



Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association

## PRESS RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association Spotlights Award Winners at the 2018 Bench-Bar & Boardroom Conference**

Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association's Bench-Bar & Boardroom Conference is attended by more than 350 Kansas City legal professionals. Highlights this year include an opening night Welcome Reception, networking opportunities, and our annual Awards Dinner. Participants can earn up to 10 CLE hours (including at least 2 hours of Ethics). Register at [kcmba.org/BBBC](http://kcmba.org/BBBC).

The following attorneys will be honored at the upcoming Bench-Bar & Boardroom Conference, to be held on May 16-18, 2018 at the Chateau on the Lake, Branson MO:

**Deans of the Trial Bar:**

J.R. Hobbs, *Wyrsh Hobbs & Mirakian, P.C.*  
Nancy E. Kenner, *Kenner Nygaard DeMarea Kendall LLC*  
Lynn R. Johnson, *Shamberg, Johnson & Bergman, Chtd.*

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:**

Sylvester "Sly" James, Jr., *Kansas City Mayor and Sly James Firm*  
Shirley E. Goza, *QTS Realty Trust, Inc.*

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:**

Sherri L. Wattenbarger, *U.S. Department of Justice Office of U.S. Trustee*  
Dawn M. Parsons, *Shaffer Lombardo Shurin*

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

**Thomas J. Conway Award:**

Meghan A. Litecky, *Dysart Taylor Cotter McMonigle & Montemore, PC*

Named for the late Thomas J. Conway, this award was founded in 2001 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 who exemplifies two traits of the late Tom Conway—outstanding trial skills and the ability to be a fierce advocate, while simultaneously a good friend to opposing counsel.

**Young Lawyer of the Year Award:**

Bryan M. Meyer, *Veterans Community Project*

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.

**Kelly J. Moorhouse Dedication to Children Award:**

Jill M. Katz, *Krigel & Krigel, PC*

This award was created in 2013 and acknowledges a contribution significant enough to warrant exceptional recognition both for the individual selected and for the ongoing legacy of Judge Moorhouse. This KCMBA Member is selected based upon his or her dedication to and/or their representation of children and families in the Greater Kansas City Metropolitan Area.

**Sly James Diversity and Inclusion Award:**

Jolie L. Justus, *Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P.*

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.

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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.

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