



President's Column

By Teri Appelbaum
President

It is an honor to be writing my first President's Column for the Lawyer's Association of St. Louis. I write this column as our nation mourns the loss of and celebrates the life and legacy of the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a/k/a the Notorious RBG. What an extraordinary woman she was and what an incredible example she is for all of us in the practice of law. RBG experienced tremendous discrimination in her legal career but she rose above the discrimination, fought against discrimination for others, and was ultimately elevated to the highest court of this great country. She dedicated her entire career advocating for equal justice under the law for all.



And I am inspired by her. She had every right to be angry, to be divisive, to spurn those who did not agree with her. But she chose another way. She convinced by unifying. She convinced with a soft voice but with powerful words. She convinced by the power of her intellect. And by the power of her example. And in the process, she gained the respect and admiration of those who opposed her. For not only did RBG respect those who strongly disagreed with her legal analysis, she befriended them. Her great friendship with the late Justice Antonin Scalia is an example to all of us that no matter how strongly we disagree, we can, at the very least, be civil with each other. And, if we are lucky, we can develop lifelong friendships.

And then I think about The Lawyers Association of St. Louis and what I love about this organization. And I think about how, in this divided world, and in this divided country, The Lawyers Association of St. Louis celebrates

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Award Honor—Sat. March 6, 2021

Gretchen Myers to Receive the Award of Honor

The Lawyers Association will honor Gretchen Myers of The Law Offices of Gretchen Myers, PC with its annual Award of Honor. Gretchen will receive the honor at the Chase Park Plaza Starlight Room on Sat. March 6, 2021. An open bar begins at 6:30 p.m. with dinner following at 7:30 p.m.

The Honorable Barbara Wallace will emcee the event. Presenters on behalf of Gretchen will be Peter Dunne, Hon. Glenn Norton and Matthew Padberg.

Tickets to the dinner are \$110 per person and tables of 10 are available. Please contact Jim Susman at 314-991-5297 or susgroup@gmail.com to make reservations and arrange payment. Reservations are preferred by Tuesday, March 2.

The Award of Honor dinner is Black Tie Optional.



Tuesday, November 3, 2020

and embraces the diversity of the trial bar, rather than divides it. Our members are as diverse as they get. We have men, women, LGBTQ members, black members, white members, Asian members, Hispanic members.

We have defense lawyers and plaintiff's lawyers; we have probate lawyers and general practitioners. We have judges at all levels. We have members of large firms and we have solo practitioners. We have new lawyers and we have not so new lawyers.

We are all different, but we are all united in our diversity. And the Lawyers Association recognizes our diversity. It celebrates our diversity. It embraces our diversity. It promotes civility and respect. Our association recognizes that our diversity works for us, rather than against us. In fact, we as a legal community are better and stronger because of it. And along the way, great friendships are formed.

The purpose of our Association's annual events—The Award of Honor, the Memorial Service, Annual Picnic and Softball game, Judicial Appreciation Night, Black History Month Dinner, Trial Masters Seminar—has been and continues to be to encourage honor, respect, civility, integrity, unity, diversity, and friendship among the members of the St. Louis Bench and Bar. And we have the Annual Gridiron Show, where we celebrate the profession with humor and song and remind each other not to take ourselves too seriously.

Which leads me to the sad, but not unexpected news that The Lawyers Association's Annual Gridiron Show for the year 2020 has been cancelled. This pandemic has affected all of us in so many ways and the Lawyers Association is no exception. Our primarily social organization is not compatible with social distancing. So many of our events are being postponed or cancelled. But we are strong. And these events will return. We have several projects in the works to provide our members with some much needed humor and to honor those we have lost. In the meantime, I believe the work of this organization has prepared our profession for these trying times. Despite the angst and division in our country, in this profession, I see civility, camaraderie, kinship. And I thank the Lawyers Association of St. Louis. And I thank RBG. Stay well friends. I hope to be celebrating with you all very soon.

Congratulations

...to Kamykowski, Gavin & Smith for earning a national certification as a Women's Business Enterprise by the Women's Business Development Center -Midwest.

...to John Gunn on become President of The Missouri Bar. Gunn is a Past President of The Lawyers Association and is a partner with The Gunn Law Firm.

...to Lisa Tsacoumangos of Brown & Crouppen, PC for being named to the Up & Coming 2020 as presented by the Missouri Lawyers Media.

