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KCMBA's 126th Annual Meeting was a Success!

The Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association's 126th Annual Meeting was Friday, December 10 at the Kansas City Marriott Muehlebach Hotel. More than 725 members and guests attended this great event. The Association honored seven individuals for their outstanding contributions to the legal profession. This year's Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to the Honorable Timothy D. O'Leary and The Joseph E. Stevens Aspire to Excellence Award was given to the Honorable Ortrie D. Smith. Chosen by the 2010 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 were Gregory M. Bentz, Robert M. Thompson and Jack L. Campbell. The 2010 KCMBA Diversity Section was honored as this year's Outstanding CLE Contributor and Lee R. Anderson was this year's YLS President's Award recipient.

The KCMBA Annual Meeting was honored to have Lew Perkins, former Director of Athletics at the University of Kansas, and Mike Alden, Director of Athletics for the University of Missouri, as the keynote speakers. Alden and Perkins relayed the importance of respectful and professional competition along with collegiality in the world of sports.

Tom Bender, 2010 KCMBA President, introduced KCMBA's new Executive Director, Vickie Schatz, who will formally take the position on the January 3, 2011. The gavel of the President was then passed to the 2011 KCMBA President, James A. Heeter. Mr. Heeter is the President and CEO of the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and has practiced corporate law for 35 years. Heeter stated in his acceptance speech, "As my first act as your new president, let me thank all of you, as KCMBA members, for giving me the opportunity to serve you and our organization. It is an extraordinary honor and a privilege for which I will always be grateful. I fully expect 2011 to be a great year for our Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association – and together with you, I'm hoping to make a difference and to have a lot of fun doing it."

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.