

Steadfast Support for the Community

The mission of KCMBF is to “serve the community by creating, supporting or funding public service or educational programs which promote the administration of justice, delivery of legal services, professional development or respect for the law.” Each of our Legal Connection programs highlight this mission. The Domestic Violence Alliance has provided professional development to attorneys and community partners for 24 years. Military Matters provides not only professional development to attorneys but also coordinates the delivery of legal services to veterans and active duty military members. The Student Law Academy provides for the development of future legal professionals and teaches about the law profession.

Each of the Legal Connection programs are effective because of the tremendous attorneys that volunteer their time to each of these programs. From planning to implementation to ongoing development, our volunteers are the reason for the success. Creating and supporting are only two aspects of the KCMBF mission. Funding is the crucial element that allows for the success to continue. A not-for-profit organization cannot run on volunteer hours alone. As an organization, we are only able to reach the level of success we have because of the financial support of our community.

The law firm of Langdon & Emison, LLC has a long history and involvement with KCMBF. As a 2020 Diamond Sponsor for the Liberty and Justice Campaign, Langdon & Emison has continued their steadfast support of the Foundation’s Mission. 2020 Diamond Sponsor Davis, Bethune & Jones was featured in the April issue of *KC Counselor*, and look for 2020 Diamond Sponsor Ketchmark & McCreight, P.C. in an upcoming issue. Because of the generosity of these firms, KCMBF has been able to continue the mission of serving our community.

Bob Langdon and Kent Emison became law partners in the late 1990’s and formed the firm Langdon & Emison, LLC (L&E). The firm is nationally known for its legal work and commitment to its clients. The firm is also well known for their attorneys’ commitment to the community. The firm encourages each attorney to personally make a commitment to their community through not only their legal work, but also by volunteering in the community. In 2020 the L&E employees donated the equivalent of more than 20,000 meals during the holiday season. Their attorneys and employees support youth sports, community clean up days, and literacy. The firm recognizes that not all youth have the same opportunities and they have made a commitment to support organizations that ensure all youth have opportunities to play sports, take college test preparation classes, and attend college.

The attorneys at L&E show their commitment to their community by giving of themselves. In addition to taking pro bono cases, many through KCMBF’s Military Matters program, the firm encourages attorneys to help others. So in addition to providing pro bono legal work, you can find L&E attorneys and employees speaking at Career Days, reading in schools for Read Across America, and delivering food to homebound people. You can see by their actions that the firm truly cares for the community. In 2015 Kent Emison was awarded KCMBF’s Liberty & Justice Legacy Award (now known as the Jack L. Campbell Legacy Award). The Foundation recognized Kent’s dedication to the principles of liberty and justice through exemplary professional, civic and community service. Kent’s professional and personal commitment to our community is extraordinary. Not only does he set a valuable example for his son, Mark, and other young lawyers in the firm, he guides his



Jill Katz

KCMBF

Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Foundation

Military Matters Pro Bono Spotlight



Marilyn B. Keller

Marilyn B. Keller of Wyrsh Hobbs & Mirakian, P.C. is this month’s honoree of the Military Matters Spotlight, a monthly recognition to distinguish the great work performed by the hundreds of pro

bono volunteer attorneys within the Military Matters network. Please go to the KCMBF Facebook page to learn more about Marilyn’s service to Military Matters.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE FOUNDATION?

Contact: Sharra Wagner,
Foundation Director
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young legal professionals through his support of UMKC School of Law and their law students. The firm and their individual lawyers continue this commitment with their volunteer time with KCMBF's programs, Military Matters and Student Law Academy.

Langdon & Emison believes that helping the next generation of attorneys is one of the most important methods of helping others. Mark Emison reflects that he grew up around lawyers, as Kent Emison is his father. He was able to work in his father's law office. He was able to see things happen in court. Mark credits these experiences in forming his desire to become a lawyer. As a second-generation lawyer, Mark valued his father's influence in his career choice. With this in mind, Mark volunteered to talk with the Student Law Academy Scholars last summer. He found this experience to be refreshing and fun. He was impressed with the student's accumulation of knowledge about the legal profession. You can also be impressed by reading an introduction to the 2021 Student Law Academy Scholars on page 8 of this issue.

Mark also currently serves as a member of the Foundation's Board of Directors. Many members of the L&E firm have served as leaders in KCMBF, KCMBF, and many other legal and community organizations. L&E understand that attorneys must be actively involved in the comm-



Kent understands the immense value of impacting the next generation of lawyers.



unity to ensure that the community at large has a positive understanding of the value of being a lawyer. They have a commitment to their community and feel fortunate to be able to provide time and support to others.

L&E encourages their attorneys to seek to volunteer in a way that is meaningful to each attorney. Alex Thrasher was encouraged to volunteer beginning when he joined the firm in 2017 as a new lawyer. Alex finds his work for Military Matters clients to be rewarding. He enjoys learning new areas of law in an effort to help specific clients. He has found that this volunteer opportunity has helped him develop as a lawyer. Military Matters relies on attorneys like Alex for the delivery of legal services as outlined in the Foundation's mission statement. Alex feels thankful that L&E not only supports Military Matters but also supports his volunteer work. Alex shares that L&E supports the community without hesitation. He also shares that the entire firm is supportive and provides a great work environment.

As President of KCMBF I am truly grateful to the firm of Langdon & Emison. Their Diamond Sponsorship for the 2020 Liberty & Justice Campaign shows their commitment to KCMBF and the community we serve with our Legal Connection programs. Please take time to thank the firm of L&E, and follow their lead in helping out others who have fewer advantages than you do.■



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SAVE
THE
DATE

LIBERTY & JUSTICE

Gala
Saturday,
September 11, 2021
The Abbott

Visit kcmbf.org/liberty for more information.