...to Jennifer Matthew of Alaris on being elected President of the Women Lawyers Association

...to Shannon Dawson of Dawson Law Firm, LLC, and Jenifer Snow of Kamykowski, Gavin & Smith, P.C. on being elected Members At Large of the Women's Lawyers Association

...to Debra Price of Missouri Partnership on being elected President-Elect of the Women Lawyers.

Virtual Memorial Service

The annual Memorial Service remembering those members of the Bench & Bar who passed away in 2019 will be announced shortly and will be conducted virtually.

Members of the Bench & Bar to be remembered are:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Charles C. Allen, Jr. | Juanita Seibert McKee |
| James J. Amelung | Andrew S. Meyer |
| Francis Lee Barkofske | Edward Meyer |
| James T. Barry | Michael E. Myers |
| Craig Stewart Biesterfeld | Phillip R. Newmark |
| John F. Bild | James "Jim" L. Nouss |
| John A. Blumenfeld | James M Pree |
| L. Richard Brinkman, Jr. | Hon. Clifford John Proud |
| Bill D. Burlison | John Rabbitt |
| Michael Patrick Casey | Richard B. Ragland |
| Donald H. Clooney | Kenneth J. Rothman |
| Robert C. Cook | Vern H. Schneider |
| Henry W. Cummings | Theodore Frank Schwartz |
| David G. Dempsey | Eileen Haughey Searls |
| Richard H. Edwards | Michael Kevin Sheehan |
| Thomas J. Erbs | Edwin G. Shifrin |
| Robert E. Feigenbaum | Hon. Gerald M. Smith |
| Harry N.D. Fisher | Lawrence C. Sumner |
| Louis J. Garr, Jr. | Tim Thorton |
| Michael Gibbons | Gregory Michael Tobin |
| Jerome "Jerry" K. Grossman | Kimyard (Kim) H. Tucker |
| James Gunn, Sr. | William Edward Tucker |
| Raymond Howard, Jr. | William Stanley Walch |
| William Francis James | Russell A. "Rusty" Warren |
| Stephen Elas Kalish | Carl A. Wattenberg, Jr. |
| Alan C. Kohn | Charles Allen Werner |
| Steven David Kornblat | Edward G. Wieggers, Jr. |
| Robert Lenze | Henry Pack Willimon, Jr. |
| Michael D. Linihan | Kimberly Wulkopf |
| Joe Logan | Allen Zerman |
| Michael Peter Mannion | |

COVID-19 and the Courts

By Rebecca Cary

In March coronavirus cases spiked causing our daily practice to change overnight. Not only did many of us work remotely instead of going to our offices, but the courts switched to virtual hearings, limiting most in-person hearings. Now, as we enter October, we see courts restore in-person hearings and some normalcy. We also see courts reverting back to “Phase 0” due to COVID-19 exposure at the courthouse.

There are four operational phases designed for resuming in person proceedings, “Phase Zero” being the most restrictive. Ten Missouri Circuit Courts are in “Phase Zero,” meaning that most in-person proceedings are suspended, and access to the courthouse is extremely limited. However, most Missouri trial courts are operating at “Phase Three.” “Phase Three” allows proceedings to resume in compliance with local social distancing and occupancy limit protocols.

What does compliance with social distancing and occupancy limits look like with jury trials? Many judges have continued civil jury trials into 2021 due to uncertainty and a backload of criminal cases. In circuits that are conducting jury trials, voir dire is conducted in multiple small groups to allow for social distancing. Spectators and witnesses are limited and sometimes prevented from watching a trial due to capacity limitations to comply with social distancing. Some courts are finding it challenging to impanel 12 jurors due to the current pandemic.

For now, we will continue to navigate the pandemic with hopes of returning to normal practice. Go to <https://www.courts.mo.gov/pandemic/> to learn the operational phase of each circuit or appellate court in Missouri.



A Presidential Debate with Children

By Justin D. Guerra

I watched the first presidential debate with my 6-year-old and 8-year-old. My intention was to give the boys a civics lesson. What a terrible mistake. The debate was full of interruptions and insults. All in all, it was a total disaster for America, and I wish my kids hadn't seen it. But on the bright side, I got a glimpse of what a child thinks about such a spectacle. Here are some of the main takeaways:



From the 6-year-old:

Q — “Is the debate at the place they do American Ninja Warrior?”

A — *Seemingly because of all the red and blue bright lights around the stage*

Q — “Are these guys’ hair real?”

