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O. Max Gardner III recognized as "Super Lawyer" for fourth year

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SHELBY - For the fourth year, Law & Politics, a national attorney-led research team, in conjunction with The Charlotte Magazine, has named O. Max Gardner III of Shelby as one of the 2009 North Carolina "Super Lawyers."

Gardner is one of only three consumer bankruptcy lawyers in North Carolina to receive this honor.

Super Lawyers is a comprehensive and diverse listing of outstanding attorneys, representing a wide range of practice areas, firm sizes and geographic locations. Only 5 percent of the lawyers in each state or region are named Super Lawyers. Law & Politics performs the polling, research and selection of Super Lawyers in a process designed to identify lawyers who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement.

Gardner received his undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1969 and graduated with high honors from the UNC School of Law in 1974.

Gardner opened his law practice in Shelby in 1977.

He currently limits his practice to consumer bankruptcy cases and all consumer claims arising with respect to those cases. Gardner has been widely recognized as the leading consumer attorney in America on "predatory mortgage servicing" in Chapter 13 bankruptcy cases. He has been the lead attorney of record in many landmark cases but some of his most significant were Marshall v Spindale Savings & Loan, Stark v Crestar Mortgage, the Shelby Yarn Employees litigation, and Smith v First Union National Bank.

Gardner was named the Outstanding Consumer Lawyer of 2004 by the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Lawyers at its Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. He has been elected four times as a member of the "Legal Elite" of North Carolina lawyers by his fellow attorneys in a statewide poll conducted by Business North Carolina.

His renowned "Bankruptcy Boot Camps" have been featured in the NY Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, the Chicago Tribune, Business Week, on a one hour segment of "Your Money" on CNN, and most recently as a Special Feature on ABC's Nightline News. Max has also been quoted many times by all of the major print and electronic media in America.

According to Robert Berner, a Senior Editor for Business Week, "Max is the go-to guy on all consumer bankruptcy cases!"

Gardner is the grandson of O. Max Gardner, a former North Carolina Governor and United States Ambassador to Great Britain.

Gardner is a long-time member of NACBA and NACA and a frequent national speaker on bankruptcy law and consumer representation. Gardner is the father of three children, Max IV, Webb and Sarah. Max IV was killed in a tragic accident involving a drunk driver in April of 2005. Max and his wife, Victoria, live at Lizmere Farm, located deep in the heart of the South Mountains of Cleveland County near Casar, where they breed and show their beloved Cavalier King Charles Spaniels.