

**V**ernon J. Petri has always been a risk-taker—that's why he was once described by a respected colleague as an "alchemist" who turns the base metal of an improbable personal injury matter into the gold of a significant verdict for the injured.

Petri handles products liability cases and represents severely injured clients and the families of those killed at construction sites, as well as clients injured due to poisoning from chemical plants. As a colleague once wrote of his perseverance in difficult cases, "You should get 'Trial Lawyer of the Year.'"

on its board of directors. He appealed more than 50 cases to the federal and state appellate courts and the Indiana Supreme courts. Petri served on the board of directors of the Indiana Trial Lawyers Association, and has been named to the Million Dollar Advocates Forum, a body reserved for attorneys who achieve verdicts in excess of \$1 million. Yet another respected colleague perhaps put it best in describing Petri's renowned skills: "You've always had the reputation of fighting hard for your client. ... You deserve a big hurrah!"

**A DISTINGUISHED CAREER**

As a Counter Intelligence officer, Petri learned how to conduct successful investigations. He was twice elected prosecuting attorney in Indiana, and was elected president of the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Association and served

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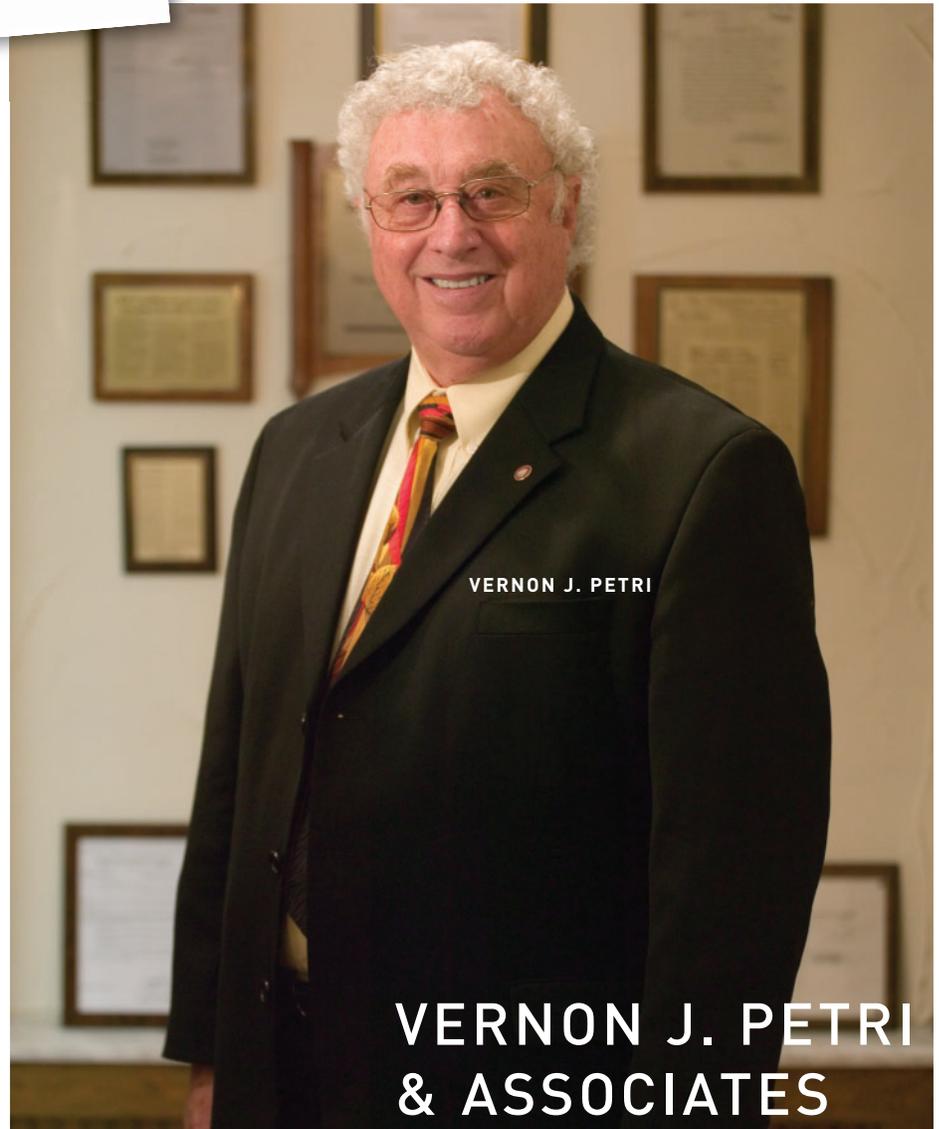
Petri is one of only 69 lawyers to be awarded the certification of Diplomat in Trial Advocacy by the 60,000-member Association of Trial Lawyers of America.

**WILLING TO TAKE  
CASES ON PRINCIPLE  
—NOT PRECEDENCE**

**BREAKING NEW GROUND** One of Petri's favorite cases involved a killer curve on the new I-70 that claimed the lives of 13 people, including his client's husband. Petri's investigation into the cause of the accidents resulted in the redesign of the curve, as well as a settlement for his client.

Another memorable case for Petri was one that involved a little girl who was scalded by tap water via a defective home hot water heater—one of the first cases of its kind. The American Trial Lawyers Association (ATLA) appointed him national chair of similar litigation. He also has won several pharmaceutical cases involving dangerous and defective drugs that caused the destruction of livers and kidneys and the subsequent deaths of people taking drugs. Petri was asked to take the lead in this type of litigation for ATLA as well.

Petri and his staff of lawyers handles hundreds of cases that involve medical injuries due to medical malpractice. He also serves on the executive committee of ATLA's Breast Implant Litigation Group.



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