



President's Column

*By Teri Appelbaum
Padberg, Corrigan, Appelbaum*

Happy Winter everyone! What a beautiful day in St. Louis! We are more than halfway through February and hopefully, the worst of winter is behind us.

You will all be happy to know that this is most likely my last President's Column as my extended reign as President will be coming to an end in a few months. In preparing to write this Column, I reviewed my past President's columns. As I read them, I still cannot comprehend everything our world, our country and our legal community has experienced these past two years.

But one of the things that has continued to bring me great joy during these crazy pandemic times is the honor of being President of this great association. At a time when we are seeing less and less of each other in person, the Lawyers Association events have become more and more important to me. There is a value of in-person court hearings and depositions that our profession has been missing during this pandemic. And I am so grateful that the Lawyers Association events have given me the opportunity to see many of you in person.

It was so nice to see so many of you at the Gridiron this past November! Mike Harrison and the cast and writers put together an amazing show! We had a great turnout, and everyone seemed to really enjoy themselves.

On March 1, we will celebrate The Annual Honorable Theodore J. McMillian Black History Month Dinner. I know, Black History Month is in February. However, we thought it best to postpone the dinner for a couple of weeks to get us through the Omicron surge.

Black History Month Program

The association's Annual Honorable Theodore McMillian Black History Month Dinner will be held on Tuesday, March 1st at the Live! By Loews Hotel at Ballpark Village. The program is in conjunction with the Mound City Bar Association and begins at 5:30 p.m.

Featured speakers will be the Honorable Robin Ransom of the Missouri Supreme Court and Wesley Bell, St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney.

Tickets are \$50 for members of the LASL and MCBA and \$60 for non-members and may be purchased by contacting Jim Susman at susgroup@gmail.com.

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Things you may not know about our 2022 Award of Honor Recipient Mary Coffey

By Mandy Kamykowski of Kamykowski & Taylor, PC

In 2007, I tried my first case against Mary Coffey and her long-time law partner Genevieve Nichols, alongside my then partner at Greensfelder, Mary Reitz. I think that trial may have been the first all-women attorney tried med mal case in St. Louis County history (at least that's what Judge Robert Cohen told us after the fact). I knew the following about Mary Coffey before that trial: (1) at that time she was one of a handful of female trial lawyers practicing in the St. Louis area who had paved the way for subsequent generations, leading by example for anyone willing to watch; (2) she was WICKED smart with a dry and deprecating sense of humor, and (3) she absolutely LOVED her work. These facts and many others are why Mary is deserving of the Award of Honor – it is undeniable that she is "an outstanding trial attorney whose service to the profession and community merits recognition as an example that may inspire others to similar service."

Fifteen years later, all of the above still apply to Mary. But in a recent interview with Mary and Genevieve, I learned a few

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I am so excited about this event! It will be held in the new Ballpark Village Live by Loew's venue. And, we have two esteemed speakers for this event—St. Louis County Prosecutor Wesley Bell and Missouri Supreme Court Judge Robin Ransom. So, if you have not purchased your tickets, I strongly encourage you to do so. You will not be disappointed!

The Award of Honor Dinner will be held on March 26, at the Starlight Room at the Chase. Mary Coffey is our esteemed recipient this year, and she has an all-star line-up of presenters who are prepared to bring everyone to tears with laughter. Of course, the humor will be assisted by the high-end open bar that Coffey & Nichols is graciously providing for the event. And I promise you this, the more you drink, the funnier the night will be! For more information on Mary Coffey, please read the article by Mandy Kamykowski.

Our Bowling Tournament is returning this year as well. This will be held at the Saratoga Lanes in Maplewood on April 6. If you have not attended this event, I highly recommend it! You would be surprised by the level of talent at this tournament! For more on the Bowling Tournament, please read the article by Past President Justin Guerra who has been chairing this event for years.

And on a personal note, I want to thank each of you for your continued support of the Lawyers Association during this pandemic. Hopefully, we are over the hump. I look forward to seeing you at our Black History Month Dinner on March 1, the Award of Honor on March 26, and the Bowling tournament on April 6. Until then, enjoy the final weeks of winter!

Election Information

The association's annual Election of Officers and Executive Committee members will be held at McGurk's on Thursday, May 12th from 5:30—7:00 p.m.

Those association members who wish to run for an at-large position on the Executive Committee may do so by submitting a petition stating the position you are running for and the signatures of 10 members of the association. The petitions must be submitted no later than Saturday, April 30th. Petitions should be emailed to susgroup@gmail.com.

Sponsors for the Theodore McMillian Black History Month Dinner are:

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Coming Attractions

Bowling—Wednesday, April 6

- **Saratoga Lanes**

Election—Thursday, May 12

- **McGurk's**

Memorial Service—Thursday, May 26

- **Civil Courts Building**

Picnic—Thursday, June 16

- **Deer Creek Park—North Pavilion**

Who is the favorite to win the Lawyers Association's Bowling Tournament?

By Justin D. Guerra, Holloran, Schwartz & Gaertner, LLP

After a brief covid hiatus, the annual bowling tournament is back! So, who is the favorite to win in 2022? To answer that question, a quick tournament history lesson is needed. There was a time when nobody thought Sandberg, Phoenix & von Gontard could lose. And for a seven-year stretch (2006-2012), Sandberg didn't lose. The Sandberg bowling team was dominant. They didn't just win every year, they embarrassed the competition.

