



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
Vickie Mauck
Executive Director
(816) 474-4322
vmauck@kcmba.org

Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association Spotlights Award Winners at the 2021 Bench-Bar & Boardroom Conference

KCMBA's 137-year history is rich with tradition including recognition of leaders in the legal community by granting prestigious awards. Outstanding legal professionals in the Kansas City area are recognized annually at the Bench-Bar & Boardroom Conference and this year, KCMBA's 48th Annual Bench-Bar & Boardroom Conference will be held on Thursday, May 13, 2021, via Zoom, honoring 11 award recipients in seven categories.

The following attorneys will be honored at the 2021 Bench-Bar & Boardroom Conference Celebrate the Greats Awards Ceremony, beginning at 5:30 pm on May 13, via Zoom:

Deans of the Trial Bar:

W. Perry Brandt, Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP
Joseph J. Roper, Foland, Wickens, Roper, Hofer & Crawford, PC
Stephanie Warmund, The Law Offices of Stephanie Warmund

Created in 1985, and formerly called Litigator Emeritus, the Dean of the Trial Bar Award is presented at the Bench-Bar & Boardroom Conference to one or more attorneys who have a substantial and distinguished trial career. The award acknowledges service of current KCMBA members whose litigation skill and professional demeanor have resulted in consistent recognition by their peers as exemplary.

Barons of the Boardroom:

Lori A. Beam, Seigfreid Bingham, PC
Harold M. Goss, CPC, LLC

Established in 2005, the Baron of the Boardroom Award is presented at the Bench-Bar & Boardroom Conference to one or more attorneys who have a substantial and distinguished career representing clients in corporate/business matters. The award recognizes KCMBA

members whose business and corporate accomplishments and professional demeanor have resulted in consistent recognition by their peers as exemplary.

Distinguished Counselors:

Marcos A. Barbosa, MABLAW-KC

Stacey L. Janssen, Kennyhertz Perry

Created in 1998 and formerly called the Congenial Counselor Award, the Distinguished Counselor award recognizes KCMBA members who consistently demonstrate the characteristics of professionalism, collegiality, courtesy, equanimity, character, harmony and friendship.

Sly James Diversity and Inclusion Award:

Mischa Buford Epps, The Missouri Bar

Beginning in 2016, KCMBA's Diversity Section, in conjunction with the Presidents of Kansas City's diverse bar associations, including the Jackson County Bar Association, the Asian American Bar Association of Kansas City, the Association for Women Lawyers, the Hispanic Bar Association of Greater Kansas City, and Kansas City Lesbian, Gay and Allied Lawyers, established an annual award for members of the Kansas City area legal community for their contributions to diversity and inclusion in the legal profession. Current or former members of the Kansas City legal community, including attorneys, judges, law school faculty and staff, and other legal professionals are eligible for this award. Additionally, awardees may include legal organizations, law firms, legal corporations, bar associations, or other legal groups that meet the selection criteria.

Thomas J. Conway Award:

Michael S. Meyer, Bartimus Frickleton Robertson Rader P.C.

Named for the late Thomas J. Conway, this award was founded in 1997 and recognizes a young trial lawyer with courage and zeal for the client, the constructive use of demonstrative evidence, a collegial attitude toward fellow lawyers and a lifelong spirit of youth and a song in his heart and who demonstrates excellence in advocacy for his or her clients, professional decorum in dealing with opposing counsel, and respect for the courts and the rule of law. This KCMBA member exemplifies two traits of the late Tom Conway— outstanding trial skills and the ability to be a fierce advocate, while simultaneously is a good friend to opposing counsel.

Hon. Matt J. Whitworth Trial Excellence Award:

Brent Dwerlkotte, Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P.

Named for the late Hon. Matt J. Whitworth, this award was founded in 2021 and symbolizes the designation of a preeminent trial lawyer. It is reserved for an outstanding litigator who regularly practices in the United States District Court, of the Western District of Missouri and/or the District of Kansas. Award criteria include noteworthy professional competence and performance as a trial lawyer, coupled with the qualities of professional competence, industry,

integrity, civility, and courtesy. Given annually at the Bench-Bar & Boardroom Conference to a KCMBA member, the Award comes with a \$750 stipend, funded by the Whitworth Family.

Young Lawyer of the Year Award:

JoEllen Flanagan Engelbart (posthumous), Jackson County Prosecutor's Office

This award recognizes a lawyer under the age of 36 for significant community, civic, and professional work. This KCMBA member has contributed significant work toward public service programs and developed innovative activities which have enhanced the community, promoted the highest standards of professionalism, competence and ethical conduct, improved the image and promoted positive public awareness of the legal profession in the community, and achieved substantial success and accomplishment in the legal profession.

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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