

Practicing Law During COVID-19

If for no reason other than the historical record, it should be noted that March of 2020 represented an unprecedented time for the practice of law in Boone County as the COVID-19 pandemic changed from a problem in far-away lands to one facing us on our front doorstep.

On March 16, 2020, Presiding Judge **Kevin Crane** issued an order continuing all hearings in the 13th Judicial Circuit other than certain criminal, juvenile, family law, and probate hearings. The same day, the Supreme Court of Missouri issued a similar order with statewide effect. The membership was previously sent those orders via email and copies of the orders, along with the other orders and guidelines referenced below, can be found at the homepage of www.boonecountybar.org.

On March 19, 2020, **Mary Epping**, Court Administrator of the 13th Judicial Circuit, updated the court's docket schedule and provided information on the system being developed for confidential communications through videoconferencing with in-custody defendants at the Boone County Jail.

On March 20, 2020, the Columbia Municipal Court provided an update on its plans to continue video arraignments for in-custody defendants, process payments and written guilty pleas, and recall warrants as appropriate. Additionally, the Callaway County Prosecuting Attorney announced plans for scheduled, in-person client conferences with defendants housed at the Callaway County Jail.

On March 22, 2020, the Columbia Municipal Court provided an update that the Municipal Court Building will be open 15 minutes prior to the start of a video arraignment and will be open until the court is no longer in session. Otherwise, the court is available remotely by email at municipalcourt@como.gov or by calling 573-817-5022.

On March 23, 2020, Presiding Judge Kevin Crane issued an order, *inter alia*, suspending service of process, extraditions, writs of restitution, attachment, execution, replevin, and evictions.

On March 24, 2020, both the City of Columbia and Boone County issued Stay-at-Home orders requiring people to remain in their homes unless leaving for essential business or essential travel. Attorneys and court officials are included in those defined as conducting essential business when related to the necessary activities of Essential Business. Those orders are scheduled to remain in effect until 8:00 a.m. on April 24, 2020.

On March 25, 2020, addressing a challenge stemming from the practical effect of "social distancing," the Supreme Court of Missouri issued a statewide order on the administration of oaths. This order confirms that oaths may be administered remotely by videoconferencing or teleconferencing. The order also reminds us that notarization is governed by Missouri statute.

On March 26, 2020, Mary Epping provided updates on the Boone County Courthouse's system for attorney appearances in matters involving in-custody defendants and on how the Associate Circuit Judges were planning to carry out their duties.

On April 2, 2020, the Supreme Court of Missouri issued a supplemental order regarding the judiciary's state-wide response to COVID-19. Chief Justice George Draper's order reminds us of the constitutional maxim that "The courts of the State of Missouri shall remain open." With limited exceptions, all in-person proceedings are to be suspended through May 1, 2020.

Today, on April 3, 2020, Mary Epping provided further updates on using Zoom videoconferencing to manage the April Law Day docket.

Obviously, this is a situation that continues to evolve. Near-contemporaneous email updates will continue to be delivered as the BCBA becomes aware of new information impacting the practice of law in Boone County.

A compendium of state, county, and local orders impacting the practice of law in Missouri can also be found at www.courts.mo.gov/pandemic/.

Virtual CLE Program Planned for April

On Tuesday, April 14, from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m., the BCBA will sponsor a Virtual CLE. Please attend *MARCH Mediation: Understanding the Program and Helping Clients Use the Resources*. The session will be presented by Dawn Kuhlman, who is the Director of MARCH Mediation and the Founder and President of HumanKind, Inc. MARCH—which stands for Mediation Achieving Results for Children—is a service used within the family court for both mediation and limited representation. Dawn will explain the process and resources available through MARCH and provide tips to attorneys to help clients navigate the MARCH program.

The CLE has been pre-approved by the Missouri Bar for 1.2 hours of CLE credit. The virtual CLE will be hosted on the Zoom platform at the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/5262051228/>

The meeting ID is: 526 205 1228

The CLE will be in group call/screen sharing format, so if you call in to participate, please make sure to use the mute feature to minimize background noise during the presentation. If you have a question for Dawn during the presentation, you can use the chat functionality to ask a question. The virtual CLE will be limited to 100 participants, but there is no requirement to RSVP.

Bench/Bar Social Has Been Cancelled

Typically, the April event for the Boone County Bar Association is the annual Bench/Bar Social. Due to the precautions being taken regarding the Coronavirus, this year's event has been cancelled.

Kansas City Estate Planning Symposium Has Been Cancelled

The 39th Annual Kansas City Estate Planning Symposium previously planned for April 23rd and 24th, 2020, at the Overland Park, Kansas Convention Center has been cancelled. For more information, contact **Jason Simmons**, Regional Ambassador, at (573) 447-3355, or www.KCEPS.org.

Around the bar . . .

Transitions

In mid-March, 2020, Lear Werts LLP took over as the BCBA Newsletter/Web Administrator. The firm has established a centralized email address, bcbaneews@learwerts.com, for all bar-related communication. Lear Werts has agreed to serve on a *pro bono* basis and plans to work with the executive committee to utilize the funds previously budgeted to the position to fund future improvements to the BCBA's communication and outreach systems.

New Members

Evan Shoemaker, 1203 West Broadway, Columbia, MO 65203, 573-441-9000, evan@barchetlaw.com. Evan is an associate with Barchet Law Office and practices in the areas of estate planning, elder law and probate litigation. He is a 2017 graduate of the University of Missouri School of Law.

Matthew Welshon, 19 East Walnut Street, Suite C, Columbia, MO 65203, 573-587-2123, matthew@welshonlaw.com. Matthew is the principal of Welshon Law where he practices in the areas of family law, criminal defense, landlord-tenant, and estate planning. He is a 2017 graduate the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law.

March 2020 Treasurer's Report by Daniel G. Beckett

Account balance of as of February 29, 2020	\$15,712.58
Receipts 2/29/20 to 3/31/20	
Interest	\$0.75
Bar Luncheon	\$435.00
Bar Dues	\$1,680.00
Total Receipts	\$2,115.75
Expenses 2/29/20 to 3/31/20	
Columbia Country Club (March luncheon)	(\$420.00)
Tiger Hotel (November Luncheon)	(\$1,350.00)
Thad Taylor – Webmaster Service (January – March, 2020)	(\$750.00)
Total Expenses	(\$2,520.00)
Account Balance as of February 29, 2020	\$15,308.33

The Boone County Bar Association Newsletter is published monthly by the Boone County Bar Association, Inc. Send items for publication to the Editor/Webmaster, Lear Werts LLP, 103 Ripley Street, Columbia, MO 65201, telephone 573-875-1991, fax 573-279-0024, email bcbaneews@learwerts.com. Annual dues are \$50 and may be sent to the Treasurer, **Dan Beckett**, BCBA, 705 E. Walnut, Columbia, MO 65201. 2020 BCBA officers are: President, **Randall Johnston**, 2800 Forum Blvd, Suite 3B, Columbia, MO 65203-5468, phone 573-442-8879; Vice President; **Gretchen Yancey**, Carson & Coil, P.C., 200 N. 9th St., Ste. A, Columbia, MO 65205-0584, phone 573-636-2177; Secretary, **Kirsten Dunham**, Mid-Missouri Legal Services, 1201 W. Broadway, Columbia, MO 65203, phone 573-442-0116; and Treasurer, **Dan Beckett**, address above. Executive Committee members are the officers and **Jill Jackson**, **Jeff Basinger**, and **Katie McMurtrey**. The BCBA web site is at www.bocomobar.org.