



December 21, 2022
Hickory Hills Country Club

Salute to Our Retiring Judges

The Honorable Nancy Rahmeyer

The Honorable Gary Lynch

The Honorable Bill Francis

The Honorable Calvin Holden

The Honorable Thomas Mountjoy

The Honorable Jason Brown

The Honorable Michael Cordonnier

Presented by



Neale & Newman
Established 1903

*Thank you
to all the retiring Judges for
your dedicated service.*

*Congratulations to the
newest members of the Judiciary.*



NNLaw.com

417.882.9090

Farmers Park | 2144 E. Republic Road, Suite F302, Springfield, Missouri

The choice of a lawyer is an important decision and should not be based solely upon advertisements.



WELCOME, Ryan Frazier, Law Day Chairman

SALUTE TO JUDGES ADDRESS, Nancy Allen

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATIONS

Judge Rahmeyer by Grant Rahmeyer

Judge Francis by Andrew Bennett

Judge Lynch by Derek Ankrom

Judge Holden by Stacie Bilyeu

Judge Mountjoy by the Hon. Todd Myers

Judge Brown by Nate Dunville

Judge Cordonnier by Jeff Bauer

PRESENTATION OF SMBA AWARDS

By President Nate Dunville, President and
Executive Director Crista Hogan

Equal Access to Justice Award

Liberty Bell Award

Judicial Excellence Award

Distinguished Attorney Award

-STRONG-GARNER-BAUER^{PC}

TRIAL ATTORNEYS



Sometimes those who have come before us managed to capture the essence of what we're trying to say, better than we can say it ourselves. It turns out, our retiring judges fit both of the definitions below:

"There are two kinds of heroes.

Heroes who shine in the face of great adversity, who perform an amazing feat in a difficult situation.

And heroes who live among us, who do their work unceremoniously, unnoticed by many of us, but who make a difference in the lives of others."

- Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono

Strong-Garner-Bauer
415 E. Chestnut Expressway
Springfield, MO 65802
417-887-4300

stronglaw.com slf@stronglaw.com

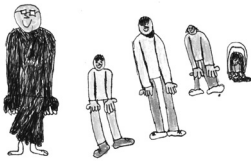


2022 SMBA Poster Contest

Why We Need Judges

Presented by Strong Garner Bauer

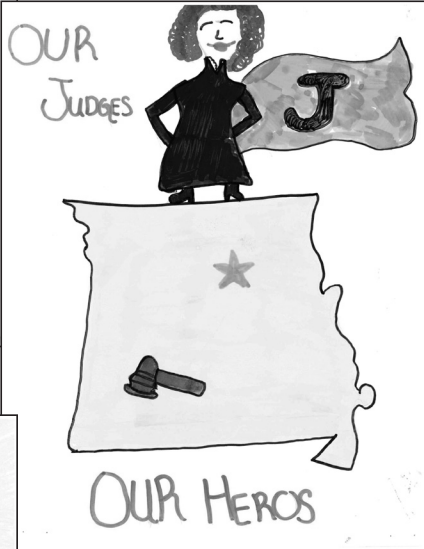
JUDE HosMER is AWESOME!!!



He is Helping my family
adopt my little brother!!!

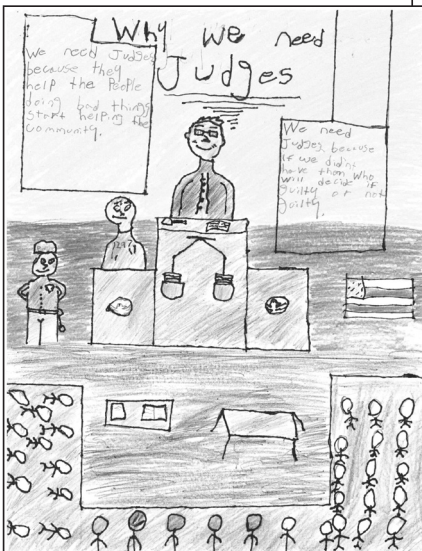
First Place

Phoenix Hougardy, 2nd Grade
Sherwood Elementary



Second Place

Judaleigh Klover, 5th Grade
Sherwood Elementary



Third Place

Skyler Dedrick, 5th Grade
Sherwood Elementary



Spencer Fane is a proud supporter of the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association and honors each of the 2022 retiring judges.



