



A lesson in civility

By Justin D. Guerra

As president of the Lawyers Association, I get to choose the topic of the "President's Column." Today, I choose Larry Hale. Larry passed away on January 11. I won't get into his impressive legal career because that's not the point of this column. Suffice it to say, Larry was a darn good lawyer.

I didn't know Larry socially. I only knew him as a lawyer. I had several cases with him over the years. I always liked it when Larry was on the other side. Not because it would be easy—quite the opposite. When Larry got the case, I knew that I was in for the long haul. But Larry made contentious litigation a little more pleasant. Larry was kind. He made me smile. I genuinely enjoyed his company. I would describe Larry as "jovial."

Let me tell you a quick story. In October, I tried a case against Larry. I'd wager it was his last trial after 40 years in the courtroom. We had years of litigation leading up to trial. One deposition got very heated. The deponent was difficult, and it seemed there was an objection to every other question. On and off the record, Larry and I both said things that we shouldn't have said. Our friendly relationship appeared to be over.

In the days after the deposition, I felt bad. I felt strongly about my legal position, but I regretted being less than kind to Larry. I considered calling him to apologize, but I couldn't take off my lawyer hat. I thought, "I can't apologize before I see the transcript. I can't let Larry think that I am not confident in my position." So, I didn't call Larry.

Sure enough, Larry called me—and he called before we received the transcript. He apologized for what happened at the deposition. And then I apologized too. And with that, our cordial relationship was back on track.

Since that time, I have regretted not calling Larry to apologize. It's a simple gesture, but a very important one. While I was too busy trying to be a lawyer, Larry was busy being a good guy. That's who Larry was. He taught lessons in civility to countless lawyers over his illustrious career. I'm thankful to have been one of his pupils.

The St. Louis legal community will miss Larry Hale.

Award Honor—Sat. March 28

Gretchen Myers to Receive the Award of Honor

The Lawyers Association will honor **Gretchen Myers** of The Law Offices of Gretchen Myers, PC with its annual Award of Honor. Gretchen will receive the honor at the Chase Park Plaza Starlight Room on Sat. March 28. An open bar begins at 6:30 p.m. with dinner following at 7:30 p.m.

The Honorable Barbara Wallace will emcee the event. Presenters on behalf of Gretchen will be Peter Dunne, Hon. Glenn Norton and Matthew Padberg.

Tickets to the dinner are \$110 per person and tables of 10 are available. Please contact Jim Susman at 314-991-5297 or susgroup@gmail.com to make reservations and arrange payment. Reservations are preferred by Tuesday, March 24.

The Award of Honor dinner is Black Tie Optional.

Black History Month Program—Thurs. Feb. 20

The Honorable **Nannette Baker** of the U.S. District Court, Eastern Missouri, will be the featured speaker at the association's annual Theodore McMillian Black History Month program. The dinner program will be at the downtown Westin Hotel at 5:30 p.m. The cost of program is \$50 for members of The Lawyers Association and Mound City Bar Association and \$60 for all others. Reservations and payment may be made by contacting Jim Susman at 314-991-5297 or susgroup@gmail.com. Sponsors include:

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Bowling Results

A record number of teams participated in the association's annual Bowling Tournament, held in January at the Saratoga Lanes in Maplewood. Finishing in first place was [Judge Sweeney's](#) team; second place was [Sandberg, Phoenix & von Gontard, PC](#); and third place went to [HeplerBroom, LLC](#). [Padberg, Corrigan, Appelbaum, PC](#) was the 4th place winner. [Alaris Litigation](#) was once again the official dinner sponsor of the tournament.

Individual High Scores:

235	Kurt Hentz
205	Matt Noce
201	Kelly Casey
194	Hon. Robin Ransom
176	Kelly Casey



Judge Sweeney's
1st Place team



Sandberg, Phoenix
& von Gontard's
2nd Place team



HeplerBroom's 3rd
Place team



Padberg Corrigan
Appelbaum's 4th
Place team



The Alaris bowling team and all-around good people who sponsored dinner. And, they even one a game.

Memorial Service—Thurs. May 21

The annual Memorial Service remembering those members of the Bench & Bar who passed away in the previous calendar year is tentatively set for Noon on Thursday, May 21 in the Ceremonial Courtroom of the Civil Courts Building. Members of the Bench & Bar to be remembered are (* biographical information needed):

Charles C. Allen, Jr.	Andrew S. Meyer *
James J. Amelung	Edward Meyer *
Francis Lee Barkofske	Michael E. Myers *
James T. Barry	Phillip R. Newmark *
Craig Stewart Biesterfeld *	James "Jim" L. Nouss
John F. Bild *	Henry Pack Willimon, Jr.
John A. Blumenfeld	Mo Lt. Gov. Bill Phelps
L. Richard Brinkman, Jr.	James M Pree *
Bill D. Burlison	Hon. Clifford John Proud
Michael Patrick Casey	John Rabbitt
Donald H. Clooney	Richard B. Ragland
Robert C. Cook *	Kenneth J. Rothman
Henry W. Cummings	Vern H. Schneider
David G. Dempsey	Theodore Frank Schwartz
Richard H. Edwards	Eileen Haughey Searls
Thomas J. Erbs *	Michael Kevin Sheehan *
Robert E. Feigenbaum	Edwin G. Shifrin
Harry N.D. Fisher	Hon. Gerald M. Smith
Louis J. Garr, Jr.	Lawrence C. Sumner *
Michael Gibbons *	Tim Thorton
Jerome "Jerry" K. Grossman	Gregory Michael Tobin *
James Gunn, Sr.	Kimyard (Kim) H. Tucker *
Raymond Howard, Jr.	William Edward Tucker *
William Francis James	William Stanley Walch
Stephen Elas Kalish	Russell A. "Rusty" Warren *
Alan C. Kohn	Carl A. Wattenberg, Jr.
Steven David Kornblat	Charles Allen Werner
Robert Lenze *	Robert E. Wexler
Michael D. Linihan	Edward G. Wiegiers, Jr.
Joe Logan	Henry Pack Willimon, Jr. *
Michael Peter Mannion	Kimberly Wulkopf *
Juanita Seibert McKee *	Allen Zerman

Gridiron—Justin Guerra is Making Gridiron Great Again!







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Election of Officers and Executive Committee Members to be held Thursday, May 7 at McGurk's

Members in good standing with the Lawyers Association will be eligible to vote for new officers and two new executive committee members at the election on May 7. The election will be held from 5:30 p.m. — 7:00 p.m. at McGurk's. Those interested in running for a position on the Executive Committee need to submit a petition no later than Thursday, April 30.

Election Petition —

I _____, am running for the position of _____ for The Lawyers Association of St. Louis for the program year beginning June 1, 2020.

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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_____	_____

The Lawyers Association of St. Louis	Executive Committee Members	Past Presidents
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Holiday Party

The association's annual Holiday Party was held in December at McGurk's. Sponsors of the event were: [Pohlman, USA](#), and [Preferred Capital Funding](#). The association's Holiday Collection Drive benefited [duo dogs](#) with a cash donation of \$335.

