



President's Column

By **Dan Rousseau**
MG+M The Law Firm

Spring is in full swing and summer is just around the corner. Soon it will be time to put those helpful hints on beating the heat from **Erin Milligan** into practice. But the beginning of summer also means the end of my presidency. Unlike **Teri Appelbaum**, my reign only lasts 1 year. That's a good thing though, as I fully expect our incoming President **Jeannie Adamek Moore** to correct any mistakes I made along the way.

It has been a great honor to serve as President of such a tremendous organization. Along with the good times, so many people have contributed and helped me this past year. Thank you to **Sus** for taking care of everything, **Teri Appelbaum** for helping me through the process, **Tom Neill** and **Chantal Mehill** for being the best Gridiron directors, the Exec Committee for being such a talented and selfless group of people, and all the members of the Association for their assistance and attendance at events. Thank you!

With that said, there was a rather big event since the last newsletter. The Award of Honor was held at the MAC celebrating **Peter Dunne**. I was devastated to come down with COVID a few days before the event. I thought we were through with that virus, but it got me again. While being unable to offer personal anecdotes, everyone remarked how wonderful an event it was - from the open bar, hilarious speakers, and the heartfelt remarks from Peter. A truly deserving attorney and person for such a great award. Congratulations. Peter!

As the weather warms up, so does our events' calendar. The election is May 10 on the patio at McGurk's. The Memorial Service will take place later in the month of May. And the barbeque and softball game will take place again at Tilles Park in June. I expect the County Crushers to bounce back in a big way this year and end their current two game losing streak. I look forward to seeing everyone at the next few events.

Election at McGurk's

The Association's annual Election of Officers and Executive Committee members will be at McGurk's (on the patio) on Wed. May 10. The election will be from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Those on the ballot are:

- ◆ Nicole Burlison Knepper—President-Elect
 - ◆ Jennifer Woulfe—1st Vice President
 - ◆ Rebecca Cary—2nd Vice President
 - ◆ Erin Milligan—Secretary
 - ◆ Graham Dobbs—Treasurer
- At Large Members (2 to be elected)
- ◆ Mandy Kamykowski
 - ◆ Nick Meriage
 - ◆ Hayley Hughes

Annual Dues Notices

Watch your electronic inbox and/or your "snail mail" inbox for your 2023-2024 membership dues notice. We thank you in advance for continuing your membership.



Also, your membership dues may be paid electronically on the association's website (www.lawyersassociationofstlouis.org).

And, for those of you who made arrangements last year for automatic membership dues payment, we thank you in advance.

Members in good standing with the Lawyers Association will be eligible to vote for new officers and executive committee members at the election on Wed. May 10. The election will be held from 5:30 p.m. — 7:00 p.m. at McGurk's.

Napier Awards Presented



Jared Waldhoff, a 3L student at St. Louis University was the recipient of the Milton F. Napier Award for Trial Advocacy. Waldhoff was honored at the association's Award of Honor dinner in March. Pictured with Waldhoff is **Jennine Adamek Moore**, President-Elect of The Lawyers Association. Washington University's Napier Award winner was Gavin McGimpsey who was unable to attend the Award of Honor dinner.

Upcoming Events

Election

Wed. May 10
5:30—7:00 p.m.
McGurk's on the patio

Memorial Service

Thurs. May 25
Noon
Civil Courts Building, Ceremonial Courtroom

Softball Game & Picnic

Thursday, June 15 — 4:00 p.m.
Tilles Park in St. Louis County
Skow Pavilion

Judicial Appreciation

Date & Location to be Determined

Gridiron Show

Friday, November 17 — 6:00 p.m.
St. Louis Marriott Grand Hotel
Majestic Ballroom

The Lawyers Association of St. Louis

Officers

Dan Rousseau, President
Jennine Adamek Moore, President-Elect
Nicole Burlison Knepper, 1st Vice President
Jennifer Woulfe, 2nd Vice President
Rebecca Cary, Secretary
Graham Dobbs, Treasurer

Executive Committee Members

James Eason
Andrew Eastman
Mandy Kamykowski
Chantal Mehill
Nick Meriage
Erin Milligan

