

AWLF Scholarship Testimonials

Kristen W. - I was so thankful to be able to participate in the Ross T. Roberts Trial Academy. As a young lawyer, real courtroom experience is becoming harder and harder to come by. Trial Academy allowed me to get on my feet in front of local judges and hone my trial advocacy skills in a way that would have otherwise been unobtainable for years to come.

Mary Beth Y. - The AWL scholarship allowed me to participate in the Ross T. Roberts Trial Academy, where I was able to continue my education in trial practice and learn new techniques from experienced litigators in a hands-on setting. This experience allowed me to develop my personal style and gain a better understanding of trial practice. At the end of the program, I was afforded the opportunity to apply these skills and experiment with a new style in a mock trial setting. I found this experience increased my confidence and allowed me to attain a higher degree of comfort as a litigator.

Blaire B. - With the assistance of AWLF, I was able to attend the Missouri Bar's annual Solo & Small Firm Conference at Lake of the Ozarks this spring, just nine months after hanging my shingle. The conference was a valuable opportunity to network and hear from others who understand the highs and lows of running your own law firm. I look forward to attending this conference for many years to come.

Nicci G. - Attending KCMBA's Bench Bar and Boardroom Conference was beneficial because it gave me a way to connect with the area judges in a way that appearing before them every so often for case management conference doesn't allow. Furthermore, it allowed me to meet legendary attorneys that I had heard of before and it was nice to be able to finally put a face to a name. I made a lot of new connections that I otherwise would not have made if it weren't for this conference.

Ashley R. -

First, I want to thank everyone for the ability to be a first time attendee to KCMBA's Bench Bar and Boardroom Conference. Above everything else it was a great opportunity to network with colleagues and Judges from the Kansas City area. I would not have had this opportunity to further my practice and my career through the networking and the educational CLEs I attended without the help of AWL. Women coming together to support each other is amazing.

Aside from networking opportunities, there was also some very educational CLEs. I particularly enjoyed a few CLEs that I will go over briefly. There was a CLE regarding expungements. With Missouri's expungement law being so fairly recently amended, it was great to hear some first hand experiences with the process. It seems like when there is a new or amended statute that broadens something so important like expungements, there is a learning curve for everyone, including Judges. So, it was good

to hear about different jurisdictions handle them differently and what to expect when having clients in those different jurisdictions.

There were also a couple CLEs regarding the legalization of marijuana. Like expungements, with this new area and change in the law there is definitely going to be a learning curve. I think it is good to try and get ahead and of the game and be able to try and prepare for any of the curves that are expected to be thrown at us. One of the CLEs even gave a very interesting history of the controlled substance laws that I had no idea about.

Finally, there is always the important ethics CLE. I was admittedly apprehensive when I first saw the topic for the ethics CLE, but knowing that I had to get my ethics hours in I went. I was pleasantly surprised. I believe in our industry we shy away from admitting exhaustion and stress because we think those can be signs of weakness. In reality we are just making things worse on ourselves by burying them. It is encouraging that it at least appears that more and more people in our field are willing to stand up and admit, "hey I'm exhausted, what are ways that help you cope?" It is not just encouraging that people are being more up front and honest about it, but that we are all willing to help when someone else is struggling. Too many people think this is a dog eat dog occupation, and I am comforted when I see that it doesn't have to be.

In conclusion, I learned a lot about this conference as a whole, as well as things to bring home for my practice. I could not have gone without the help of AWL and will forever be grateful. Thank you again.