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President's Message



It is time to welcome in the new year. I am not talking from a calendar year basis, but rather from the standpoint of your bar association. September is the beginning of our new membership year and my tenure as your President of the EJCBA. I am following in the footsteps of great leaders including our past president, Bob Buckley. As a result of those who have served before me, the county seat remains protected in Independence and legal services owed to the citizens of Eastern Jackson County remain intact. We have a strong bar association and a fabulous group of judges to work with, all of which makes Eastern Jackson County a great place to live and practice law.

We need to remain strong in our efforts as a bar association. To remain strong, we need the full involvement and input of our membership. The legal profession is seemingly under constant attack and criticism. There is a great deal of misperception about lawyers and the law. The result of this misperception can clearly be seen in the legislation that has been passed over the last year. That legislation will have a significant impact on the practice areas of tort law, workers compensation and bankruptcy, just to name a few. Whether right or wrong, good or bad, the legislation was passed based in part on the perceptions of the public relative to lawyers and our system of justice. We have to be strong as a bar association and profession in order to counter such misperception. We all need to be active in our association and communities to demonstrate that our profession remains concerned, honorable and willing to help those who are less fortunate. Our actions should speak louder than our words. Be involved in your community and your bar association. Demonstrate to the public the positive nature of this profession.

Through out my tenure as president of this association, I want to take every opportunity available to improve the perception of this profession. I hope that I can count on your assistance in that regard. Be involved. Let's make this a great year.

Upcoming EJCBA Meetings Mark your calendars

Thursday, September 15, 2005	5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Fox & Hound EJCBA provides the appetizers Cash bar available. Come out and get reacquainted with your fellow bar members and judges as we start a new membership year. Please take this opportunity to invite potential new members to attend.
Thursday, October 20, 2005	11:45—1:00 p.m. Membership Luncheon Location to be announced
Thursday, November 17, 2005	11:45—1:00 p.m. Membership Luncheon Location to be announced
Friday, December 9, 2005	EJCBA Christmas Party 5:00—8:00 p.m. Drumm Farm Clubhouse

Register Online

Did you know that you can now register for an event online? This month at the bar website, www.ejcba.com, you may register for upcoming events. As you utilize this site, please give us feedback about the site and it's effectiveness. We appreciate your input to help make our site informative and functional.

If you would like to receive the Legal Beagle by email please forward your email address to:

william.d.piedimonte@piedimontelaw.com

To send information to EJCBA, mail to:

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Liberty & Justice Gala



Bob Welch, of Welch, Martin and Albano, has been honored as the recipient of this year's Liberty and Justice Legacy Award. We all know the significant contributions that Bob has made to our bar association over the years. It is great that his contributions are being recognized metro-wide by the KCMBA. It is a rarity that this type of award goes to a member of a small firm. It is even more of a rarity that it is bestowed on an individual from Eastern Jackson County. As such, we need to show our support and appreciation for Bob's tireless efforts to the profession and his community. We can do so by being present at the Gala where he will be honored. Mark your calendars. The Liberty and Justice Gala is set for November 5 at the Overland Park Sheraton. We will provide reservation information as it becomes available. Congratulations Bob for a job well done!

Golf Tournament

A huge thanks is again owed to Gene Graham, of White, Allinder, Graham & Buckley, for his successful orchestration of our annual EJCBA golf tournament. This sell-out event brought in 25 teams of attorneys and judges to the Lakewood Country Club on August 30. Best of all, the proceeds of the tournament will be used to help fund the Tom Locke Scholarship. Gene, thanks for making this one of the premier golfing events in the area. Thanks are also owed to all of our tournament sponsors and participants. Special appreciation is given to the firm of Davis, Bethune & Jones for their hospitality in sponsoring the tournament luncheon.

Mark your calendars now for next year's event, which will be held on **August 28, 2006**. Gene has already received advance registrations for 17 of the 25 team slots, so if you plan on participating, reserve your spot now. Confirm your advance reservation with Gene at: ggraham@wagblaw.com.

Leadership Academy

The KCMBA is looking for a young lawyer from the EJCBA to participate in their upcoming leadership academy. We have had members from our association participate the last couple of years. They have all given the academy glowing reviews. If you are interested in participating, contact Lauren Allen, an EJCBA participant from last year, who will fill you in regarding the benefits of this program. Lauren can be reached at 554-1500.

