



President's Column

By *Jennifer L. Woulfe*
Galloway Johnson Tompkins
Burr & Smith, PC

The leaves are changing, the temperatures are cooling, and the kids are back in school. For any normal person, this shift would signify fall in St. Louis. But to those of us in the know, this can only mean one thing - Gridiron Season. Call it dedication or maybe insanity, but the members of the Gridiron cast give up two nights a week for two months just to hang out at a VFW hall and pretend for a while that they were destined for the stage instead of the courtroom. What kind of a person would do something like this? I will tell you who – this person.

This year marks my 13th consecutive Gridiron Show (I will leave it for you to decide on show night whether that unlucky number portends something unfortunate for this year's production). Explaining the Gridiron to someone who has never seen the show, or even worse, someone who is not in the legal field, has always presented a unique challenge. A typical conversation goes something like this...

"Wait, so you are telling me a bunch of lawyers sing and dance on stage, and people pay to see this?"

"Yes," I reply.

"So this must be for charity or something, right?"

"No, it's not," I admit.

Suffice it to say that I have spent a lot of time over the years trying to come up with the best way to describe the Gridiron. After 13 years of trial and error, I think I have finally come up with a sufficient response. So here it goes...

Happy Gridiron Season!

By *Chantal Mehill, UB Greensfelder, LLP*

With Halloween behind us and Thanksgiving and Christmas fast approaching, many of us are looking forward to the holiday season. That time of year filled with Tuesday and Thursday evening gatherings with our favorite lawyer friends, followed by Wednesday and Friday morning hangovers we'd sooner forget. And amid this festive stretch, we celebrate a commercially lesser known but dearly beloved holiday of our own: the Annual Gridiron Show

As the temperatures drop and daylight shortens, the Gridiron cast has been hard at work preparing a show that's sure to delight — ideally after three to five cocktails. This year's production, "Who's Afraid of Jenny Woulfe?," is led by none other than Jenny Woulfe, the 2025-2026 LASL Madame President and all-around renaissance woman.

Jenny is no stranger to the Gridiron stage. In her twelve previous seasons, she's showcased her choreography skills, dancing talent, and, most notably, her willingness to be the butt of the joke whenever asked. For her lucky thirteenth season, she brings her trademark humor, energy, and leadership to the helm, ensuring this year's show will be one to remember... assuming anyone is sober enough to.

Mark your calendars and gather your colleagues for a night of laughter, music, and questionable legal satire at the 68th Annual Gridiron Show on Friday, November 21, at the Marriott St. Louis Grand Hotel. Tickets are on sale now! Don't miss your chance to toast the season and celebrate the most wonderful, ridiculous, and lawyerly time of the year.

To buy a sponsorship, reserve a table or purchase individual tickets, please contact Jim Susman at susgroup@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

Friday, November 21

Gridiron Dinner & Show

6:00 p.m.

St. Louis Marriott Grand Hotel

Tuesday, December 9

Holiday Party

5:30 p.m.

McGurk's

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

Bowling Tournament

5:00 p.m.

Saratoga Lanes, Maplewood

Thursday, February 19, 2026

Black History Month Program

21c Museum Hotel

5:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 11, 2026

Picnic & Softball Game

Tilles Park, Skow Shelter, St. Louis Co.

4:00 p.m.

The Lawyers Association of St. Louis

Officers

Jennifer Woulfe, President
Rebecca Cary, President-Elect
Chantal Mehill, 1st Vice President
Graham Dobbs, 2nd Vice President
Mandy Kamykowski, Secretary
Hayley Hughes, Treasurer

Executive Committee Members

Stephanie Black
Ashlyn Calhoun
Andrew Eastman
Jim Gottschalk
Nick Meriage
Mariel L. Taylor

Past Presidents

Nicole Burlison Knepper
Jennine Adamek Moore
Dan Rousseau

Executive Director

Jim Susman



Sustaining Members

The Lawyers Association of St. Louis is grateful to the following Sustaining Members for their added support to the association.