But in 2013, the biggest scandal in Lawyers Association history rocked the bowling tournament. Judge Mark Neill assembled a team of superstars who routed Sandberg in the tournament championship. Player eligibility questions led to a full-blown investigation into Judge Neill's team. Eventually, Judge Neill was cleared of "knowingly" assembling a team of ineligible professional bowlers, but the damage to Sandberg was done. The aura of invincibility was gone. Sandberg's unbelievable title run had been stopped. And since that time, Sandberg has only one title (2017).

There has never been a force like Sandberg during that dominant stretch, but Judge Sweeney's team has been the closest thing to it. Judge Sweeney's squad is stacked from top to bottom with Judge Rex Burlison, Rita Burlison, Judge Thomas Clark, and Supreme Court Justice Robin Ransom. They are the reigning champs. Their consistency has been impressive as they have won 3 of the last 7 championships and placed in the Top 3 in each of the last 4 tournaments. Justice Ransom has been named Tournament MVP the last several years as her scores soar over 200 on a regular basis.



Hepler Broom is always a threat to run deep. Although a historical bridesmaid, Hepler has shown the ability to perform when the lights are brightest. They came in third place in 2020 and captured their first title in 2019. To some, the 2019 championship was won as the result of a brilliant strategical move: sending whiskey shots to their competition before facing off.

And now, the betting lines:

Favorites To Win: Judge Sweeney's Team (-150), Sandberg (+220), Hepler (+300), The Field (+550).

Number of Individual Rounds Above 200 for the Tournament: Over/Under 6.5.

Highest Individual Round: Over/Under 224.5.

This tournament promises to be one of the best ever, so don't forget to sign up your team. We'll see you on April 6, 2022, at Saratoga Lanes!

Award of Honor—continued from Page 1

additional facts about Mary's life and 40+ year legal career that just may make our 2022 Award of Honor Recipient infamous:



Mary Coffey leaning over the railing at The Beatles concert in 1966.

- In 1966, Mary and a girlfriend saw The Beatles when they played at Busch Stadium. Mary was captured by a photojournalist at the time (see photo on left), memorializing the Beatlemania she experienced with the 23,000 other concert revelers. She was no more than 12 or 13, bought the ticket with her own savings, and convinced her mom to drive her and a friend to the history-making event.
- Mary started her high school career at Clayton High School. Admittedly, her attendance and participation in her classes was not up to par and she was "asked to leave." She ended up at a local Catholic girls' high school where she was "assigned a nun" to straighten her out – looks like it worked!
- Mary's early employment history included school bus driver, ice cream truck driver, and janitor on a barge on the Mississippi River. In these jobs, she stood up for herself in the same way she has stood up for her clients for the past 42 years: She became the janitor after requesting transfer from a cashier office job when she rebuked the unwanted advances of a superior. While working for the ice cream truck company, she was cited for a uniform violation because she was not wearing proper undergarments – she still has the written reprimand hanging on her wall today!
- While in law school at Saint Louis University, Mary was one of the "Vince Immel Dancers," a Rockette-esque chorus line dressed like the late Professor who performed at the school's annual talent show. ***Maybe we need to enlist Mary for the 2022 Gridiron show?***

Regardless of whether we can convince her to join the chorus line for this year's Gridiron, we look forward to Mary sharing additional tales from her storied life and career when she accepts her Award of Honor on Saturday, March 26, 2022, at the Chase Park Plaza - Starlight Room. The program will be Emceed by Genevieve Nichols, Coffey & Nichols. Presenters will be the Hon. Colleen Dolan, Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District, and Hope Whitehead, Judicial Administrator, Circuit Court of St. Louis County. Tickets are \$110 per person and tables of 10 are available. You may buy your tickets online at <https://lawyersassociationofstlouis.org/event/award-of-honor/>.



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

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Gridiron 64 Hits a Grand Slam

By Tom Neill, Gray, Ritter & Graham, PC

In November 2021, the Lawyers Association of St. Louis hosted the 64th Annual Gridiron. The show was titled *Gridiron Survives*, a reference to the cancellation of the 2020 show due to the pandemic¹. But the show didn't merely survive, it thrived.

With over 500 guests in the audience, many of whom had not been to an in-person bar event in well over a year, it was as boisterous a crowd as the cast could remember. And the guests did not leave disappointed.

The show starred Association ~~Queen~~ President Teri Appelbaum. At the director's helm was longtime writer and cast member Mike Harrison. And once again musical direction was in the hands of Diane Hanisch. They assembled a stellar team of singers, dancers, choreographers, writers, and video talent, all of whom put in great performances.

Not surprisingly, references to the pandemic and its effects on the legal community abounded. Songs on this theme addressed working from home, Webex hearings gone awry, and vaccinations, while videos explored Zoom meetings from bathrooms and even the origins of COVID-19.

But there was still time for plenty of numbers that focused on that classic Gridiron subject: lawyers making fun of themselves and each other. Venue, writ practice, associate pay and hours, and legal advertisements all found their share of the spotlight.

As the first woman to serve as President in 17 years, Teri Appelbaum had a special treat in store. Following the number "She's a Female Attorney," set to "She Works Hard for Her Money," five of the Association's six women Presidents took center stage to huge applause.

By all accounts, other than financial accounts, the show was a huge success. Countless attendees remarked at what a joy it was to return to the Gridiron after its absence.

For those looking forward to the 2022 Gridiron, mark your calendars for November 11, 2022. And stay tuned to this publication for other announcements, including your opportunity to be a part of the show!

¹ Questions: Can the show be called "annual" when we skipped a year? Was this the greatest example of false advertising since *The NeverEnding Story*?



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