SpencerFane®

Spencer Fane LLP | spencerfane.com
2144 East Republic Road, Suite B300
Springfield, MO 65804

2022 SMBA Essay Contest

The Importance of an Independent Judiciary

Presented by Spencer Fane

First Place

Samantha Tong, 7th Grade
The Summit Preparatory School

Second Place

Carson Bruton, 7th Grade
Immaculate Conception

Third Place

Lynn Powell, 8th Grade
Immaculate Conception

Finalists

Madilynn Myers
Michael Belk
Troy Tauai
Harper Elliott
Jude Daues
Lily Pattison
Paige Mueller

EXPERIENCE. RELATIONSHIPS. RESULTS.



**MONSEES &
MAYER P.C.**

THANK YOU JUDGES

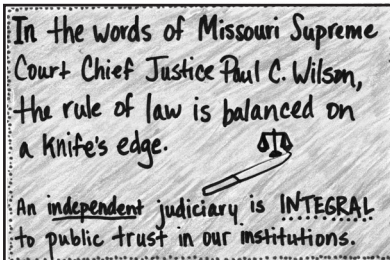
NANCY RAHMEYER
BILL FRANCIS
THOMAS MOUNTJOY
GARY LYNCH
CALVIN HOLDEN
JASON BROWN
MICHAEL CORDONIER

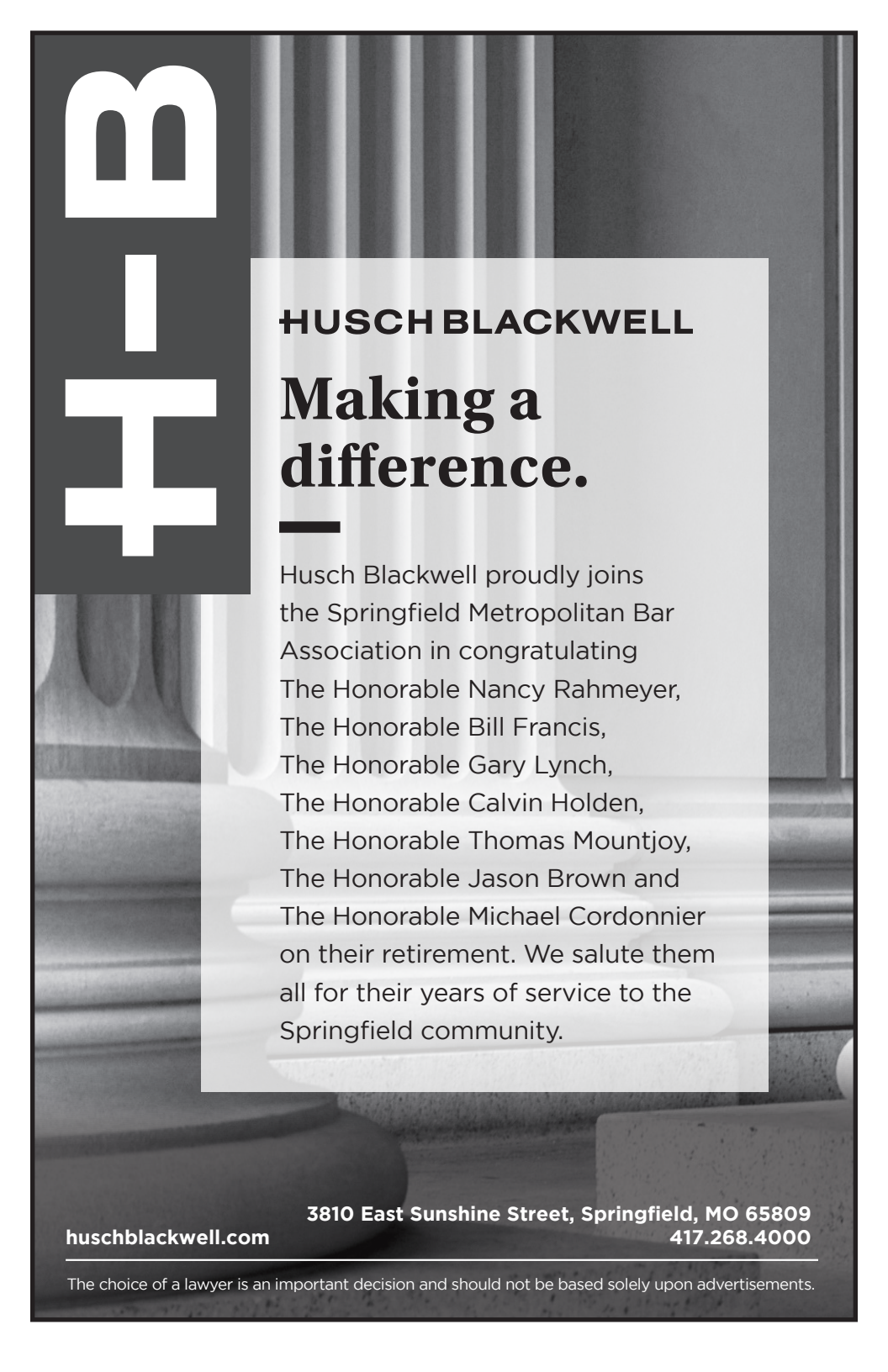
Our firm, Monsees & Mayer, would like to thank all of the judges for their hard work and dedication over the years.

