



**For Immediate Release**

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**HODES, PESSIN & KATZ, P.A. ANNOUNCES ITS EXPANSION WITH  
ADDITION OF FOUR MEDICAL MALPRACTICE DEFENSE LAWYERS**

TOWSON, MD (April 6, 2009)—Hodes, Pessin & Katz, P.A., one of Maryland’s leading law firms, today announced the firm’s expansion to include a Medical Malpractice Group with the addition of three new partners and an associate. Joining the firm are Natalie C. Magdeburger, Catherine W. Steiner, Mairi Pat Maguire and Elliott D. Petty, all formerly with Whiteford, Taylor & Preston, LLP in Baltimore. The Medical Malpractice Group will expand HPK’s litigation practice and bring the total number of attorneys at the Towson-based firm to 53.

“The addition of these distinguished attorneys to HPK marks the continued growth of this firm to meet the diverse needs of our clients,” said Drake Zaharris, managing partner of HPK. “Natalie, Catherine, Mairi Pat and Elliott all bring extensive litigation experience and are individually respected in the legal and health care communities.”

Natalie Magdeburger has practiced law for 21 years primarily representing physicians and major hospitals throughout Maryland. She has grown her medical defense practice and also defends lead paint actions, manufacturers in product liability cases, and retailers in premises liability, negligent security and false arrest matters. She also represents insurance companies in cases of suspected insurance fraud. Magdeburger is a graduate of the University of Maryland School of Law. She has been recognized as a Maryland Super

Lawyer in the 2007, 2008 and 2009 editions and is AV rated by Martindale Hubbell. In 2009, she was recognized in the area of medical malpractice defense litigation by *Best Lawyers of America* and was invited to become a Fellow in the Litigation Counsel of America. In 2006, Magdeburger was honored as one of Maryland's Top 100 Women by The Daily Record.

Catherine Steiner has been practicing law for 18 years and has extensive trial experience in the defense of serious medical malpractice and personal injury claims. She represents parties involved in litigation before trial courts throughout the State of Maryland and on appeal before the state's intermediate and highest appellate courts. In addition to representing health care providers in medical malpractice actions, Steiner represents health care providers in disciplinary proceedings before administrative agencies of the State of Maryland Ms. Steiner is a 1991 graduate of the College of William and Mary's Marshall-Wythe School of Law and holds an undergraduate degree from Tufts University. She is AV rated by Martindale Hubbell. Steiner was listed in Maryland Super Lawyers in 2007 and 2008 and was recognized in the area of medical malpractice defense litigation by Best Lawyers of America in 2009.

Mairi Pat Maguire joins HPK with more than 16 years of experience defending medical malpractice actions. She represents hospitals, physicians, nurses and other health care providers in the Circuit Courts of Maryland, the Maryland Courts of Appeal and the United States District Court for the District of Maryland. Maguire is a registered nurse with 12 years of clinical nursing experience in acute and intensive care unit settings. She is an adjunct faculty member at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing on topics including professional/nursing liability and risk management. She presents seminars and mock trials on quality assurance, risk management and professional liability issues. Maguire is a graduate of the University of Baltimore School of Law and received her Bachelors of Science in Nursing from The Catholic University of America.

Elliott Petty received his law degree from Brigham Young University. He has substantial experience representing healthcare professionals and institutions in complex medical

malpractice litigation in both state and federal court. He has significant trial experience defending personal injury actions in courts all across Maryland and has also handled matters in Maryland's appellate courts. In 2009, Petty was named a Rising Star by *Super Lawyers* magazine in the area of Medical Malpractice Defense. As a committee member of the Maryland State Bar Association's Ethics Committee, he regularly provides ethics advice to Maryland lawyers and has drafted ethics opinions on behalf of the Committee.

“Even during these difficult economic conditions nationwide, HPK continues to grow after taking proactive measures 15 months ago to reduce overhead and focus on our commitment to offer clients high quality professional service at a superior value,” said Zaharris on the expansion. “An important part of our business plan over the past two years has been to expand strategically by adding respected lawyers in growing practice areas such as patent and intellectual property law and bankruptcy. Natalie, Catherine, Mairi Pat and Elliott’s medical malpractice and insurance defense practice is certainly a growing practice area and will be a great addition to HPK. We are honored to have them join us.”

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**About Hodes, Pessin & Katz, P.A. (HPK)**

HPK is a leading Maryland law firm with more than 60 attorneys, paralegals and law clerks. The firm’s main office is located in Towson with offices in Columbia, Bel Air, and Cambridge. HPK’s core practice areas include Corporate and Business Services, Education/School Law, Employment and Labor Law and Litigation. Additional practice areas include Appellate Law, Collaborative Law, Family Law, Same Sex Law and Sports and Entertainment Law.