



Press Release

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For Immediate Publication

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The Amazing Adventures of the KCMBA 36th Annual Bench-Bar & Boardroom Conference “Equal Justice for All”

The Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association (KCMBA) and the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Foundation (KCMBF) will host the 36th Annual Bench-Bar & Boardroom Conference (BBBC), April 30 – May 2, 2009 at Tan-Tar-A Resort, Golf Club and Spa at the Lake of the Ozarks.

U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill will be the Keynote Speaker during the Thursday night dinner that also recognizes the Deans of the Trial Bar and Barons of the Boardroom award winners. Claire McCaskill clerked for the Missouri Court of Appeals in Kansas City and then got a job as an assistant prosecutor in Kansas City, where she was a felony trial prosecutor handling sex crimes, homicides, and specializing in arson cases. In 1982, McCaskill won a seat in the State Legislature. She broke new ground again in 1993 when she became the first female Jackson County Prosecutor. As State Auditor, McCaskill has been credited for revolutionizing the office and making it into a true watchdog for taxpayers and citizens. In November of 2006, she became the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate from Missouri. McCaskill sits on five Senate Committees, including Armed Services, Commerce, Homeland Security and Government Affairs, Aging, and Indian Affairs.

The 2009 BBBC will include a Plenary session covering the Super Problems in the Law and the Superheroes Tackling Them. There will also be separate conference tracks for litigators, corporate and business practitioners, and family law practitioners.

BBBC offers members an excellent opportunity for networking with their peers. Each year there are more than 450 members in attendance, including more than 50 members of the judiciary. Judges and practitioners will be able to discuss their views on various issues by participating in the seminars, as well as by networking at a variety of social events. Serving as the official hosts of the event are the Bench-Bar & Boardroom Conference Co-Chairs.

This year's co-chairs are:

Rebecca Lake Wood, KCMBA President
Thomas V. Bender, KCMBA President-Elect
Patricia Sexton, KCMBF President
Honorable David Gregory Kays, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri
Honorable Thomas H. Newton, Missouri Court of Appeals
Honorable Zel M. Fischer, Missouri Supreme Court
Honorable Shane T. Alexander, Seventh Judicial Circuit Court of Missouri
Honorable Melissa Taylor Standridge, Kansas Court of Appeals
Honorable W. Brent Powell, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit Court of Missouri
Honorable Ardie A. Bland, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit Kansas City Municipal Division
Honorable Eric F. Melgren, U.S. District Judge, District of Kansas

As always, the BBBC Conference will provide attendees with the opportunity to meet with vendors who service the legal community, and bid on items in the silent auction where proceeds help to support the already established KCMBF projects such as the Voice of Justice, Lawyers for Children and Summer Law Internship Programs. Attendees can also have fun at various sports and recreation events such as a golf tournament, canoe trip, bowling tournament—and evening entertainment with the Sober as a Judge Dance Band and the Allied Saints Band.

For registration information, please call Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association at (816) 474-4322 or visit the KCMBA Web site at www.kcmba.org for more details.

Conference Logo available upon request.

The Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association serves approximately 5,000 members in the nine-county Kansas City metro area: Johnson and Wyandotte counties in Kansas and Cass, Clay, Jackson, Johnson, Lafayette, Platte and Ray counties in Missouri. The mission of this Association is to serve our members and our community by promoting justice, professional excellence and respect for the law.