

Cusimano, Roberts And Kimberley: Named In Best Lawyers In America Publication



Rachel Robinson/The Messenger

(L-R) Michael Roberts, David Kimberley and Gregory Cusimano have each been selected to be included in "The Best Lawyers In America" publication.

by Rachel Robinson
The law firm of Cusimano, Keener, Roberts, Kimberley & Miles, P.C., located in Downtown Gadsden, has something very special to be thankful for this holiday season. Since its establishment in August of 1997, the firm has been recognized continually for its outstanding performance, including being named as the "2002 Small Business of the Year" by The Chamber/Gadsden and 30 County.

However, in October of 2004, the law firm reached a definitive

milestone. Recognizing its standard of excellence, on October 18, David Kimberley (partner) received notice that he had been selected to be included in "The Best Lawyers In America." Only five lawyers in 30 County had been recognized as such, including two other partners from the firm, Gregory Cusimano and Michael Roberts.

As a result, Cusimano, Keener, Roberts, Kimberley & Miles, P.C. became the only firm in 30 County with three of their lawyers, recognized as

"The Best Lawyers In America."

"The Best Lawyers In America" is a publication which lists the top lawyers in America, in each specific field of the legal profession. It is used as a type of referral guide by law firms and corporations, allowing them to locate lawyers in other geographical areas, as well as finding representation from lawyers involved in a variety of specialized practices.

Each year, thousands of the country's top lawyers "confidentially evaluate their professional peers." Over

16,000 lawyers respond to extensive peer-review surveys and interviews, from which the list of "The Best Lawyers In America" is compiled. After being recognized for the first time, the lawyers are re-evaluated every year to determine whether or not they will be included. According to the Best Lawyers website, "Because lawyers are not required or allowed to pay a fee for a basic listing, Best Lawyers has gained the respect of the legal profession, the media, and clients as the most reliable, unbiased source of legal referrals anywhere."

Gregory Cusimano was selected to be included in "The Best Lawyers In America" in 1993, and has been selected for the publication every year since then. After graduating from the University of Alabama School of Law in Tuscaloosa, where he specialized in civil trial practice, Cusimano came to Gadsden and began practicing at the law firm of Hawkins & Rhea. He now handles cases dealing with products liability, automobile accidents, workers compensation, job injury and insurance disputes, just to name a few. In August of 2002, Cusimano also received the prestigious "Lifetime Achievement Award," from the Association of Trial Lawyers of America. He is married to Dr. Alice Cusimano, and has three daughters (Sarah Miles, Deborah Arnold and Ginger Downs) as well as eleven grandchildren.

Michael Roberts was selected to be included in "The Best Lawyers In America" in 2001, and has been selected for the publication every year

since then. After graduating from Cumberland Law School in Birmingham, where he specialized in civil trial practice, Roberts began practicing in 1978. He also received the highly respected "Professionalism Award" in 2001, from the Alabama Trial Lawyers Association. He and his wife, Mary Lee Roberts, have two daughters (Carolyn Higgins and Rebecca Roberts).

David Kimberley was selected to be included in "The Best Lawyers In America" in 2004, for publication in the 2005-2006 edition. After graduating from the University of Alabama Law School, Kimberley began practicing law in 1985, with his current firm. He currently practices litigation in cases pertaining to personal injury, wrongful death, SSI and disability, to name a few. As a member of the U.S. Naval Reserve, Kimberley received the Naval and Marine Corps Achievement Medal in 2000. He and his wife, Cindy Kimberley, of Glencoe reside in Gadsden, with their two children, 13-year-old Kaitlyn and 8-year-old Andrew.

Cusimano and Roberts are both heavily involved in teaching and consulting with various firms and institutions across the country. "We help them prepare for trials," said Cusimano. "Mike's seminars generally deal with issues in tort law, while mine deal with trial techniques and preparation," he said. The two partners are also involved in writing and editing literature related to the legal field. Roberts is the author of "Alabama Tort Law," a

publication for civil trial lawyers on how to handle cases. The 4th edition of the book, a two volume set, will soon be released. Cusimano is the co-editor of "ATLA's Litigating Tort Cases," which is now in its 6th edition. Roberts also authored a chapter in this book as well. Cusimano has also been invited to attend Harvard, Hastings, Georgetown and other universities as guest speakers. Kimberley has been published in the "Alabama Trial Lawyers Journal," and was a research/drafting contributor in the Roberts-Cusimano publication, "Alabama Tort Law Handbook."

In addition to receiving recognition from "The Best Lawyers In America," the law firm of Cusimano, Keener, Roberts, Kimberley, & Miles, P.C. has also received the highest possible ratings from Martindale-Hubbell Lawyer Rating System, the oldest legal rating service in the country. The firm has been rated, by its professional peers, as an "AV" firm. "A" is the highest possible rating, in terms of the quality of legal services. "V" is the highest possible rating in terms of professional ethics.

"I think this indicates that we are respected in terms of being good advocates for our clients, and hopefully getting good results," Kimberley said. "We hope that other attorneys we encounter in the state of Alabama feel that we are doing a good job," he said. Cusimano added, "We are proud to be a hometown firm, that has a regional reputation; and we definitely have some really good people working here."

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