Past Presidents

Teri Appelbaum
Justin Guerra
Bharat Varadachari

Executive Director

Jim Susman

Sustaining Members

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

Jennine Adamek-Moore
Theresa A. Appelbaum
Joseph A. Bartholomew
William R. Bay
Mark J. Becker
Jill S. Bollwerk
Patrick J. Boyle
Anne-Marie Brockland
Mark I. Bronson
Thomas M. Burke
Hon. Theresa Burke
Hon. Rex M. Burlison
Jared Byrne
Matthew C. Casey
Phillip Cervantes
Keith K. Cheung
James W. Childress
Mary Coffey
Morry S. Cole
David Corwin
Ann G. Dalton
Matthew J. Devoti
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Lawrence Grebel
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Donald Gunn, Jr.
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Craig Hansen
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David G. Hughes
John M. Hughes
Richard L. Hughes
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Nicole Burlison Knepper
Marc S. Kramer
John A. Lally
Michael Langella
Hon. JB Lasater
Hon. Julie Lasater
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Rob Litz
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Michael Schroeder
Tom Schwartz
Mary Anne Sedey
Anthony Simon
John Simon
Gary Snodgrass
Robert M. Susman
Jennifer Suttmoeller Bernacki
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Kenneth Vuylsteke
Hon. Barbara W. Wallace
John Wallach
Hon. E. Richard Webber
Jeff Wehmer
Benjamin Westhoff
Sharon R. Wice
Stephen R. Woodley

What An Honor

By Jennifer L. Woulfe

Galloway, Johnson, Tompkins, Burr & Smith, APLC

I attended my first Award of Honor in 2013. The recipient was [Kevin O'Malley](#). At that time, I had no idea who Kevin was, but the event still left an impression on me. To be selected from all the other attorneys in St. Louis as one of the greats – recognized as such by your peers. We lawyers are not stingy when it comes to giving out awards to ourselves, but this one seemed different. A quick read down the list of past awardees lets you know this a pretty exclusive club. Not to sound trite, but it truly is an honor. Over the next 10 years, I only missed one Award of Honor dinner. I have seen a string of impressive winners, each one very deserving of the Award. Friends, family members, and colleagues have taken to the stage year after year to expound on the admirable qualities of that year's pick, sometimes getting in a couple jokes at his or her expense in the process. 2023, however, was different. Unlike in the past, we were not honoring just another star in the legal community, we were also honoring my friend. Listening to the merits and accomplishments of any winner no doubt leaves an impression on members of the audience, but having that level of respect conferred on one of your friends is truly moving. Which is why I am delighted to give a recap of this year's Award of Honor dinner honoring [Peter J. Dunne](#).

It was a cool March night when the Who's Who of the St. Louis legal community gathered at the downtown Missouri Athletic Club on March 11 to toast the man of the hour. True to his Irish roots, Peter's tuxedo was complimented by a kelly-green vest and bowtie. Master-of-Ceremonies [Tom Burke](#) of Onder Law started off the evening before handing the mic off to [Gary Snodgrass](#) of Pitzer Snodgrass. Gary was followed by Peter's son, [Captain Nikolai Dunne](#), who gave a humorous and moving recount of growing up as a child of Peter Dunne. Past awardee [Matt Padberg](#) of Padberg Appelbaum Knepper wrapped up the roast-style slate of speakers with some final remarks. Then came the moment we had all been waiting for...when the man himself accepted the Lawyers Association Award of Honor from president-elect [Jennine Adamek Moore](#) and held it aloft for all to see. The official proceedings finally culminated in a heartfelt rebuttal from Peter before the celebrations moved on to the M.A.C. bar. It was a night to remember (or possibly, for some, one they won't).



So what can be drawn from this evening? I think the part that stood out most to me was how reflective the night was of the awardee. The roll of presenters exemplified the sense of camaraderie that is at the core of the Lawyers Association and Peter Dunne himself. Peter has been a civil defense attorney for close to 40 years, and one of the presenters was his longtime law partner, Gary Snodgrass. However, the other two presenters from the legal field, Tom Burke and Matt Padberg, are entrenched members of the plaintiffs' bar. Yet these men from different sides of the aisle can still maintain a friendship and celebrate the achievements of one amongst them. Closely related to this sense of camaraderie was a feeling of fun and lightheartedness that pervaded the ballroom. The audience enjoyed good-natured jabs directed at Peter, his career, and his parenting skills. Anyone who has met Peter will have been struck by his larger-than-life personality and ability not to take himself too seriously. Peter is a staple of the Lawyers Association Gridiron that has been bringing lawyers together and making them laugh (or at least trying to) for decades. In this profession of high stakes and even higher stress, it is our ability to loosen up and laugh that keeps us human, and nowhere is this personified more than in Peter Dunne.

