



R O B E R T B . S T E V E N S O N¹
N A N C Y K E P P E L M A N¹
N A N C Y J . S P E Z I A
T I M O T H Y J . M C G R A W
A N D R E W W . S T U M P F F²
D E B O R A H W . T H O M P S O N¹

O F C O U N S E L

N A N C Y H . W E L B E R , P . C .
A N T H O N Y S . H A R T I I I
R I C H A R D L . S A N D E R S O N , J R .
M I C K E Y B A R T L E T T

July 2, 2009

For the fourth consecutive year, **BOB STEVENSON** and **NANCY KEPPELMAN** have once more achieved a trifecta of professional recognition. In addition to being named yet again in the latest edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* for employee benefits law, both have been selected for inclusion in Michigan Super Lawyers, and are top-ranked among employee benefits lawyers in *Chambers USA 2009 Client's Guide for America's Leading Lawyers for Business*.

Chambers also designated **STEVENSON KEPPELMAN ASSOCIATES** as top rated among Michigan firms for benefits law. (The other services don't rate firms.)

DEB THOMPSON and **TONY HART** join **NANCY** and **BOB** in achieving these honors.

- *Chambers USA* publishes world-famous guides to law firms and lawyers assessing the reputations and expertise of business lawyers in 175 countries across the world. SKA was among three Michigan firms receiving the top rating in benefits law. Nancy and Bob were among the six top ranked Michigan attorneys, and the only pair at one firm. Chambers' rankings owe their reliability to direct client interviews. Chambers is likely the most thorough of the three ranking sources.
- **Michigan Super Lawyers** is published by *Law & Politics*, a journal of legal and political issues and opinions that researches and evaluates indicators of outstanding professional achievement and peer recognition. Joining Nancy and Bob, Deb Thompson and Tony Hart have been included in the Super Lawyers listing for the past 3 years.
- Selection to *The Best Lawyers in America* is based on peer review, premised on asking other lawyers whom they would recommend to a family member or a client in a specific field of law.

¹Fellow, American College of Employee Benefits Counsel

²Also admitted in New York

A T T O R N E Y S A T L A W
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Here's what Chambers had to say about Stevenson Keppelman Associates
(quotes reflect third-party interviews):

Operating out of Ann Arbor, this "top-notch and highly specialized boutique firm" garners more praise than any other exclusive benefits and compensation group in the state. The team remains extensively active in 403(b) plans and related matters on behalf of numerous sizable HMO's, integrated health systems, health insurers and charities. In addition to its sterling reputation for ERISA work, the firm is regarded as "the leading firm" for its expertise in handling cash balance plans, having recently achieved the qualification of several plans following significant negotiations with the IRS. Complemented by its expertise across the benefits and compensation spectrum, sources point out that "all of the group's people are just excellent and have fantastic reputations in the state's community." In addition to her expertise in ERISA matters, **Nancy Keppelman** is seen as "extremely knowledgeable in the pensions area," particularly when handling issues relating to cash balance and 401(k) plans. Often spoken of as working in partnership with Keppelman, **Robert Stevenson** is himself "pre-eminent in the pensions and benefits area in the state." Further seen as "instrumental in getting issues worked out with the IRS," he holds vast experience in negotiating fund arrangements and fiduciary structures, and is frequently seen by commentators acting on behalf of various municipalities and government entities. Having recently joined the firm from Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, **Deborah Thompson** has "a well-rounded practice" providing general benefit and qualified retirement plan advice on a number of the firm's business transactions.

BOB STEVENSON is one of six Michigan lawyers listed in every edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* since 1987 for pensions and benefits. Bob has also been honored as a Charter Fellow of the American College of Employee Benefits Counsel ("ACEBC"), one of only six attorneys in Michigan and only 172 attorneys so honored in the U.S. Bob led the ABA process of comments on proposed regulations on age discrimination in retirement plans. He is a past chairperson of the Committee on Employee Benefits of the Michigan State Bar Taxation Section, is a member of the Midwest Pension Conference, has lectured nationally on employee benefits topics, has co-authored one book and written numerous journal articles on benefits, and has been a regular columnist on the subject. (Bob is also the past MSU Men's and Women's Lacrosse Coach, and past President of the Michigan Chapter of U.S. Lacrosse.)

NANCY KEPPELMAN also became a Fellow in ACEBC in 2002 and has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* for pensions and employee benefits since 1995. She is a past member of the Council of the Michigan State Bar Taxation Section and has been a member of the Institute of Continuing Legal Education's Business Advisory Board

since 1997. Ms. Keppelman is an author and co-editor of the Institute of Continuing Legal Education's book, QDROs, EDROs and Division of Employee Benefits on Divorce — A Guide for Michigan Practitioners, and is a frequent speaker and author on pensions and employee benefits for the Institute of Continuing Legal Education, the Michigan Association of CPAs, the Michigan Bar Journal, the Michigan Tax Lawyer, and other organizations and publications. She is past president of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan — Washtenaw Region.

ANTHONY S. HART III, who became Of Counsel to the firm in 1992, has also been recognized as a **Michigan Super Lawyer**. Tony is both an attorney and CPA, with a Masters of Law in Taxation. Tony has extensive experience in all aspects of pension and employee benefits, with particular expertise in tax controversies and curing retirement plan errors.

DEBORAH THOMPSON joined the firm in 2009. She was previously a principal and Of Counsel at Miller Canfield Paddock & Stone PLC in Detroit. Deborah has been listed in the last ten editions of *Best Lawyers in America* and is noted in employee benefits and executive compensation for 2006-2009 by *Chambers USA* and *America's Leading Business Lawyers*. She is a Charter Fellow in the American College of Employee Benefits Counsel, she was named a Michigan Super Lawyer, designated among Top 50 Women in Michigan for 2006-2008, and Employee/Benefits ERISA for 2006-2008. She is a past member of the Michigan State Bar Taxation Section and served as chair of Employee Benefits Committee in 1993-95. She also was a member of the Executive Committee of the Michigan Employee Benefits Council from 1993-2000, serving as Chair in 1998-1999. She has been a frequent speaker and author on employee benefit matters.

STEVENSON KEPPELMAN ASSOCIATES is an Ann Arbor based law firm of ten attorneys specializing in pension and employee benefits. The lawyers average over 25 years in the specialty, and are among the most honored and experienced in the field. The firm represents a diverse clientele of Fortune 500 Corporations, health systems, other tax-exempt employers, and governmental employers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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