years.

During his more than a decade of government service, Tompkins has served as first chair in numerous bench and civil jury trials, conducted extensive civil and criminal investigations, negotiated significant settlements and plea agreements and handled all aspects of trial practice. He also has successfully litigated

cases in U.S. District, Bankruptcy, and state courts in California, throughout the South, and in Delaware, Kentucky, Nevada, North Carolina and Virginia.

Associate Matthew Mueller will support the firm's commercial litigation, white collar criminal defense and free speech, campaign finance and election law practice groups. He brings to the firm previous experience in various complex litigation matters, including plaintiff's personal injury litigation, insurance defense and criminal defense.

Garrett Hunkins has also joined the firm as an Associate and will support the firm's commercial litigation and free speech and election law practice groups. He is experienced in a variety of complex litigation matters including construction litigation, internal investigations, commercial and business litigation, free speech and election law, and appellate practice. ■

NATHAN GARRETT APPOINTED TO KC BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Partner Nathan Garrett has been appointed by Missouri Governor Eric Greitens to serve on the Kansas City Board of Police Commissioners for the Kansas City Police Department.

The Board of Police Commissioners has the responsibility for supervising the provision of police services to the residents of Kansas City, Missouri, as mandated by Missouri statute. The Board oversees and advises the Kansas City Police Department on a range of budgetary, administrative, personnel, operational and policy matters, including the hiring of the Department's Chief of Police.

"I hope my experience as a former police officer, state trooper, FBI Special Agent, and federal and state prosecutor will serve our community and the Department well," Garrett said. "It will certainly inform my contributions to the critically important work and decisions of this Board. I am privileged to have the opportunity to serve as a Police Commissioner and honored to be in a position to protect the interests of our community, the Department and the officers and civilians who serve and protect our neighborhoods each and every day."

Garrett spent the first several years of his career as a city police officer, Missouri State Trooper and county prosecutor before moving on to federal law enforcement, first as an FBI Special Agent and later as an Assistant United States Attorney in Dallas and Kansas City, where he last served as Chief of the National Security and Terrorism Section.

Additionally, Garrett manages a full-time law practice focused on nationwide representation of individuals and corporations involved in government investigations and enforcement, and high stakes civil and commercial litigation. Garrett is a past recipient of the Department of Justice's Distinguished Service Award and has repeatedly been recognized by *Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers*, *Best Lawyers in America*, *KC Magazine 100* and the *Kansas City Business Journal's Best of the Bar*. ■

THREE GRAVES GARRETT PARTNERS SELECTED TO 2018 BEST LAWYERS LIST



Todd Graves



Nathan Garrett



Eddie Greim

Graves Garrett congratulates Partners Todd Graves, Nathan Garrett and Eddie Greim for being selected by *2018 Best Lawyers in America*, a highly regarded *U.S. News & World Report*-sponsored peer review guide honoring legal professionals worldwide.

Todd Graves was selected as a Best Lawyer for his work in commercial litigation, white-collar criminal defense, and regulatory enforcement litigation (SEC, Telecom, Energy). Nathan Garrett was named a Best Lawyer for commercial litigation, white-collar criminal defense, and qui tam (False Claims Act) law. He was also selected as the 2018 "Lawyer of the Year" for Kansas City, Missouri, by *Best Lawyers in America* for white-collar criminal defense. Eddie Greim was selected as a Best Lawyer in white-collar criminal defense law.

Graves has been recognized by *Best Lawyers* since 2011, and Garrett since 2015. This is Greim's first year making the list.

The Best Lawyers list is compiled through extensive surveys and interviews of leading attorneys who are asked to confidentially review their peers. Graves Garrett is honored to have its lawyers among those singled out by the respected publication. ■

TODD GRAVES NAMED AMONG 2017 BEST OF THE BAR BY THE KANSAS CITY BUSINESS JOURNAL

Partner Todd Graves was recently named to the *Kansas City Business Journal's* 2017 Best of the Bar. The list, selected by a panel of judges, recognizes top attorneys in private practice in Kansas City. Graves was recognized for his work in the areas of appellate law, corporate law, and business and commercial litigation.

