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**The Honorable Harold Lowenstein and the Honorable Laura Denvir Stith
To be Honored at KCMBA's 125th Annual Meeting**

A special feature of Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association's Annual Meeting is honoring several individuals for their outstanding contributions to the legal profession. This year's 125th Annual Meeting will be held at the Kansas City Marriott Muehlebach Hotel on Friday, December 11, and all KCMBA Members are invited to attend. This year's Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to the Honorable Harold Lowenstein, and The Joseph E. Stevens Aspire to Excellence Award will be given to the Honorable Laura Denvir Stith.

Lifetime Achievement Award

KCMBA's Lifetime Achievement Awards will be presented to the Honorable Harold L. Lowenstein. This award is presented to individuals for a lifetime of outstanding service resulting in the growth and development of the law, improvement in the administration of justice and increased recognition of the contributions of the legal profession to the welfare of society.

"Judge Lowenstein has long provided a calm and consistent voice on the Western District Court of Appeals," said KCMBA President Rebecca Lake Wood. "As a Rule 13 lawyer, he treated me with dignity and respect. He has given fully of himself both to the profession and the community. He represents the best qualities of our profession and his steady hand will be long-remembered."

Honorable Harold "Hal" Lowenstein

Harold Lowenstein is Of Counsel with Armstrong Teasdale LLP. He recently left the bench after serving on the Missouri Court of Appeals. Lowenstein graduated from Marshall High School in 1957, and went on to the University of Missouri at Columbia—where he edited the yearbook and was selected to Q.E.B.H., a senior honorary fraternity. He graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law in 1965.

From 1973 to 1981, Lowenstein was a member of the Missouri House of Representatives. In 1974, he was selected one of the 50 outstanding legislators in the United States. Lowenstein practiced law until his appointment to the bench of the Missouri Court of Appeals – Western District on August 1, 1981. He served two years as Chief Judge of the court. For the past four years, he was chair of the Legislative Committee of the Missouri Judicial Conference. As a special judge, he presided over jury trials in Jackson County Circuit Court.

Lowenstein is an adjunct professor at MU, UMKC and Washburn Law Schools, teaching a course on jury selection. He currently serves on the board of the Salvation Army and Whatsoever Community Center. He was a trustee at Avila University and chaired the enrollment services committee. He also presently serves on the State Advisory Board of the Missouri Division of Youth Services, and is a member of the Department of Public Safety’s Juvenile Justice Advisory Group. You would think he wouldn’t have any additional time on his hands—but Lowenstein also takes the time to play Santa every year at various places including Operation Breakthrough and Della Lamb Community Center.

A past volunteer and president of Big Brothers & Big Sisters, he was also on the Board of Directors at the Gillis School, and the American Red Cross. In 1988, Lowenstein sent his “Little Brother” to basketball camp and realized that other Kansas City kids would benefit from such a positive experience. He then organized a program to send—at no cost—needy inner-city boys and girls to Summer College athletic camps. Since 1989, 1,300 boys and girls have been awarded scholarships to various basketball and volleyball camps.

Lowenstein has been the recipient of several awards including: the Michael J. Coburn Award for Community Service, South Kansas City Rotary Club’s Man of the Year, and in 1997 was selected as one of five recipients of Kansas City’s Spirit Award. He was awarded the Spurgeon Smithson Award of the Missouri Bar, and The President’s Award for Judicial Excellence at the annual meeting of the bar in September 2005.

After retiring from the court in August, Lowenstein joined the Armstrong Teasdale firm.

Joseph E. Stevens Aspire to Excellence Award

The Honorable Laura Denvir Stith is the recipient of the Joseph E. Stevens Aspire to Excellence Award, recognizing an individual who has improved the quality of the administration of justice in the Kansas City area. First presented at the 1999 KCMBA Annual Meeting, this award was created as a memorial to the late Judge of the U.S. District Court, Western District of Missouri, to honor his dedication to the bench and the bar in the metropolitan area.

“Judge Stith is the epitome of excellence,” said Wood. “Her mind is bright and her convictions are unwavering. Her moral compass is completely grounded in ethics and the law. She regularly reminds us of who we are and who we can aspire to be in this great profession.”

Honorable Laura Denvir Stith

Hon. Laura Denvir Stith was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri. She earned a B.A. from Tufts University in 1975, and received her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center in

1978. Judge Stith then served for one year as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Robert E. Seiler of the Supreme Court of Missouri. In 1979, she began practicing with the law firm of Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP, where she became a partner of the firm in 1984 and later co-founded the firm's appellate practice group.

Missouri Governor Mel Carnahan appointed Judge Stith to the Missouri Court of Appeals, Western District in 1994. During her six and one-half years on that court she authored more than 400 opinions in nearly every area of state law. Governor Bob Holden appointed Judge Stith to the Supreme Court of Missouri in 2001. She was elected by her colleagues to a two-year term as Chief Justice from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009. She is the second woman in Missouri history to serve on the state's Supreme Court and as its Chief Justice.

Judge Stith has been an active member and speaker within the legal and civic community throughout her career, serving as chair of the Gender and Justice Joint Committee of the Missouri Bar and the Missouri Supreme Court; president of the Association of Women Lawyers of Greater Kansas City, and in leadership positions on a variety of Missouri and specialty bar committees. She chaired the appellate court committee of the KCMBA and served on its tort law committee while in practice, and has taken part in numerous CLE programs sponsored by the KCMBA.

Photo's 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.