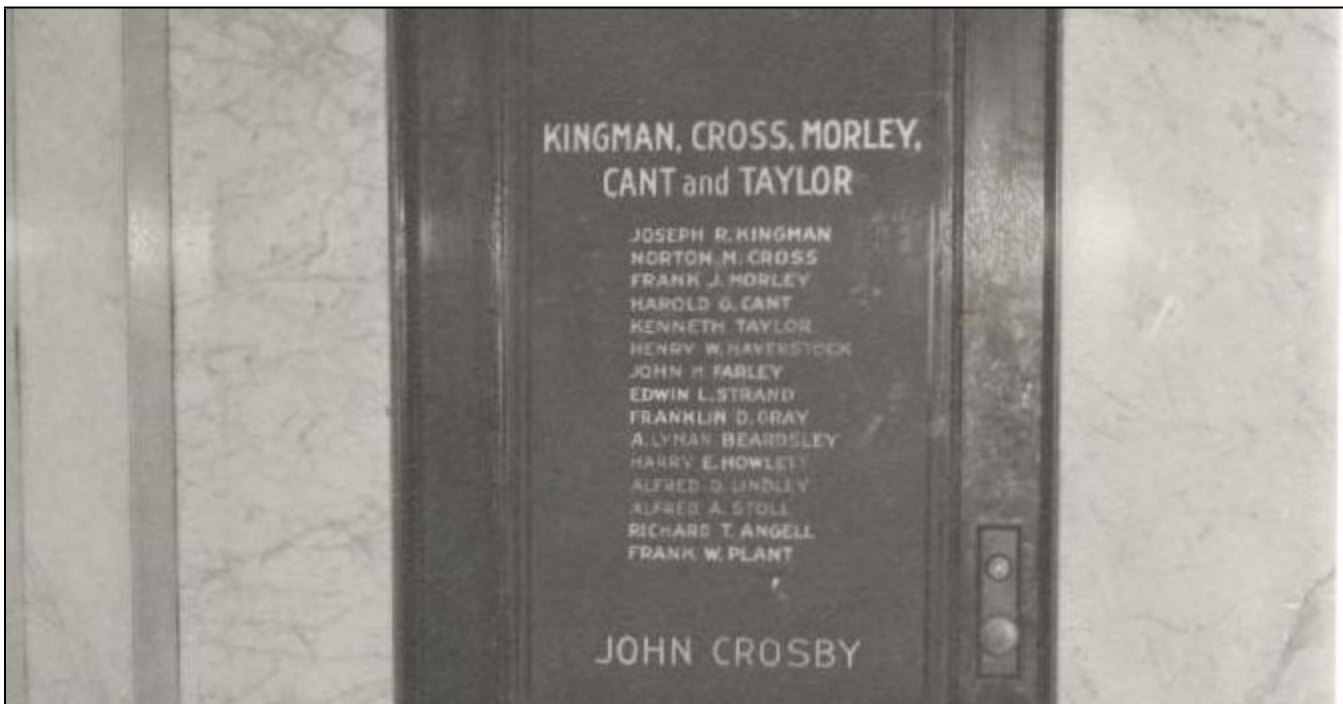


## History

**Gray Plant Mooty is** the oldest continuing law practice in Minneapolis—and one of the most influential. Founded in 1866 by Charles Woods as a one-man firm specializing in local real estate, the practice has grown to nearly 180 attorneys with clients worldwide. Gray Plant Mooty has served the Twin Cities for more than a century, building an award-winning reputation for legal expertise and a solid commitment to community involvement. In 2016, the firm celebrates 150 years of service to its clients and communities; for more information about Gray Plant Mooty's 150th anniversary, [click here](#).