In addition to this recent accolade, Graves currently serves as Chairman of the Missouri Republican Party, and as President of the Pony Express Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He serves on the Board of Directors for Herzog Contracting Corporation and Ballotpedia. He is also founding board member of the Kansas City Missouri Police Foundation, and a former board member of the American Royal Association. ■



GRAVES GARRETT OBTAINS MULTIMILLION-DOLLAR SETTLEMENT FOR NATIONWIDE CLASS OF TEA PARTY AND CONSERVATIVE GROUPS IN IRS CASE

Graves Garrett is pleased to announce that it has obtained a substantial financial award from the United States in the first and only class-action lawsuit to challenge the IRS and its former Director of Exempt Organizations, Lois Lerner, regarding targeting of conservative nonprofit groups in violation of the Internal Revenue Code and the First Amendment.

The case, *NorCal v. United States*, has spanned four years and now involves over 400 groups who Plaintiffs alleged were targeted by the IRS for their political beliefs.

The nationwide class was certified in 2015, following an order from Judge Susan Dlott of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio. In 2016, the Plaintiffs garnered a win in the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, gaining access to troves of evidence. Later that year, one of the named Plaintiffs who had filed its application after the IRS claimed to have stopped using viewpoint-based criteria to target nonprofit applicants nonetheless obtained preliminary injunctive relief on its First Amendment claim against the IRS. As a result, that Plaintiff

obtained exempt status in 2017. Also in 2017, Plaintiffs took the first and only deposition of Lois Lerner, which remains under seal in a manner still being litigated by Plaintiffs notwithstanding the proposed settlement. The case was set for a monthlong trial in early 2018.

The settlement process will extend into 2018, requiring final court approval. The development in the case caught national attention with coverage from *The Wall Street Journal*, *Fox News*, *Forbes*, *The Associated Press*, and the *Kansas City Business Journal*, among others. ■



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EDDIE GREIM PRESENTS AT CATHOLIC BAR ASSOCIATION

Partner Eddie Greim recently presented at the national meeting for the Catholic Bar Association in Kansas City, Missouri. His lecture, "Rules of Professional Conduct Applied to Election and Political Activity," outlined current ethical dilemmas in political representations.

Assisted by Graves Garrett Associate Garrett Hunkins, Greim used Washington, D.C., Democratic lawyer Marc Elias' payment for the so-called "Russian dossier" on then-candidate Donald Trump as one of many examples of newsworthy ethical dilemmas.

Greim also discussed disclosures of client communications; conflicts of interest and duties to former clients; attorneys as candidates; and the use of catch-all rules like Rule 8.4 to punish attorney political speech that allegedly casts attorneys or judges in a negative light.

Greim concluded attorneys' ethical duties apply even outside legal representations, and that when lawyers enter the political world, they should prepare for strict and literalist enforcement of ethics rules, regardless of the First Amendment or Due Process implications. ■

JUSTIN WHITWORTH GOES IN-HOUSE AT STELLA-JONES

Graves Garrett Associate Justin Whitworth recently left the firm to pursue a new endeavor as Associate Legal Counsel at Stella-Jones Corporation. His primary role will be managing litigation, but he will also work on cases regarding mergers and acquisitions. Additionally, he will assist with human resources disputes, environmental compliance and general corporate compliance.

Although we are sad to see Justin leave Graves Garrett, we are thankful for his eight years of service and are confident he will have continued success in his new role. ■

CALLIE PIPPIN RAITINGER DEMONSTRATES LEADERSHIP ABILITIES



Callie Pippin Raitinger

Graves Garrett Associate Callie Pippin Raitinger has continued to stay actively involved with the Association for Women Lawyers (AWL) of Greater Kansas City, and has been named to the Board of Directors for the third consecutive year.

AWL is a nonprofit organization that promotes equality of women and others within society, as well as within the legal profession. Raitinger currently serves as Vice Chair of Marketing and Communications for the organization and will serve as Chair of Marketing and Communications in 2018. She is also a member of AWL Foundation's Denise Henning Connections mentorship program.

Outside of AWL, Raitinger continues to be recognized for her leadership and success. She was recently appointed Vice Chair of the Diversity Education Committee for KCMBA in 2018. She was also recognized as a 2017 Missouri & Kansas Rising Star by *Super Lawyers*.

Raitinger currently serves as a Council Member of the Missouri Bar Young Lawyers' Section, where she is Chair of the YLS Blog/Communications and Community Service committees. Raitinger has been a YLS Council Member since 2012.

Additionally, Raitinger continues to run a nonprofit that she co-founded in Kansas City in 2015. The nonprofit, Care to Learn – Kansas City SVN, is partnered with a local public charter school and provides funds to meet emergent health, hunger and hygiene needs of students so that children can focus on their education. ■