Theresa A. Appelbaum
William R. Bay
James Beal
Mark J. Becker
Jennifer S. Bernacki
Jill S. Bollwerk
Patrick J. Boyle
Anne-Marie Brockland
Tom Burke
Hon. Rex Burlison
Jared Byrne
Matthew C. Casey
Thomas J. Casey
Phillip Cervantes
James W. Childress
Hon. Robert Clayton III
Mary Coffey
Morry S. Cole
Matthew J. Devoti
M. Graham Dobbs
Hon. Colleen Dolan
Douglas P. Dowd
Don M. Downing
Jack Downing
Hon. Ellen Dunne
Peter J. Dunne
James Eason
James A. Fox
Aaron French
Gretchen Garrison
Michael S. Geigerman
Doreen Graham
Thomas J. Gregory
Steve Groves
Gary A. Growe
Justin D. Guerra
Amy Gunn
Donald Gunn, Jr.
John R. Gunn
Michael P. Gunn

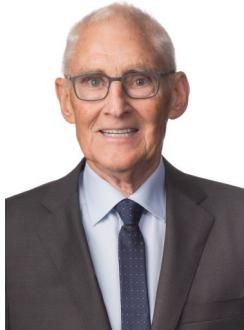
Patrick R. Gunn
Patrick J. Hagerty
Craig Hansen
Hon. Renee Hardin
Tammons
Hon. Heather J. Hays
Lisa A. Herder
Hon. Philip M. Hess
Hon. Craig Higgins
Hon. Bruce Hilton
David G. Hughes
John M. Hughes
Richard L. Hughes
Mandy J. Kamykowski
Nicole Burlison Knepper
Scott L. Kolker
Marc S. Kramer
John A. Lally
Hon. JB Lasater
Hon. Julia Lasater
Mark H. Levison
Hon. Ellen Sue Levy
Rob Litz
Hon. Annette Llewellyn
Joan Lockwood
John F. Mahon, Jr.
Hon. W. Christopher
McDonough
Hon. Christopher McGraugh
Chantal F. Mehill
Stephen F. Meyerkord
Callan Moench
Nancy R. Mogab
Jennine Adamek Moore
Andrew Mundwiller
Morgan C. Murphy
Hon. Maggie Neill
Hon. Mark Neill
Thomas K. Neill
Genevieve Nichols

Gerard T. Noce
Hon. Glenn Norton
James G. Onder
Matthew J. Padberg
Ted L. Perryman
G. Keith Phoenix
Hon. Angela Turner Quigless
Daniel A. Raniere
Hon. Robin Ransom
James E. Rhodes
Dan Rousseau
Hon. Justin Ruth
Daniel T. Ryan
Craig A. Schlappizzi
Donald L. Schlappizzi
Michael Schroeder
Tom Schwartz
Mary Anne Sedey
Anthony Simon
John Simon
Erica Slater
Jennifer Steinmeyer
Tom Stewart
Robert M. Susman
Mariel L. Taylor
William S. Thomas
Robert E. Tucker
Bharat Varadachari
David Vaughn
Paul N. Venker
Lynn Ann Vogel
Kenneth Vuylsteke
Hon. Barbara W. Wallace
T. Michael Ward
Hon. E. Richard Webber
Benjamin Westhoff
Sharon R. Wice
Hon. Michael Wolff
Hon. Rochelle Woodiest
Stephen R. Woodley
Jennifer Woulfe
David Zevan

The Lawyers Association congratulates [John Simon](#) for being selected as the 2026 Award of Honor Recipient. Details to come.

Maurice B. (“Marcy”) Graham: In Memoriam

By *Graham Dobbs*, *Gray Ritter Graham*



On September 9, 2025, I received the news that Marcy Graham had passed away, peacefully, at home. It was not a surprise. As many know, he had been battling ALS in recent years. It was still a shock, as the magnitude of such a loss usually is.

One of the few remaining giants of the legal profession, Marcy had been practicing law for literally as long as I had been alive. In a career

spanning some 62 years, there was almost nothing he had not seen or done. Whenever he did it, it was always done to the highest professional and ethical standards.

My law partner, Morry Cole and I had a mission over the last 28 years of practicing with Marcy. Could we find something Marcy had not done? Spoiler alert: we were ultimately unsuccessful. From corporate to transactional law, as a prosecuting attorney, in civil defense and plaintiff's trial practice, at administrative tribunals and in the highest appellate courts, Marcy had been there and done that. He was able to continue doing what he always loved, practicing law, with a high degree of civility, up until 8 weeks before his passing.

