

The Missouri Trial Attorney

Helping to Balance the Scales of Justice

Going Paperless

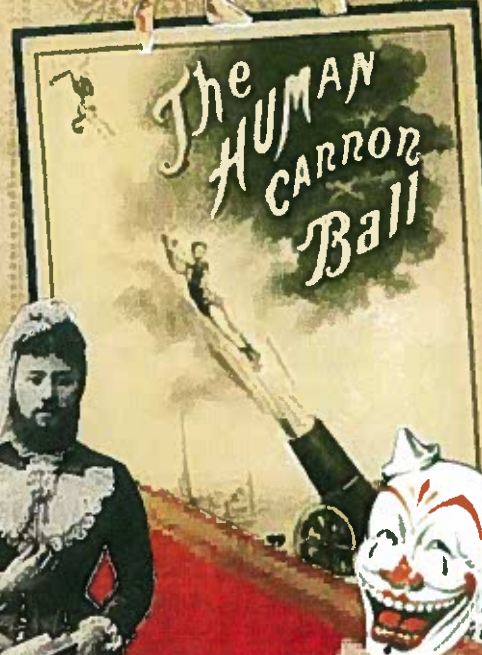
It's not just green,
it's efficient

Williamson v. Mazda: The Rolling Back of Preemption

Trial by Jury Inherent & Invaluable

Big Top MATA

June 23-26, 2011



Throughout April and May, Missouri Trial Lawyers Care volunteers delivered checks and strong backs to Feeding American Food Banks in Springfield, Kansas City and St. Louis. Volunteers put together snack packs for school kids or commodity boxes for seniors at each stop. So far this year, Mo-TLC has given more than \$7,500 and about 150 man-hours packing up several tons of food for delivery to seniors and school children.



Bryan Musgrave, Bill Beadle



John Wooddell



Will Wright



Rob Bruer



Jessica Agnelly, Ken Barnes



Mark Parrish, Nancy Kenner



Scott Wilson, a member of the MATA Board of Governors and a partner in Columbia's Hines Law Firm, was among the eight mid-Missouri "celebrities" featured in the 2011 Dancing with Missouri Stars to benefit the Missouri Contemporary Ballet on May 5.

Wilson performed foxtrot and samba numbers with his partner-teacher, Lucenka Holden, but did

not dance away with a prize, as the evening's awards were based on dollars raised, not dancing skills.

Roger D. Nail was recently honored as the 2011 recipient of the Thomas J. Conway award. The Conway award honors a younger trial attorney who exemplifies two traits of the late Tom Conway - outstanding trial skills and the ability to be a fierce advocate and a good friend to opposing counsel at the same time.



Susan Saladoff's Hot Coffee documentary played very well to the crowds *and* critics at the Sundance Film Festival in January. After purchase by HBO, the film has been making the rounds at a number of spring film festivals. It debuts on HBO as part of the channel's documentary summer series on June 27.

The film reveals what really happened to Stella Liebeck, the Albuquerque woman who spilled coffee on herself and sued McDonald's, while exploring how and why the case garnered so much media attention, who funded the effort and to what end.



MATA Past President **Kent Emison** of Langdon & Emison in Lexington has been appointed co-chair of the Missouri Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission. The Commission's purpose is to increase awareness and understanding of Missouri's role in the Civil War; to encourage civic, historical, educational, economic, and other entities throughout Missouri to organize and participate in activities to commemorate the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War; and to foster an inclusive spirit of reconciliation that appropriately recognizes the experiences and points of view of all people affected by the Civil War and its aftermath.



MATA member **Phyllis Norman** has received a pair of honors in 2011 - one as KCMBA's 2011 Young Lawyer of the Year and another from Missouri Lawyers Weekly. Norman was named a "Rising Star" by the MLW 2011 Women's Justice Awards. The awards recognize women across the state of Missouri who have demonstrated leadership, integrity, service, sacrifice and accomplishment in improving the quality of justice and furthering the highest ideals of the legal profession. Norman, who practices at the Lexington firm of Langdon & Emison, is a graduate of Oklahoma State and UMKC Law School. She focuses her practice in the areas of business and complex commercial litigation, specifically in the areas of class action and mass tort litigation.



Gov. Jay Nixon has nominated MATA Governor **Jenifer Placzek** of Springfield to the Missouri Commission on Human Rights. The commission investigates, conciliates, holds public hearings and litigates complaints of discrimination in housing, employment and places of public accommodations. The governor has nominated her for a term ending April 1, 2015.



The American Association for Justice has appointed **Brett Emison** to the organization's Marketing and Client Service Committee, which counsels attorneys on hot topics in litigation relevant to their field. His three-year term will begin with the completion of AAJ's annual convention on July 14. Emison, a member of MATA's Board of Governors, last month led a legal team that obtained a six-figure verdict in Lafayette County in a personal injury trial where State Farm refused to stand up for its insured. He is currently serving as president of the Lafayette County Bar Association.



More than 100 people attended the 2011 Annual Mardi Gras Luncheon in Kansas City in early March to celebrate Lawyers Encouraging Academic Performance (LEAP) and the group's commitment to public service.

The highlights of year's program were a performance by the children of Operation Breakthrough and the presentation of a \$65,000 check presented to that organization by LEAP. Founded in 1971, Operation Breakthrough provides a safe, loving and educational environment to children living in poverty. Support and resources include advocacy, referral services and emergency aid.

The Missouri Trial Attorney

Dedicated to independent lawyers who spend a goodly portion of our lives in the pursuit of substantial justice for individuals. For those of us who thus spend our professional lives, we hope these modest pages will afford a common meeting ground - that here we can exchange our ideas and strengthen our ideals. We hope that we can reaffirm our sincere professional faith that never, for lack of adequate professional hearts and minds, shall the scales of justice be weighted against any deserving person.

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