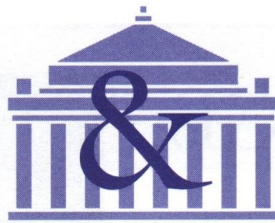


# THE BENCH & BAR

A Publication of The Lawyers Association of St. Louis



APRIL 2007

[www.lawyersassociationofstlouis.org](http://www.lawyersassociationofstlouis.org)

April 2018

Please Join Us As  
The Lawyers Association of St. Louis  
Presents Its

**Award of Honor**  
**to**  
**Raymond R. Fournie**  
Armstrong Teasdale, LLP

**Saturday, April 28, 2018**

St. Louis Marriott Grand Hotel  
800 Washington Ave.  
Crystal Ballroom - 20th Floor

Cocktails 6:30 p.m.  
Dinner 7:30 p.m.

The Milton F. Napier Awards for Trial Advocacy  
will be presented to 3rd year law students from  
Saint Louis University and Washington University

Tickets are \$100 per person  
Tables of 10 are available  
Valet Parking is available at hotel entrance  
Self-parking is available on 9th Street between Locust and Washington

Reservations Preferred by Wed. April 25

Please call or send your check to:  
The Lawyers Association of St. Louis  
P.O. Box 411122  
St. Louis, MO 63141  
314-991-LAWS (5297)

## The Lawyers Association of St. Louis

### Officers

Jared Byrne, President  
Bharat Varadachari, President-Elect  
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Justin Guerra, 2nd Vice President  
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### Past Presidents

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Tom Neill  
Ken Vuylsteke

### Executive Director

Jim Susman  
314/991-Laws (5297)  
susgroup@gmail.com  
P.O. Box 411122  
St. Louis, MO 63141

## Annual Bowling Event

The association's annual Bowling Invitational was held in January at Maplewood's Saratoga Lanes. The first place winner was Judge Ed Sweeney's team consisting of him, Judge Rex Burlison, Rita Burlison and Judge Robin Vannoy. Second place went to Kamykowski, Gavin & Smith. Third Place went to Hepler Broom. Alaris (formerly Midwest Litigation) won the best dressed team (minus Mike Harrison who doesn't look good in pink).



## Congratulations....

... to Chantal Fink for joining Greensfelder, Hemker and Gale, PC

... to Judge Jimmie Edwards, formerly of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit, on being named Director of Public Safety for the City of St. Louis.

... to Allison Hartnett on the birth of her son.

... to Erin Madden for joining Bryan Cave

...to Jared Byrne on the birth of their daughter, Mairin Dorothy Byrne.

...to Jessica Liss, Joan Lockwood, and Ashley Vaughn for being nominated to receive the Women's Justice Awards presented by *Missouri Lawyers Weekly*.



**Gridiron**

**Friday,**

**November 16, 2018**

**Chase Park Plaza  
Hotel**

## Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 28  
Award of Honor Dinner  
Marriott Grand Hotel  
8th & Washington

Monday, April 30  
Election Petitions Due  
susgroup@gmail.com

Thursday, May 10  
Election Happy Hour  
McGurk's  
5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 24  
Memorial Service  
Noon  
Civil Courts Building

Thursday, June 7  
Softball & Picnic  
Deer Creek Park  
4:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 20  
Judicial Appreciation Dinner  
5:30 p.m.  
MAC – Downtown

Friday, November 16  
Gridiron Dinner & Show  
6:00 p.m.  
Chase Park Plaza

## Sustaining Members — Thank you

The Lawyers Association of St. Louis is grateful to the following members who are Sustaining Members of the association.

Theresa A. Appelbaum  
J. Todd Applegate  
Brent Baldwin  
William R. Bay  
Mark J. Becker  
Anthony R. Behr  
Jill S. Bollwerk  
Patrick J. Boyle  
Heather A. Bub  
Thomas M. Burke  
Hon. Rex M. Burlison  
Denis C. Burns  
Jared Byrne  
Matthew C. Casey  
Thomas J. Casey  
James W. Childress  
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Michael Corrigan  
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Hon. Barbara W. Wallace  
Hon. John D. Warner, Jr.  
Hon. E. Richard Webber  
Sharon R. Wice  
Hon. Gael D. Wood  
Stephen R. Woodley



## Black History Month Dinner

Former Circuit Judge Jimmie Edwards was the featured speaker at the annual Theodore McMillian Black History Month dinner program. Judge Edwards is now the Director of Public Safety for the City of St. Louis. The annual event, created by Lenny Cervantes, is held in conjunction with the Mound City Bar Association. Nearly 100 people attended the event at the Westin Hotel.



