

The Missouri Trial Attorney

Helping to Balance the Scales of Justice

Paperless, Part 2

At trial, it's a whole
new ballgame

Big Top MATA

See the pics!

Meet

Steve Garner

2011 Thomas Strong
Trial Attorney Award Recipient

State ex rel. Holzum:

'Doe' defendant approach
falls short in filing

MATA in

Joplin

Volunteers
headed back

Brett Emison was seated as the newest member of the Executive Committee in June. Emison, who serves as a member of MATA's Missouri Trial Attorney editorial board, and the Legislative Review and New Lawyers committees, is a partner at Langdon & Emison in Lexington.

Four members were elected to the Board of Governors as well:

Julia M Kerr

Brown & Crouppen, P.C. - St. Louis

Daniel A. Thomas

Humphrey, Farrington & McClain, P.C. - Independence

Michael Williams

Williams Law, LLC - Kansas City

Lanny H. Darr II

Schrempf, Kelly, Napp & Darr Ltd. - Alton, Ill.

Dave Zevan of Zevan & Davidon in St. Louis and **James H. Thompson Jr.** of The Thompson Law Office LLC in Kansas City will serve as MATA's Governors to the American Association for Justice. **Leland Dempsey** of Dempsey & Kingsland, P.C. in Kansas City will serve as MATA's state delegate.



Back, from left, Bob Langdon, Kent Emison, Amy Jackson, Rachel Ahmann, Angle Berry, Alesia Kays, Lynna Kays; Front, from left, Reginald Stockman, Lorie Kreisel, Patty Berthelson.

Langdon & Emison was the first-place law firm team in Kansas City's annual Hospital Hill half-marathon competition on June 4. Other law firms participating included Stinson, Lathrop & Gage and Shook Hardy & Bacon (SHB was a bronze sponsor of the event). Through the race's charitable arm, the entry fees raised funds for a number of nonprofits including: Alzheimer's Association, Heartstrings Community Foundation, Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, The Truman Medical Center Charitable Foundation, Infant Toddler Services of Johnson County

Mark your calendars! Mo-TLC and the MATA Women's Caucus are teaming up again to go **Passionately Pink** for

the **Cure** this October.

On top of the events commemorating the battle against breast cancer, the New Lawyers Committee is putting together a series of CLEs aimed at giving young lawyers insight from some of MATA's more seasoned professionals.

The CLEs are specifically designed for new attorneys; the happy hours are open to all!

Kansas City

October 6, 2011

New Lawyers CLE

1-4:30 pm, location TBD

Topic: Voir Dire, speakers presenting specific cases
Followed by Susan G. Komen Passionately Pink for the Cure Happy Hour, 5-7, location TBD

St. Louis

October 13, 2011

1-4:30 pm, location TBD

Topic: Voir Dire, speakers presenting specific cases
Followed by Susan G. Komen Passionately Pink for the Cure Happy Hour, 5-7, location TBD

Springfield (happy hour only)

