E. THOMAS MCCARTHY, JR.

Shareholder

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PRACTICE AREAS

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Commercial Litigation Services

Legal Malpractice

Medical Malpractice

Personal Injury and Wrongful Death

Professional Liability

EDUCATION

University of Tennessee College of Law (J.D., 1977)

University of Michigan (B.A.,1975)

Harvard Law School Mediation and Negotiation Workshops (1988, 1989, 2001)

ATTORNEY

E. Thomas McCarthy, Jr. is a seasoned trial lawyer with a well-earned reputation for achieving justice for his clients. With more than 45 years of courtroom experience in state and federal courts, his practice includes the representation of seriously injured people and businesses who have been harmed by the wrongful conduct of others, complex commercial litigation, and the representation of lawyers, law firms, doctors and hospitals in a wide range of circumstances

Tom is recognized as one of Michigan's leading trial lawyers. He is a Fellow of the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers, a Fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, a member (Advocate Rank) of the American Board of Trial Advocates and a member of the National Trial Lawyers. He is listed by The Best Lawyers in America© and Leading Lawyers for Personal Injury Litigation, Commercial Litigation, and Legal Malpractice Litigation, and has been named in multiple years by Best Lawyers as "Lawyer of the Year" in Grand Rapids for Personal Injury Law, for Legal Malpractice Law, and Bet-the Company Litigation. In 2018, Tom was selected as a "Leader in the Law" by Michigan Lawyers Weekly.

In 2020, he received the Richard Baxter Exemplary Advocate Award from the Michigan Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates.

In 2021, Tom received the Outstanding Achievement Award for his work as a trial lawyer from the Negligence Section of the State Bar of Michigan.

Tom is a trial lawyer other lawyers turn to when needs arise. He regularly receives referrals to represent other lawyers' clients in catastrophic injury and commercial litigation cases, and serves as local counsel in other litigation matters. Tom was honored to serve as lead trial counsel for the State Bar of Michigan in the successful representation of one of its officers in a 2004 federal jury trial.

In addition to his trial practice, Tom has worked as a neutral facilitative mediator since 1989. He has been certified to mediate cases in the United States District Court for the

ADMITTED

U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois, 2016

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee, 2007

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, 1993

U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan, 1978

State Bar of Michigan, 1978

AFFILIATIONS

Michigan State Bar Foundation, Life Fellow

Justice Foundation of West Michigan, Life Fellow

American Bar Foundation, Life Fellow

American College of Trial Lawyers, Fellow, Former State Chair, and Member of the Teaching of Trial and Appellate Advocacy Committee

International Academy of Trial Lawyers, Fellow

American Board of Trial Advocates, Advocate Member

Hillman Trial Advocacy Program, Chair (2024-2025) and Faculty Member

State Bar of Michigan, Member, Former Member of the Board of Commissioners (2013-2022), and Former Member of the Representative Assembly (2011-2013)

Federal Bar Association, Member, Western Michigan Chapter National Delegate (1998-1999) and Vice President (1999-2001)

Michigan Association for Justice, Member

Kent County Circuit Court, ADR Committee, Member

Forest Hills Eastern High School Mock Trial Team, Coach

Nashville Songwriters Association, Member

Western District of Michigan and is on the list of court-approved mediators in that court and many state courts. Tom received his training as a mediator through programs at Harvard Law School, the Dispute Resolution Center of West Michigan and the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan. He has participated in training mediators by serving as a presenter and coach at various training sessions. Tom was named by Best Lawyers as “Lawyer of the Year” in Grand Rapids for Mediation in 2019.

Tom has been active in bar association functions designed to improve the delivery of legal services. From 2013 through 2022, he served as an elected member of the Board of Commissioners of the State Bar of Michigan (District C) and from 2012 through 2018 was an appointed member of the Character and Fitness Committee of the State Bar of Michigan. Tom is a member of the ADR Committee of the Kent County Circuit Court. For the 2013-2014 session, he served as President of the American Inns of Court – Gerald R. Ford Chapter.

Tom has also volunteered his time to teach trial advocacy to lawyers and students. He has for many years been on the teaching faculty of the Hillman Trial Advocacy Program sponsored by the Federal Bar Association of the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan which puts on a program annually to teach trial advocacy to lawyers, and is the Chair of that program for 2024 and 2025. He is also a member of the Teaching of Trial and Appellate Advocacy Committee of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Tom has also served as a high school mock trial coach for over 20 years.

Tom graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Michigan with a Bachelor of Arts degree and received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1977. He is a shareholder at Smith Haughey Rice & Roegge where he serves as Co-Chair of the Personal Litigation Group.

Outside of work, in addition to spending time with his family, Tom enjoys biking, waterskiing, and songwriting. He is a member of the Nashville Songwriting Association.

NOTEWORTHY

Fellow, International Academy of Trial Lawyers

Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers

Member (Advocate Rank), American Board of Trial Advocates

Member, The National Trial Lawyers

Life Fellow, American Bar Foundation

Life Fellow, Michigan State Bar Foundation

Named the Best Lawyers® 2021 and 2024 Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants “Lawyer of the Year” in Grand Rapids

Named the Best Lawyers® 2009 and 2013 Personal Injury Litigation - Plaintiffs “Lawyer of the Year” in Grand Rapids

Named the Best Lawyers® 2016, 2018, 2023 Legal Malpractice Law - Defendants “Lawyer of the Year” in Grand Rapids

Named the Best Lawyers® 2020 and 2022 Bet-the-Company Litigation “Lawyer of the Year” in Grand Rapids

Named the Best Lawyers® 2019 Mediation “Lawyer of the Year” in Grand Rapids

Named one of Michigan’s Top 100 Trial Lawyers by The National Trial Lawyers

Recipient of the 2020 Richard B. Baxter Exemplary Advocate Award by the American Board of Trial Advocates

Recipient of the 2021 Outstanding Achievement Award from the State Bar of Michigan Negligence Law Section

Included in the 2011-2027 editions of The Best Lawyers in America® for Commercial Litigation and Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants

Included in the 2012-2027 editions of The Best Lawyers in America® for Legal Malpractice Law - Defendants and Personal Injury Litigation - Plaintiffs

Included in the 2018-2027 editions of The Best Lawyers in America® for Mediation

Included in the 2019-2027 editions of The Best Lawyers in America® for Bet-the-Company Litigation

Selected to the 2006-2023 Michigan Super Lawyers lists for Personal Injury General: Plaintiff

Named a Grand Rapids Magazine Top Lawyer for Legal Malpractice Law and Personal Injury - 2020-2022; Personal Injury 2026

Listed in Leading Lawyers for ADR Law: Personal Injury, Commercial Litigation, Personal Injury Law: General, Personal Injury Law: Professional Malpractice, and Professional Malpractice Law: Including Legal/Technical/Financial

Named a 2015-2025 Litigation Star for Commercial Litigation by Benchmark Litigation

AV Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell