



President's Column

By Teri Appelbaum
Padberg, Corrigan, Appelbaum

Autumn is here in St. Louis. Autumn in St. Louis is beautiful—the weather, the trees, the mums, the pumpkins and, of course, the Halloween decorations! I love this time of year!

Autumn is a wonderful season for the Lawyers Association as well. We have been very busy! And it has been so nice to be back into the swing of things. So much has happened since my last column. We held our annual picnic at Deer Creek Park in May. The weather was nice, and the company was even better.

In August, we were finally able to host the Award of Honor dinner for Gretchen Myers at the Starlight Room at the Chase. What a wonderful celebration! The venue was beautiful, the speakers, Judge Barb Wallace, Peter Dunne and Matt Padberg, were quite entertaining, and Gretchen was a most gracious recipient of this prestigious award. And the crowd was fantastic. Thank you, Justin Guerra, for hosting this spectacular event!

And speaking of Justin Guerra, I would like to thank Justin for his hard work and tremendous leadership during his presidency—particularly, the last few months of his presidency when the pandemic hit. So much was happening and changing by the minute. Our association needed strong leadership. Justin provided that leadership. He was informed, compassionate and

Continued on Page 2

It's Been 728 days.

The Show Must Go On!

Hello, St. Louis legal community! The moment you have been waiting for is almost upon us. After a year's hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Lawyers Association Gridiron Show is back and better than ever! What you all have been doing for the past two years without recycled jokes about Brown & James and the Onder Law Firm, I can only imagine. Lucky for

you, the wait is finally over. On November 19, 2021, the star-studded 2021 Gridiron cast will serenade you through an evening promised to be full of fun and

entertainment...or, if nothing else, an overpriced bar bill and a raging migraine. Since our esteemed director is putting all his creative energy into creating this year's show, the task has fallen to me to give this year's Gridiron Sneak Preview. Be prepared to be amazed.

Heading up the cast this year is our fearless leader, LASL President Teri Appelbaum. Many of you probably know Teri from her reputation in the courtroom, but did you also know she is a true prima donna on the stage? Not to mention the fact that Teri is our first female president IN 18 YEARS! I don't know about the rest of you, but



Rehearsing their Gridiron number with Diane Hanisch (at the keyboard) are (l-r) Elisa Leighton of Stange Law Firm, Peter Dunne of Pitzer Snodgrass and Stephanie Black of Groves Powers.

Continued on Page 3

decisive—the exact qualities needed at such unprecedented times. Thank you, Justin! Our Association is lucky to have you.

On September 30, we celebrated Judicial Appreciation Night. We honored Judge Mary Rhodes Russell, Judge Angela Turner Quigless, and Judge Terry Cundiff who celebrated 25 years on the bench. And Judge Maggie Neill regaled the group with stories of the honorees. It was a wonderful evening.

A few weeks ago, we held the Award of Honor Selection Committee Dinner. Ten exceptionally qualified individuals were nominated this year, and the committee's job was difficult. I am pleased to announce the 2022 Award of Honor will be awarded to Mary Coffey of Coffey & Nichols! Congratulations, Mary! We cannot wait to celebrate with you on March 26, 2022, at the Starlight Room at the Chase.

I have to say, at each of these events, there was something different, something special, a certain

energy that is hard to explain. But you could literally feel it. It was the energy of members of this association who were thrilled to see each other again and to celebrate together! These are special times, and I am so pleased to be able to share them with all of you.

And let's not forget—the Gridiron Show is less than a month away! Mark your calendars—Friday, November 19, we will be back in the Khorassan Room at the Chase celebrating this wonderful Lawyers Association tradition! Mike Harrison has put together a tremendous show. The cast has been rehearsing several times a week for over a month. So put on your Sunday's finest and prepare for a night of food, camaraderie, and, above all, laughs! If you have not yet purchased a ticket, a table, or a Highstepper sponsorship, there is no time like the present! We cannot wait to celebrate the return of this great tradition!

Until then, stay well friends! And we'll see you on November 19!

Gretchen Myers Finally Receives the Award of Honor

After numerous starts and stops and starts and stops (due to COVID-19) the 2020 Award of Honor was finally bestowed upon Gretchen Myers in August 2021. Gretchen was most likely in the que waiting for "her day" longer than any of the other 81 honorees that received the prestigious Award of Honor before her beginning in 1946. The dinner at the Chase Park Plaza's Starlight Room was a testament to the association's willingness to wait and honor Gretchen with an in-person celebration when it was safe to do so.



Gretchen Myers receives the Award of Honor plaque from Justin Guerra

Coming Attractions

Holiday Party

Tuesday, December 7

McGurk's

5:30 p.m.

Bowling Tournament

Wednesday, January 19 (tentative date)

Saratoga Lanes

5:00 p.m.

Black History Month Celebration

Thursday, February 17 (tentative date)

Location—TBD

5:30 p.m.

Award of Honor

Saturday, March 26

Chase Park Plaza

Starlight Room

6:00 p.m.

Honoring Mary Coffey

in my opinion, it's a little overdue. Also, be assured that the Executive Committee has conducted a thorough review of Teri's background and social media history to ensure that she has never, at any time, done or said anything offensive, insensitive, off-color, or misguided. Her record is so clear, she would be a shoo-in to host the Oscars, Jeopardy, or an over-rated celebrity singing contest.

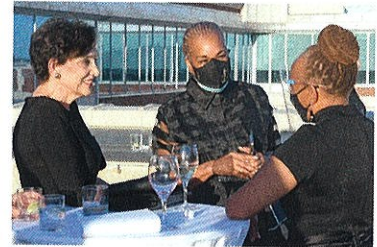
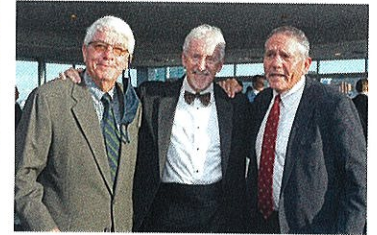
Unfortunately, her career in Missouri politics is a non-starter. Rounding out the cast, you will find some new faces along with many of the usual suspects, representing a wide range of talent and ability. The cast also hopes to impress this year with their slimmer & trimmer Gridiron figures, thanks to the cast dinner donations from past presidents that, for the first time in Gridiron history, contain vegetables. We also hope you will enjoy a few blasts from the pasts that will be joining us this year.

2020 and 2021 were tough years, but they also provided us with plenty of joke material. It's true that a horrible pandemic raged across the globe and a group of insurrectionists tried to take over the Capitol, but, on the other hand, Al Watkins defended a self-proclaimed QAnon Shaman in a horned headdress and Aunt Becky went to prison. Our writers should be sending these people a holiday basket to thank them for making their jobs easy. This year will be my ninth show, and you cannot imagine the hard work the cast puts into this show every year. We hope you will join us on November 19 for lots of laughs (and hopefully minimal cringing). Until then, I have some dance moves to sharpen up.

Jennifer L. Woulfe
LASL Secretary
Gridiron Choreographer



Rehearsing a special women's only dance are (l-r) Jennifer Woulfe, of Ryneerson, Suess, Erin Milligan of the VA, and Robin Higgins of Webster University.



Man on the Street/ Woman at the VFW Hall

It's the Halloween Season

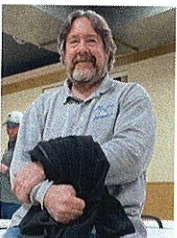
If you're like me, you agree that this is simply the best time of year. Cozy fires with friends, hot tea and cocoa, the smell of burning leaves, football games, and pumpkin spice everything. Never mind that in St. Louis, we changed out of beachwear and finally turned off the AC just last week. (There's lots of material here for my next super sad article on global warming and climate change – stay tuned!). Nevertheless, it's the Halloween Season! And, it's Gridiron Season – that time of year when you'll find happy little lawyers, singing and dancing their hearts out twice a week at the VFW Hall on Big Bend in preparation for the big show.

So, I asked these little singing and dancing lawyers about their favorite aspects of Halloween and a bit about the special St. Louis tradition of joke-telling. As a non-native, I grew up believing that I got candy simply for having a fantastic costume and sweetly asking “trick or treat?” Little did I know that down in St. Louis, kids were working hard and only getting candy for laughs. So, here's a little Q and A with the Gridiron crew and a few of their favorite things about Halloween.

Erin: Elisa, what will you be for Halloween this year?

Elisa: I'm going as Charlie, the Princess of Hell. Every year, souls die in Hell due to overcrowding. Charlie helps them redeem themselves so they can go to Heaven. It's from the show, the Hazbin Hotel!

Erin: Of course! Duh!



Erin: Jim, what do you do if a kid tells a joke that's not funny?

Jim: Blame the parents, and then I tell the kid a joke that's funny.

Erin: Paul, what's your favorite Halloween joke?

Paul: What is it like being kissed by a vampire? It's a real pain in the neck!

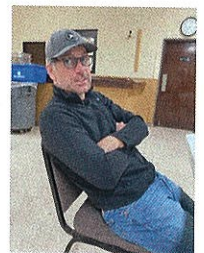
Jim Gottschalk

Erin: Jenny, what do you do if a kid doesn't have a joke to tell?