He was one of the most widely recognized and respected names in our legal community. Marcy was a fierce litigator and impressive advocate. Those metrics, however, were always tempered by civility and courtesy, and a focus on the real and important issues involved. On top of being a legend in our profession, and a perfect example of what a lawyer should be, Marcy was a kind, caring human being. He always had time to answer a question, give advice, or just listen and be present. Marcy showed us at GRG, and many others across the state, that being kind and respectful were not weaknesses, but in fact the greatest strengths for effective advocacy. As a new lawyer appearing for the first time on a case of his, I would often receive an undeserved benefit of the doubt from the bench (which lasted until I opened my mouth). Whether in a rural county or here in the St. Louis metropolitan area, this was always followed by a warm "and please give Mr. Graham my regards," from the judge or opposing counsel. Usually both.

Over the course of his long career, Marcy earned the recognition of his peers and a spotless reputation. I won't try to recap all of his awards and accomplishments here. They are legion. Among his many accolades, was of course the Award of Honor in 2010. In 2022, the Supreme Court of Missouri announced it was renaming an annual award for extraordinary service to The Bar and the Judiciary, the "Maurice B. Graham Award." In 2023, Marcy's legal *alma mater*, The

University of Missouri School of Law, dedicated a classroom in his honor "to remind students that they too can make a difference."

Marcy held leadership roles in multiple legal and civic organizations, including the American College of Trial Lawyers, where he served as the Missouri State Chair, as well as the National Center for State Courts. He served as President of the Missouri Bar in 1988. He was rightfully proud of the work he did on behalf of Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, and was equally thrilled with the cultural opportunities he helped foster through his service on the board of The Sheldon.

While he was certainly known as a "lawyer's lawyer," he was also, and perhaps best known, for his humanity and willingness to help and serve others. Marcy would regularly emphasize that "Clients don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care." From the Show-Me-State, Marcy showed you he cared, especially when it mattered. With boundless energy, Marcy took the time to get to know you, what was important to you, and what was important about your particular situation. He gave freely of his time to individuals and organizations alike, often squeezing in that early morning breakfast or coffee with a young lawyer, a mid-day lunch meeting with an opponent to share his "notes" on how they had done at trial, or an evening in black-tie for a worthy cause. The next day he would be off to a deposition on the coast, or on a four-hour drive to visit clients at their home so he could learn more about them and their families. After that, he may have driven over to Columbia to serve his beloved Mizzou on a pressing matter.

Many were beneficiaries of Marcy's enormous generosity. After his death, lawyers across Missouri expressed their condolences, many commenting on the kind notes Marcy sent them throughout the years. Every time Marcy met a new lawyer, opposed someone in trial, or ran into an old friend or acquaintance, he would jot out a thoughtful note card, written in his signature brown pen. The message was always uplifting, on point, and often contained nuggets of sage advice.

Among several treasured memories, there are a stack of such notes in my files. After my mother's death, I found a note Marcy sent to my parents. They'd brought him tomatoes from their garden. Marcy took the time to sit and visit with them in his office, and send along a thank you note, praising their son on his first year in practice (for what reason I can't fathom). There are also two somewhat related, "graduation memories" which I'll share. When I graduated law school, Marcy of course took time to attend the ceremony. I found him afterward, helping my father down the stairs from the balcony at Powell Hall. (My parents had been Marcy's clients decades earlier down in St. Francois County, and he had recognized them in the crowd.) Years later, when my oldest daughter graduated from Mizzou, Marcy insisted on

Continued on Page 6

Lawyer on the Street

By *Hayley Hughes*, Gausnell, O’Keefe & Thomas, LLC

Every day, lawyers step into courtrooms, boardrooms, and offices—but what happens when we step out onto the street? “Lawyers on the Street” takes the pulse of the legal profession from a different angle, capturing candid conversations, quick opinions, and spontaneous reflections from attorneys we meet in everyday places. This series offers a refreshing, unfiltered glimpse into the minds behind the suits. Whether it is a laugh, a lesson, or a moment of truth, you will find it here—straight from the street.