Finally, I would be remiss if I failed to list some of the accomplishments that earned Peter this Award. Peter is a great guy and all, but it takes more than that to become an Award of Honor recipient. I best know Peter from his participation in the Gridiron Show (for Pete, 30 years and counting), but the dinner's program helped me fill in some of his other achievements. Peter is a St. Louis native who attended undergrad at St. Louis University and obtained his law degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1983. He worked as a public defender in St. Louis County for 2 years before joining Brown, James & Rabbitt, whose successive spin-offs ultimately lead to Peter's current firm, Pitzer Snodgrass. Peter has tried over 180 jury trials to verdict and has served in leadership positions in many legal organizations including the American Board of Trial Advocates, the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis, and, of course, as a past-President of the Lawyers Association of St. Louis and director emeritus of the Gridiron Show. Peter holds adjunct faculty positions at the St. Louis University School of Law and at Webster University in its Legal Studies Program. Previous awards include the Volunteer Lawyer of the Year from Legal Services of Eastern Missouri and The Best Lawyers in America. His non-legal, extracurricular activities include serving as the President of the Missouri Athletic Club Apollos and as past-President of Small World Adoption Foundation of Missouri, Inc. Finally, Peter and his wife, the [Hon. Ellen W. Dunne](#), are the proud parents of 3 children, Sergei, Nikolai, and Jordan.

So, in sum, congratulations, Peter. This award was well-deserved, and so many of us are overjoyed to see you receive it. Good luck to next year's winner, because this will be a tough act to follow... but of course, that is the point of the Award of Honor.

Award of Honor Photos



For Better or Worse, We're Back

By Chantal Mehill of Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale, PC and
Tom Neill of Gray Ritter Graham

As the last of the 2022 Gridiron Show memories faded from your dreams, or more likely, your nightmares, it's time to remind the Association, WE'RE BACK BABY! **Tom Neill** and **Chantal Mehill** will take the directorial helm again this year and endeavor to shock, awe, but hopefully not offend the masses in 2023. All complaints should be directed to soon-to-be-crowned LASL President, **Jennine Adamek Moore**.

Last year's show was such a success - *The Daily Record* called it one of the top ten shows of the night - it was decided that if it ain't broke, don't fix it. That means that you can expect the same off key-singing, bad dance moves, unfunny jokes, mediocre hotel food, and over-priced drinks.



However, we are not completely useless. We intend to address some of the kinks. We will be hosting the 2023 Gridiron Show at the Marriott St. Louis Grand Hotel again, but it will move to a larger ballroom and, crucially, a larger cocktail reception space. We are hopeful this will address the hundreds of complaints – mostly from Judges – we received about the crowded pre-show cocktail hour and the tight quarters during dinner. You can do your part to improve the show by having a few more pre-show drinks to enhance the quality of your laughter.



We again welcome the Association membership to submit ideas for the show, in the form of fully written spoofed songs and skits. Priority in selection will be given to those who include the biggest cash incentive with their idea. Cash incentives should be made out to the "Re-Elect Terri Appelbaum" Super PAC.

Rehearsals for the Gridiron Show begin in September and will be held at the VFW Hall in Richmond Heights. If you have any show ideas or are interested in joining the Gridiron cast, please contact the directors at cmehill@greensfelder.com and tneill@grgpc.com. In addition, if you are not the singing or dancing type, but want to support the cause by volunteering to bring a cast dinner, please contact Jim Susman at susgroup@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing everyone at this year's show on Friday November 17, 2023. To buy a sponsorship, reserve a table or purchase individual tickets, please contact **Jim Susman**.

Softball Game & Picnic Set for June 15

The annual softball game and picnic will be at Tilles Park in St. Louis County on Thursday, June 15 beginning at 4:00 p.m. The first pitch of the softball game between the City Swingers and County Crushers will begin at 4:30 p.m. The picnic will be at the Skow Pavilion with the softball game on the field adjacent to the pavilion. The cost to attend is \$10 per person. Sponsorships are available. And attendance prizes will be awarded during the picnic.

