



# Boone County Bar Association NEWSLETTER

www.bocomobar.org

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## 80 attend kickoff of Access to Justice

About 80 bar members attended the kickoff event of the Mid-Missouri Access to Justice project at Boone Tavern on the evening of May 4.

Thirty-three lawyers volunteered at the meeting to donate legal services, and three agreed to donate mediation services. Of the legal services volunteers, almost half specified family law as their area of concentration.

Funding for the project includes \$37,500 from the Domestic Resolutions Fund (which must be used for family law cases) and \$15,000 from the Missouri Bar's IOLTA fund.

Presiding Judge **Gene Hamilton** appointed a planning team for the project in April 2008 and charged it with designing a program to provide access to justice for low-income people in Mid Missouri.

After the kickoff event, Judge Hamilton said, "Many thanks to all who participated in the May 4 meeting. For those who could not make it, please volunteer. It is an excellent program, and we encourage your participation."

Eligibility requirements for legal assistance through the project include income below 150% of the federal poverty level, venue in the 13<sup>th</sup> Circuit, and citizenship or legal residence. No traffic or criminal cases will be accepted. Only those not eligible for assistance by Mid Missouri Legal Services Corp. will be served.

BCBA member **Negar Jackson** has been hired as director of the project.

## Pfeiffer swearing-in set on June 4

BCBA member **Mark Pfeiffer** will be sworn in as a judge of the Missouri Court of Appeals, Western District, in the Ceremonial Courtroom at the Boone County Courthouse at 4 p.m. Thursday, June 4.

He was appointed to the appellate court on May 6 by Gov. Jay Nixon.

Following the swearing-in ceremony, there will be a reception to which bar members are invited at the Country Club of Missouri from 5 to 8 p.m. The reception is being hosted by Bunky Wright, Wally Bley and the BCBA. Heavy hors d'oeuvres and other refreshments will be served.

Mark has been a partner in the Bley & Pfeiffer firm since 1995 and previously practiced in Springfield. He received his bachelor's degree from Westminster College in 1989 and his law degree from MU in 1991.

## Negotiation program on June 10

"Getting Better Results for Clients Using a Planned Negotiation Process" will be the topic of a 1.2-hour CLE credit program at the next regular BCBA meeting at lunchtime on Wednesday, June 10, at Boone Tavern, 811 E. Walnut St., Columbia.

As usual when CLE programs are presented, meal service will begin at 11:30 a.m. in the County Room on the lower level. The lunch price will be \$9, payable to Boone Tavern. A brief business meeting will precede the program.

**RSVP:** To reserve your spot for this meeting, contact BCBA Secretary **Zach Bickel** at 449-2613 or [zbickel@fpb-law.com](mailto:zbickel@fpb-law.com) by 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 9.

The speaker will be BCBA member **John Lande**, Director of the LLM Program in Dispute Resolution at the MU Law School.

Prof. Lande will describe how lawyers can get better results for their clients by using negotiation agreements. He will explain how planned negotiations differ from typical ad hoc negotiations and list advantages of planned negotiations for clients and lawyers. Included in his presentation will be a description of possible features in written negotiation agreements, such as provisions regarding phased exchange of information, use of joint experts, and use of third-party neutrals. The CLE material will include a sample agreement form.

## High school scholarships presented

The Public Relations and Bar-Schools Partnership Committee, chaired by **Todd Werts**, recently presented the BCBA's annual \$1,000 scholarships to three high school students.

The Hickman High School recipient was Katherine Van Doren. She has a 4.0 GPA and plans to attend Wheaton College to major in biology and then to attend pharmacy school to obtain a doctor of pharmacy degree. She was a National Merit Finalist and a finalist in the National Council of Teachers English Writing Competition. She was a member of the nationally recognized Hickman High School Mock Trial Team for the last two years.

The Rock Bridge High School awardee was Kate LaRose. She has a 3.99 GPA and plans to attend Knox College and major in Dance,

English and Biology. She then intends to pursue a law degree. She has been very involved in National History Day since 2005 and has won the state competition.

The third scholarship rotates among other Boone County high schools. This year it was awarded to Douglass High School student Haley Marie Williams. She will be attending Moberly Area Community College and plans to study nursing.

### From BCBA President Mal Mayse

The BCBA has again awarded college scholarships to three deserving high school students. Congratulations to the recipients!

The BCBA has been a participant in the Columbia Public Schools Partners-in-Education program since 1988 and began providing scholarships to graduating seniors in 1989 as part of that program. These scholarships and our financial support to the high school Mock Trial Program represent 21% of our annual operating budget and demonstrate a strong commitment to Boone County.

Thanks to our Public Relations/Bar Schools Partnership Committee chaired by **Todd Werts**.

## Mock trial team honored at meeting

Six members of the successful BCBA-sponsored Hickman High School Mock Trial Team were recognized at the May 13 BCBA meeting. They were Ashok Cutkosky, Hellen Lin, Jordan Occena, Katie Van Doren, Adithi Vellore and team captain Hannah Wigger. They were accompanied by their coach, **Brad Lear**.

The association, through its Public Relations/Partners in Education Committee, has supported the Missouri High School Mock Trial tournament for many years. Members of our bar serve as judges and evaluators at the regional competition held each year at the Boone County Courthouse and organized by **Liz Magee**.

This year state finals were held at the Jackson County Courthouse. The Hickman team qualified for the state finals and – after initially being seeded eighth out of eight teams – came from behind and won three trials in a row to be crowned the Missouri State Champions, thus ending a longstanding trend of St. Louis schools representing Missouri at the National High School Mock Trial Competition.

