



SMITH FREED & EBERHARD P.C.
Your Litigation Partner™

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Four Attorneys Graduate from Smith Freed & Eberhard's Black Belt Trial Advocacy Training Program

Portland, Oregon (June 27, 2014) – Smith Freed & Eberhard is pleased to announce the graduation of four attorneys from the firm's Black Belt Trial Advocacy Training Program.

The Black Belt Trial Advocacy Training Program was developed by the firm in order to give its attorneys access to trial skills, experiences, and coaching from some of the top trial lawyers in the state. In today's legal environment, settlement, mediation, and arbitration have become commonplace. Litigators who wish to become battle tested trial lawyers have limited opportunities to develop and test their trial skills. The Black Belt program seeks to fill that gap by equipping attorneys with the tools they need for success. It teaches them how to effectively communicate, hones their presentation techniques, and helps them to develop relatable trial themes.

The rigorous training process is more than just filling out an application and sitting through a couple lectures. Training classes commence after the workday ends, and homework is a part of the learning experience. The program is based on Herbert J. Stern's "Trying Cases to Win Trial Advocacy Series" and incorporates a mixture of team meetings, communication workshops, and presentations in front of a mock jury. Participants are then critiqued by a review panel of experienced trial lawyers and communication experts who provide recommendations and advice on how to improve their case and courtroom performance.

Smith Freed & Eberhard is proud to announce that the most recent graduates of its Black Belt program are as follows: Gavin Gruber, Philip Bennett, Tessan Wess, and Christina Ho.

The program is open and free of charge to all in-house counsel. For more information, contact Justin Wickizer, Director of Business Operations, at jwickizer@smithfreed.com or 503-227-2424.

Smith Freed & Eberhard, P.C. is a regional litigation defense firm in Portland, Oregon and Seattle, Washington. The firm is known for creative solutions that achieve favorable results for their clients. Attorneys at the firm are consistently recognized by *Super Lawyers*, *Best Lawyers*, and *Martindale Hubbell*, as being top-ranked trial lawyers. Additional information and valuable legal resources can be found on their website: www.smithfreed.com.

Contact:

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Sixteen Attorneys Honored as Super Lawyers and Rising Stars in Oregon and Washington

Portland, Oregon (August 6, 2014) – Sixteen of Smith Freed & Eberhard's forty attorneys have been honored by their peers and clients as 2014 Oregon and Washington Super Lawyers or Rising Stars. This acknowledgement of such professional achievement by forty percent of the firm's trial lawyers is a feat that distinguishes the firm from others in the insurance defense market. The icing on the cake? Denny Freed, a founding partner of the regional defense firm, was honored (for the second year in a row) as a Top 50 Super Lawyer in Oregon.

Attorneys selected to the 2014 Oregon Super Lawyers list are:

- Jeffrey Eberhard - Civil Litigation Defense
- Robert "Bob" Smith - Insurance Coverage
- Dennis "Denny" Freed - Personal Injury Defense: General (Top 50 Oregon Super Lawyer List)
- Jeffrey Hansen – Personal Injury Defense: General
- Bruce Gilbert – Construction Litigation
- John Kreutzer – Employment Litigation Defense
- Katie Buxman – Personal Injury Defense: General

Attorneys selected to the 2014 Oregon Rising Stars list are:

- Joshua Hayward – Civil Litigation Defense
- Anne Cohen – Construction Litigation
- Ryan McLellan – Personal Injury Defense: General
- Lance Brooks – Civil Litigation Defense
- Cliff Wilson – Civil Litigation Defense
- Joseph Rohner, IV – Business Litigation
- Stephan Lopez – Personal Injury Defense: General
- Jakob Lutkavage-Dvorscak – Construction Litigation

Attorney selected to the 2014 Washington Rising Stars list:

- Thomas McCurdy – General Litigation

For additional information you can view the 2014 *Super Lawyers Magazine* (Oregon and Washington editions) or visit www.superlawyers.com.

Smith Freed & Eberhard, P.C. is a Pacific Northwest defense firm with offices in Portland,

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Oregon and Seattle, Washington. The firm is known for creative solutions that achieve favorable results for their clients. Attorneys at the firm are consistently recognized by *Super Lawyers*, *Best Lawyers*, *Martindale Hubbell*, and the American Board of Trial Advocates as being top-ranked trial lawyers. Additional information and valuable legal resources can be found on their website: www.smithfreed.com.

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