Jim Gottschalk of Gausnell, O’Keefe & Thomas, LLC

Q. How many years have you been in the Gridiron Show?

A. This is show number thirty-eight.

Q. What made you join the Gridiron Show?

A. A friend of mine convinced me it would be fun.

Q. What is your favorite part about practicing for the Gridiron Show?

A. Talking to people. Oh wait, I meant to say it is learning choreography and songs.

Q. Would you rather win every case but never get paid or lose every case but get rich?

A. Win. Although I would need to lose some cases along the way so I could go on vacation.

Q. What is the weirdest legal question someone has asked you at a party?

A. Come on, are you really a lawyer?

Q. What is your theme song when walking into court?

A. Defense attorneys do not really have theme songs do they...

Q. Finish the sentence: “Being a lawyer is like _____.”

A. A box of chocolates.

Elisa Leighton of Eckenrode-Bauman



Q. How many years have you been in the Gridiron Show?

A. This is my fifth year.

Q. What made you join the Gridiron Show?

A. I was “voluntold” when I attended the summer picnic.

Q. What is your favorite part about practicing for the Gridiron Show?

A. It is great to socialize with attorneys and judges in a fun and unique atmosphere.

Q. Would you rather win every case but never get paid or lose every case but get rich?

A. Lose every case but get rich. I need to pay my bills.

Q. What is the weirdest legal question someone has asked you at a party?

A. If I killed someone right now, you could defend me, right?

Q. What is your theme song when walking into court?

A. The Superman theme song.

Q. Finish the sentence: “Being a lawyer is like _____.”

A. Putting on a powerful performance with no sleep.



Emma Sikora Paulus of SWMW Law

Q. How many years have you been in the Gridiron Show?

A. Three years.

Q. What made you join the Gridiron Show?

A. As a kid and teen, I participated in some singing and theatre and was excited to learn about an opportunity where I could do that as an adult in a fun and not self-serious way.

Q. What is your favorite part about practicing for the Gridiron Show?

A. Getting to hang out with the friends I have made through the show two times a week.

Q. Would you rather win every case but never get paid or lose every case but get rich?

A. I would probably rather win every case – losing every case and getting rich is no fun.

Q. What is the weirdest legal question someone has asked you at a party?

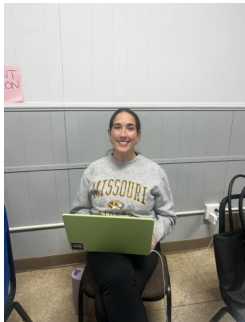
A. I cannot think of one to be honest!

Q. What is your theme song when walking into court?

A. It definitely varies, but my walk up song of the moment so to speak would be most anything from Kendrick's GNX album.

Q. Finish the sentence: "Being a lawyer is like _____."

A. When you go back to high school and realize all of the things you thought mattered really do not and that we are all just doing our best and trying to figure things out along the way.



Emily Polizzi of Cofman Townsley

Q. How many years have you been in the Gridiron Show?

A. This is my second year.

Q. What made you join the Gridiron Show?

A. I clerked with Nicki Knepper while I was in law school, and she encouraged me to join. My first Gridiron Show was the year she was president.

Q. What is your favorite part about practicing for the Gridiron Show?

A. Getting to see everyone twice a week and meeting new people every year.

Q. Would you rather win every case but never get paid or lose every case but get rich?

A. I would choose to win every case but never get paid. However, I do want to acknowledge this is a very privileged answer. I am fortunate to have strong support from my family and friends, which gives me the ability to focus on helping my clients. I know not everyone has that kind of support, and I think it is important to acknowledge that.

Q. What is the weirdest legal question someone has asked you at a party?

A. Several times I have had people ask me "hey is this illegal?" regarding something they have already done. #1 I do not practice criminal law. #2 I cannot save you from the choices you have already made.

Q. What is your theme song when walking into court?

A. Did It O n' Em by Nicki Minaj

Q. Finish the sentence: "Being a lawyer is like _____."

A. Being stuck in a never-ending game of tug-of-war when nobody wants to let go, but everyone is convinced they are winning.

President's Message—continued from Page 1

The Gridiron is a precious couple of months each year where I get to set aside the pretense and other bullshit that often accompanies our profession and spend time with other lawyers in a laid back, low intensity setting. That's not to say we don't work hard, but it difficult to be too full of oneself as you are doing the grapevine under the harsh lighting of the VFW reception hall on a Tuesday night after downing a couple slices of pizza and a beer. The Gridiron is where I do not see opponents or judges or business competitors, but rather people who just like me are navigating their way through this intense, crazy job that we decided to make our profession. It is where I have made some of the best friendships of my life. The Gridiron is something special that keeps many of us coming back year after year.

So I hope you enjoy this year's show as much as I (and hopefully the rest of the cast) have enjoyed creating it. We can't wait to see you on November 21st!

Marcy Graham—continued from Page 3

driving to Columbia, donning his Curator's gown, and presenting her diploma personally. After her ceremony, he shot across campus to do the same thing for another graduate.

