



## President's Column

By **Jennine Adamek Moore**  
*Franke, Schultz & Mullen, P.C.*

The leaves are changing. It is 22 degrees one day and 82 degrees the next. There is frost on Halloween. It is Fall in St. Louis and a very busy time of year for the Lawyers Association. If you do not believe me, just ask my partners about my ratio of billable hours to hours spent on Lawyers Association tasks (which is why you need to front load the billables in January and February to make up for mid-September to mid-November).

We started off strong with the Judicial Appreciation Dinner where we honored all the judges in St. Louis with special recognition of **Judge Rodney Sippel**, **Judge Joan Moriarty**, and **Judge Barbara Peebles** who were each celebrating 25 years on the Bench. Our entertaining speaker, Debbie Champion, painted a picture of truth and justice and reminded each of us of the importance of deciding cases on the law and the facts.

Next on the Lawyers Association agenda was the Award of Honor Selection Committee dinner where we had a thoughtful and spirited discussion of all the deserving nominees. I want to again thank each of the Committee members for their time and dedication in choosing an outstanding recipient, **Debbie Champion**. As I am sure many of you know, Debbie devotes many hours to both the legal community and charitable causes, mentoring those in the legal profession and life in general. Congratulations Debbie for this achievement! Details on the Award of Honor Dinner will be announced shortly.

The VFW Hall on Big Bend has also been packed with cast members every Tuesday and Thursday night showing off their best jazz hands and belting out tunes by the likes of Lady Gaga and Bon Jovi practicing for the Gridiron Show. Was that a hint? What songs will we parody this year? Which attorneys and firms will be roasted? Hmmm.

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## Gridiron is Friday—Will You Be There?

What are you doing this Friday? If your answer is anything other than “attending the Gridiron Show, of course,” you really need to get your priorities in order. Who in their right mind would miss out on the St. Louis legal community’s annual spectacle of self-mockery and debasement. I know, I know, past experience with opposing counsel has convinced many of us that a fair portion of lawyers are not, in fact, in their right mind, but for those of us who know where the party’s at this Friday, here is a quick teaser of what you can expect.

The Gridiron Show is in its second year of residency at the Marriott Grand in downtown St. Louis, because what makes an evening more exciting than a little risk? To the softies who have gotten a little too comfortable in their Clayton-based offices, never fear. Valet parking is available, so you can probably limit your actual time outside to under 10 seconds. Following the success of last year’s Gridiron, we have gone bigger and better by upgrading to the Majestic Ballroom on the second floor of the Conference Plaza. Returning champions **Chantal Mehill** and **Tom Neill** are directing the show for the second year in a row. Perennial favorites like **Peter Dunne** and record-setting **Jim Gottschalk** (appearing in his 36<sup>th</sup> show) will be back on stage this year, accompanied by the sultry sounds of crooner **Glenn Norton**. But enough talk about the men. LASL President **Jennine Adamek Moore** is bringing the Gridiron Show into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with this year’s theme “The Future Is Female.” “Jumping on the Barbie bandwagon?” you may ask. Not quite. The Lawyers Association is way ahead of the game with a slate of almost-all female officers that has taken years to move into position. Granted, I have not checked the official records, but I can say with a relatively high level of confidence that this is the first



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## Upcoming Events

Fri. Nov. 17  
Gridiron  
6:00 p.m.  
St. Louis Marriott Grand Hotel  
800 Washington Ave.

Tues. Dec. 5  
Holiday Party  
5:30 p.m.  
McGurk's  
1200 Russell Ave.

Wed. Jan. 24, 2024  
Bowling Tournament  
Saratoga Lanes—Maplewood

February 2024  
Black History Month Dinner  
Date & Location to be Determined

Spring 2024  
Award of Honor  
Date & Location to be Determined

### The Lawyers Association of St. Louis

#### Officers

Jennine Adamek Moore, President  
Nicole Burlison Knepper, Pres.-Elect  
Jennifer Woulfe, 1st Vice President  
Rebecca Cary, 2nd Vice President  
Erin Milligan, Secretary  
Graham Dobbs, Treasurer

#### Executive Committee Members

James Eason  
Andrew Eastman  
Hayley Hughes  
Mandy Kamykowski  
Chantal Mehill  
Nick Meriage

