

# THE BENCH & BAR

A Publication of The Lawyers Association of St. Louis



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February 2019



## President's Column

By Bharat Varadachari

I would like to start off by wishing everyone a belated Happy New Year and thanking you on behalf of the Lawyers Association for your unwavering support of our events in 2018 and hopefully your continued support in 2019. Our January bowling tournament has already been completed and was a great success (not solely because HeplerBroom was crowned champion). We have many more great events planned, most notably the Black History Month Dinner in February, a possible happy hour in March and the Award of Honor Dinner in April. We are also working on a potential CLE in April that will be an absolute must-attend no matter how much litigation experience you have.

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Coming  
Soon

### Trial Masters Seminar

Friday, April 12

1 - 5 p.m.

SLU Law School

\$100 per person

CLE Pending

Speakers to be announced

## The Lawyers Association of St. Louis

Invites you to its annual  
Judge Theodore McMillian Black History Month  
Dinner

Thursday, February 21, 2019

5:30 p.m.

The Westin Hotel  
811 Spruce Street

### Featured Speakers

The Honorable Robin Ransom  
Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District

The Honorable Gloria Clark Reno  
Presiding Judge  
21st Judicial Circuit

### Costs

\$55 per member of the Lawyers Association or  
Mound City Bar Association  
\$65 per person for non members of either  
organization

RSVPs - Jim Susman  
314-991-5297  
[susgroup@gmail.com](mailto:susgroup@gmail.com)

**Dinner Sponsors**  
(through 2-11-2019)

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## Annual Bowling Event

A record number of teams participated in the association's annual Bowling Tournament, held in January the Saratoga Lanes in Maplewood. Finishing in first place was HeplerBroom, LLC; second place was Sandberg, Phoenix & von Gontard, PC; and third place went to Judge Edward Sweeney's team consisting of Judge Sweeney himself, Judge Robin Ransom, Judge Rex Burlison, and Rita Burlison. Alaris was once again the official dinner sponsor of the tournament.

### The Lawyers Association of St. Louis

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



Alaris bowling team and the official dinner sponsor of the bowling tournament.



## Congratulations....

... to Jared Byrne on becoming a partner at Sandberg, Phoenix & von Gontard, PC

... to Sarah Jane Hunt on becoming a partner in Kennedy Hunt, PC, formerly the Law Offices of Thomas Kennedy, III.

... to Anne Brockland on becoming a partner at Casey, Devoti & Brockland, PC, formerly Casey & Devoti, PC.

... to Debbie Weaver and Alaris Litigation Services for being named one of the Top Legal Innovation Awards Honorees for 2018 by Missouri Lawyers Weekly.

... to PohlmanUSA for being named one of the Top Legal Innovation Awards Honorees for 2018 by Missouri Lawyers Weekly.

... to Edward Dowd, Jr. of Dowd Bennett of being named one of the Most Influential Lawyers by Missouri Lawyers Weekly.

... to Andy Crouppen of Brown & Crouppen, PC for being named a Law Firm Leader by Missouri Lawyers Weekly.

... to Jim Reinert and Tim McCurdy who have joined Lashly & Baer, PC. They were previously with Gonnerman & Reinert.

... to Katie Hubbard who recently joined Brown & Crouppen.

... to Bill Thomas, Seth Gausnell, Don O'Keefe, Derek Ruzicka and Josh Breithaupt on forming Gausnell, O'Keefe & Thomas, LLC.

## Upcoming Events

Friday, April 12, 2019

Trial Masters Seminar

1 - 5 p.m.

SLU Law School—Court Room

Saturday, April 27, 2019

Award of Honor Dinner

Marriott Grand Hotel

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Election of Officers and Executive Committee members

Thursday, May 23, 2019

Memorial Service

Noon

Civil Courts Building

Thursday, June 13, 2019

Softball Game & Picnic

4:30 p.m.

Deer Creek Park

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Judicial Appreciation

5:30 p.m.

Friday, November 22, 2019

Gridiron

## Award of Honor

The association's annual Award of Honor dinner will be held Saturday, April 27 at the Marriott Grand Hotel (800 Washington Ave) in the Crystal Ballroom. Cocktails are at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7:30 p.m. The Milton F. Napier Awards for Trial Advocacy will also be presented at that time to 3<sup>rd</sup> year law students from Saint Louis University and Washington University. Formal invitations will be sent shortly.

## Holiday Party 2018

The annual holiday party was held at Llewellyn's in Webster Groves and was sponsored in part by PohlmanUSA.



# Sustaining Members

The Lawyers Association of St. Louis would like to thank the following members who are Sustaining Members of the association.

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I do want to say a little bit more about the Black History Dinner, which will take place at The Westin Hotel on February 21, 2019. Throughout history and as generations turn over, people tend to say, “we are in a different time now...”, and that is true about our society today. I have no intention of getting political in this space, but simply want to state that changing times are why this is such an important event.

The Lawyers Association was founded in 1934 on the principle that no matter the race or religious affiliation, ALL lawyers and judges should have an organization whose members can meet in a relaxing setting, enjoy each other’s company and rely on their peers for support through socializing to navigate this highly stressful and highly rewarding job. Fast forward 85 years later, the Lawyers Association still stands for these same things. The Black History Dinner in particular shines a spotlight on the contributions of our African-American members to the legal landscape, political arenas and the community as a whole, all of which are inspiring and must be celebrated.

The Lawyers Association could not be more grateful to the Honorable Robin Ransom and the Honorable Gloria Reno for agreeing to speak at this great event. There will also be a short salute to the late, but never forgotten, Leonard Cervantes, who was instrumental in starting this event. It promises to be a wonderful night, a celebration of what makes the St. Louis legal community like no other and I hope to see you there!

Thank you.

## Gridiron Cocktail Party Shots





# Gridiron 63

