



PRESS RELEASE

December 22, 2017

For Immediate Release

AnnMarie Thomas
Director of Membership, Communications and Events
816-474-4322
athomas@kcmba.org

Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association Presents Seven Awards at its 133rd Annual Meeting

At Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association's 133rd Annual Meeting on December 8, seven individuals received special recognition. **Hon. Lisa White Hardwick** received the Honorable Joseph E. Stevens Jr. Aspire to Excellence Award. **Mark Foster** was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award. Three people were honored with KCMBA President's Awards: **Dana Tippin Cutler**, **Terrence Lord**, and **Athena Dickson** – on behalf of Task Force M. Additionally, **Daniel McClain** received the Outstanding CLE Contribution Award and **Emma Schuering** the YLS President's Award. Each person was recognized and celebrated for their unique contributions to the association and profession.

The Joseph E. Stevens Jr. Aspire to Excellence Award was created in 1999 to honor and memorialize Judge Joe Stevens' dedication to our courts and to the bar. This award recognizes a judge who has contributed significantly to improvements in the administration of justice. **Judge Hardwick** is in the midst of a distinguished career as a litigator, an elected official, and as a judge both with the Jackson County Circuit Court and, now, the Missouri Court of Appeals for the Western District. While she has improved the quality of the administration of justice in the Kansas City area throughout her career, KCMBA honors her for her fine work with the Court of Appeals. In fact, Judge Hardwick is the first recipient of the Honorable Joseph E Stevens Jr. Aspire to Excellence Award from the Missouri Court of Appeals.

The Lifetime Achievement Award is presented for a lifetime of outstanding service resulting in the growth and development of the law, improvement in the administration of justice and increased recognition of the contributions of the legal profession to the welfare of society. Throughout his many years of practice, since returning to Kansas City in 1977, **Mark Foster** has been a leader in the legal community. As part of that leadership, Mark helped transform the Kansas City legal community as Managing Partner of Stinson Leonard Street, including through oversight of the merger of Stinson Mag and Morrison Hecker. As both a litigator and a law firm leader, Mark has truly had a lifetime of outstanding service that has resulted in the growth and development of the law, the improvement in the administration of justice, and an increase in the recognition of the contributions by the legal profession.

The KCMBA President's Award is given based upon service to the profession, reflecting favorably on the mission and objectives of the KCMBA. This year, three awards were bestowed:

Over the past year, as President of the Missouri Bar, **Dana Tippin Cutler** has been a stellar representative of the Kansas City legal community, as well as an innovator in bar programming. By traveling around the state and leading discussions on inherent bias, she has helped many Missouri lawyers better understand the inherent bias we all have, so we can work together to prevent that bias from negatively impacting our work and the legal profession.

For 40 years, until his retirement last summer, **Terrence Lord** has been an institution at the Missouri Court of Appeals – Western District and has shepherded the Court through many changes – from judges to technology. And he has done everything with a smile on his face and a gentle hand. Importantly, Terry has also always been a friend and advocate for KCMBA, helping ensure a close relationship between KCMBA and the Court of Appeals.

In 2017, **Task Force M** was asked to focus on understanding and serving Millennials, connecting generations and providing value on this topic to law firms and the legal community. A committee of nine individuals worked behind the scenes as part of this appointed group, seeking to better understand how to bridge the generational gap between Baby Boomers, Generation X, and Millennials. Set on course by 2017 KCMBA President Dan Blegen and led by Athena Dickson, Perry Brandt, Karrie Clinkinbeard, Ashley Grace, Phyllis Norman, Karl Phares, Emma Schuering, Darrion Walker and Chris Wirken gathered information and created recommendations for the board to find new ways of meeting the needs of our ever changing legal community. To view their final report, click [here](#).

The Outstanding CLE Contribution Award recognizes an individual who has been instrumental in KCMBA's CLE program. **Daniel McClain** has been a CLE innovator as Chair of the Business Litigation Committee. From *Chicken and Waffles* to *Juries and Tacos*, as well as the revival of the Business Litigation Handbook and CLE this past summer, Dan has led his committee to be one of the strongest CLE presenting committees for KCMBA.

The YLS President's Award is presented annually and recognizes a member for outstanding service to the Young Lawyer's Section. **Emma Schuering** went above and beyond in serving on KCMBA's Task Force M and the YLS Section's Membership and New Lawyers Committee. The extra time and effort Emma gave throughout the year to advance KCMBA's initiatives, particularly those related to identifying and researching the issues surrounding millennial attorneys, is remarkable, and she consistently demonstrated exemplary ambition and diligence in her service to KCMBA and its members.

KCMBA was please to host nearly 1,000 legal professionals at the 133rd Annual Meeting Luncheon, which took place on Dec. 8, 2017, at the Sheraton Hotel Crown Center. The Luncheon featured keynote speaker Candice Millard, author of the New York Times bestsellers *The River of Doubt* and *Destiny of the Republic*. Next year, this event will be at the same location on December 14, 2018.

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.

###