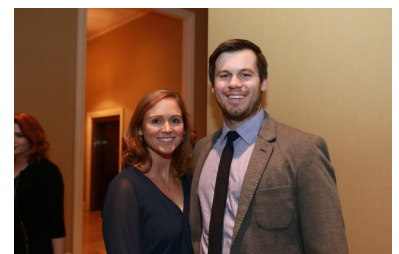


## 61st Annual Gridiron "The Book of Gridiron" Goes Off Without a Hitch





## The Gridiron Pre-Show Party!



# A Sit Down With Our New and Not-So-New City and County Judges

By James R. Cantalin, Brown & Crouppen, PC

## St. Louis County Circuit Court Judge Brian May, Appointed to the 21<sup>st</sup> Circuit, Division 1, on October 4, 2016, by Governor Nixon



### Where did you go to school?

Oakville Senior High School, Harris Stowe State College, St. Louis University School of Law, J.D.

### Where did you work prior to your appointment?

2011—2016	Director of the Governor's Eastern Regional Office
2010 – 2011	Deputy Director of the Missouri Department of Labor/Director of the Division of Workers' Compensation
2001 – 2010	Yates & May, LLC
1995 – 2001	Larsen, Feist, Hess & May, PC
1989 – 1995	Casserly & Jones
1993 – 2001	House of Representatives

### What is your favorite thing to do outside of work?

Spending time with my family including watching my youngest son, who is a senior at Vianney High School, play baseball. I also enjoy exercising on a regular basis and I am a car enthusiast.

### What do judges as a group dislike?

Attorneys who are late and/or unprepared.

### How is the Bench different from private practice?

As a trial judge, I believe I have a duty to be mindful of the sacrifices the jurors are making while they are in my courtroom. I try to let them know what they will be doing and when we will have scheduled breaks. It is very important to treat the jurors with respect and try to make their time with us a good experience.

### Mentors?

Judge Paul Simon, the late Governor Mel Carnahan, former Governor Jay Nixon and of course, my parents.

### As a group, is there anything lawyers could do to help judges?

Bringing a courtesy copy of any pleadings, exhibits or documents at issue for the court.

### What was your first car?

1975 silver Oldsmobile Cutlass Salon with a black landau roof and red seats.

### What would you like people to know about you?

One of the things that has helped prepare me for serving as a trial judge is my experience as a practicing lawyer. I know what it is like to try to be in two places at the same time, having to deal with difficult clients and the day-to-day pressure of the practice of law.

## St. Louis County Associate Circuit Court Judge Mondonna (Mondi) L. Ghasedi, Appointed to the 21<sup>st</sup> Circuit, on October 3, 2016, by Governor Nixon



### Where did you go to school?

Parkway West High School, Methodist University, University of Missouri Law School, J.D.

### Where did you work prior to your appointment?

The Ghasedi Law Firm	2004 — 2016
Lashley & Baer	2000 — 2004
Adjunct Professor for Washington University	
Adjunct Professor for Webster University	

### What is your favorite thing to do outside of work?

In addition to spending time with friends and family, I enjoy yoga, spinning, and taking care of my dog and cat.

### What do judges as a group dislike?

Lack of civility and timeliness.

### How is the Bench different from what you initially thought?

I knew I was going to like having the opportunity serve as a judge, but I didn't realize I was going to love it.

### Mentors?

Terry Good, Susan Carlson and Tom Gomenfeld

### What was your first car?

First car I drove was a maroon Jeep Cherokee, but the first car that I was able to select myself was a red Toyota Celica.

### What are some of the things you like about St. Louis?

All of us. It is the people that make St. Louis special. Midwesterners are noticeably down to earth and friendly. Also, St. Louis has great neighborhoods including the Loop, which embraces diversity and has an abundance of unique shops and restaurants. I also have to mention the City Museum, the AB Brewery and going to a Cardinals game at Busch Stadium.

### What would you like people to know about you?

I absolutely love my job. I enjoy working with lawyers and appreciate the comradery among the judges and lawyers. I believe preparation is extremely important and work hard to be as prepared as possible with every case.

### Any case that you were involved in that stands out?

Not any one case but more of a category of cases. Handling cases where you are dealing with a client who is incapacitated can be challenging. You have to be very careful in the manner in which you approach these cases and they can be quite difficult.

## Election of Officers and Committee Members

The association will hold its annual election of officers and two at-large members of the Executive Committee on Thursday, May 10. The election will take place at McGurk's from 5:30 until 6:30 p.m. (You must be present to vote and be a paid-up member through May 2018).

Members of the association wishing to run for a position need to complete an election petition by Monday, April 30. Petitions should be returned to [susgroup@gmail.com](mailto:susgroup@gmail.com). Bharat Varadachari, the current President-Elect, will become President on June 1. Varadachari is a partner with HeplerBroom, LLC.

I \_\_\_\_\_, am running for the position of \_\_\_\_\_ for The Lawyers Association of St. Louis for the program year beginning June 1, 2018.

The following members of The Lawyers Association of St. Louis are in good standing with the association and support my nomination to the position of \_\_\_\_\_. Please have between 5 and 10 paid-up members of the association sign the petition.

Signature

Printed Name

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