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**Rhoades McKee along with 11 Major Law Firms sign the  
Grand Rapids Bar Association Diversity Collaborative Agreement**

(Grand Rapids, MI – June 13, 2011) – Working in conjunction with the Grand Rapids Bar Association and 11 major law firms, Rhoades McKee signed the Managing Partner Diversity Collaborative Agreement.

The agreement formalizes the member’s commitment to jointly promote diversity and inclusion in the legal profession and throughout the West Michigan community. A five year Action Plan formulated by the members will seek to expand the pipeline of persons of color and minorities entering the law profession, increase the number of attorneys of color working within the organizations, and improve the retention and advancement of female attorneys and attorneys of color.

The Action Plan which will be finalized by January 1, 2012.

“We are proud to be a member of this collaborative effort which will serve to benefit our entire community and profession,” stated Robert C. Shaver, President of the Rhoades McKee Executive Committee. “Diversity empowers individuals with a variety of perspectives, a broader, richer environment and produces creative solutions. By creating a culture of inclusion, we eliminate the barriers to individuals of diverse backgrounds and reflect the composition of the community we serve,” he continued.

Historically, Rhoades McKee has adopted numerous programs, policies and events to promote diversity and inclusion at the firm and within the legal community. For example, the firm has actively participated in the Minority Clerkship Program sponsored by the Floyd Skinner Bar Association.

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**About Rhoades McKee ([www.rhoadesmckee.com](http://www.rhoadesmckee.com)):**

Founded in 1960, Rhoades McKee is a 51-member, Grand Rapids-based law firm representing consumers and businesses in a wide range of legal matters, including business, tax and corporate law; real estate, construction and environmental law; labor and employment law;

health care law, estate planning and probate law; family law; professional liability and insurance defense; bankruptcy law; and litigation and dispute resolution.