### “The Kingman Firm”

The original practice first expanded in the early 1880s with the additions of William J. Hahn, a former Minnesota state attorney general and Joseph R. Kingman. While the firm was originally known as “Woods & Hahn,” when Kingman died 67 years later in 1945, it was widely known as “the Kingman Firm.” By the mid-1950s, the practice of law was becoming increasingly focused. Already heavily involved in probate, estate planning, and real estate, the firm expanded into the areas of corporate law, finance, and tax and litigation. Physically, the practice moved to the Roanoke Building in downtown Minneapolis and key new faces were now on the scene: Franklin Gray, Frank Plant, John and Melvin Mooty, and Russell Bennett.

### An Expanding Practice, A Growing Reputation

As the firm grew, so did its reputation for expertise in antitrust and product liability law, both on regional and national levels. It argued and won cases for major clients such as DuPont and Westinghouse. But it also remained heavily involved in real estate matters, in projects ranging from “Southdale,” the nation’s first enclosed suburban shopping mall in Edina, Minnesota, to the explosive skyscraper growth of downtown Minneapolis.

Gray Plant Mooty has grown in size and influence. But the practice has worked hard to balance the strength and resources of a larger firm with the spirit of a smaller firm. The close working relationships amongst its partners and associates is a prime example of that balance.

## On the Move, New Partners

The 1980s and 1990s were highlighted by another move—and more expansion. In 1984, the firm relocated to the Minneapolis City Center. Six years later, Gray Plant Mooty joined with Harstad and Rainbow. In 2002, the firm combined with Hall & Byers, bringing together one of Minnesota’s top 10 law firms with one of the most influential business law practices in St. Cloud. Clients throughout the state—and the entire Midwest—have benefited.

## New Home

In 2003, the firm relocated its Minneapolis office to its current location in downtown Minneapolis’ IDS Center and the St. Cloud office further expanded its offices. At the end of 2005, Gray Plant Mooty grew beyond Minnesota for the first time in the firm’s history, opening its East Coast office in Washington, D.C. Today, Gray Plant Mooty ranks among the nation’s top 500 law firms, providing legal support of the highest quality, a dedication to uncompromising client service and an active commitment to its century-plus tradition of community involvement.

For more information, view an interactive timeline of the firm's first 150 years.

## A Gray Plant Mooty Timeline

1865		Civil War ends
1866		Charles Woods opens Minneapolis law office
1881		“Woods & Hahn” is created when former Minnesota Attorney General William J. Hahn joins firm
1883		Joseph R. Kingman joins firm
1950		Mr. Kingman retires—to many the firm is now known as “The Kingman Firm”
1955		Firm moves to the Roanoke Building in Minneapolis
1956		Firm is involved in real estate transactions for “Southdale,” the nation’s first enclosed shopping mall

1977		Firm is named Gray, Plant, Mooty, Mooty & Bennett
1984		Firm moves to the Minneapolis City Center
1990		Gray Plant Mooty combines with Harstad and Rainbow
2002		Gray Plant Mooty combines with Hall & Byers of St. Cloud
2002		Gray Plant Mooty named “Employer of the Year” by the American Cancer Society
2003		Gray Plant Mooty named one of Minnesota’s “Great Places to Work” in The Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal
2003		Firm moves to current Minneapolis location in the IDS Center
2004		Gray Plant Mooty voted one of the top five law firms for corporate legal advice by directors of publicly traded companies in Minnesota
2005		For the second consecutive year, Gray Plant Mooty voted one of the top five law firms for corporate legal advice by directors of publicly traded companies in Minnesota
2005		Gray Plant Mooty receives the Minnesota Business Ethics Award
2005		Gray Plant Mooty opens East Coast office in Washington, D.C.
2007		Gray Plant Mooty names Tamara H. Olsen as the firm’s first female managing officer
2010		Gray Plant Mooty named one of Minnesota’s “Best Places to Work” by The Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal—the only law firm in the state to receive this award for an unprecedented eight consecutive years
2014		Gray Plant Mooty opens an office in Fargo, North Dakota
2016		Gray Plant Mooty celebrates its sesquicentennial anniversary, marking 150 years of client and

		community service. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.gpmlaw150.com">http://www.gpmlaw150.com</a> .
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