

THE BENCH & BAR

A Publication of The Lawyers Association of St. Louis

www.lawyersassociationofstlouis.org

November 2019

President's Column

By Justin Guerra



Our annual Gridiron Show is just around the corner. You need to make sure that you have a seat in The Khorassan Room at the Chase Park Plaza Hotel on November 22nd. Some people are saying that this year's show is going to be the greatest Gridiron of all time. I don't know who is saying that, but I'm sure some people are.

I have had a ticket to every Gridiron since I became a lawyer. It is one of my favorite nights of the year. But I have never been a member of the show's cast. Over the years when I've been asked to be a cast member, I've always made up an excuse. "I have bad knees, so there's just no way that I can dance on stage." (I have actually been using this excuse for anything dancing related for about 25 years. At first, this excuse bothered my wife since she loves to dance. After I've embarrassed her on the dance floor a few times, she now promotes the 'bad knees' excuse). Another excuse I've used to avoid the Gridiron stage: "We just had a third child, so I need to be home instead of boozing at Gridiron practice." (In hindsight, this is the worst excuse ever. Parenting 101 is finding an excuse to get away from the crying baby, not the other way around). But I ran out of excuses this year. My Gridiron debut will be November 22nd.

The level of talent on this year's cast is astounding. And by that, I mean the talent is both astoundingly bad and astoundingly good. On the good side, you have Sarah Jane Hunt and Judge Glenn Norton. The cost of admission is worth it just to hear them sing. On the bad side, you have me and pretty much every other male dancer. But that's why we are in the back row. If you want to be dazzled by good dancers, look at the front row. If you want a laugh, check out the back row. There is something for everybody.

I hope you are able to attend the Gridiron on November 22nd. You will definitely laugh, and you may even cry if we decide to put Peter Dunne in that leotard.

Justin Guerra is Making Gridiron Great Again!

By Erin Madden

As your Madame Director, and with Director Emeritus Peter Dunne by my side, we are borrowing a line from Sondheim's "Anyone Can Whistle," and we are blowing that whistle loudly at President Justin Guerra. We can no longer stand idly by and listen to Guerra count out our musical measures by "clapping on the ones and threes."

President Guerra's delusions of "Gridiron Grandeur" have left the cast and crew of Gridiron 63 bewitched and bewildered. On day one of rehearsals, Guerra waltzed in (absolutely not in three-quarter time, but nonetheless) to embolden his fellow left-footed dancing soldiers by asking them to assuredly shuffle towards the spotlight, center stage. Yes, dear readers, our infamous back-row – that "chaotic cluster of a chorus line" – will no longer be contained by our choreographers in the shadows, camouflaged in the back curtain. We have a coup of braggadocio Barishnikovs ready to bust some moves that the Khorassan Room has never seen before...nor will they want to see ever again! (As a note to our Highstepper Tables: please take precautionary measures to protect your eyes from dancing shoes that could projectile launch like rockets from the kickline of these newly minted Rockettes.)

Guerra's other proposals of ensuring a return to the years of "Gridiron Greatness" have thus far been thwarted by this resilient cast and crew. His desire for returning to Super 8 film with Betamax editing was firmly rejected by our videographer, and luckily, our writers could not deliver in producing the lyrical adulation our President requested, as very few flattering words rhyme with "Justin" or "Guerra."

All joking aside, the cast and crew of Gridiron 63 have happily worked in tandem with President Guerra. We have upbeat and rockin' tunes, spiffy dances, and funny videos galore! We are sure you'll agree that this Gridiron is just as great as the Gridirons of yesteryear.

Tickets and sponsorships are still available online at [www.https://lawyersassociationofstlouis.org/event/gridiron/](https://lawyersassociationofstlouis.org/event/gridiron/) or by calling 314-991-LAWS (5297).

See you at the Chase, Friday the 22nd!

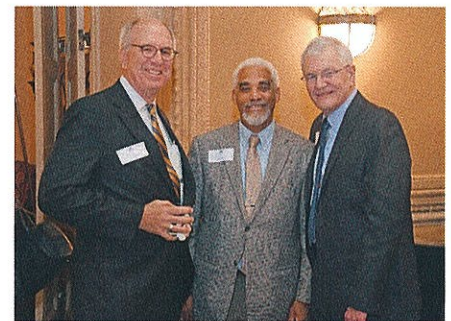
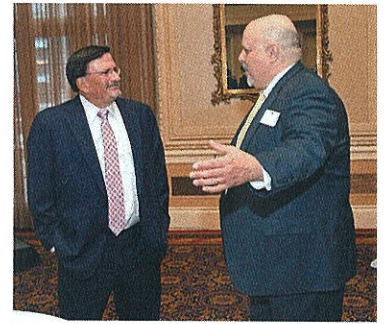
See Page 3 for list of Gridiron Highsteppers

Judicial Appreciation Recap

In addition to all members of the Bench being honored at the association's annual Judicial Appreciation program in September, the following Judges and Commissioners were given special recognition for their 25 years of service on the Bench. They are:

- ◇ 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, was the featured speaker. Judge Wallace is also a former President of The Lawyers Association.



Lawyer in the Street

By Nick Meriage

The Lawyers Association has a lot to be thankful for this Holiday Season. Our membership is strong, our events are a blast, and we are continuing to bring trial attorneys together for social, civic, and professional growth. However, when talking with some of the Association's members at the Gridiron rehearsal last month, a few had some complaints about certain foods that are being served at Thanksgiving dinner.