Marcy was many things during his long and successful life: football player and referee, outdoorsman, hiker, cyclist, Boy Scout, Marine, beloved husband to his wife Edna Mae, and father to son Lee Graham. In addition to his family, Marcy loved the law like few attorneys ever do. He was truly a gifted attorney, but also a friend, counselor, mentor, and example of excellence. He started out as a "country lawyer" in Fredericktown, Missouri, and his practice inevitably grew, through his gifts and efforts, to include litigation in state and federal courts across the country.

When faced with a thorny or novel issue, one thing that has served me well in the practice of law is trying to answer the question, "What Would Marcy Do?" I recommend it. Several years ago, I called the Office of Legal Ethics Counsel for guidance on an issue. The initial response? "Why don't you walk down the hall and ask Marcy?" Sadly, I can no longer do that. Thankfully, Marcy left us many fine examples to serve as guideposts. Based on the record of his life's work, we really should be able to figure it all out for ourselves if we try. Thank you, Marcy!

CLE seminar

By Jennifer Wolfe, Galloway Johnson Tompkins Burr & Smith, PC

On October 21, 2025, the Lawyers Association, in partnership with ATTY Financial,



hosted a CLE entitled IOLTA Under the Microscope: Accounting, Ethics & Banking Solutions. This presentation delved into the history of the IOLTA program, the ethical requirements attorneys face in administering their IOLTA accounts, the various ways we, as a profession, manage to fail in adhering to those requirements, and solutions for staying in compliance. Presenter Kip J. Bilderback, owner of Bilderback Business Advisors, touched on the duties the Missouri Rules of Professional Conduct place on lawyers not only in the practice of law itself, but also in the business of running their firm. Law school is not business school, Kip noted, but lawyers are still held to standards related to accurate accounting and checks and balances that would be more familiar to someone with an MBA than a JD. This point is especially pertinent when it comes to managing funds in an IOLTA account, as those remain the property of the client, and the lawyer has a duty to protect those assets. Kip was joined by John C. Scott, CPA, AEP, a partner at Anders, whose team works directly with law firms in assessing their accounting and compliance needs. John discussed helping develop processes and procedures for firms to manage payment systems, bookkeeping, and reconciliation of accounts, including IOLTA accounts. He also shared some war stories about what happens with an attorney fails to adhere to those processes. Finally, Travis Leibig, Founder and CEO of ATTY Financial, explained the concierge-level service offered by ATTY Financial in providing banking solutions tailored specifically to lawyers. After the audience started to worry about all the IOLTA rules they might be breaking, Travis offered relief in the tools ATTY Financial can provide, so we can all get back to doing what we do best – practicing law.

Attendees not only earned 1.2 ethics credits, but they also gained valuable tools and advice they can take back to their own practices. The CLE was followed by a happy hour sponsored by ATTY Financial where attendees could mingle with the presenters and discuss challenges they face in their firms. Thank you again to ATTY Financial for organizing this event with us and to Husch Blackwell for generously offering up their space to us a second time in as many months.

Judicial Appreciation Dinner Honoring Judge Gary Gaertner, Jr.

By *Mandy Kamykowski, Kamykowski & Taylor, PC*



The Annual Judicial Appreciation Dinner took place September 25, 2025 in the beautiful rooftop event space of the new Husch Blackwell offices in Clayton, Missouri, where members of the bench and bar gathered to honor Judge Gary Gaertner, Jr.'s 25 years of judicial service and decades-long commitment to the Association.

The evening opened with remarks by attorney and St. Louis City Alderman Matt Devoti, who welcomed guests, thanked Husch Blackwell for hosting, and set the tone for a night that blended humor, respect, and community spirit.

Judge Gaertner delivered a speech that was both nostalgic and witty, reflecting on his decades-long connection to the Association, beginning as a child watching his father play softball there. He praised trial lawyers as the "backbone of the legal profession," commending their toughness, professionalism, and humanity, qualities AI will never replace.

He credited countless mentors and colleagues, including the late Chuck Todt, who once urged him to "start being nice" (or maybe something a little more colorful!). Judge Gaertner also reaffirmed his strong support for Missouri's Nonpartisan Court Plan, emphasizing its importance in preserving fairness and public trust in the judiciary.

With his trademark humor, Judge Gaertner quipped that being a judge is "easy compared to being a trial lawyer," thanked the Association for its support, and closed with heartfelt appreciation: "Thank you for allowing me to serve you and our community. God bless."