Because the state finals were postponed two weeks as a result of an ice storm in Kansas City, the Hickman team had only two weeks to prepare for the National finals in Atlanta, whereas nearly every other team participating had at least a month to prepare. But the Hickman team worked hard and finished a respectable 23<sup>rd</sup> place at the national competition.

Brad noted that the BCBA paid part of the cost of the Hickman students' trip to Atlanta.

## MMLS plan available

Mid Missouri Legal Services Corp. Executive Director **Susan Lutton** has that announced MMLS' annual Private Attorney Involvement (PAI) Plan is now available and requested that lawyers submit comments and suggestions regarding the plan. There is a link to the plan in PDF format with the on-line version of this story.

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The Boone County Bar Association Newsletter is published monthly by the Boone County Bar Association, Inc. 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). Annual dues are \$50 and may be sent to the Treasurer, **Kristen Dickinson**, 1203 W. Broadway, Columbia, MO 65203-2125, 256-7205. 2008-09 BCBA officers are: President, **Mallory Mayse**, 28 N. 8th St., Suite 411, 65201, 875-1988; Vice President, **Stan Clay**, 28 N. 8th St., Suite 517, 65201, 442-1646; Secretary, **Zach Bickel**, 3210 Bluff Creek Dr., 65201, 449-2613; and Treasurer, **Kristen Dickinson**, address above. Executive Committee members are the officers and **Jeff Parshall**, **Emily Little** and **Tom Schneider**. The BCBA web site is at [www.bocomobar.org](http://www.bocomobar.org).

## Around the bar . . .

Boone County Circuit Clerk Christy Blakemore has asked that lawyers send faxes only to the appropriate clerk division's fax number instead of also sending them to the judges' office because the judges' office delivers faxes received there to the clerk's office to have the file pulled for the appropriate judge, while the clerk's office routinely pulls the file for the judge when faxes are received, thus resulting in the same file being pulled twice for the same fax. Clerk division fax numbers are: Accounting 886-4274, Criminal 886-4018, Civil and Family Court 886-4044, and Probate 886-4095.

The Boone County Circuit Clerk's Criminal Division has announced that mail from the Criminal Division is now available for pickup in its office on the second floor.

BCBA member and MU Law Prof. **Steve Easton** has been named Dean of the University of Wyoming College of Law effective July 1. He joined the MU faculty in 1998 and presented outstanding programs to the BCBA on evidence and ethics topics.

Former District Public Defender **Kevin O'Brien**, who entered private practice as a solo in April, will be joining Harper, Evans, Wade & Nete-meyer effective July 1.

The Counsel Chambers on the second floor of the Boone County Court-house are available for use by lawyers. The space includes a countertop work area, a conference table, comfortable chairs and sofas, and two private offices. It is anticipated that wireless internet access will be made available in the room in the near future. With the concurrence of the BCBA Executive Committee, the Court Appointed Special Advocates program

will be temporarily using one of the private office spaces in the Counsel Chambers until a permanent location is available.

Recent new BCBA members are:

\* **Rick Courtney**, P.O. Box 7169, Columbia 65205, phone 636-345-7590, fax 573-234-9643. He graduated from St. Louis University Law School in 1993 and worked as a commercial litigation associate at Lashly & Baer PC 1993-97. He became a solo in 1997 and focused on personal injury and worker's compensation. In 2007 he reduced his practice to part-time. He moved to Columbia this year and continues part-time practice.

\* **Negar Jackson**, the new director of the Mid-Missouri Access to Justice Project, 3501 Ridgeview Dr., Columbia 65203, phone 356-6082.

**Stan Clay** will have office-sharing space available July 1 at 28 N. 8<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 517. Included are receptionist, secretary, phone system, fax, conference room, copier, postage, utilities, possibly some furniture, and electronic research access. Call Stan at 442-1646 for information.

**Michael Holder** and **Bogdon Susan** will be moving their office in August, leaving space available in the Cherry Street Center, 1001 Cherry St. Contact Mike at 499-1700 for more information.

About 70 members attended the May 13 BCBA meeting to hear Missouri Ethics Counsel Sara Rittman's program, "Common Misconceptions about Missouri Legal Ethics." Her materials are available in PDF format on the BCBA web site's CLE page.

## What's Your ADR IQ? From the BCBA Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee

The 13th Judicial Circuit has 18 approved Family Court Mediators. Fourteen of the approved mediators are attorneys with the remaining four having other degrees. The hourly rate varies between \$80.00 and \$200.00 an hour. Eight of the mediators participate in MARCH, which provides up to four hours of mediation free of charge to the participants. MARCH mediation services are available in modifications and paternity actions.

The mediator must have at least 20 hours of training per Rule 88.05. Our local rules are 68.12 and 68.15. Locally, the mediators are expected (apparently not required) to have 6 hours of additional training annually. The parties can choose who they want for a mediator. According to the clerk's office, about 60% of the litigants choose their mediator rather than having the court appoint a mediator from the list.

To be on the approved list, the mediator must keep statistics on mediation use.

<b>Treasurer's Report by Kristen Dickinson</b>	
Account balance as of 5/1/09 .....	\$15883.27
<b>Receipts 5/1/09 -5/29/09</b>	
Interest.....	+0.58
Dues.....	+1412.50
<b>Disbursements 5/1/09 - 5/29/09</b>	
Accent Press (newsletter) .....	-75.54
Midwest Mailing (newsletter).....	-99.61
Mock Trial team trip expenses.....	-900.00
Boone Tavern (Mock Trial students' lunches) .....	-54.00
High school scholarships .....	-3000.00
Lathrop & Gage LLP (dues overpayment) .....	-50.00
Account balance as of 5/29/09 .....	<b>\$13117.20</b>