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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ATTORNEY KENT AYERS NAMED TO ABOTA MEMBERSHIP**

E. Kent Ayers, senior partner with the Joliet-based law firm of Spesia, Ayers & Ardaugh, has been elected to membership in the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) and Illinois Chapter of ABOTA.

Attorneys must be nominated for membership in ABOTA by another member of the organization, and then are considered for election based on demonstrated integrity and professional achievement. There are only 88 members in the Illinois chapter.

ABOTA members agree to abide by the organization's "Principles of Civility, Integrity and Professionalism."

"Your election to ABOTA membership further evidences your high personal character, honorable reputation, and proficiency as a trial lawyer," states the letter from ABOTA notifying Ayers of his election.

Ayers concentrates his practice in the area of personal injury representation. He received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of North Dakota in 1968, and worked as the Midwestern Representative for the Council of State Governments at its national headquarters in Chicago before beginning his affiliation with Spesia, Ayers & Ardaugh in 1971.

He is active in the Illinois State Bar Association, serving multiple terms as a member of the ISBA Assembly, and also is a member of the bars of the U.S. Supreme Court and the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois. Ayers is a Fellow of the

American College of Trial Lawyers, and was selected an Illinois Super Lawyer in 2006 and 2007.

ABOTA was organized in the late 1950s by a small group of young lawyers, dismayed by legislative, judicial and media attacks on the United States civil jury system. They formed ABOTA, dedicated to preserving and protecting the civil jury trial system, “Justice by the People,” guaranteed by the Seventh Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The national organization has 6,490 members, with only 88 members in the Illinois chapter.