

PRESS RELEASE

Baker Donelson Names New Leader of Product Liability and Mass Tort Group

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(Memphis, TN/June 2, 2009) The law firm of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC, has named J. Carter Thompson Jr. leader of the Firm's Product Liability and Mass Tort practice group.

"Product liability and mass tort have long been a part of Baker Donelson's practice offering, and with recent and pending court decisions, this area of the law is undergoing significant changes," said Mr. Thompson. "I'm proud to lead a team of outstanding attorneys who have the extensive experience necessary to help our clients face the challenges presented by this evolving litigation climate."

Mr. Thompson, who is also co-chair of the Firm's Drug, Device & Life Sciences team, concentrates his practice in the national, regional and local defense of drug and medical device and other product liability cases. As leader of the Product Liability and Mass Tort Group, he will oversee approximately 70 professionals across the Firm's 15 offices. A graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law, Mr. Thompson has been recognized in the areas of product liability and litigation by *The Best Lawyers in America*® (Copyright 2008 by Woodward/White, Inc., of Aiken S.C.), *Chambers USA*, *Mid-South Super Lawyers* and *Lawdragon*. He is a member of the Product Liability Advisory Council, the Defense Research Institute's Drug and Device Steering Committee, and the American Health Law Association.

Baker Donelson is recognized as the top law firm in the nation in the area of Product Liability Litigation by *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2009, based on the number of Baker Donelson attorneys named to the list. Attorneys within Baker Donelson's Product Liability and Mass Tort Group have extensive experience defending product liability and toxic tort cases, many of which involve class action claims with far-reaching implications. Their experience includes defending companies in lawsuits alleging the defective design or manufacture of products such as motor vehicles; aircraft; medical devices; pharmaceuticals; consumer, agricultural, and recreational products; asbestos and tobacco; and defending environmental and toxic tort claims for many types of manufacturers and distributors.