



Boone County Bar Association NEWSLETTER

www.bocomobar.org

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**From BCBA
President
Stan Clay**

Electronic filing is May 12 CLE topic

I recently appointed a Nominating Committee to select nominees for 2010-11 BCBA officers, who will be elected at the annual meeting and picnic in September.

Gary Stamper chairs the Nominating Committee, and the other members are **Lori Green** and **Erick Creach**. Contact one of them if you are interested in serving as an officer or Executive Committee member next year.

Although it is early, plans are being made for the picnic, which is tentatively scheduled Sept. 24 at Twin Lakes Park. The event is free and open to family members.

Finally, as a reminder the Executive Committee will be seeking your help with events at the Missouri Bar Annual Meeting to be held this Fall in Columbia. We will be sponsoring a hospitality room.

“The Future of Electronic Case Filing in Missouri” will be the one-hour CLE-credit topic of Catherine Zacharias, Legal Counsel for the Office of State Courts Administrator, at the next regular BCBA meeting at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 12.

As an experiment with a different meeting location, the meeting will be held in the Ballroom at the Tiger Hotel, 28 S. 8th St., Columbia.

Also featured at the meeting will be a recognition of **Ron Smull** by MU Law School Associate Dean **Jim Devine** for Ron’s 35 years of service to the school, where he taught the Legal Drafting class since 1975.

This meeting was arranged and will be hosted by the BCBA Young Lawyers Committee. Meal service, provided by Tiger Hotel Catering, will begin at 11:30, with the CLE presentation starting at noon.

As always, the price will be \$9, payable at the door. If paying by check, make checks payable to “Tiger Hotel.”

RSVP: To reserve your spot for this meeting, contact BCBA Secretary **Todd Werts** at 875-1991 or werts@learwerts.com by 3 p.m. Tuesday, May 11.

Ms. Zacharias has been working on Missouri’s electronic filing program for more ten years at the Office of State Courts Administrator. Next year, the Missouri Supreme

Court will conduct a pilot program of the system. Thereafter, electronic filing will rolled out to the appellate and circuit courts.

At first, electronic filing will be voluntary, but is expected to become mandatory over time.

The presentation will provide both an overview of how the electronic filing system will work and an explanation of how the system will affect every Missouri lawyer in the coming years.

Bar invited to Pfeiffer talk

Columbia’s own **Mark Pfeiffer**, a judge of the Missouri Western District Court of Appeals, will be the featured speaker at a luncheon at noon on Friday, May 14 at the MU Reynolds Alumni Center.

All BCBA members are invited to attend the event, titled “Views from the Bench”

and sponsored by the Missouri Organization of Defense Lawyers. One hour of CLE credit will be granted for attendance.

The cost is \$45 per person. Reservations and advance payments should be sent to MODL, P.O. Box 1072, Jefferson City, MO 65102, by May 11.

Recent news from the 13th Judicial Circuit Court

Oxenhandler publishes article

Presiding Judge **Gary Oxenhandler** recently had an article published on “evidence-based sentencing” in the newsletter of the Missouri Sentencing Advisory Commission. The article has generated interest from many judges around the state. A PDF copy of the article accompanies the online version of this story on the BCBA website.

Pattern interrogatories changed

The court recently approved changes to local pattern interrogatories to comply with new Medicare rules. The changes were requested by the BCBA Practice, Procedure and Judiciary Committee. The amended pattern interrogatories, with the changes highlighted, are on the Local Forms page (Court Info menu) on the BCBA website.

Submit only conflict dates for trial settings

The court recently asked lawyers to submit only *conflict dates* and not “available dates” for circuit civil trial-setting dockets. Available dates will no longer be considered when setting trials. Conflicts should be sent to Marla Gunn via letter, fax (886-4070) or email

(Marla.Gunn@courts.mo.gov).

Unassigned cases being assigned

In keeping with recently amended Local Rule 6 which provides for even and random assignment of circuit civil cases to divisions upon filing, the court recently began assigning unassigned pending cases to particular divisions.

Still time to sign up for GAL training

There is still time to sign up for the annual Guardian Ad Litem training scheduled May 7 at the Boone County Courthouse. Contact **Joy Rushing** at 886-4059 or Joy.Rushing@courts.mo.gov for information.

Rushing to retire, successor sought

Joy Rushing, who has been the Assistant to the Court Administrator since 2004, plans to retire June 30, and the court is now seeking a successor. The deadline for applications is May 7. Applications should be submitted to Court Administrator Kathy Lloyd. Joy previously worked as City Clerk in Harrisonville, Assistant City Manager in Warrensburg, and Assistant City Counselor in Independence.

