



Boone County Bar Association NEWSLETTER

www.bocomobar.org

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CLE credit for court system talk Jan. 13

“The State of the Profession and the Court System” will be BCBA member **Skip Walther’s** topic for a 1.2-hour CLE-credit program at the next regular BCBA meeting at lunchtime on Wednesday, Jan. 13.

Meal service will begin at 11:30 a.m. Jan. 13 in the County Room on the lower level of Boone Tavern, 811 E. Walnut St. The lunch price will be \$9, payable to the restaurant. A brief business meeting will precede the program.

RSVP: To reserve your spot for the meeting, contact BCBA Secretary **Todd Werts** at 875-1991 or werts@learwerts.com by 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12.

Skip, who is the current President of The Missouri Bar, will include discussion of threats to the court system including attempts to change the way Missourians select certain judges and the crisis in the public defender system. He will also talk about Missouri Bar resources to assist lawyers.

Circuit civil cases now will be assigned to judge upon filing

In a major change from past practice, effective Jan. 1, the 13th Circuit will “evenly and randomly” assign circuit civil cases to the circuit court judges upon filing, unless otherwise directed by the presiding judge.

For many years, circuit civil cases were not assigned to a particular judge until the case was set for trial. This enabled pre-trial-setting proceedings to be heard by any circuit judge.

Under the new rule, created by an amendment to Local Rule 6, all pre-trial proceedings will have to be heard by the judge assigned at the time of case filing.

The Court En Banc adopted the change at its Dec. 8 meeting with an effective date of Jan. 1. The new language appears at the end of the first paragraph of Rule 6.

In other court news, new docket schedules took effect Jan. 1. While there are no

changes in the schedules for the circuit judges, the following changes have been made for the Boone County dockets of associate circuit judges:

Division 5: Now will hear arraignments at 1:30 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays.

Division 9: Will conduct DWI Court at 1:30 p.m. and Reintegration Court at 2:30 p.m. every Thursday. Will conduct DWI and Reintegration court team staffings every Thursday morning.

Division 10: Now will conduct an uncontested dissolution docket for *pro se* parties at 3 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays.

Division 11: On the 1st, 2nd and 4th Fridays will conduct a Probate docket in the mornings and a criminal docket in the afternoons. On the 3rd Friday, will conduct a contested probate docket in the morning and afternoon.

From BCBA President Stan Clay

Looking back on the year of 2009 for the Boone County Bar, I have memories of great friendships, great times, public service to the community, and interesting challenges.

There are also thoughts of future challenges for our membership in the coming year, including dealing with the continuing challenges to the selection process for our appellate judges and some circuit judges.

We also have the historic challenge of helping our own **Skip Walther**, president of The Missouri Bar, host the 2010 Annual Meeting and Judicial Conference here in Columbia.

I have been pleasantly sur-

prised by the willingness of members to volunteer to assist in the various activities the bar conducted in 2009, and I look forward to continued cooperation in 2010. In that regard, I note that several of the bar committees have been very active in their respective areas, for which I am greatly appreciative.

For the new year, I urge all members to continue their support and involvement with our association. I also request the membership to invite other Boone County attorneys who are not members to join and be active in our association.

Best wishes to all for the next year.

Volunteer lawyers needed as mock trial judges

Volunteer lawyers are needed as judges for the annual Mock Trial Regional Tournament at the MU Law School Feb. 19-20. The four-round tournament serves as a forum for teams to earn bids to the National Championship Tournament.

Those interested in judging or wanting further information may contact BCBA member **Jared Vessell** at jpv@lawam.com; Columbia College Prof. Barry Langford at brlangford@ccis.edu or 875-7484; or Ashley Brittain at the Law school at apbz7c@mizzou.edu.

2010 Boone County Bar Association Dues Payment/Waiver Form

(Make checks payable to “Boone County Bar Association, Inc.”)

