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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO NEW ATTORNEYS JOIN SPESIA, AYERS & ARDAUGH

JOLIET – Two Will County natives have joined Spesia, Ayers & Ardaugh as the law firm's newest attorneys.

Attorney Michael R. Stiff, a resident of Plainfield, began practicing at Spesia, Ayers & Ardaugh in October. He is a lifelong resident of Will County.

Stiff is a 1984 graduate of Lewis University in Romeoville, where he was inducted as a charter member of the Lewis Honor Society, and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism and English. He received his law degree from Loyola University School of Law in 1988.

Prior to joining Spesia, Ayers & Ardaugh, Stiff practiced in the Joliet office of a national law firm, and then with a small general litigation firm in Geneva. He has handled a wide range of litigation matters, including medical malpractice cases, serious construction injuries and all types of premises liability claims.

At Spesia, Ayers & Ardaugh, Stiff will concentrate his practice on litigation cases, both plaintiff's personal injury and commercial and corporate defense cases. He is admitted to practice before all Illinois courts, and is a Will County Arbitration Panelist. As part of his practice defending municipalities in employment and Civil Rights cases, he appears before the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

Stiff is married and has three children, two in high school and one in junior high, and he is active in a number of community and school organizations. He also has been a

professional magician and illusionist for many years, and donates his time to entertaining children and adults at fundraisers and charitable events.

Tricia M. Pellegrini, a Joliet native, is a 2007 graduate of Valparaiso University School of Law, where she served as a teaching assistant for the Legal Writing Department and a research assistant for the Legal Research Department. She also served as an extern with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Chicago while in law school. Her Bachelor of Science degree in finance and minor in professional writing are from Bradley University, where she graduated *summa cum laude*. She is a member of Phi Kappa Phi.

She joined the firm in August, and admits that her new job at Spesia, Ayers & Ardaugh is like “coming home.” Mrs. Pellegrini’s late mother worked as a legal assistant to attorney Douglas Spesia at the law firm for 30 years. Her exposure to her mother’s work experience, as well as her time spent as a file clerk at the firm while she was in high school, helped her make her career decision. “The attorneys here are part of the reason I went to law school in the first place,” she said.

She will focus her practice on personal injury and employment law litigation, and firm partner Jeffrey Taylor is serving as her mentor. Pellegrini said she relishes the opportunity to appear in court on behalf of a client.

“The attorneys here have been wonderful, allowing me to experience all facets of the practice. Every day is different, and every day you’re learning something new,” said Pellegrini.

She is recently married, and in her spare time is an advocate for organ donation. “My mother died at 49 waiting for a lung transplant. I hope to become an active voice for encouraging people to consider registering as a donor,” she said.

To contact any of the attorneys at Spesia, Ayers & Ardaugh, call (815) 726-4311, or log on to www.spesia-ayers.com.