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. Annual dues are \$50 and may be sent to the Treasurer, **Jill Jackson**, 3210 Bluff Creek Dr., Columbia, MO 65201-3525, phone 449-2613. 2009-10 BCBA officers are: President, **Stan Clay**, 28 N. 8th St., Suite 517, 65201, 442-1646; Vice President, **Tom Schneider**, 11 N. 7th St., 65201, 449-2451; Secretary, **Todd Werts**, 2003 West Broadway, Suite 107, 65203, 875-1991; and Treasurer, **Jill Jackson**, address above. Executive Committee members are the officers and **Mal Mayse**, **Phebe LaMar** and **Tom Mingus**. The BCBA web site is at www.bocomobar.org.

Around the bar . . .

As recently announced, **Ron Smull** has terminal cancer, and his firm has now announced that **Michael Whitworth** has merged his practice with the firm, now renamed Brandecker, Smull & Whitworth, LLC, 1200 Rogers St., Columbia 65201, phone 442-3136, fax 875-0304.

Faculty, staff and students at the MU Law School gathered to honor **Ron Smull** on the occasion of his last Legal Drafting class on April 16. Ron had taught the class since 1975. Some photos of the event are available on the Photographs page (Other Topics menu) on the BCBA website.

Kate Daly Pitzer and **Garrett S. Taylor** have become shareholders in the renamed firm of Van Matre, Harrison, Hollis, Pitzer and Taylor, P.C., 1103 E. Broadway, Columbia 65201, phone 874-7777, fax 875-0017. Kate has been with the firm since 2005 and focuses on health law, contracts, and general corporate and business law. Garrett joined the firm in 2003 and focuses on civil litigation, real estate, and general corporate and business law.

The BCBA Young Lawyers Committee will meet for an evening social gathering at 5 p.m. Thursday, May 20 at the Perche Creek Golf Club, 5500 W. Van Horn Tavern Rd. Note that this particular meeting will be held on a Thursday as opposed to the usual Tuesday date. Contact **Sander Sowers** at 256-8989 or sander.sowers@sdelawfirm.com for information.

With the help of the Young Lawyers Committee, the BCBA Executive Committee is nearing selection of a photographic studio to prepare a new composite photo of the local bar. Details will be announced in the next few months.

Recent new BCBA members are:

• **Tana S. Benner**, a new associate at Knight & Salladay, 1203 W. Broadway, Columbia 65205, phone 256-7205, fax 875-5873. Tana is a 2009 MU Law School graduate and previously clerked at the firm. While in law school she was a member of the *Missouri Environmental Law & Policy Review* and participated in the Family Violence Clinic. She will focus on family law.

• **Carol Renee Pollack**, 6604 Chrissula Ln., Columbia 65203, phone 442-7729. She is a 1988 Washington University Law School graduate who has been a stay-at-home mother but is now looking to establish a legal career. She and her husband Joe moved to Columbia from St.

Louis so Joe could work on a master's degree in journalism.

BCBA Mediation Committee Chair **Sarah Read** recently announced that the Supreme Court Commission on Alternative Dispute Resolution is seeking feedback from the bar to measure the use of, involvement in, and satisfaction with ADR services in Missouri. More information and links to take the online survey appear on the Other News page (News menu) on the BCBA website. Created on March 31, 2010, the ADR Commission's charge is to review Rule 17 and report to the court any recommendations for improving the use of alternative dispute resolution services in Missouri.

The 13th Circuit is seeking lawyers interested in entering into 2010-11 guardian ad litem contracts. Contact Joy Rushing at 886-4059 or joy.rushing@courts.mo.gov for information.

M.A.R.C.H. (Mediation Achieving Results for Children) is the 2010 recipient of the Irwin Cantor Innovative Program Award given annually by the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts. Several local mediators work for M.A.R.C.H. providing free mediation services to parents in family law cases other than dissolutions.

Bill Rotts has a 516-square-foot office suite available for rent at 1001 E. Walnut St., Columbia. Rent includes utilities. Other services available at additional cost are phone reception, secretarial support and access to online legal research.

Lori Neidel is seeking to purchase used copies of the Missouri Bar deskbooks on Civil Trial Practice and Procedure. She can be contacted at 314-563-2496 or lneidel@cosgrovelawllc.com.

Treasurer's Report by Jill Jackson	
Account balance as of 3/26/10.....	\$16439.98
Receipts 3/26/10 - 4/30/10	
Dues.....	+1960.00
Bench-Bar Dinner.....	+605.00
Interest.....	+0.67
Disbursements 3/26/10 - 4/30/10	
Accent Press (newsletter).....	-68.22
Midwest Mailing (newsletter).....	-89.55
Bench-Bar Dinner.....	-805.00
Account balance as of 4/30/10.....	\$18042.88