Learn more
about our
experience
and reach
out to us:



Presented by Monsees & Mayer, PC





**B
-
T**

HUSCH BLACKWELL

Making a difference.

Husch Blackwell proudly joins the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association in congratulating The Honorable Nancy Rahmeyer, The Honorable Bill Francis, The Honorable Gary Lynch, The Honorable Calvin Holden, The Honorable Thomas Mountjoy, The Honorable Jason Brown and The Honorable Michael Cordonnier on their retirement. We salute them all for their years of service to the Springfield community.

huschblackwell.com

**3810 East Sunshine Street, Springfield, MO 65809
417.268.4000**

The choice of a lawyer is an important decision and should not be based solely upon advertisements.

LIBERTY BELL AWARD

The SMBA Liberty Bell Award recognizes a non-lawyer whose service strengthens the effectiveness of the American system of freedom, in keeping with the spirit of our Constitution.

2022	Lincoln Hough	1993	Fern Bookwalter
2021	Katie Towns	1992	Dr. Alice Bartee
2020	Lara Garrett	1991	Traci Bauer & John Wylie
2019	Dr. George Connor	1990	Jack Harmon
2018	Paula Baird	1989	Bob Bilyeu
2017	Kathleen O'Dell	1988	Robby O'Neal
2016	Thomas Peters	1987	Sister Lorraine
2015	Anne Marie Frost	1986	York Johnson
2014	Jody Austin	1985	Jane Coughenour
2013	Bob Dixon	1984	Dr. Fred L. Hamburg
2012	Crime Stoppers	1983	Gracie Gardner
2011	Bob Horton	1982	James D. Hutchinson
2010	Lynn Rowe	1981	Dr. Roy Grando
2009	Morey Mechlin	1980	Manda Boykin
2008	Jim Anderson	1979	Mrs. Pat Walker
2007	Dr. Kenneth Rutherford	1978	Dr. Duane G. Meyer
2006	Cynthia Rushefsky	1977	Rev. Dorsey E. Levell
2005	Michelle Davidson	1976	C.J. "Buck" Tindle
2004	Kevin Baker	1975	W. Fred Schaeffer
2003	Marcia Johnson & Phyllis Shestak	1974	Richard A. Birmingham
2002	Kay Murnan	1973	Dr. Durward G. Hall
2001	Truly Applegate	1972	Otis D. Emmert
2000	Mickie Stark	1971	B. Harry Nicholson
1999	Dr. Ruth Bamberger	1970	James R. Craig
1998	Sue C. Terry	1969	Barbara Clauser
1997	Stacy Sherrod	1968	C. Frank Knox
1996	Debora S. Biggs	1967	Dr. William E. Everheart
1995	Jo Thompson	1966	William Henderson
1994	Linda Maggard	1965	Dr. L.E. Meador



LSOSM

PROVIDING QUALITY LEGAL AID

Legal Service of Southern Missouri
Salutes our Retiring Judges and
Congratulates
2022 Equal Access to Justice
Award Recipients
Nate Dunville and Scott Pierson.

