

# THE BENCH & BAR

A Publication of The Lawyers Association of St. Louis



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

September 2019

## President's Column

By Justin Guerra

One of my all-time favorite skits at our annual Gridiron Show has been referred to as "Elevators." In the skit, Judge John Riley is on his way to his chambers when he ends up in an elevator with attorneys Peter Dunne and Tom Germeroth (two of the most talented Gridiron actors of this generation). Dunne and Germeroth shower Judge Riley with compliments—"Your shoes look extra shiny today, Your Honor" . . . "Your Honor, you smell really good. Is that a new cologne you're wearing?" . . . "Have you been working out lately, Your Honor? You look great!" Judge Riley is obviously annoyed by Dunne and Germeroth, but they persist because they want to get in the judge's good graces.



The skit is hilarious—not just because of the legendary acting, but also because there is a bit of truth to the joke. Sure, in real life, Dunne and Germeroth are well known for riding the elevators at the courthouse in hopes of catching a smile from a judge. But the truth of the skit is more in Judge Riley's response to the insincere flattery. He is stoic as the compliments just keep bouncing off him. He sees through the lawyers' obvious attempts to garner favor. He is immovable and unflappable. He is a Missouri judge.

This brings me to our annual Judicial Appreciation Program which is set for 5:30 p.m. on Thurs, September 26, at the MAC – Downtown. I love this event because it is dedicated to one important thing: sincerely and genuinely honoring our judges. We recognize their enormous commitment to our community. We thank them for dedicating their lives to ensuring that our citizens are treated fairly and respectfully in the courts. And we especially honor judges who are celebrating 25 years on the bench. This year, we have an all-star team celebrating 25 years on the bench, including Hon. Colleen Dolan, Hon. George Draper, III, Com. Victoria McKee, Hon. Steven Ohmer, Hon. Charles A. Shaw, and Hon. Laura Stith.

I hope you can attend this great event as we say thank you to the judges who make our justice system work. Because every once in a while, they deserve more than a compliment in an elevator.

## Lawyers Association of St. Louis to Honor Members of the Bench Celebrating 25 Years on the Bench

On Thursday, September 26, six members of the Bench will be honored by The Lawyers Association of St. Louis at its annual Judicial Appreciation Dinner program. The event will be held at the Missouri Athletic Club—Downtown beginning at 5:30 p.m. Reservations may be made by contacting Jim Susman at [susgroup@gmail.com](mailto:susgroup@gmail.com) or 314-991-5297.

Members of the Bench to be honored will be:

- ◇ Hon. Colleen Dolan, Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District
- ◇ Hon. George Draper, III, Missouri Supreme Court
- ◇ Com. Victoria McKee, 21st Judicial Circuit
- ◇ Hon. Steven Ohmer, 22nd Judicial Circuit
- ◇ Hon. Charles Shaw, U.S. District Court of the Eastern District of Missouri
- ◇ Hon. Laura Stith, Missouri Supreme Court

Retired Judge Barbara Wallace, formerly with the 21st Judicial Circuit, will be the featured speaker. Judge Wallace is also a former President of The Lawyers Association.

### Gridiron Preview Happy Hour

Thursday, October 24

6:00—7:00 p.m.

Sponsored by



ATLAS SETTLEMENT GROUP, INC.

VFW Hall — 1717 S. Big Bend

Join us for beer and appetizers and get a glimpse of some of the Gridiron songs and dances that will debut on November 22.

## Softball Game (and Picnic) Go Off without any Injuries

In a historic 7-4 win, the City Slickers captured the coveted gavel trophy in LASL's annual softball game against the County Crushers. This was the first win by the City barristers since the game initiated its present format pitting teams of attorneys from the two circuits against each other. City coach **Jenny Woulfe** recruited new talent highlighted by bearded slugger **Nick Tindall** who hammered a towering double into the woods at Rocket Park.