Lawyer in the Street — continued from Page 5



Jenna DeBarry of Padberg Appelbaum Knepper

Q. How many years have you been in the Gridiron Show?

A. This is my second year in the Gridiron.

Q. What made you join the Gridiron Show?

A. I joined because my boss, Nicole Knepper, was the president last year, and I wanted to support her show. I had so much fun last year that there was no question I would be returning this year.

Q. What is your favorite part about practicing for the Gridiron Show?

A. My favorite part of practice is meeting new people, getting out of my comfort zone, and the opportunity to be goofy with colleagues we are normally so serious around.

Q. Would you rather win every case but never get paid or lose every case but get rich?

A. I would rather win every case and never get paid. I do not think my mental health could survive losing every case.

Q. What is the weirdest legal question someone has asked you at a party?

A. What is the proper lighting for farming implements?

Q. What is your theme song when walking into court?

A. Another One Bites the Dust.

Q. Finish the sentence: "Being a lawyer is like _____."

A. Being the person everyone calls on a bad day, but getting to help people through their hard days is the most rewarding part of the job.

Judicial Appreciation Photos



The Hon. Gary Gaertner, Jr.'s remarks at Judicial Appreciation program on Thursday, September 25, 2025

I WANT TO THANK EVERYONE FOR COMING TONIGHT. NORMALLY, THERE ARE TWO, THREE AND EVEN 4 25 YEAR JUDGES, UNFORTUNATELY, THERE IS ONLY ONE TONIGHT, SO I AM GOING TO USE THE OTHER THREE JUDGES' SPEECH TIME TO SEE IF I CAN OUTDO KEN VUELSTEKE.

WHAT IS THE LAWYER'S ASSOCIATION OF ST. LOUIS TO ME-IT IS AN ORGANIZATION THAT MY DAD WHO WAS A CIRCUIT JUDGE IN THE CITY TOOK ME TO WATCH HIM PLAY SOFTBALL AT THE LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION AND EAT AS MANY FREE HOTDOGS AS I COULD 55 YEARS AGO. IT IS AN ORGANIZATION OF ATTORNEYS WHO I CONSIDER TOUGH AND HONORABLE PROFESSIONALS WHO ARE THE MODERN DAY WORD GLADIATORS WHO ACTUALLY TRY JURY TRIALS AND WHO WILL NOT BE ELIMINATED BY AI BECAUSE THEY VOIR DIRE JURY PANELS, DIRECT AND CROSS WITNESSES AND MAKE THEIR CLOSING ARGUMENTS AND THEN GET A DRINK WITH THEIR OPPOSING COUNSEL WAITING FOR THE JURY TO RETURN. TRIAL ATTORNEYS ARE THE BACKBONE OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION AND WHAT I CONSIDER THE LEADERS OF OUR PROFESSIONAL, WHETHER THEY ARE PLAINTIFF, DEFENSE, OR PROSECUTION.

TRIALS ATTORNEYS GET A BAD RAP TODAY, BUT I WOULD PUT THE TRIAL ATTORNEYS OF THE LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION IN PLACE OF EVERY POLITICIAN IN DC, BECAUSE THEY WOULD ACTUALLY COMPROMISE, SETTLE AND GET THINGS ACCOMPLISHED. I CANNOT IMAGINE ANY TRIAL ATTORNEY I KNOW SAYING I AM GOING TO TRY EVERY CASE I HAVE TO VERDICT-SOMETIMES CASES NEED TO BE TRIED AND MORE TODAY NEED TO BE TRIED IMO, BUT ON THE WHOLE TRIAL ATTORNEYS DO A SERVICE THAT OUR SOCIETY NEEDS EVEN IF SOCIETY OFTEN DOES NOT WANT TO ADMIT TO NEEDING US. TRIAL ATTORNEYS TRACE THEIR LIENAGE TO PRESIDENT JOHN ADAMS WHO REPRESENTED BRITISH TROOPS INVOLVED IN THE BOSTON MASSACRE IN 1770, BECAUSE PRESIDENT ADAMS BELIEVED THAT EVERYONE DESERVED A FAIR TRIAL.

