



# Boone County Bar Association NEWSLETTER

www.bocomobar.org

March 5, 2001

Volume 17, Number 3



R. Lawrence Dessem

## New MU law dean

R. Lawrence Dessem, Law School Dean at Mercer University in Macon, GA since 1995, has been named new MU Law School Dean effective July 1.

He graduated from Harvard Law School in 1976, clerked for a federal district judge in Ohio, served as assistant general counsel for the National Education Assn., and worked as a trial lawyer for the Department of Justice before joining the University of Tennessee College of Law Faculty 1985-95.

## Case management software is March 13 topic

Computerized case management systems will be the subject at the next regular BCBA meeting on Wednesday, March 13 at Boone Tavern, 811 E. Walnut St.

One hour of CLE credit will be granted for the program, which will be presented by Tim Mellitz of Mellitz & Associates, a legal technology consulting firm with offices in St. Louis and San Francisco.

Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. for a charge of \$9. Checks should be payable to Boone Tavern. The program will start at noon.

**RSVP:** If you plan to attend, notify BCBA Secretary **Phebe La Mar** by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12 by calling 443-3141 or sending email to [lamar@smithlewis.com](mailto:lamar@smithlewis.com)

Using the Time Matters program as an example, Mellitz will cover several of the technologies common to most case management systems. Among subjects he plans to cover are:

! Contact/client information ("Rolodex on steroids").

! Legal docket/calendar vs. a personal information manager calendar, including the importance of "ticklers" and "event chains."

! Case or matter database and the "folly" of using Outlook as a case management program.

! Document management.

! Document assembly.

! Email integration with case management.

! Database and field customization options.

! Synchronization of case management data with handheld devices and notebook computers.

## Meet and greet the judges

### Appellate - March 20

Interested BCBA members are invited to have dinner with judges of the Missouri Court of Appeals, Western District, on March 20.

The BCBA will host the judges for dinner, but bar members will be responsible for their own meals.

There may also be a reception for the judges, who will be in Columbia that day for oral arguments.

To sign up, contact **Susan Ford Robertson** at 449-2613.

### Local - April 10

The annual Bench-Bar Dinner will be held the evening of April 10, 2002 at the MU Alumni Center.

The annual event, co-sponsored by the Callaway County Bar Association, is designed to provide an opportunity for local judges and lawyers to mingle in a social setting.

Additional details about menu and program plans and sign-up information will be published in the next *Newsletter* around the first of April.

## New Case.net feature allows retrieval of dockets

A new feature of the Missouri Case.net system allows Internet retrieval of docket schedules for individual judges or lawyers for either a one-day or seven-day period.

The Case.net system can be accessed at <http://casenet.osca.state.mo.us/casenet/>. On the

first page, users select the desired circuit or appellate court.

On the next page, a new search option, "Scheduled Hearings/Trials," is now available.

When this new search option is selected, the following page allows a one-day or seven-day

search for all scheduled hearings and trials involving a particular judge or commissioner or an individual lawyer. Searches for cases involving a particular lawyer require entry of the lawyer's Missouri Bar enrollment number.

The new search method only returns *future* scheduled hearings and trials. If an event has been cancelled or continued or involves a case closed to the public, it will not appear.

Only hearings, trials and ancillary proceedings are included in the new calendar index. The new search function will not return events entered as reminders to clerks or judges, such as "case review."

## 55 attend on Feb. 13

Some 55 BCBA members attended the Feb. 13, 2002 regular meeting at Boone Tavern to hear **Rusty Antel's** program, "Criminal, DWI and Traffic Law Update." Rusty's notes, including citations, are available on the BCBA web site at [www.bocomobar.org/cle.htm](http://www.bocomobar.org/cle.htm)

## Revised orders issued

The 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit has issued revised administrative orders relating to issuance of subpoenas for witnesses and waiver of service and entry of appearance forms in uncontested dissolution cases.

The revised orders appear on the BCBA web site at [www.bocomobar.org/orders.htm](http://www.bocomobar.org/orders.htm)

## Pay dues by April 30 to avoid removal

Most BCBA members have already paid their 2002 dues of \$25 per lawyer, but a few stragglers remain. Members whose dues have not been paid by April 30 will be removed from the membership rolls.

Dues are waived for sitting and retired judges of Boone and

Callaway counties and for members who have been licensed in Missouri for at least 50 years or who have reached the age of 75.

Dues payments should be sent to BCBA Treasurer **Ed Orr** at P.O. Box 7186, Columbia, MO 65205-7286.

