

News

Ten Vorys Attorneys Named 2014 Lawyers of the Year by Best Lawyers

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Ten Vorys attorneys have been named 2014 Lawyers of the Year by Best Lawyers. Each year, only a single lawyer in each specialty in each community is honored as the “Lawyer of the Year.” According to Best Lawyers, lawyers being honored as “Lawyer of the Year” have earned a high level of respect among other lawyers in the same communities and the same practice areas for their abilities, professionalism and integrity.

Columbus

Michael J. Canter has been named the 2014 Best Lawyers’ Columbus Antitrust Lawyer of the Year. He is a partner in the Vorys Columbus office and a member of the litigation group. Canter’s practice is focused on high risk/high value business litigation and related conflict counseling.

Mary Ellen Fairfield has been named the Best Lawyers’ 2014 Columbus Product Liability Litigation - Defendants Lawyer of the Year. She is a partner in the Vorys Columbus office and a member of the litigation group. Fairfield’s practice includes the defense of all types of civil litigation, including employment and business and commercial disputes.

Russell M. Gertmenian has been named the Best Lawyers’ 2014 Columbus Corporate Governance Lawyer of the Year. He is a partner in the Vorys Columbus office and serves as the firm’s Managing Partner. Gertmenian engages in the practice of general corporate and contract law, including mergers, acquisitions, divestitures and initial public offerings (IPO).

Judith L. Marsh has been named the Best Lawyers’ 2014 Columbus Franchise Lawyer of the Year. She is a partner in the Vorys Columbus office. Marsh’s practice focuses on commercial and business law, with an emphasis on general commercial transactions and the Uniform Commercial Code, commercial finance, and franchising and distribution law.

Linda R. Mendel has been named the Best Lawyers' 2014 Columbus Employee Benefits (ERISA) Lawyer of the Year. She is of counsel in the Vorys Columbus office and a member of the labor and employment group. Mendel's practice is concentrated in the area of employee benefits and working with employers and multi-employer plans on health and welfare benefit plan issues.

Gregory D. Russell has been named the Best Lawyers' 2014 Columbus Energy Lawyer of the Year. He is a partner in the Vorys Columbus office and the leader of the firm's energy subgroup, which is one of the largest and most experienced energy and environmental practices in the Midwest. Russell represents clients on business and litigation matters involving the exploration, production, transportation and marketing of oil and natural gas.

James A. Wilson has been named the Best Lawyers' 2014 Columbus Litigation - Antitrust Lawyer of the Year. He is a partner in the Vorys Columbus office and a member of the litigation group. Wilson represents clients in a wide variety of antitrust matters, including criminal investigations and trials, civil actions and Hart-Scott-Rodino investigations.

Cincinnati

Mark A. Norman has been named the Best Lawyers' 2014 Cincinnati Environmental Lawyer of the Year. He is a partner in the Vorys Cincinnati office and a member of the environmental subgroup. Norman's practice includes all areas of environmental law, including litigation, dispute resolution, business and transactional matters and advising on regulatory issues.

Akron

F. Daniel Balmert has been named the Best Lawyers' 2014 Akron Workers' Compensation Law - Employers Lawyer of the Year. He is the managing partner of the Vorys Akron office and a member of the litigation group. Balmert's practice focuses on defense of employment and product liability matters in federal and state courts in Ohio and surrounding states as well as litigation of mass tort claims involving alleged manganese exposures from welding fumes.

Philip F. Downey has been named the Best Lawyers' 2014 Akron Bet-the-Company Litigation Lawyer of the Year. He is a partner in the Vorys Akron office and a member of the litigation group. Downey's practice focuses on oil and gas litigation, toxic tort litigation and litigation in a variety of areas including financial institutions, bankruptcy, probate, product liability and general commercial litigation.

More than 100 Vorys attorneys were included on the 2014 *Best Lawyers in America*® List. Click [here](#) to see a full list of all of the firm's 2014 Best Lawyers.