October 20, 2011

5-7 pm

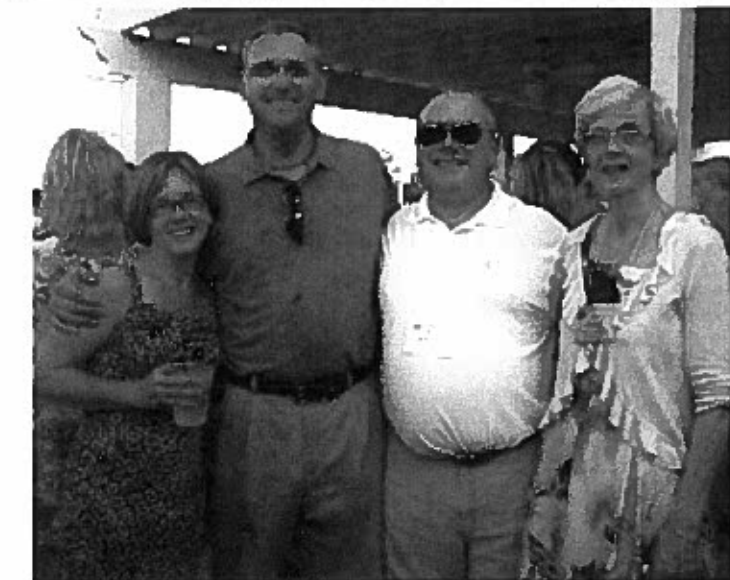
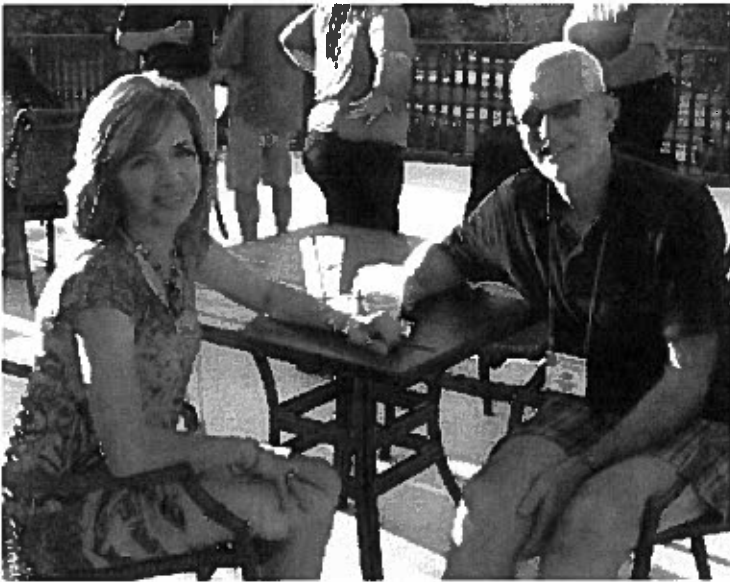
Passionately Pink for the Cure Happy Hour

Location, TBD

Emergency Response Team Committee Co-chairs **Jill Bollwerk** of St. Louis and **Joe Morrey** of St. Joseph have begun participating in a legal roundtable with MoBar and Legal Services organized by SEMA to address collaboration in Missouri's legal community in response to the good work and progress made after the May 22 tornado in Joplin. To that end, Morrey will appear on a panel representing MATA at the Missouri Bar's Annual Meeting in Kansas City on Friday, Sept. 23. The session, titled "When Disaster Strikes: Lawyers Affected, How Lawyers Helped, and Lessons All Lawyers Should Learn" This session focuses on Joplin's lessons learned to offer a blend of practice management advice as well as a look at pro bono service through the inspiring response of hundreds of lawyers who answered the call to provide assistance to a community in need.



After Kansas City member **Joe Backer** entered the Big Top MATA convention drawing to win \$2,500 cash, he pledged to donate the money to Joplin Relief Efforts if he won. Well, win he did, and he made good on his promise to donate the money. Thanks so much, Joe!



Through a student's eyes: **MATA Convention**

When I was first invited to attend the 53rd Annual Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys convention, I wasn't sure if it could have any real impact on my education or my career. What I would gain from the convention had more of an impact on me than I ever could have imagined.

The breadth of the morning sessions provided valuable information about specific areas of the law not offered in the typical law school curriculum. From social networking to talking about damages in a down economy, each session gave me a chance to learn about the practice of law from those who live these cases every day. The legislative forum and annual update on the law provided some of the most valuable information I received all weekend. Overall, the ability to see and learn beyond the hypothetical world of law school was invaluable.

The afternoon outings and evening social events gave me one-on-one interaction with some of the most outstanding attorneys in this field. I was lucky to have the chance to meet dozens of attorneys who will become friends and mentors for years to come.

It was the annual banquet and awards dinner however that was the highlight of the weekend. To be surrounded by so many attorneys who share the same philosophy and passion for the calling of plaintiffs work was inspiring. In those few hours, I knew that my decision to pursue this career was the right one.

Attending the 53rd Annual Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys convention was, quite simply, one of the best things I have done for my education and for my career. As a law student, you do not get many opportunities in life to do something so simple that has such a profound affect on your career.

-Tiffannie K. Sears



Tiffannie K. Sears is a 3L at UMKC School of Law, and President of the UMKC MATA Student Chapter.