To: **Jill Jackson, Treasurer**

Boone County Bar Association

3210 Bluff Creek Dr.

Columbia, MO 65201-3525

___ Enclosed is payment of \$ _____ for 2010 BCBA dues for the following attorneys
(at \$50 per attorney)

___ Person named below claims dues waiver for: ___ Judge ___ Seniority

Name(s) and address (note contact information changes, if any) _____

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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. 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 . . .

The Young Lawyers Committee will meet Tuesday, Jan. 19 at the Ragtag Cinema, 10 Hitt St., for a happy hour and movie. The meeting time will be determined by showtimes that date, which will not be set by Ragtag until the week before. Contact **Sander Sowers** at 256-8989 or sander.sowers@sdelawfirm.com for more information.

Mid Missouri Legal Services Corp. is seeking a full-time staff attorney for a heavy litigation/trial practice in the areas of family and housing law. Experience in family law is required. Applicants must be licensed to practice in Missouri. A competitive salary and benefits package is offered. Applicants should send a letter of interest and resume to Executive Director **Susan Lutton** at lutton@mmls.org no later than Monday, Jan. 11. MMLS is an equal opportunity employer.

Ron Sweet recently left Oliver Walker Wilson LLC and opened a solo practice at 28 N. 8th St., Suite 517, Columbia 65201, phone 441-1777, fax 442-9932. He plans to focus on business, commercial and real estate law and civil litigation.

The City of Columbia recently hired **Stephen Richey**, formerly an assistant public defender, as City Prosecutor and Adam Kruse as an Assistant City Counselor in the Prosecutor's Division.

Correction: Last month's *Newsletter* incorrectly reported that **Sander Sowers** was among local bar members having climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa. Actually, it was **Karla Klinger Diaz** of the same firm who made the climb in 2008. The error resulted from the Editor's misinterpretation of information provided to him, for which he apologizes.

The Career Services Office at the MU Law School will present its 5th Annual Small Firm & Public Interest Expo on Friday, March 12 at the Law School. A networking reception with law students will be held from 12:30 to 2 p.m., and a complimentary 2-hour CLE program will begin at 2:10 p.m. More information will be published in a future *Newsletter*.

The City of Columbia Law Department is offering surplus and

obsolete books for sale. According to the announcement, "No bid is too low." The winning bidder must remove the books by Jan. 22. The books are: ALR 1-175 and ALR Digest; ALR2nd 1-100, ALR2nd Digest and Later Case Service; ALR3rd 1-100; ALR4th 1-50 and ALR Digest (last updated 1986); American Jurisprudence 2nd 1-83 (last updated 1999); Missouri Digest 1-32; Powell on Real Property (last updated 1992); and Nichols on Eminent Domain (last updated 1991). If interested, contact the Law Department at 874-7223 or FAB@gocolumbiamo.com.

BCBA member **Rick Courtney** is offering a set of Missouri Digest books, updated through 2008, for donation to a legal services agency or a young lawyer who does *pro bono* work. If interested, contact Rick at 636-345-7590.

Treasurer's Report by Jill Jackson	
Account balance as of 10/31/09	\$19763.95
Receipts 11/1/09 -12/31/09	
Interest	+0.64
Dues	+4297.50
Golf Tournament	+100.00
Holiday Party	+4365.00
Disbursements 11/1/09 - 12/31/09	
Accent Press (newsletter)	-146.89
Midwest Mailing (newsletter).....	-191.03
Boone Tavern (Executive Committee)	-41.50
Columbia Country Club (golf tournament).....	-3505.04
Mid-Mo Access to Justice (golf proceeds donation) ...	-7129.96
Boone Tavern (guest speaker lunches)	-45.00
Columbia Computer Center (courthouse computer)....	-1073.50
Scott Law Firm (courthouse computer supplies)	-235.33
Club at Old Hawthorne (Holiday Party)	-4146.97
Editor/Webmaster (October-December).....	-450.00
Columbia Values Diversity (donation)	-100.00
Account balance as of 12/31/09	\$11461.87