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**NEWSLETTER / NEWS RELEASE
From the Office of the Mayor**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 16, 2019

FLORISSANT' CITY ATTORNEY JOHN HESSEL NAMED 2020 "LAWYER OF THE YEAR" FOR LITIGATION – FIRST AMENDMENT BY BEST LAWYERS IN AMERICA



Mayor Timothy Lowery is proud to announce that Best Lawyers®, one of the oldest and most respected peer review publications in the legal profession, has named John M. Hessel as the 2020 "Lawyer of the Year" for Litigation – First Amendment in the St. Louis metropolitan area. After more than a quarter of a century in publication, Best Lawyers® is designating "Lawyers of the Year" in high-profile legal specialties in large legal communities. Only a single lawyer in each practice area and designated metropolitan area is honored as the "Lawyer of the Year," making this accolade particularly significant. Best Lawyers compiles its lists of outstanding attorneys by conducting exhaustive peer-review surveys in which thousands of leading lawyers confidentially evaluate their professional peers. The honored lawyers received particularly high ratings in these surveys by earning a high level of respect among their peers for their abilities, professionalism, and integrity.

This is the seventh time in the past 10 years that John has received the "Lawyer of the Year" award. He previously received the "Lawyer of the Year" award for Municipal Law in 2011, 2013, 2015, and 2016 and for Litigation - First Amendment in 2014 and 2018. Best Lawyers has also included him in its annual list every year since 2009 for Commercial Litigation, Municipal Law, Litigation - Municipal, and Litigation - First Amendment.

A well-respected partner and management committee member of Lewis Rice, LLC, John Hessel has been serving the St. Louis community for more than thirty years. He has held the position of city attorney for Florissant since 1989, and is also the city attorney for Kirkwood and Maplewood.

He has also served as special counsel for numerous municipalities in St. Louis County. In 2008, he received the Citizen of the Year Award from the cities of Kirkwood and Des Peres and the Medal of Valor Award from Crusade Against Crime, both honoring the brave role he played in the February 7, 2008 Kirkwood tragedy.

“We are very proud of John for again receiving this distinguished honor and congratulate him on a job well done,” stated Mayor Lowery.