

1) March 2005 - The Clay Awards

## California Lawyer - Attorneys of the Year Awards for 2004

By the Editors of California Lawyer

In our annual California Lawyer Attorneys of the Year Awards, we recognize those attorneys around the state whose work has had a profound, far-reaching impact in 2004 or whose achievements in 2004 are expected to have such an impact in the coming years. This year, we identified 30 accomplishments in 15 areas of legal practice that reflect the breadth and depth of sophistication in the work performed by California lawyers. The attorneys we honor changed law, broke new ground in various practice areas and business sectors, and substantially influenced public policy.

### LITIGATION

Karen Barth Menzies

Baum Hedlund, Los Angeles

Karen Barth Menzies is the lead attorney in dozens of antidepressant suicide and violence cases involving Paxil and Zoloft and has testified numerous times before both state and federal committees on the risks of antidepressant medications. In October, after she testified before the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Advisory Committee that use of these drugs may cause some minors to be suicidal, the FDA mandated that drug companies add a "black box" warning to more than 30 antidepressants and also announced plans to conduct an investigation into the suicide risk in adults. Also in 2004, Barth Menzies was appointed lead counsel for cases alleging that GlaxoSmithKline failed to warn the public about the dangers of Paxil withdrawal and dependence. She reviewed claims, strategized with co-counsel, coordinated the filing of lawsuits in dozens of states involving thousands of individuals, and oversaw substantial discovery. The first five cases are set for trial in May.

2) Two months ago Ms. Barth Menzies was also named among 10 attorneys in the nation as *Lawyer of the Year* by Lawyers Weekly USA for 2004 "Karen Barth Menzies - Los Angeles Pharmaceutical Specialist - A Crusade For Suicide Warnings On Antidepressants." <http://www.baumhedlundlaw.com/Lawyer-of-the-Year.htm>

3) Last month six Baum Hedlund attorneys were voted by their peers as "Southern California Super Lawyers." Only 5% of attorneys in Southern California are named Super Lawyers. Law & Politics conducts a general survey among 377,500 attorneys in the state, more than one-third of the active lawyers in the U.S. The attorneys nominate the best lawyers they have personally

observed in action - whether opposing counsel or co-counsel, or through other first-hand observation in the courtroom.

Listed as Super Lawyers: