



Kansas City, Missouri, December 16, 2010

The Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association Announces Leadership Changes

2010 KCMBA President Tom Bender announced that the Association's Executive Director, Bob Thomas, submitted his resignation from that position to pursue new professional opportunities on Friday, November 19. "Bob has been with us as we made some significant transitions in our Association. We have completed a significant capital campaign, and moved into a new headquarters, at the same time undergoing a complete restructuring of our staff and the continued development of our new strategic plan. We are now well-positioned to continue our work toward a dynamic future. We thank Bob for his efforts and wish him the best of luck with his new plans."

We are pleased to announce that **Victoria "Vickie" Schatz** will be the first attorney to serve as the Association's Executive Director and will begin on January 3, 2011. Victoria Schatz graduated from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law in 1995 and returned to earn an Executive Master of Business Administration from the Bloch School in 2007. Schatz has 15 years of legal experience and is currently Counsel for Kansas City Power & Light Company. Prior to her tenure with KCP&L, Schatz maintained an active trial practice at Niewald, Waldeck and Brown, P.C. and Levy and Craig, A Professional Corporation, where she handled and tried lawsuits in nearly every area of the law. Vickie has over 20 years of community volunteerism and leadership and was the recipient of the 2010 Women's Justice Award from Missouri Lawyers Media. She was also named a "Legal Leader of the Year" by Midwest In-House Magazine, "Woman of the Year" by the Association for Women Lawyers of Greater Kansas City, and "Best of the Bar" by the Kansas City Business Journal, among other awards and recognition.

"I am very pleased that Vickie Schatz has agreed to serve as our new Executive Director," says Jim Heeter, 2011 KCMBA President. "Vickie is an experienced and highly regarded attorney who has served with distinction as a member of KCMBA's Board of Directors and, more recently, as an officer of our organization. Among other things, she has been actively involved in the planning of the Bench, Bar & Boardroom Conference, the annual Corporate Counsel Seminar and our highly successful annual fund raising events for Lawyers Encouraging Academic Performance (LEAP). I know that Vickie will provide great leadership, vision and direction to help our KCMBA achieve even higher levels of success and service to our members and to our community," says Mr. Heeter.