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**Assistant United States Attorney, Ronald M. Stella, joins Rhoades McKee PC as a Shareholder**

(August 18, 2010 – Grand Rapids, MI) - Returning to private practice after nine years with the United States Attorney’s Office, Ronald M. Stella joins the health care practice at Rhoades McKee. He will concentrate his practice in areas of health care law, medical malpractice insurance defense, and general litigation.

“I am very excited to join the attorneys and staff at Rhoades McKee. The firm has an excellent reputation in the areas of medical malpractice insurance defense and health care law. I look forward to adding my unique experiences in the public sector to the wealth of talents that already exist at the firm. Rhoades McKee is not only actively involved in the legal community, but in the community at large, and that is something that is important to me,” stated Stella.

While with the United States Attorney Office, Stella initially served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Civil Division handling a variety of civil litigation including health care fraud investigations and the defense of medical malpractice matters arising out of federally funded rural health centers. He later served as the Chief of the Civil Division with supervisory responsibility for all of the Office’s civil litigation involving the United States and its agencies in the Western District of Michigan. For approximately the last two years with that office, he prosecuted white collar federal criminal offenses arising out of health care fraud, mortgage fraud, bank fraud, and investment fraud, among others.

Significant accomplishments with the United States Attorney’s Office include *United States v. Robert Stokes, DO*, a criminal conviction of a local dermatologist on numerous counts of health care fraud, *Michigan Department of State v. United States*, a published decision upholding the constitutionality of amendments to the Federal Child Support Enforcement programs, and *Chomic v. United States*, medical malpractice litigation resulting in a published appellate decision regarding the timing of accrual of medical malpractice claims under the *Federal Tort Claims Act*.

“With nearly 20 years of legal experience in both private and public service, we are confident that Stella’s previous experience will enhance the existing services and expertise we offer our clients,” stated John Lichtenberg, Health Care Law Practice Group Chair.

Prior to his position with the United States Attorney’s Office, Stella provided legal services to the West Michigan community in areas of general and commercial civil litigation.

He serves as an Executive Committee Member of the Federal Bar Association. Stella is a current member of the Grand Rapids Bar Association, the State Bar of Michigan Health Care and Litigation Section, the American Health Lawyers Association, and the Catholic Lawyers Association. He is actively involved at St. John Vianney Catholic Church and School and is an Assistant Hockey Coach with the Kentwood Amateur Hockey Association.

A *summa cum laude* graduate of Valparaiso University School of Law in 1991, Stella earned his Bachelor of Business Administration from Western Michigan University, *magna cum laude*, in 1988.

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### **DIGITAL IMAGE ATTACHED**

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

Founded in 1960, Rhoades McKee is a 55-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; health care, labor and employment law; estate planning and probate law; family law; health care law professional liability and insurance defense; bankruptcy law; and litigation and dispute resolution.