

Farmington Observer

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Lawyer wins state award for legal brief

A distinguished panel of federal and state appellate judges, attorneys and scholars named a Farmington Hills attorney, David Moffitt, a 1988 recipient of the Thomas M. Cooley School of Law's "Most Distinguished Brief" Award.

Moffitt, 35, is a sole practitioner. Awards for three other winning briefs went to members of three of the largest law firms in the state.

"It is a distinct honor to be recognized for written advocacy by such a distinguished panel of federal and

state jurists and scholars. The law school's encouragement of excellence in legal writing is commendable. As society grows increasingly complex, the ability to effectively analyze issues and concisely communicate proposed solutions acquires increasing importance, not only in the professions, but everywhere," Moffitt said.

"It also shows that although the largest law firms can bring considerable resources to bear in legal proceedings, small law firms can still achieve outstanding results even in

complex matters at the highest appellate levels. The size of a firm's letterhead aside, it still boils down to how much time, effort and ability the attorney is willing to devote to the case," he said.

His authorship of one of this year's distinguished briefs is consistent with his record of strong support for excellence in legal writing.

Moffitt has previously published in the State Bar of Michigan Corporation, Finance and Business Law Section Journal, of which he is a former

editorial board member, and the Federation of Insurance Law Quarterly.

A former Managing Editor of the University of Detroit Journal of Urban Law, he is administrator emeritus of two University of Detroit School of Law scholarships named for him, the David L. Moffitt Scholarship for Legal Editorial Achievement and for Excellence in Legal Journalism.

Moffitt's winning brief was submitted in the case of Deborah Lee Jackson v Grand Duchess Lounge,

where the Supreme Court decided that voluntarily intoxicated individuals could not bring suit against retail liquor establishments for injuries suffered as a result of their voluntary intoxication.

Moffitt also serves the Farmington Hills area as a third-term Oakland County commissioner and as vice chairman of the GOP Commissioner's Caucus.

Also recognized was Michael Updike, of Kohl, Secrest, Wardle Lynch, Clark & Hampton, Farmington Hills.



David Moffitt
'most distinguished'