



Boone County Bar Association NEWSLETTER

www.bocomobar.org

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Hamilton discusses courthouse expansion, judiciary changes

About 90 BCBA members attended the Oct. 12 meeting to hear Presiding Circuit Judge **Gene Hamilton's** annual "State of the Court" report.

Judge Hamilton said the current thinking on courthouse expansion is to add two floors to the 1992 courthouse addition. The third floor would include a large courtroom and jury assembly area, while the Prosecutor's Office would take up the fourth floor. He said another large courtroom is needed because 1-West is not large enough for major jury trials.

Most of the second floor space in the original building now occupied by the Prosecutor's Office would be taken over by the Circuit Clerk.

On the first floor of the original building, the Public Administrator would expand into some of the space now used by probate and accounting, and probate and accounting would use the area now designated as the attorney conference room. The conference room would be moved to the second floor.

The Juvenile Office would remain on the ground floor and expand into the area now used for jury assembly.

Other plans include moving the Public Defender to the former Guaranty Land Title Co. building on Ash Street and using the vacated space in the Johnson Building for storage.

Judge Hamilton said the present plan is to schedule a bond issue election next April to fund the \$9.5 million courthouse expansion/renovation plus \$5 million for finishing the third floor of the County Administration Building and remodeling the lower floors.

He said if the bond issue does

not pass, a temporary solution to space needs may be to move the Prosecutor's Office to the third floor of the County Administration Building.

Judge Hamilton noted that statutory changes will convert Division IV to a Circuit Judge position and add a new Associate Circuit Judge who will preside over new Division XI. He added that the Court en Banc has decided to continue Division VIII as a Family Court Commissioner position.

All Boone County judge seats except that of Judge **Gary Oxenhandler** will be up for election in November 2006, Judge Hamilton noted.

He said that the judges' office area will be remodeled out of current available funds to accommodate the additional judge. The quarters will be cramped, but that problem will be alleviated if the courthouse expansion bond issue is passed, ultimately allowing space now used by the Circuit Clerk's criminal division to be taken over by the court reporters.

In other remarks, Judge Hamilton said:

* A committee of judges is studying possible rules to govern cell phone usage in the courthouse. The major concern is that many cell phones can take photographs and make sound recordings. A lesser problem is phones ringing and people talking on cell phones in courtrooms.

* A committee of lawyers will study technology issues at the courthouse, including the possibility of wireless Internet.

* Lawyers who request first settings should plan to use them or face difficulty getting them in the future.

CLE credit for Nov. 9 appellate program

One hour of CLE credit will be granted for a program on "Current Appellate Practices and Procedures" to be presented by three judges of the Western District Missouri Court of Appeals at the regular BCBA meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 9.

RSVP: To reserve your spot for this meeting, contact BCBA Secretary **Helen Wade** at 442-1660 or hwade@hesnlaw.com by 5 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 8.

As usual when CLE programs are presented, lunch service will begin at 11:30 a.m. Nov. 9 at Boone Tavern, 811 E. Walnut St. The lunch price will be \$9, payable to the restaurant. The program will start by 12:10 p.m. after a brief business meeting.

Chief Judge Eddie Smith and Judges Thomas Newton and Lisa White Hardwick will be in town Nov. 9 to hear oral arguments in four cases at the Boone County Courthouse starting at 9:30 a.m. The first case is being argued by former Missouri Supreme Court Judges **Ann Covington** and Edward "Chip" Robertson.

Holiday Party scheduled Dec. 7

Mark your calendar now for the annual Holiday Party to be held at the MU Alumni Center on the evening of Wednesday, Dec. 7. Tentative plans include a cocktail hour starting about 5 p.m. with dinner being served around 6:30 p.m. More details and sign-up information will be published in the next *Newsletter*.

2005-06 committee appointments announced

President **Pat Eng** has announced the following BCBA Committee appointments for 2005-06:

Practice, Procedure and Judiciary: **Milt Harper**, chair, and **Glen Ehrhardt** and **Steve Scott**.

Family Law: **Doug Pugh**, chair, and **Lori Green**, **Amy Salladay**, **Kimberly Shaw** and **Brad Crowell**.

Juvenile Law: **Anna Lingo**, chair, and **Linda Harris**.

Mediation: **Finley Gibbs**, chair, and **David Gibbons**.

Criminal Law: **Stan Clay**, chair, and

Kay Evans and **George Batek**.

Partners-in-Education: **Todd Werts**, chair, and **Joy Rushing** and **Brian Sleeth**.

Public Relations: **Josh Oxenhandler**, chair.

Legal Aid: **Gwen Froeschner Hart**, chair, and **Andrew Poppellwell**.

Program and Entertainment: **Bruce Beckett**, chair, and **Joy Rushing**.

Young Lawyers: **Gretchen Rogers**, chair, and **Helen Wade** and **Christopher Schappe**.

Picnic: **Mark Langworthy**, chair, and **Ron Sweet** and **Elton Fay**.

From BCBA President Pat Eng

The turnout for Judge Hamilton's State of the Court was tremendous—in fact overflowing—and therefore we came close to running out of food. So please, in the future, be sure to RSVP.

