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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ROBERT W. MEAD, JR. NAMED 2012 ORLANDO EMPLOYEE BENEFITS (ERISA) LAW
LAWYER OF THE YEAR BY BEST LAWYERS®**

Orlando, Florida – Dean Mead announced today that *Best Lawyers*, the oldest and most respected peer-review publication in the legal profession, has named Robert W. Mead, Jr. as the “Orlando *Best Lawyers* Employee Benefits (ERISA) Law Lawyer of the Year” for 2012. He is the only Employee Benefits lawyer in Central Florida to be selected for this prestigious honor this year.

Mead is one of the founding shareholders of Dean Mead. He has over 40 years of experience assisting clients with employee benefits matters, including retirement plans. His experience also includes representing physicians and medical entities with business matters, including employment agreements, buy-sell agreements, negotiation of hospital contracts and related agreements involving physicians and healthcare relationships. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Florida Heart Institute, an affiliate of Florida Hospital.

Mead is recognized for his experience and knowledge, having been repeatedly listed as an outstanding lawyer by *The Best Lawyers in America*, *Florida Trend Magazine*’s Legal Elite, *Florida Super Lawyers Magazine*, *Orlando Business Journal*, and *Orlando Magazine*. He is also a Past President and a member of the Employee Benefits Council of Central Florida. He has actively served on boards and committees in several professional organizations for a number of decades including the American Bar Association, the Florida Bar Foundation, The Florida Bar and the Orange County Bar Association.

Mead earned his law degree from the University of Florida Levin College of Law in 1969, and his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Florida in 1967. He is a past member of the Board of Trustees for the University of Florida Law Center Association. He is admitted to practice in the state of Florida.

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 specialty in each community is being honored as the “Lawyer of the Year.”

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 current, 18th edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* (2012) is based on more than 3.9 million detailed evaluations of lawyers by other lawyers.

The lawyers being honored as “Lawyers of the Year” have received particularly high ratings in our surveys by earning a high level of respect among their peers for their abilities, professionalism, and integrity.

Steven Naifeh, President of Best Lawyers, says, “We continue to believe – as we have believed for more than 25 years – that recognition by one’s peers is the most meaningful form of praise in the legal profession. We would like to congratulate Robert W. Mead, Jr. on being selected as the ‘Orlando *Best Lawyers* Employee Benefits (ERISA) Law Lawyer of the Year’ for 2012.”

About Dean Mead:

Dean Mead is a business law firm that provides full-service legal representation to businesses and individuals throughout Florida. The firm has nearly 50 attorneys practicing in multiple practice areas including: tax, estate and succession planning, corporate, general commercial litigation, employee benefits, bankruptcy and creditors’ rights, real estate and health law. For more information, please visit www.deanmead.com.

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