*The LSOSM Volunteer Lawyer and Judicare
programs placed 692 clients with
the private bar in 2022.*

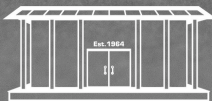
*Thank you to Nate and Scott and all the lawyers
making a difference and rebuilding people's lives
through their service.*

EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE AWARD

The Equal Access to Justice Award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the mission of Legal Services of Southern Missouri, both through Volunteer Lawyers Project hours and judicare hours.

2022	Nate Dunville and Scott Pierson	2004	Jon Gold
2021	Bryan Musgrave	2003	James Arneson
2020	Brennan Pratt	2002	Evelyn Gwin Mangan
2019	Mike Bridges	2001	Carl Lippelman
2018	Scott Smith	2000	Deanna Scott
2017	Amanda Brown	1999	Ken Reynolds
2016	Brett Schneider	1998	Christian Wise
2015	Jenifer Placzek	1997	Betty Pace
2014	John Hacker	1996	Kay and Richard Van Pelt
2013	Derek Ankrom	1995	Richard Dorr
2012	Lisa Sims	1994	Jerry Redfern
2011	Justin Rouse	1993	Bill Prince
2010	Jim Sharp	1992	Paul Shackelford
2009	Marsha Jackson	1991	Betty Pace
2008	Jason Umbarger	1990	Bruce K. Kirby
2007	Nick Venute	1989	Fitzsimmons, Schroeder and Nelson
2006	Jason Clough	1988	David W. Doran
2005	Millie Donahoe		

Thank You
**TO ALL OF THE
RETIRING JUDGES**



HOGAN
LAND TITLE COMPANY

JUDICIAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

The SMBA Judicial Excellence Award recognizes judges who exemplify the highest legal and ethical standards to which all in the legal profession should strive, and are actively involved in service to both the legal and non-legal community.

2022	The Honorable Jason Brown
2018	The Honorable Thomas Mountjoy
2016	The Honorable Michael Cordonnier
2012	The Honorable James England
2010	The Honorable Nancy Rahmeyer
2009	The Honorable Richard Dorr
2008	The Hon. J. Miles Sweeney
2007	The Honorable Don Burrell, Jr.



**Thank you for your integrity
and deep commitment to
our community.**

We celebrate all you have achieved and
contributed through your dedicated service.



**GREAT SOUTHERN
BANK**

GreatSouthernBank.com

DISTINGUISHED ATTORNEY AWARD

The SMBA Distinguished Attorney Award recognizes a member of the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association who has exhibited exemplary standards in the practice of law for 20 or more years, whose practice of law epitomizes the highest legal and ethical standards to which all attorneys should strive, and who has actively served both the legal and non-legal community. The Distinguished Attorney Award is the highest honor bestowed by the SMBA.



*2022 Distinguished Attorney:
The Honorable Michael
Cordonnier*

2022	The Honorable Michael Cordonnier
2021	John Pratt
2020	Mark McQueary
2019	Jim Newberry
2018	Bill Hart
2017	Gary Cunningham
2016	The Hon. J. Miles Sweeney
2015	Bill Powell
2014	The Hon. John Holstein
2013	Leland Bussell
2012	Link Knauer
2011	Richard Owensby
2010	Virginia Fry
2009	Kenneth Reid
2008	Raymond Whiteaker
2007	Glenn Burkart
2006	Ransom Ellis, Jr.
2005	Tom Strong
2004	Warren Stafford
2003	Andy Dalton
2002	John Hulston
2001	Fred Hall
2000	Jerry Redfern
1999	Bill Clampett



We thank the retiring
judges for their wisdom
and service over the years.



WAMPLER & PASSANISE

Unmatched Experience. Proven Results.

2974 East Battlefield Springfield, MO 65804 (417) 882-9300
www.entrapped.com



Pratt & Grisham, Inc. salute the retiring
judges and congratulate their successors
who are well positioned to continue
the tradition of excellence
on the 31st Circuit bench.