Sara J. Schuett

The months of planning paid off - it was another great MATA Convention! Big Top MATA was officially the best attended convention in the history of MATA with 413 registrants. And that is just the official CLE registrants number-who knows what the number would be if we included the judges, legislators, elected officials or family members who join us at the Lake? I think it is fair to say that a great time was had by all and the weather even cooperated - Barb Martin's doing I suppose.

If you missed it, here are a few highlights:

- Keynote speaker Congressman Bruce Braley (D - Iowa) had the banquet crowd fired up with his tales from Washington, D.C. and the campaign trail, highlighting the attacks made against him because he is a trial attorney. I think it is safe to say he gained some new supporters that night.

- The Kids Carnival and Ozark BBQ Thursday night continues to be hugely popular. The kids had a great time playing games and winning prizes. I think Board member Joan Lockwood's kids won enough stuffed snakes to start their own farm and Matt Meyerkord's daughter Ruby may have a future in gymnastics from the stunts I saw her performing in the bounce house! For those who preferred to enjoy the weather and catch up with colleagues - the Parrot Bar crowd also had a good time. Keeping up with the Langdon and Emison crew proved to be the challenge of the night.

- Thanks to CLE Chair Rob Bruer and his committee, the educational sessions were packed each day and whether it was insurance issues from Steve Gorny and Steve Garner or the "Paperless Trial" from Todd Hendrickson, everyone came away with something new to take back to their practices.

- Rob Palmer turned over the reins to incoming President Phil Hess and Phil had his wife Teresa, sons, parents and extended family on hand to participate in the festivities. Also voted into leadership by the Board were President-Elect Tim Dollar and Vice President Steve Garner.

I know I have a particular bias when it comes to the MATA Convention - but I truly believe we have one of the best events in the state and country. I've been to other conventions - and they just don't compare. There are lots of reasons why - one of the main being that our members actually like being with each other and share a common bond in our mission of protecting the civil justice and workers' compensation systems.

Another is the incredible generosity of our members who are willing to participate as sponsors so we can put on the best

possible events. If you enjoyed the carnival, BBQ, hospitality room, complimentary cocktails and beers at every event - then these are the folks to thank because they make it possible. Thanks to the sponsors and all who attended for making Big Top MATA such a great event - see you next year!

Platinum

Davis, Bethune & Jones, L.L.C.
 Davis, Ketchmark & McCreight, P.C.
 The Hershewe Law Firm, P.C.
 Langdon & Emison
 Robb & Robb LLC
 Strong Garner Bauer P.C.

Gold

Bartimus, Frickleton, Robertson & Gorny, P.C.
 Brown & Crouppen, P.C.
 Dollar, Burns & Becker, L.C.
 Henry Williams, P.C.
 Mandel & Mandel, L.L.P.
 O'Brien Law Firm, P.C.
 The Potts Law Firm
 Sullivan, Morgan, & Chronic, L.L.C.
 The Zevan and Davidson Law Firm

Silver

Gray, Ritter & Graham, P.C.
 Meyerkord & Meyerkord, LLC
 The Law Offices of PalmerOliver, P.C.
 Schrempf, Kelly, Napp & Darr, Ltd.
 Shamberg, Johnson & Bergman
 The Simon Law Firm, P.C.

Bronze

Law Offices of Theresa Appelbaum
 The Barnes Law Firm, LLC
 The Benson Law Firm LLC
 Boyd & Kenter, P.C.
 Bradshaw & Belk
 Brown & Brown
 Bruer Wooddell & Harrell, P.C.
 Cervantes & Associates
 The DeFeo Law Firm, PC
 Dempsey & Kingsland, P.C.
 Edgar Law Firm LLC
 The Henning Law Firm, P.C.
 The Kuhlman Law Firm, LLC
 Larsen, Feist & Hess, P.C.
 The McCallister Law Firm
 Nash & Franciskato Law Firm
 Newman Bronson & Wallis
 Placzek Winget & Placzek
 The Redfearn Law Firm, P.C.
 Rubins, Kase, Hager, Cambiano & Bryant, P.C.
 Law Offices of Timothy C. Moll
 Wallach & Wolff, LLC
 White, Allinder, Graham & Buckley, L.L.C.