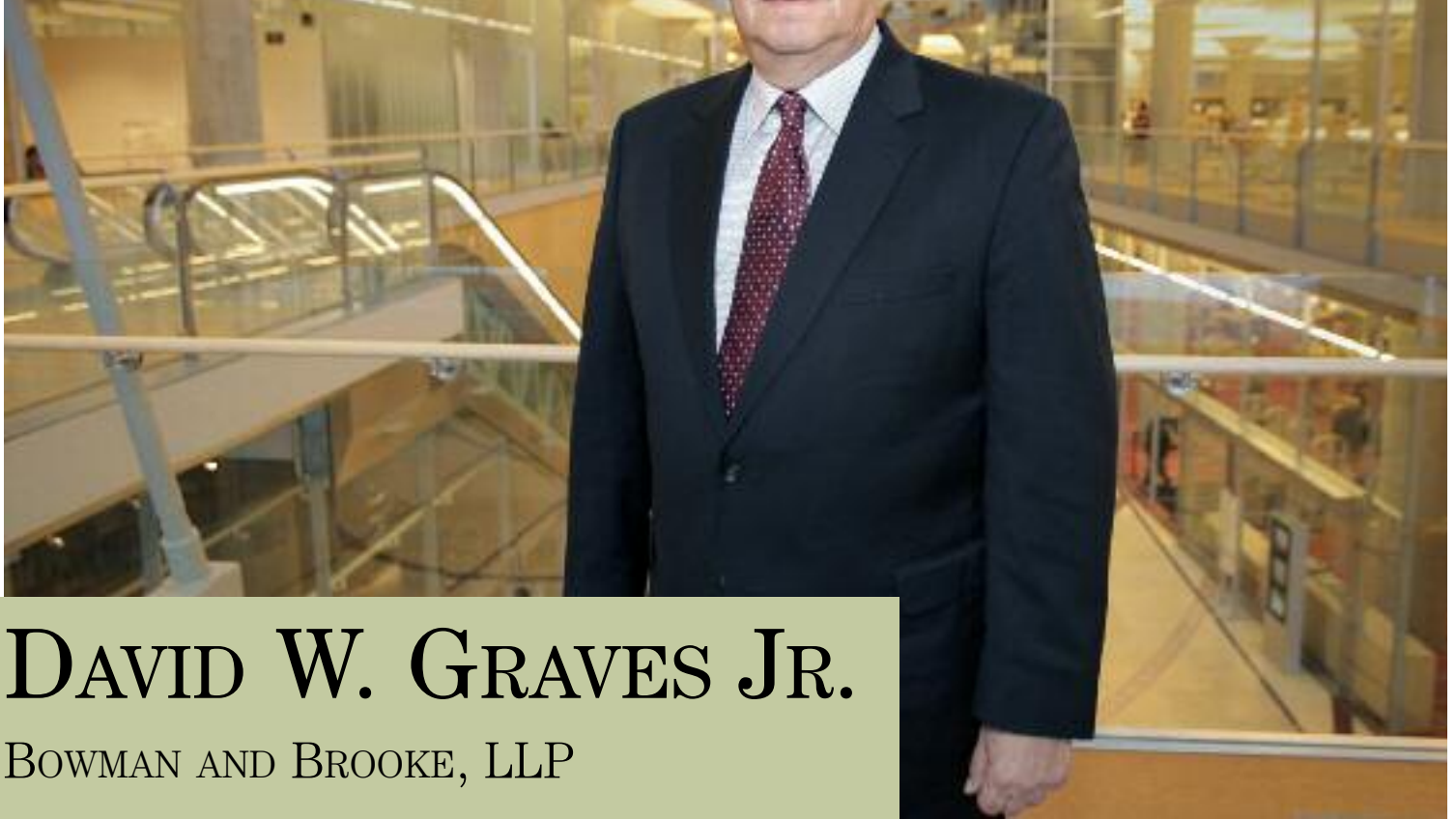


MINNESOTA LAWYER
ATTORNEYS
OF
THE YEAR 2010



DAVID W. GRAVES JR.

BOWMAN AND BROOKE, LLP

David W. Graves, Jr., has made a name for himself by defending thorny, headline-making products liability cases across the country.

As firm chairman and managing partner at Minneapolis-based Bowman and Brooke, LLP, he's a sought-after first chair defense attorney for catastrophic injury and wrongful death cases in the automotive industry. The Brooklyn, N.Y., native has defended automotive manufacturers in more than a dozen states. Clients include Honda, Nissan, Mitsubishi and General Motors and he's considered Toyota's "go-to lawyer" in rollover trials.

"The cases are always in a setting of a tragic accident — death or serious injury — so there's a tremendous amount of sympathy present in every trial," Graves said. "Juries have to make tough decisions, and I've had a lot of success."

He said getting juries to understand very complicated subjects is challenging.

"First you have to understand the technical and medical issues yourself and then simplify it so lay jurors can understand it," he explained.

Graves' credentialed and experienced background helps. Before law school, he earned a mechanical engineering degree from the University of Notre Dame and

even worked with NASA in authoring a ground test program for solar telescope experiments. After graduating from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, he served on General Motors' legal staff. He later entered private practice and is a founding partner at Bowman and Brooke.

"What drew me to trial work was I found the ability to understand technical issues and cross-examine expert witnesses fascinating," he explained. "You have to be thoroughly prepared so wherever they take you, you're ready."

Graves has defended many rollover cases, including a wrongful death case last year

in Tampa, Fla., with an estimated \$10 million at stake.

"The husband was killed in the accident and the wife walked away," he says. The jury found the roof design on the Eclipse was neither negligent nor unreasonably dangerous and ruled in Mitsubishi's favor.

Graves will continue trying cases and mentoring. As chairman of the executive committee, he watches over the firm and helps launch new offices, most recently in Columbia, S.C., and Dallas.

—Liz Wolf

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