3432 S. CULPEPPER COURT, SUITE A
SPRINGFIELD, MO 65804-3833
PHONE (417) 883-8200 FAX (417) 883-3165
E-MAIL: info@pglawyers.net
www.pglawyers.net



The McGull Law Firm
thanks the retiring judges
for their service,
congratulates their successors
and wishes all the members of
the bench and bar
a joyous holiday season

Abram "Abe" McGull
Personal Injury, Federal Appeals
and Criminal Defense

417-444-6557 or
onecall@abemcgull.com

HALL ANSLEY_{PC}

The Honorable Nancy Rahmeyer
The Honorable Gary Lynch
The Honorable Bill Francis
The Honorable Calvin Holden
The Honorable Thomas Mountjoy
The Honorable Jason Brown
The Honorable Michael Cordonnier

The attorneys of Hall Ansley salute you
for your combined service of 134 years
on the bench in our community and
congratulate you on your retirement



3275 East Ridgeview, Springfield, MO 65804
Telephone (417) 890-8700
Facsimile (417) 890-8855
www.hallansley.com

Thank you for all your
years of service

*from all of us at
Twibell Pierson Criminal Law*



TWIBELL PIERSON
CRIMINAL LAW



“All the great things are simple,
and many can be expressed in
a single word: freedom, **justice**,
honor, duty, mercy and hope.”

~ Winston Churchill

Thank you, retiring judges, for your many years of service. Our community has benefited greatly from your dedication and commitment to the rule of law.

KUTAKROCK

Springfield | 300 South John Q. Hammons Parkway, Suite 800, Springfield, MO 65806

kutakrock.com/offices/springfield

LARSON & MILLER

INJURY LAW

*Judges Brown, Cordonnier, Holden, Francis, Lynch, Mountjoy and Rahmeyer:
thank you for your abundant wisdom and fairness,
and your enormous capacity for patience with the members of the bar.*



Haden Cowherd & Bullock, L.L.C.
Attorneys at Law

Partnering with Individuals and
Business for More than 30 years

Congratulates

Judge Nancy Rahmeyer

Judge Gary Lynch

Judge Bill Francis

Judge Calvin Holden

Judge Thomas Mountjoy

Judge Jason Brown

Judge Michael Cordonnier

Randy Cowherd, Rob Bullock,
David Adair, Jeff Laney, Catherine Reade,
Phil Quinn, Aaron Wynn

2135 E. Sunshine St. Ste 203 Springfield, MO 65804
417-883-5535
www.hcblawfirm.com



Lawyers in Springfield Providing Small Firm Attention with Big Firm Resources

Lowther Johnson Attorneys at Law, LLC has served the Springfield area since 1975. Our attorneys live and work in the Springfield area, and they care about advancing the interests of individuals, businesses, and organizations, large and small, throughout the community.

Conveniently located in the Hammons Tower in the heart of the downtown business district, our firm has 21 attorneys with broad experience in a wide range of practice areas. At the same time, Lowther Johnson Attorneys at Law, LLC takes pride in providing personal service to every client. We know that one size does not fit all, so we create solutions that meet each client's unique needs.

To learn more about how we can assist you in your matter, call our Springfield attorneys at (417) 557-3407 and schedule a consultation





Ellis, Ellis, Hammons & Johnson P.C.

**CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES
ON YOUR RETIREMENT**

The Honorable Nancy Rahmeyer

The Honorable Gary Lynch

The Honorable Bill Francis

The Honorable Calvin Holden

The Honorable Thomas Mountjoy

The Honorable Jason Brown

The Honorable Michael Cordonnier



**2808 S. INGRAM MILL, A104
SPRINGFIELD MISSOURI 65804
TELEPHONE (417) 866-5091
FAX (417) 866-1064
EEHJFIRM.COM**

*Ransom A. Ellis, III
John D. Hammons, Jr.
Todd A. Johnson
Travis A. Elliott*

*Tina G. Fowler
Rachel A. Riso
Paige J. Parrack*

*Rashel L. Pack
Solon McGee
McKenzie L. Robbins
Frank M. Evans, III*

**PROUD SPONSORS OF THE
SPRINGFIELD METROPOLITAN BAR ASSOCIATION**

⇒ Congratulations ⇐

Proudly supporting the Springfield
Metropolitan Bar Association's Salute to Judges.