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The Boone County Bar Association Newsletter is published monthly, more or less, by the Boone County Bar Association, Inc. Annual dues are \$25 and may be sent to the Treasurer, **Ed Orr**, P.O. Box 7186, Columbia, MO 65205-7186, phone 443-2828. Send items for publication to the Editor, **Steve Scott**, 201 Westwood Ave., Columbia, MO 65203-2871, phone 442-7268, fax 443-1676, email [sscott@scottlawfirm.com](mailto:sscott@scottlawfirm.com). 2001-02 officers of the Association are: President, **Dan Atwill**, 609 E. Broadway, 442-3000; Vice President, **Jim Powell**, 601 E. Broadway #203, P.O. Box 1304, 442-3181; Secretary, **Phebe La Mar**, P.O. Box 918, 443-3141; and Treasurer, **Ed Orr**, address above. Executive Committee members are the officers and **Ron Bartlett**, **Betty Wilson** and **Liz Magee**. The Association's web site is at [www.bocomobar.org](http://www.bocomobar.org).

## Around the bar . . .

**Rotts & Gibbs, L.L.P.** has moved to 1001 E. Walnut St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, P.O. Box 7385, Columbia, MO 65205. The firm's phone and fax numbers remain 443-3463 and 443-7099, respectively.

**Atwill & Montgomery** will soon move from 609 E. Broadway to the offices at 16 N. 8<sup>th</sup> St. vacated by **Rotts & Gibbs**.

**Jeff Keevil of Stewart & Keevil, L.L.C.** was recently elected Vice President of the Midwest Chapter of the Energy Bar Association. The association has 1,900 lawyers who practice energy law. Jeff's firm focuses on representation of utility companies.

**Randall Johnston** has moved his practice to 717 Cherry St., phone 442-8879, fax 449-6117, where he will share office space with **Dave Evans** and **John Murray**. Dave still has a suite available at 717 Cherry St. and can be reached at 449-8430.

**Dewey Crepeau** also has office space for rent—two corner offices, one with a private entrance, available separately or together—at 2501 W. Ash St. Call Dewey at 445-9435 for details.

**Stephen Wyse**, P.O. Box 1793, Columbia, MO 65205, phone 449-7755, fax 886-8901, is a new BCBA member. After a U.S. Army tour, he worked in politics before attending MU

Law School 1995-98. He was in private practice in Kansas City 1998-99, worked as a public defender 1999-2001, and opened his private practice in January.

**Diana C. Farr**, who formerly practiced with **William D. Powell** at 1201 W. Broadway, has become an associate with **Brydon, Swearngen & England, P.C.** in Jefferson City.

### 'Legal Consumer Bill of Rights' proposal causes concern

BCBA member **Charles Dykhouse** has pointed out that a bill to establish a "Legal Consumer's Bill of Rights" is pending in the General Assembly as Senate Bill 994 and urges lawyers to contact their legislators about the measure.

The official bill summary on the Missouri Senate and House web sites says the bill includes the following provisions:

! Each written contract or agreement between a lawyer and client shall append a copy of the legal consumer's bill of rights.

! The bill of rights includes provisions for disclosure of certain information by the lawyer to the client about the legal options available to the client; the costs associated with the lawyer's representation; and certain standards of representation required for a lawyer.

! The bill of rights shall also inform the client of the right to an accessible legal system; the right to file a complaint against the lawyer with a disciplinary board and the right to be left free from unsolicited contact from attorneys for thirty days after an event resulting in personal injury or death.

! Within 30 days after a case is finally completed, the lawyer is required to provide certain information about the lawyer's actual services to the client, in-

cluding the hourly rate realized by the lawyer in a personal injury case handled on a contingency fee basis.

Dykhouse said, "The thrust of my concern is that I understand our profession to be regulated, in the final analysis, by the Supreme Court of Missouri. The Legislative Branch, if this bill were to pass, would be arrogating to itself the ability to regulate our profession. I have a fundamental problem with that."

<b>Treasurer's Report by Ed Orr</b>	
Account balance as of 1/31/02.....	\$5,161.59
<b>Receipts 1/31/02 - 2/27/02</b>	
Dues.....	+1,225.00
Interest.....	+0.94
<b>Disbursements 1/31/02 - 2/27/02</b>	
Sir Speedy (Newsletter printing).....	-51.99
Midwest Mailing (Newsletter mailing).....	-65.49
Account balance as of 2/27/02.....	\$6,270.05