#### Past Presidents

Teri Appelbaum  
Justin Guerra  
Dan Rousseau

#### Executive Director

Jim Susman

## Sustaining Members

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

Jennine Adamek Moore  
Teri Appelbaum  
Joseph A. Bartholomew  
William R. Bay  
Mark J. Becker  
Jill S. Bollwerk  
Patrick J. Boyle  
Anne-Marie Brockland  
Hon. Rex M. Burlison  
Denis C. Burns  
Jared Byrne  
Matthew C. Casey  
Phillip Cervantes  
James W. Childress  
Mary Coffey  
Morry S. Cole  
Ann G. Dalton  
Thomas C. DeVoto  
M. Graham Dobbs  
Douglas P. Dowd  
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Maurice B. Graham  
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Justin D. Guerra  
Amy Gunn  
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Patrick R. Gunn  
Donald Gunn, Jr.  
Robert T. Haar  
Patrick J. Hagerty

Linda Hahn  
Craig Hansen  
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Hon. Heather J. Hays  
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Hon. Philip M. Hess  
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Michael Langella  
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Joan M. Lockwood  
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W. Dudley McCarter  
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Hon. Matthew Melton  
Stephen F. Meyerkord  
Callan Moench  
Nancy R. Mogab  
Morgan C. Murphy  
Hon. Mark H. Neill  
Hon. Maggie Neill  
Tom Neill  
Genevieve Nichols  
Gerald Noce  
Hon. Glenn Norton  
Andrew A. O'Brien  
Matthew P. O'Grady  
Hon. Steven R. Ohmer  
Gerald R. Orbals  
Matthew Padberg  
Ted L. Perryman

G. Keith Phoenix  
Jenny Pitzer  
Hon. Angela Turner Quigless  
Daniel A. Raniere  
Hon. Robin Ransom  
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Dan Rousseau  
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Michael Schroeder  
Tom Schwartz  
Mary Anne Sedey  
Anthony Simon  
John Simon  
Bob Susman  
Jennifer Suttmoeller Bernacki  
Phillip A. Tatlow  
Mary Taylor  
William S. Thomas  
Bob Tucker  
Bharat Varadachari  
Paul N. Venker  
Kenneth Vuylsteke  
Hon. Barbara W. Wallace  
Hon. E. Richard Webber  
Jeff Wehmer  
Benjamin Westhoff  
Sharon R. Wice  
Hon. Michael Wolff  
Hon. Rochelle Woodiest  
Stephen R. Woodley  
Jennifer Woulfe

### Holiday Party—December 5

Join us at 5:30 p.m. at McGurk's for the association's annual Holiday Party

at McGurk's in Soulard on Tuesday, December 5.

Contributions to St. Patrick's Center will be accepted.

time in the history of the organization that women have held the positions of President (**Jennine Adamek Moore**), President-Elect (**Nicole Burlison Knepper**), 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (**Jennifer Woulfe**), 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (**Rebecca Cary**), and Secretary (**Erin Milligan**), and it only took 89 years! Now if only we could eliminate that pesky Treasurer... just kidding! We love you, **Graham Dobbs**!

So what's on the docket for the show this year? Well a woman-led show does not have much of an effect on the dancing, which has been

female-dominated for some time. Really, the audience should be thanking the women in the front row for, at a minimum, screening them from some of the truly horrific dancing that goes



on in the back row. And never fear! We could never dispose of many of the tried and true (and often overdone) favorites. Will we make fun of some of the biggest names in the St. Louis legal community? Duh! Will some of our lines fall flat? Probably. Will Brown & James be the butt of at least a couple jokes? Have you been to the Gridiron before? The Future Is Female is not about changing what we love about our show, but recognizing the continuing strides towards greater representation in an organization that was founded on the principles of inclusion and equality. You can still expect the same show we have all come to cherish (and dread) each year. Just expect a little more pizzazz, a little more sparkle, a little more *je ne sais quoi*.

And get used to it, boys, the future IS female.

## Award of Honor

And, the winner of the 2024 Prestigious Award of Honor is



**Debbie Champion**

Partner

Rynearson, Suess, Schnurbusch & Champion

The Award of Honor dinner will be held in the Spring of 2024. A date and location will be announced shortly.

## Gridiron Highsteppers \*

### Executive Producers

- ◆ Blitz Bardgett & Deutsch, LLC
- ◆ Casey, Devoti & Brockland, PC
- ◆ Fox & Vuylsteke / Kolker Law Firm
- ◆ Franke Schultz & Mullen, PC
- ◆ Gausnell, O'Keefe & Thomas, LLC
- ◆ Gray Ritter Graham
- ◆ Holloran Schwartz Gaertner, LLP
- ◆ Jim Holloran / McGurk's
- ◆ Rosenblum Schwartz Fry & Johnson
- ◆ Travis Noble, PC