Danielle Kincaid

Angela Myers



(417) 708-2044 | THEELDERLAWGROUP.COM

THE CHOICE OF A LAWYER IS AN IMPORTANT DECISION AND SHOULD NOT BE BASED SOLELY UPON ADVERTISEMENTS.

EVANS & DIXON^{LLC}

ATTORNEYS AT LAW



Evans & Dixon, LLC provides Midwest business clients with sophisticated legal advice, responsive communications and hands-on industry knowledge.

Congratulations to the 2022 SMBA Award Recipients

Missouri | Illinois | Kansas | Nebraska | Iowa | Indiana

4905 S. National Ave, Bldg. B | Springfield, MO 65810-2456
www.evans-dixon.com

*The choice of a lawyer is an important decision and
should not be based solely on advertisements.*



ZARK SELDER LAW

PROTECTION PRESERVATION PEACE OF MIND

ORDER

COMES NOW, Ozarks Elder Law, LLC, by and through its Attorneys, Lori Rook, Elyse Hartley, Amanda Wolf, Lisa Clark and Mel Myears.

1. WHEREAS, throughout your years of dedicated service as a member of the Judiciary you have provided wisdom, fairness, and patience to the Community, Legal Profession and Members of the Missouri Bar; and
2. WHEREAS, you have conducted yourself with character and integrity and demonstrated Judicial excellence; and
3. WHEREAS, you have been a leader, valued friend and colleague to many.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED and ORDERED, that we at Ozarks Elder Law, LLC hereby express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for your years of sacrifice and service; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that we wish you continued health, happiness, and prosperity in your retirement and future endeavors!

Ozarks Elder Law



Banking that Works for You!

Real, personalized banking is something you deserve, and you can get it with Guaranty Bank Private Banking. Let us handle your complex banking needs with relationships built on trust and an unmatched level of service to help you grow, transfer, and enjoy your wealth — so you can get back to the things you enjoy the most.



MEMBER FDIC



Guaranty Bank
PRIVATE BANKING

833.875.2492 / gbankmo.com



Heather Ramsey
Senior Vice President
Private Banking

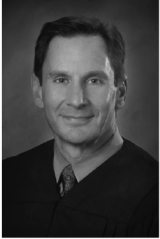


Amy Wilkerson
Vice President
Private Banking



Kathy Qu
Private Banking
Specialist

THE HONORABLE JASON BROWN, CIRCUIT JUDGE, GREENE COUNTY, TO JOIN JAY DAUGHERTY MEDIATION & ARBITRATION



Jay Daugherty Mediation & Arbitration is pleased to announce that Circuit Judge Jason Brown of the 31st Circuit, Greene County, Missouri, is joining the firm effective January 1, 2023, after 18 years on the bench. Judge Brown will dedicate his full-time practice to mediation and arbitration services, primarily throughout Southwest Missouri. He will host mediations at Jay Daugherty Mediation & Arbitration's new Southwest Missouri offices located at 1901 South Ventura Avenue, Suite A, Springfield, Missouri 65804.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Missouri and Vanderbilt University School of Law, Judge Brown brought over 16 years of civil trial experience to the bench upon his appointment in January, 2005. In his law practice, Judge Brown represented individuals, Plaintiffs and Defendants, as well as a variety of businesses, sureties and governmental entities, in courts across the Kansas City and Springfield metro areas.

During his tenure as a Greene County trial judge, Judge Brown handled a diverse civil docket, and conducted well over 100 jury trials in such cases as medical negligence, employment discrimination, personal injury, construction, real estate and commercial disputes. In addition, Judge Brown presided over countless bench trials, often involving complex matters.

Judge Brown has consistently been ranked amongst the highest in the state in the judicial evaluation surveys for his knowledge of the law, fairness and demeanor. Judge Brown champions the role of mediation, based on careful and individual case evaluation, to assist litigants in achieving their goal of efficiently reaching a fair resolution.