I HAVE BEEN BLESSED AND HONORED TO HAVE BEEN AROUND THE LAWYER'S ASSOC FOR 55 YEARS AND 35 AS AN ATTORNEY AND JUDGE. MANY MEMBERS MENTORED ME, HELPED ME GET ON THE BENCH-IN FACT REDIRECTED ME LIKE FORMER LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT CHURCK TODT WHO IN 2000 TOOK ME AS A NEW CIRCUIT JUDGE INTO MY JURY ROOM AND TOLD ME DIRECTLY, YOU ARE BECOMING A COMPETE ASSHOLE, ACTUALLY CHUCK USED A WORSE WORD START BEING NICE. I CALLED MY DAD AFTER THE MEETING, TOLD HIM WHAT HAD TRANSPIRED, HE ASKED ME WHAT I WAS GOING TO DO, I SAID I WILL TRY NOT TO BE ASSHOLE, MY DAD SAID GOOD, NOW CALL CHUCK AND THANK HIM, WHICH I DID AND I AM THANKING HIM AGAIN 25 YEARS LATER EVEN THOUGH CHUCK IS ONLY WITH US IN SPIRIT. I HAD GREAT MENTORS AND BOSSES LIKE MIKE O'KEEFE WHO HIRED ME AT THOMPSONS MITCHELL'S MAIL ROOM, ED SWEENEY WHO TRIED 35 CASES TO VERDICT IN A YEAR, STEVE OHMER, GEORGE DRAPER IN THE CAO, EDDIE SLIM DOWD, JR., DICK POEHLING, JIM CROWE, MIKE REAP IN THE USATTY'S OFFICE, JACK MURPHY. TOMMY GREEN, THE BRILLIANT STEVE RINGKAMP, ALAN MANDEL, BOB RITTER, JIMMY HOLLORAN, ALLAN ALLRED, JUDGES LIKE A HENRY AUTREY, BOBBY DOWD, MIKE DAVID, MIKE GODFREY, DICK WEBBER, STEVEN LIMBAUGH, JR.-I TRIED TO EMULATE A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYONE OF THEM AS I HAD TRIED CASES IN FRONT THEM AND SAW HOW GREAT JURISTS ACTED, I CAME UP SHORT BUT TRIED. I GUESS I WILL MENTION FRAWLEY FOR NOT LOCKING ME UP FOR CONTEMPT EVERY DAY WHEN HE FIRST STARTED AS A CIRCUIT JUDGE AS I DID BULK CRIMINAL PLEAS IN FRONT OF HIM AND I TOLD HIM DAILY YOU ARE VIOLATING YOUR OATH OF OFFICE GIVING EVERYONE PROBATION, TOM IS NOW THINKING RIGHT, BUT BOY DID IT TAKE A LONG TIME-NO SURPRISE THERE. I THANK KENNY ROMINES FOR TEACHING ME A LOT ABOUT BEING A CIRCUIT JUDGE. JOKINGLY SINCE I KNEW EVERYTHING BY THE TIME I WENT ON THE COURT OF APPEALS, BUT I WAS DEEPLY INFLUENCED BY LIONS LIKE PAUL SIMON, RICKY TEITELMAN AND LIONESS MARY RUSSELL, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, MY DAD AND BROTHER. I CANNOT THANK ENOUGH TOM WALSH OF BRYAN CAVE, GEORGE PEACH-FRANCIS SLAY JR, JUDGE SIMON AND MARTY ABOUSIE GOT GEORGE TO HIRE ME BECAUSE GEORGE HATED MY DAD AND THEY BOTH WERE LAW AND ORDER, SO WHEN GEORGE GOT JAMMED UP, HE ASKED ME TO RESEARCH QUO WARRANTO AND GIVE MY OPINION, I SAID WHY, GEORGE-I HATED YOUR DAD BUT I TRUST YOU, I DID THE RESEARCH AND 2 EVENTUALLY HAD TO TELL GEORGE IT WAS OVER, JUDGE RAY PRICE, SENATOR JOHN ASHCROFT, THE GREAT LATE GOVERNOR MEL CARNAHAN AND GOVERNOR JEREMIAH NIXON FOR HIRING ME.

[Continued on next page](#)

