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## **2010 President's, Outstanding CLE Contributor and YLS President's Award Recipients Selected**

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 126th Annual Meeting will be held at the Kansas City Marriott Muehlebach Hotel on Friday, December 10, and all KCMBA Members are invited to attend. Chosen by the current KCMBA President, Thomas V. Bender, the President's Award recognizes individuals or entities who have contributed to the success of the Association during the bar year. This year's recipients are Gregory M. Bentz, Robert M. Thompson and Jack L. Campbell. The 2010 KCMBA Diversity Section will be honored as this year's Outstanding CLE Contributor. Lee R. Anderson is this year's YLS President's Award recipient.

### **President's Awards**

#### **Gregory M. Bentz**

Gregory M. Bentz is a shareholder with the firm Polsinelli Shughart PC and his substantive areas of experience include antitrust, business torts, breach of contract, fraud, lender liability, class actions, intellectual property and securities. Mr. Bentz earned a Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Arts degree with distinction in 1980 and his Juris Doctor with distinction in 1983 from the University of Nebraska. Mr. Bentz was honored in the *Kansas City Business Journal's* Best of the Bar in Business Litigation (2007-present). Actively involved in the KCMBA since 2001, Greg was the 2008 President of the Association. He served as the chair for the Bar Headquarters Task Force, which spearheaded the relocation of the KCMBA's headquarters in September of 2010.

"Greg put numerous hours in the trenches of the KCMBA leadership and well deserved to take a break...but we didn't let him," said KCMBA President Tom Bender. "He was asked to chair the task force for the new headquarters and spent countless hours inspecting locations, negotiating the lease and working on construction issues. The trouble with Greg is that he does too good a job; this award recognizes his effort on behalf of the KCMBA, but unfortunately the recognition will only alert more people that he is the one to call when you need something done right."

## **Robert M. Thompson**

Robert M. Thompson joined Bryan Cave in 1990 and currently serves as managing partner of the Kansas City office. Bob focuses his practice in the area of complex commercial litigation in both state and federal courts. In recent years, he has handled a number of large consumer class actions in state and federal courts throughout the United States. He is listed in *Best Lawyers in America*; Best of the Bar in the *Kansas City Business Journal*; Benchmark: Litigation 2010; and in *Missouri/Kansas Super Lawyers*. Among other community involvements, Bob serves on the Board of the Missouri Institute of Justice and is a member of the Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee for the Missouri Bar. He has been a member of the KCMBA since 2001, serving as General Counsel for the Board of Directors in 2010.

“Most legal counsel to the KCMBA serve in largely ceremonial roles, being called upon only infrequently and then to address largely benign issues; this is not so with Bob,” Tom Bender stated. “We made a variety of changes this year at the KMCBA, including a new Bench Bar Boardroom location, our new headquarters, new staffing and all the legal work attendant to the same. Through it all, Bob was available, without complaint, even though he was often engaged in complicated litigation and is the managing partner of his office. He provided sound and valuable guidance to the Association, for free, and he deserves much more than this award for his efforts.”

## **Jack L. Campbell**

Jack L. Campbell is a shareholder with the firm Polsinelli Shughart PC and has specialized in the area of labor and employment law during his 39-year career. He has guided management through many successful union-organizing campaigns. His trial career has involved a substantial number of cases enforcing restrictive covenants on behalf of employers. He has also been involved in defending employers in all forms of discrimination cases. Despite his long career in labor and employment law, Jack has obtained a wealth of experience in Missouri municipal law, having served as City Attorney for the City of Parkville for over a quarter century. He served as the chair for the KCMBA Capital Campaign Committee, exceeding the proposed one million dollar goal to help fund the KCMBA headquarter’s recent relocation.

“You probably shouldn’t start a capital campaign for a new headquarters in the middle of a severe economic downturn, but if you are going to do that, you want to call Jack,” said Tom Bender. “Despite the economic challenges and some personal health issues he was facing at the same time, Jack took on the task and exceeded everyone’s wildest expectations with a steady hand and hard work. I’ve known Jack for a number of years, but I had no idea how well he can deliver a result! I am all the richer for working with him, as are the Association and Foundation.”

## **Outstanding CLE Contributor Award**

This honor goes to an individual or entity whose exemplary efforts produced outstanding CLE programs for the Bar.

### **The 2010 KCMBA Diversity Section**

The 2010 KCMBA Diversity Section was formed in January of 2010 and is made up of over 80 members including attorneys, judges, legal administrators and recruiters. The Diversity Section continues to build on the work from the Diversity Initiative, which was established in December 2003. The Diversity Section is chaired by Leah Mason and now includes four committees within the section. The Education Committee was most recently formed by several Diversity Section members, including Leah Mason, Peter Sloan, Mark Styles, Seema Chawla, Chris Javillonar and Amber Jeffers. The purpose of this committee is to create CLE seminars that provide education on a variety of topics that approach diversity issues from various social and practical perspectives. Leah Mason will be accepting the award on behalf of the 2010 KCMBA Diversity Section.

"Some of the most valuable work of KCMBA takes place through the efforts of its sections. This year, we are giving this award to a section, as opposed to an individual, because of the unique contributions of the Diversity Section in helping to address the needs of the KCMBA membership," said Bender. "Leah Mason has done a great job in leading this Section and continually fostering new and fresh ideas from the Section. Through the recently added Education Committee, chaired by Mark Styles, we expect even more great work in the year to come. We, as an Association, are lucky to have such a forward thinking Section."

### **YLS President's Awards**

Selected by the current KCMBA YLS President, Karrie Clinkinbeard, this award recognizes outstanding contribution to the KCMBA Young Lawyers Section during the bar year.

### **Lee R. Anderson**

Lee R. Anderson began his legal career clerking for the Honorable Ronald R. Holliger at the Missouri Court of Appeals-Western District. Lee is currently an associate for the firm Stueve Siegel Hanson LLP, specializing in securities fraud, commercial disputes, consumer class actions and representation of workers seeking unpaid wages from multi-billion dollar employers. He received his J.D. from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, *magna cum laude*, Order of Barristers. In law school, Lee served on the Moot Court Board, the *Law Review*, and UMKC's National Trial Team. He has been an active member of the KCMBA since 2005 and has served on the YLS Board as chair of the Ross T. Roberts Inn of Court Committee, through which he led an extraordinary effort to revitalize the Program.

"Lee's role in his time with the YLS has focused on the Inns of Court program," said Karrie Clinkinbeard. "This program is extremely important to the development of our young lawyers -- fostering their involvement in the KCMBA and the legal community and establishing relationships with the bench and experienced attorneys. Lee has been instrumental in breathing new life into this program, drawing the involvement of talented masters, dedicated judges, and eager and interested barristers. Without Lee's drive and devotion, KCMBA's Inn of Court program would not be what it is today. He is very deserving of this award."

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.