Regular meetings will continue, as in the past, on the second Wednesday of most months, the next meeting being Nov. 9 with a CLE program by Court of Appeals judges.

Thanks to all who volunteered to serve on BCBA committees,

which are now appointed. I encourage all of you to be active in those committees. Contact me if you want to be on a committee and were not appointed. Our bar is only as good as our members and our participation.

At the last Executive Committee meeting we discussed an organization called PET ("Personal Energy Transportation"). We decided it is an organization worthy of our support, and you will be hearing more about them soon.

The *Boone County Bar Association Newsletter* is published monthly, more or less, 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 \$40 and may be sent to the Treasurer, **Josh Oxenhandler**, 224 N. 8th St., P.O. Box 1404, Columbia, MO 65205, phone 449-2929. BCBA officers for 2005-06 are: President, **Pat Eng**, 903 E. Ash St., 874-4190; Vice President, **Bruce Beckett**, 111 S. 9th St., Suite 200, P.O. Box 918, 443-3141; Secretary, **Helen Wade**, 401 Locust St., Suite 401, 442-1660; and Treasurer, **Josh Oxenhandler**, address above. Executive Committee members are the officers and **Jodie Asel**, **C.J. Dykhouse** and **Ed Orr**. The BCBA web site is at www.bocomobar.org.

Around the bar . . .

BCBA members are invited to attend the dedication of the Randolph County Justice Center Courtroom and recognition of retired Circuit Judge Channing Blaeuer at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 10, at the Justice Center, 372 Highway JJ, Huntsville. A reception will follow.

The Missouri Bar Young Lawyers Section will host a tailgate for all YLS members before the MU-Baylor game on Saturday, Nov. 12 in Parking Lot A at the stadium. For more information, contact YLS District Council representative **Travis Jacobs** at 499-1700 or tjacobs@centurytel.net.

Gretta Bassett has moved her office, resulting in changing her phone to 441-1127 and her fax to 441-1137. Her mailing address remains P.O. Box 1226, Columbia 65205.

David Brown, formerly an associate at **Rotts & Gibbs, LLC**, recently moved to Lathrop & Gage, L.C., 314 E. High St., Jefferson City 65101, phone 573-761-5004, fax 573-893-5398.

Shari Weinman Crespy, formerly legal counsel to the Missouri Department of Insurance, recently became a litigation attorney at Shelter Insurance Companies, 1817 W. Broadway, Columbia 65218, phone 214-6418. In her new job, she will manage litigation against Shelter and its insureds and advise Shelter employees.

Recent new BCBA members, in alphabetical order, are:

* **G. Brad Crowell**, an associate at **Rotts & Gibbs, LLC**, 1001 E. Walnut St., Suite 301, P.O. Box 7385, Columbia 65205, phone 443-3463, fax 443-7099.

* **Jeff Hilbrenner**, an associate at **Harper, Evans, Schneider & Netemeyer**, 401 Locust St., Suite 401, Columbia 65201, phone 442-1660, fax 874-8961.

* **Amanda ("Mandy") Allen Miller**, an associate at **Smith Lewis, LLP**, 111 S. 9th St., Suite 200, P.O. Box 918, Columbia 65205, phone 443-3141, fax 442-6686. A Sedalia native, she is a 2005 MU Law School graduate.

* **Andrew Kopp**, an associate and former law clerk at **Grimes & Fay**, 11 N. 5th St., Columbia 65201, phone 449-2969, fax 443-2808.

Treasurer's Report by Josh Oxenhandler

Account balance as of 9/9/05	\$7,175.41
Receipts 9/9/05 - 10/26/05	
Dues	+80.00
Interest	+0.68
Disbursements 9/9/05 - 10/26/05	
Accent Press (<i>Newsletter</i> printing-2 issues)	-156.54
Midwest Mailing (<i>Newsletter</i> mailing-2 issues)	-202.55
Campus Jewelers (Past President's plaque)	-78.30
Picnic expenses (various vendors)	-1,575.36
Account balance as of 10/26/05	\$5,243.34

He is a 2005 graduate of the MU Law School, where he was a published member of the *Journal of Dispute Resolution*.

* **Benjamin B. Nelson**, an associate at **Jones, Schenider & Bartlett, LLC**, 11 N. 7th St., Columbia 65201, phone 449-2451, fax 443-8260. He is a 2005 graduate of the MU Law School.

* **Joan Reed**, of **Reed Associates, LLC**, P.O. Box 758, Ashland 65010, phone 999-0376.

Recently rejoining the BCBA was **Alan C. Thompson**, general counsel for the Public School Retirement System, 3210 Truman Blvd., P.O. Box 268, Jefferson City 6502, phone 573-638-1097. A Columbia resident, he graduated from the MU Law School in 1991 and clerked at the Missouri Court of Appeals-Eastern District and worked for the Missouri Attorney General and the Missouri Department of Insurance. He was then an assistant prosecuting attorney in Boone County 1996-99 before taking his present job.

Steve Wyse of **Wyse Law Firm, P.C.** and Boone County Sheriff Dwayne Carey are among those invited to testify before a state legislative subcommittee studying DNA issues in the Missouri criminal system. The first hearing will be at 5 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 7 in the MU Law School Courtroom.