Lefty **Matt Wideman** baffled the County squad with an assortment of soft tosses. County coach **Mike Harrison** complained loudly about several strike calls...and was rewarded with some truly questionable strikes when he strode to the plate. A crucial play in the game occurred with the bases loaded and no outs when County's **Mike Langella** rifled a shot back past the pitcher, nailing the hip of umpire **Ken Vuylsteke**. In a moment of poetic justice, the ball caromed to shortstop **Laura Stringfellow** who quickly turned a nifty double play!

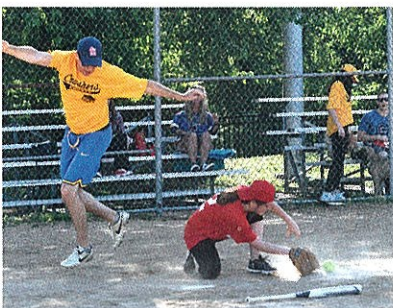
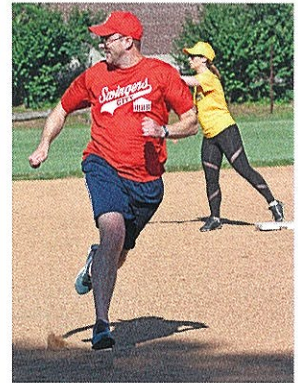
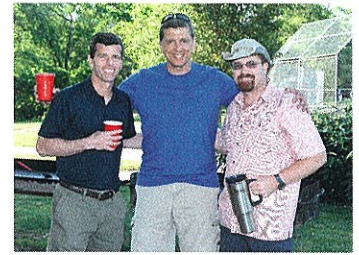
The defensive gem of the day was turned in by County first sacker **Kendra Corley**. With two on, she casually snared a screaming line drive that snuffed out another City rally. As the teams gathered at home plate for the traditional post game photo, they all agreed on one thing...**Glen Norton** needs to return as the annual tilt's umpire as the current arbiter's poor eyesight is only exceeded by his lack of mobility!

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## Sold Out Crowd Comes to See Noce Accept the Association's Highest Honor

Over 250 people crammed into the Crystal Ballroom at the Marriott Grand Hotel in April to witness Jerry Noce accept the Award of Honor, the association's highest honor. Noce is a partner at HeplerBroom, LLC. The presentation was made by Bharat Varadachari, who was President of the association at the time of the dinner.

Speakers included: Tom Kendrick, Tony Behr, Ted MacDonald, Jr. and Matt Noce. MacDonald and Matt Noce are also partners at HeplerBroom.

Noce follows along line of esteemed attorneys who have received the Award of Honor, which was first presented in 1946 to Oliver Senti.



## Sustaining Members

The Lawyers Association of St. Louis would like to thank the following Sustaining Members .

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## Two Third Year Law Students Receive the Milton F. Napier Award

Bridget Boyle and Jonathan S.H. Phipps, 3rd year law students at Saint Louis University School of Law and Washington University School of Law, respectively, were honored with the annual Milton F. Napier Award for Trial Advocacy during the Award of Honor dinner. Pictured below are Bridget Boyle, Bharat Varadachari and Jonathan S.H. Phipps.



### Upcoming Events

#### Judicial Appreciation

Thursday, September 26, 2019  
MAC—Downtown  
5:30 p.m.

#### Gridiron Preview Happy Hour Sponsored by

**Atlas Structured Settlements**  
Thursday, October 24, 2019  
VFW Hall—1717 S. Big Bend  
6:00 p.m.

#### 63rd Annual Gridiron Show

Friday, November 22, 2019  
Khorassan Room, Chase Park Plaza Hotel  
6:00 p.m.

#### Holiday Party

Tuesday, December 10  
McGurk's  
5:30 p.m.

### Save The Date

Award of Honor

**Gretchen Myers**

**2020 Honoree**

**Saturday, March 20, 2020**