### Writers Roundtable

- ◆ Brown & Crouppen, PC
- ◆ Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner, LLP
- ◆ Childress Ahlheim Cary, LLC
- ◆ Galloway Johnson Tompkins Burr & Smith
- ◆ Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale, PC
- ◆ Husch Blackwell, LLP
- ◆ Kamykowski & Taylor, PC
- ◆ Lexitas
- ◆ O'Brien Law Firm
- ◆ Pitzer Snodgrass, PC
- ◆ The Simon Law Firm, PC
- ◆ The Bar Plan
- ◆ USA & M

### Chorus Line

- ◆ Baker Sterchi Cowden Rice, LLC
- ◆ Kennedy Hunt, PC
- ◆ Onder Law
- ◆ Zevan Davidson Roman, LLC

\* through 11/11/2023



**Jennine Adamek Moore**, President of The Lawyers Association, presents the President's Plaque to **Dan Rousseau**, Immediate Past President of the Association, at the September Judicial Appreciation program.

# PARTY TIME...EXCELLENT!

*By: Erin Milligan & Jenny Woulfe*

Ahhh...it's that time of year, St. Louis. The leaves are changing, the weather is getting cooler, and, most importantly, the holiday party calendar is starting to fill. The St. Louis legal community is no slouch when it comes to throwing a big holiday bash, but with a limited number of days in December, how does a lawyer decide which party to attend? Well never fear, dear readers, we are here to help you hit the party circuit like a pro.

## **Best Party for Meeting a Local Celebrity Who (Allegedly) Killed Someone: Rosenblum, Schwartz, Fry & Johnson**

It's no secret in St. Louis that if you are accused of a major crime, you want Scott Rosenblum on your side, and lucky for us, he invites many of his clients to his holiday party each year. There's just nothing like hobnobbing with the convicted, the accused, or the soon-to-be-accused. Thrilling!

## **Best Party You Are Probably Not Invited To: Blitz, Bardgett & Deutsch**

The Blitz, Bardgett & Deutsch party is the stuff of legends, and we mean that literally. So few have actually attended this party (your authors included), that details can be scarce. All we can report presently from intel we've gleaned over the years is that each party-goer receives their own personalized etched bottle of Cristal, you'll eat oysters twelve ways, and if you're lucky, you'll end the night bathing in caviar and diamonds. Honestly, we are starting to harbor some suspicion this party does not even exist. Bob, if you would like to prove us wrong, please send our invitations c/o Jim Susman, executive director of the Lawyers Association.

## **Best Party to Prove Lawyers Can't Dance: Fox & Vuylsteke**

It's not just the Gridiron Show that proves why most of us chose law school over the fine arts. Each year, the Fox & Vuylsteke party brings down the house with the music of Three Pedros. Inspired by a little liquid courage, local attorneys take to the dance floor to show off their best moves and make other poor decisions, while Ken Vuylsteke stands at the ready with a stack of business cards to assist anyone who pulls a hammy out on the dance floor.

## **Best Party to Go Wild: Onder Law Firm**

We considered plenty descriptors when deciding what to award the Onder Party, but we decided to keep it simple and go with "wild." For the many of you who have attended in the past, I am sure you can fill in with more detail. For those of you who have not, use your imagination. The evening is

sure to bring you many delights, including a comped taxi to take you back to your home when you've taken all you can take. While you may not remember where you placed your wallet or other crucial items, at least you'll know where you are when you awake.

## **Best Party Overall: The Lawyers Association of St. Louis**

Don't act surprised. This list is being published in the Lawyers Association Newsletter, after all. If you disagree, please feel free to submit your own list and see if we publish it next year, and don't hold your breath for an invitation to our party next year (i.e., 2024's Best Holiday Party). Otherwise, we look forward to seeing you at the Lawyers Association's party on Tuesday, December 5. It's at McGurk's, so we can, at a minimum, guarantee you will have a tolerably good time.

Happy Holidays, St. Louis.

## **President's Column**

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In their second year as directors, Tom Neill and Chantal Mehill are running a tight ship getting us all ready for Friday night's show. I want to thank them for all their hard work and dedication. No need to worry, we have until Friday night to learn our lines and dance moves. If we don't, then that will make it all the more humorous.

I also want to thank all the past Presidents of the Lawyers Association who brought dinner for the cast and also donated money to keep the cast well fed and hydrated. We greatly appreciate your continued support.

While you will not confuse the Downtown St. Louis Marriott Grand with Broadway or even off-off-Broadway, this year's show is sure to entertain. For those of you who like to sneak out mid-show, you might want to reconsider so you do not miss the colorful closing number guaranteed to bring you back to the 80s (or at least for those who were born before 1980). If you have been procrastinating or wondering whether it is really worth spending \$125 on a ticket, contact Jim Susman today and purchase tickets because ... it WILL be worth it.

Thank you and I look forward to seeing everyone on Friday night!



Judicial Appreciation Celebration