A — *Obviously not; good observation*

Q — “Why don’t they take turns talking—I can’t hear what they’re saying!”

A — *You and the other 90 million people watching*

Q — “How come Trump’s flag (lapel pin) is bigger than Joe’s flag?”

A — *Great question; I’m surprised there wasn’t an agreement in advance on the flag size, especially since everyone knows the bigger flag pin you wear the more you love America*

From the 8-year-old:

Q — “How come they don’t have to wear masks and we do?”

A — *I’m sure the president put on his mask immediately after he left the stage to be a good role model for others*

Q — “So, Trump hates Joe, right?”

A — *What gave you that idea?*

Q — “Why don’t they raise their hands to talk?”

A — *Great idea*

Q — “Can we go to bed? This is boring.”

A — *Wow, I never thought I would hear that while watching TV*

This will be the one and only debate the kids watch this year. But at least now I know what to put on TV when the kids won’t go to bed.

Stories from a Mad World

By Nicki Knepper

“The first week of home schooling, I made my sixth grader show me his completed work in Math. I always did quite well in Math and was happy to dust off a skill that I have not used for over a decade. To my dismay, my son had just about every problem wrong. I sat down with him and showed him the right way to do it. He turned in his work and a week later got his grade back. He failed. His answers were right the first time. I am no longer allowed to help my son with Math.” [Anne Brockland](#)

“I was trying to help my son with common core math and we started fighting. Obviously, I was trying to win the battle, like every other disagreement I have. My perspective changed when it escalated to him hiding under his bed and screaming at me, ‘I’m just going to be stupid! This is your problem, it’s not my problem. THIS IS YOUR PROBLEM!!!!’ It definitely was my problem. From that day forward, I let a lot go. Common core math is never the battlefield I will die on. This all was happening during a zoom meeting. Now when we have issues, my coworkers like to remind me ‘it’s your problem, not my problem.’” [Andrea McNairy](#)

“And then there was the one Friday when we were heading out to a socially-distanced neighborhood happy hour in our cul-du-sac. I put on ONE layer of mascara and some glossy lip balm and my kids AND my husband did triple takes asking me why I was so ‘dressed up’. I was in yoga pants and a Cardinals t-shirt with mom Birkenstocks. The bar is set REALLY low at my house.” [Mandy Kamykowski](#)

“My son is completely virtual for school. We sit in front of our laptops next to each other and ‘work’ all day. I try to remember this is not permanent and treasure the hug breaks my son takes during his virtual school day.” [Anna Haber](#)



Hello Friends!

By James Eason

In my first official article for our esteemed newsletter, I was asked to write about area bars where one can enjoy the outdoor patio and a great drink while maintaining your physical distance. What? Me? Write about drinking and doing the fieldwork without having to speak to anyone? Sign me up! This Executive Committee gig sure has its perks. I even have photos! All drinks are posted in order of consumption (no, not all in one day). So when you’re brief writing is anything but, take a break and head to one of these watering holes for some liberating libations.

#1 Planter’s House-Big O’ Pain Killer (Lafayette Square)

This drink has had different recipes since its creation at the Soggy Dollar Bar in the 1970’s. Simply put: It does what it says. The rum and pineapple interplay gets your mouth ready for the next drink. Warning: this drink goes down easy. I see a pain-free rideshare in your future.



#2 Hangar Kitchen + Bar-La Bamba (Rock Hill)

Very similar to the ingredients of the timeless classic Pina Colada. I know, I know, I know...two frozen drinks? In your first article? You’re on the EC? Who voted for this guy?

Look, if you’re not comfortable with a frozen cocktail just wait for it to melt. Problem solved. Pair the La Bamba with a sushi roll for the ultimate relaxing activity.



#3 Frisco Barroom-Holy Jalisco (Webster Groves)

Last but certainly not least in this drink review comes the Holy Jalisco. Sip and swig this spicy tequila concoction while you sit in solitude pondering the vagaries of opposing counsel at the last Zoom deposition. FYI, don’t drink and depose.



Sustaining Members

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

- | | |
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Save the Date
Friday, November 19, 2021
Good Seats are still available!

Remember when ... we could get together in person...



Holiday Party 2019



Bowling 2020



Judicial Appreciation 2019



Softball 2019



Gridiron Cast 2019



Black History Month Dinner 2020

... we look forward to the time when we can see you in 2021.