



## **12 WWRP partners named to the 2026 Best Lawyers in America® list; plus, *Lawyer of the Year* regional nod for Richard E. Rassel, III, in real estate litigation**

Media Contact: Barbara Fornasiero, EAFocus Communications, 248.260.8466; [barbara@eafocus.com](mailto:barbara@eafocus.com)

Birmingham, Mich. – August 21, 2025 – Michigan-based, full-service business law firm Williams Williams Rattner & Plunkett (WWRP) is pleased to announce that 12 attorneys, all partners in the firm, have been selected by their peers for inclusion in the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*®. The following WWRP attorneys have been granted the Best Lawyers® designation in their respective categories of distinction:

- **Robert S. Bick**: Closely Held Companies and Family Business Law; Corporate Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law
- **John W. Crowe**: Corporate Law
- **James P. Cunningham**: Family Law
- **Brian E. Etzel**: Commercial Litigation; Employment Law – Individuals
- **John D. Gaber**: Litigation – Real Estate
- **Robert B. Labe**: Trusts and Estates
- **Jason C. Long**: Land Use and Zoning Law; Real Estate Law
- **Jerome Pesick**: Eminent Domain and Condemnation Law; Real Estate Law
- **David E. Plunkett**: Commercial Litigation
- **Richard E. Rassel, III**: Commercial Litigation; Land Use and Zoning Law; Litigation – Real Estate
- **Richard D. Rattner**: Copyright Law; Land Use and Zoning Law; Litigation – Land Use and Zoning; Litigation – Real Estate; Real Estate Law
- **C. Kim Shierk**: Corporate Law; Land Use and Zoning Law; Real Estate Law

In addition to being named a Best Lawyer, Richard E. Rassel, III, has been awarded 2026 Best Lawyers regional “Lawyer of the Year” honors, bestowed on the individual lawyer with the highest overall peer-feedback for a specific practice area and geographic region. Rassel received the accolade in the category of real estate litigation. Only one lawyer can be recognized as the

"Lawyer of the Year" for each specialty and region. He was previously awarded Best Lawyers' "Lawyer of the Year" honor in 2022. Russel's practice at WWRP, where he serves on the board of directors, focuses on business, real estate and land use litigation, as well as business and real estate transactions.

### **About Best Lawyers**

Best Lawyers' lists of outstanding lawyers are compiled by conducting exhaustive peer-review surveys in which tens of thousands of leading lawyers confidentially evaluate their professional peers. If the votes for a lawyer are positive enough for recognition by Best Lawyers, that lawyer must maintain those votes in subsequent polls to remain in each edition. Lawyers are not permitted to pay any fee to participate in or be recognized by Best Lawyers. For more information on the methodology, visit <https://www.bestlawyers.com/methodology>.

### **About Williams Williams Rattner & Plunkett**

Williams Williams Rattner & Plunkett is a corporate law firm comprised of trusted attorneys, counselors and litigators committed to our clients' success. Practice areas include business and commercial law, mergers and acquisitions, real estate including zoning, property tax appeals and eminent domain, commercial litigation, trusts and estates, divorce, and family law matters. A leader in local and state bar activities, community organizations, and charitable endeavors, Williams Williams Rattner & Plunkett understands the role attorneys play in a dynamic business environment, and as members of a vibrant community. Learn more about the firm and its commitment to exceptional client service at [www.WWRPLaw.com](http://www.WWRPLaw.com).

###