I WAS INVOLVED IN THE NONPARTISAN COURTPLAN, SAW UP CLOSE THE FEDERAL SYSTEM WITH MY DAD, AND CHAIRED THE CRDD COMMISSION, THE DIRTY JUDGE COMMISSION. LIKE WINTSON CHURCHILL SAID DEMOCRACY IS THE WORST FORM OF GOVERNMENT EXCEPT FOR ALL THE ALTERNATIVES. I HAVE BEEN LUCKY TO HAVE SERVED UNDER THE NONPARTISAN COURTPLAN. WHILE I WAS TRAINED BY GREAT ELECTED JUDGES WHEN I STARTED IN 2000 BY THE LIKES OF GENE HAMILTON OF COLUMBIA, ELECTIONS WOULD BE A COMPLETE NIGHTMARE IN ST. LOUIS, AND THE EASTERN DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS AND MO SCRT. WHILE ONE MAY DISAGREE WITH MY CRT, THE MO SCRT, AND THE TRIAL COURTS UNDER THE NONPARTISAN COURTPLAN, YOU HAVE A FAIR SHOT, AND THE NONPARTISAN SCREENS OUT THE CRAZIES, MOSTLY- I GOT THROUGH. I TRULY APPRECIATE ALL THE SUPPORT THE LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION HAS GIVEN THE NONPARTISAN COURTPLAN. I PRAY THAT MY KIDS WHO MAY IN THE FUTURE BECOME ATTYS WILL PRACTICE UNDER THIS SAME NONPARTISAN COURTPLAN, OTHERWISE POLITICS IS THE ONLY THING THAT OFTEN MATTERS AND 99% OF CASES POLITICS IS NOT INVOLVED.

JUDICIAL APPRECIATION NIGHT, MY ARSE, BEING A JUDGE IS EASY COMPARED TO A TRIAL ATTORNEY, I GET DECENT PAY THANKS IN LARGE PART TO FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE MIKE WOLFF, GREAT RETIREMENT, MEDICAL, I DON'T PAY FOR OVERHEAD, LIMITED STRESS COMPARED TO TRIAL LAWYERS, I HAVE CONTEMPT POWER NEVER USED IT BUT NEVER TOO LATE, IT IS MY SCHEDULE NOT YOURS, I HAVE THE BEST LAW CLERKS IN TOWN, JESS ESWINE AND ALICE WORTMAN. I TRULY APPRECIATE TRIAL ATTORNEYS WHO DO THE REAL HARD LIFTING FOR OUR SYSTEM OF JUSTICE.

I LOOKED AT THE LIST OF FORMER PRESIDENTS OF THE LAWYERS ASSOCIATION, LIONS AND LIONESSES OF OUR PROFESSION. GUS NATIONS FROM THE 1930'S, JOHN'S RELATIVE AND PROHIBITION CRIME FIGHTER, THE 1940'S MARK 3 EAGLETON, THE SENATOR'S DAD, THE 1950'S EVERETT HULVERSON, CIRCUIT JUDGE CASEY-MY WIFE'S GRANDFATHER'S ATTORNEY, THE 1960'S CIRCUIT JUDGE ORVILLE RICHARDSON, JIM HULLVERSON SR, PAUL BROWN, CHARLIE MOGAB, GENE WALSH, THE 1970'S DON GUNN, JR., DON SCHLAPPRIZZI, TOM HULLVERSON, CHUCK TODT, RICHARD C. WUESTLING, III, RICK'S DAD, BOB RITTER, JIMMY HOLLORAN, DON WOLFF, THE 1980'S MIKE GUNN, TOM CASEY, GERRY ORTBALS, KEITH PHOENIX WHO STILL HAS LEAD IN HIM FROM VIETNAM AND MAYBE SOME ATTORNEYS ALSO, THE 1990'S RAY FOURNIE, PRAY FOR MARY HIS WIFE, MAGGIE NEIL, DAN RANIERE, NANCY MOGAB, LEVISON, PADBERG, THE 2000'S DUNNE, CERVANTES, LALLY- WERE YOU OUTSIDE ON THE SIDEWALK WITH THE PROTEST SIGN, SCHWARTZ. WE IN THE ST. LOUIS LEGAL COMMUNITY ARE LUCKY THAT WE HAD SUCH GREAT MEN AND WOMEN COME BEFORE US AND TEACH US HOW TO TRY JURY TRIALS AND MORE IMPORTANTLY BE REAL HUMAN BEINGS. I AM LUCKY THAT I STARTED ON THIRD BASE AND ENDED UP ON SECOND, BUT I HAVE HAD THE BEST CAREER I COULD EVER HAVE IMAGINED SERVING ATTORNEYS AND THE CITIZENS OF MISSOURI FOR OVER 35 YEARS, I AM NOT DEAD YET, SO I CAN STILL RULE AGAINST YOU FOR ANOTHER 9 YEARS, 82 DAYS, 6 HOURS AND 15 MINUTES, BUT WHO IS COUNTING-I CAN WAIT YOU OUT. THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO SERVE YOU AND OUR COMMUNITY. I PRAY THAT I GET THE CHANCE TO SERVE OUT THE REMAINDER OF MY TERM TILL 70