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Upcoming EJCBA Meetings Mark your calendars

Thursday, March 31, 2005	11:45 a.m. at Ophelia's Restaurant
Friday, April 22, 2005	CLE Seminar at Drumm Farm
Friday, May 13, 2005	Annual Steak Fry
Wednesday, June 15, 2005	EJCBA at the Royals Game Royals v. LA Dodgers
Tuesday, August 30, 2005	Annual Golf Tournament Lakewood Oaks

March 31, 2005

Ophelia's Restaurant

Join us for lunch at 11:45 a.m.. Join us for lunch with guest speaker Sean O'Brien of the Public Interest Litigation Clinic who will speak to us about the Ted White case. Make reservations with Andrea Welch at 836-8000 or amwelch@wmamlaw.com.

April 22, 2005 *CORRECTED DATE* CLE Seminar at Drumm Farm

A little of this and a little of that, and How to Survive Tort Reform. Cost is \$25, which includes lunch. Gold available to those who wish to play. Speakers will be Rusty Fracassa on Medicaid Planning and Eligibility, Commissioner Dan Wheeler on Guardianships and Conservatorships, Scott Manual and Bunk Farrington regarding Small Estate Administration and an update on Missouri's Uniform Trust Code

May 13, 2005

EJCBA Annual Steak Fry

Mark your calendars for the Annual Steak Fry, and event not to be missed. More details will be forthcoming.

June 15, 2005

Royals vs. LA Dodgers

The EJCBA will join with Cass, Clay, Johnson and Lafayette County Bar Associations for a night at the Royals. The gathers will be at the Pavilion at Kauffman Stadium. Cost is \$45 which includes a buffet. Contact Cheri Simpkins at Cherilaw@msn.com for tickets after April 1st.

Lee's Summit Municipal implements changes

Effective May 1, 2005, the Lee's Summit Municipal Court will implement the following changes in Thursday Court docket times:

Domestic Violence Docket	2:00 pm
Attorney Plea Docket	3:00 pm
General Court Docket	4:00 pm
Mental Health Court Docket	3:00 pm (third Thursday only)

Please call the Court at (816)969-7392 if you have questions

Register Online

Did you know that you can now register for an event online? This month at the bar website, www.ejcba.com, you can register for an event. As you go to the site and register, if you have any comments as to how to make the site better or if our having any problems with the site, please let us know. We appreciate your input as it will make the site better in the long run.

If you know anyone who would like to receive the Legal Beagle by email please forward their email address to:

william.d.piedimonte

@piedimontelaw.com

To send information to EJCBA, mail to:

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A Word from the Top Dog, Bob Buckley

It was a judge, Judge Gideon Tucker, who said in 1866 that “No man’s life, liberty or property is safe while the Legislature is in session.” I always thought it was Will Rodgers who said it, but Google corrected me. I don’t think it matters who said it. It was true 139 years ago, and it is true today. By the time you read this, the Missouri Senate will have passed its version of tort reform (what an oxymoron tort reform is!)

Most Lawyers I talk to are worried about the effect that tort law changes will have on their practices. I am frankly worried about the effect it will have on our clients and the quality of medicine in our region. The doctors are viewing the changes as a panacea for all or their financial concerns. I am sure they will want to undo all of the legislative changes when they find out in three or four years that their insurance rates did not decline.

What is amazing to me is how the doctors have allowed the insurance companies, pharmaceutical companies and other forces of darkness to use them to extract other changes in our civil justice system that have nothing to do with malpractice insurance rates. And why isn’t reduction of the caps tied to reduction of malpractice insurance rates?

The next target is the nonpartisan court plan. The legislature wants to change the constitution so the Missouri Senate can approve appellate appointments. WE all need to be strong on this issue and exert whatever influence we have. In my 25 years of practicing law, we have had 12 years of Democratic Governors and 13 years of Republican Governors and frankly, I think we have an excellent court of appeals in the Western District and the best Supreme Court we have ever had. If it is not broken, why fix it? We all need to get active on this issue and try to stop the train before it leaves the station. Otherwise, it will be an expensive campaign this summer.

The legislature adjourns May 13th, which coincidentally happens to be a Friday and the date of our Steak Fry. I wish it were tomorrow. I agree with Judge Tucker.

Bob Buckley

Congratulations

~Bob Welch was recognized as one of ten “Legal Leaders of the Year” by the Kansas City Daily Record. He will receive the award at the Awards Luncheon at the Hyatt Regency, April 13, 2005. Contact the Daily Record if you wish to attend.

Announcements

~Campbell, Turner and Simpkins announces a new associate, Patricia Scaglia, focusing on family law in Missouri and Kansas.

~The Boys and Girls Club is looking for attorneys to volunteer time, money and possibly serve on an advisory board. If you are interested, contact John Sommer at (816) 795-7000.