Jenny: Be grateful I don't have to suffer through it. I don't understand this St. Louis joke-telling tradition either.

Erin: Tom, what kind of candy do you hand out at Halloween?

Tom: Oh-ya-know-the-chocolatey-mix-kinda-thingy-with-the-Reese's-and-the-Snickers-and-the-Milky-Ways-and-the-Three-Musketeers-and-the-M-and-M's-ya-know-that-thing.



Tom Neill



Erin: Robin, what's the best costume you've ever seen a kid wear?

Robin: A McDonald's container of French fries, yum.

Erin: Madame President, what's the best Halloween joke you've heard?

Teri: What do you call a hotdog with the insides taken out? A hollow-weenie!

Erin: But what if it's a Veggie Dog®?

Teri: Same answer!

Robin Higgins

Continued on Page 5



Erin: Andrew, what's the best Halloween joke you've heard?
Andrew: A photon walks into a hotel. The bellman asks if he can take his bags. The photon replies, no, I'm traveling light!

Andrew Eastman

Erin: Ok, but Andrew, I said a Halloween joke.
Andrew: Ok, fine. A ham sandwich walks into a bar and the bartender says, "we don't serve food here."
Erin: I give up.
Erin: Judge Norton, when did you stop putting needles in the candy you hand out?
Judge Norton: When I learned it's illegal.

And there you have it - the Gridironers are truly people who love the Halloween season. We hope you too enjoy the Halloween season, the cooler temps and clear blues skies, and we look forward to seeing you all at the 64th Annual Gridiron Show in less than a month!

Erin E. Milligan
LASL Executive Committee Member
Gridiron Choreographer

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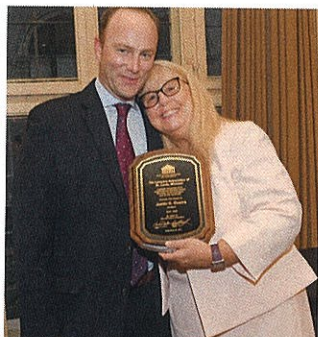
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The Lawyers Association of St. Louis would like to thank the following Sustaining Members:

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Judicial Appreciation program held in September

Honored Judges Mary Rhodes Russell, Angela Turner Quigless and Terry Cundiff for serving on the Bench for 25 years. Justin Guerra receives President's Plaque for his leadership during the previous program year.



Do I Really Want to be In-Person? The Answer is Yes!

By Dan Rousseau
LASL President-Elect

Covid caused many changes to our daily lives. Things like quarantines, masking, and social distancing became frequent routines. Courts and offices were closed. The kitchen table became the new office. Everyone communicated via Zoom. You could forget about social events. After time, these things became part of our everyday life. Like Stockholm Syndrome sufferers, many have thought why bother going out since I have everything I need at home. The truth is people need to get out and interact with other people. I need it and I suspect you do too.

As a result of vaccinations and declining number of cases and hospitalizations in the area, it is safe to step outside again. Since it is safe to leave the home, allow me to offer some reminders about why getting out is better than staying in. You might think Zoom hearings and meetings are so much more convenient, and they do have a level of convenience versus driving to the office or court, but they are ticking time bombs of embarrassment. When you are in-person, you know at all times people can see and hear everything you do. Zoom seems to make people forget they are on camera, or they forget to stop their video or mute their mic. Imagine the embarrassment Jeffrey Toobin could have avoided if his meeting were in person instead of Zoom. What about the difficulties navigating all the features and apps associated with Zoom? No one wants to appear and be the lawyer-turned-cat on their Zoom feed. "Judge Stelzer, I'm not a cat!" This could all be avoided by meeting in-person.

The best part about going into the office is seeing and interacting with other people. Aside from the work benefits of talking with your co-workers, there are other benefits to being back in the office. For all the time I was working from home, not once did someone bring in donuts or brew a pot of coffee for everyone. No one ever stopped in the kitchen, knocked on the kitchen table and invited me to happy hour. But these things can happen when you are in-person.

Speaking of happy hours, everyone attended the Zoom happy hour at one time or another. However, sitting at home, business up top, and pant less on bottom, is a far cry from the real thing. Saying cheers and making the "clink" sound by yourself to other people over Zoom is not a substitute for the real thing.

Now is the time. Get out of your house. See your co-workers. See the friends you haven't in over a year. Interact and have fun again, because we all need it. Click the leave a meeting button, fold up your laptop, leave the kitchen table, change out of your pajamas, and join your friends for drinks, dinner, and good conversation at the Gridiron event on November 19. I promise it will be the best show you have seen in-person in over a year.

Picnic 2021