Between rehearsing dance numbers for the Gridiron show, [Erin Milligan](#) was quick to give the axe to the centerpiece of most traditional Thanksgiving dinners. She would get rid of Turkey and serve more cauliflower at her Thanksgiving dinner.



Our esteemed President-Elect [Teri Appelbaum](#) has no room on her Thanksgiving dinner plate for Sweet Potato Pie. When asked what food is missing from the menu at most Thanksgiving dinners, Teri was quick to suggest zucchini should be added to the menu.

Tom Parmelee, from Atlas Settlement Group, Inc., was enjoying the rehearsal and when asked what he would like to see removed from the menu at Thanksgiving dinner, he was quick to volunteer that cranberry sauce should be stricken from the menu.

It seems that more than a few others would like to see cranberry sauce removed from the menu. [Hayley Hughes](#), during a break from the rehearsal, also shared that she would like to see cranberry sauce removed from menus this Thanksgiving. She would add macaroni and cheese to her Thanksgiving menu. Tom and Hayley were not alone in the desire to see cranberry sauce removed from the menu. Some people we asked could not remember the name of the "can shaped jelly," but they were happy to remove it from the menu.



All the folks who want cranberry sauce removed from the menu should remember that this Thanksgiving staple is a great addition when you are running late and forgot to bring a dish to pass for dinner. Certain hosts often forget cranberry sauce and when asking what you should bring to pass, cranberry sauce is an easy suggestion that is often available, because no one else wants to bring a can shaped maroon jelly. Do not take the option of bringing cranberry sauce away from those who are bad cooks.

Gridiron Highsteppers

Thanks to those firms that have become Gridiron Highsteppers through 11-12-2019

Executive Producers

Blitz, Bardgett & Deutsch, LC
Brown & Crouppen, PC
Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner, LLP
Fox & Vuylsteke, LLP
Gray, Ritter & Graham, PC
Holloran, Schwartz & Gaertner, PC
Kolker & Labovitz
The Simon Law Firm, PC
Travis Noble Law Firm

Writers Roundtable

Casey, Devoti & Brockland, PC
HeplerBroom, LLC
Meyerkord & Meyerkord, PC
O'Brien Law Firm, PC
Sandberg, Phoenix & von Gontard, PC
USA & M Midwest, Inc.

Media Sponsor

Missouri Lawyers Weekly

Chorus Line

Baker, Sterchi, Cowden & Rice, LLC
Kamykowski, Gavin and Smith, PC
Padberg Corrigan & Appelbaum

Sustaining Members

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

Theresa A. Appelbaum	Marc S. Kramer
Brent Baldwin	John A. Lally
Anthony R. Behr	Mark H. Levison
Jill S. Bollwerk	Rob Litz
Patrick J. Boyle	Joan M. Lockwood
Thomas M. Burke	John F. Mahon, Jr.
Hon. Rex Burlison	W. Dudley McCarter
Jared Byrne	Stephen F. Meyerkord
Gerard T. Carmody	Nancy R. Mogab
Matthew C. Casey	Gretchen Myers
James W. Childress	Hon. Maggie Neill
Mary Coffey	Hon. Mark Neill
Morry S. Cole	Sara G. Neill
Michael Corrigan	Genevieve Nichols
Daniel T. DeFeo	Gerard T. Noce
Matthew J. Devoti	Andrew A. O'Brien
Thomas C. DeVoto	Hon. Steven Ohmer
Edward L. Dowd, Jr.	Gerald R. Ortals
Don M. Downing	Matthew Padberg
Peter J. Dunne	G. Keith Phoenix
George L. Fitzsimmons	Stephen J. Potter
Raymond R. Fournie	Hon. Angela Turner Quigless
James A. Fox	Daniel A. Raniere
Michael S. Geigerman	James E. Rhodes
Maurice B. Graham	Stephen H. Ringkamp
Thomas J. Gregory	Robert F. Ritter
Steven Groves	Daniel T. Ryan
Gary A. Growe	Craig A. Schlappizzi
Justin D. Guerra	Donald L. Schlappizzi
Amy Gunn	Tom Schwartz
John R. Gunn	Anthony Simon
Michael P. Gunn	John Simon
Donald Gunn, Jr.	Gary Snodgrass
Patrick J. Hagerty	Robert M. Susman
Linda Hahn	Phillip A. Tatlow
Craig Hansen	William S. Thomas
Lisa A. Herder	Robert E. Tucker
Hon. Phil Hess	Diana M. Vuylsteke
David G. Hughes	Kenneth Vuylsteke
John M. Hughes	Hon. Barbara W. Wallace
Michael Hughes	John Wallach
Richard L. Hughes	Benjamin Westhoff
Mandy J. Kamykowski	D. Kimberly Whittle
Nicole Burlison Knepper	Sharon R. Wice
Scott L. Kolker	Stephen R. Woodley

Save The Date

Award of Honor

Gretchen Myers

2020 Honoree

Saturday, March 28, 2020



Save the Date

Annual Bowling Tournament

Wed. Jan. 22, 2020

Saratoga Lanes in Maplewood



Bharat Varadachari shows off the President's Plaque he received from Justin Guerra during the Judicial Appreciation program.

Upcoming Events

Holiday Party

Tuesday, December 10

McGurk's

Sponsored by Preferred Capital Funding
5:30 p.m.

Bowling Tournament

Wednesday, January 18

Saratoga Lanes in Maplewood

Trial Master Seminar

February 2020

Black History Month Program

Thursday, February 20

Westin Hotel