"Our mediation goals extend beyond merely achieving a resolution of the case. Disputes are also about emotion. Mediation results should please clients and clients should leave the mediation with an enhanced regard for their attorneys."

JAY DAUGHERTY

**JAY DAUGHERTY
MEDIATION & ARBITRATION**
JUDICIAL NEUTRALITY | RELENTLESS PASSION

WWW.JAYDAUGHERTYMEDIATION.COM

4717 GRAND AVENUE
SUITE 830
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64112
816.931.6300 TEL

417.714.0440 (SPRINGFIELD)



Quality Care for Every Body, Every Age

For 113 years, we've earned the trust of generations of Ozarks families. Today, we've built an unmatched network of more than 845 health care providers, six hospitals, and over 80 clinics across 25 counties. So no matter who in your family needs care, from the newest member to the eldest, you'll find the top care here at CoxHealth.

417-269-INFO
coxhealth.com
CoxHealthNow Portal & App



PROUDLY SUPPORTING THE
SPRINGFIELD METROPOLITAN
BAR ASSOCIATION
– SALUTE TO JUDGES 2022 –

Placzek Winget & Placzek, LLC

▪ TRIAL PRACTICE ▪

Personal Injury | Whistleblower Litigation | Workers' Compensation

417.883.4000 | PWPLAWFIRM.COM



MRD

L A W Y E R S

www.mrdlawyers.com

Criminal Defense 417.882.2522

TurnerReid

DUNCAN, LOOMER & PATTON, P.C.

Proud Supporter of the SMBA

Rodney E. Loomer
Michael J. Patton
Jeffrey T. Davis
Scott E. Bellm

George W. (Jake) Reinbold, IV
Bethany G. Parsons
Ben K. Upp
Jeffrey D. Upp
Tyler S. Manuel

1355 E. Bradford Parkway, Suite A, Springfield, Missouri, 417-883-2102 www.turnerreid.com

Congratulations to all our
retiring judges on their well
deserved retirement!

Stephanie Maxine Stenger

**WELCOME TO THE FIRM
WILLIAM W. FRANCIS JR.**



NOW AVAILABLE FOR MEDIATIONS

BOOK AN APPOINTMENT

417.447.4400 | wfrancis@CarnahanEvans.com



**CARNAHAN
EVANS®**

RANSIN INJURY LAW

Proudly Salutes Judges

Gary Lynch
Bill Francis
Jason Brown
Calvin Holden
Nancy Rahmeyer
Thomas Mountjoy
Michael Cordonnier

For Your Years Of
Dedicated Service To Our
Profession & Community



Workers' Compensation Defense
Civil Litigation & Insurance Defense
Employment & Labor Law

Happy Retirement,
Judges!
Congratulations to
all the Law Day Award
Recipients!

1546 E Bradford Pkwy Ste 100
Springfield, MO 65804

(417) 865-0007 | mvplaw.com

Missouri • Kansas • Oklahoma • Illinois • Iowa • Nebraska

The choice of a lawyer is an important decision and should not be based solely on advertisements.

Congratulations!

**The Missouri Bar congratulates
retiring judges & celebrates the
Missouri Non-Partisan Court Plan!**

**Thank you to the members of the
Appellate Judicial Commission &
the 31st Circuit Judicial Commission
for your service during this time of transition.**

THE
MISSOURI BAR

NANCY RAHMEYER

GARY LYNCH

BILL FRANCIS

CALVIN HOLDEN

THOMAS MOUNTJOY

JASON BROWN

MICHAEL CORDONNIER



All of us at Appleby Healy Law wish to express our gratitude for your many years of exemplary conduct, dedication to public service, and tireless work to uphold the rule of law.

APPLEBY HEALY

119 N. 2nd St.
Ozark, MO 65721
(417) 581-2411

www.applebyhealy.com

**THANK YOU
TO ALL OUR
RETIRING JUDGES!**


APPLEBY HEALY
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



Congratulations, Judges!



3310 E. Sunshine Springfield, MO 65804

| www.state.bank



THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE!

**IT'S BEEN A PRIVILEGE TO
PRACTICE IN YOUR COURTS.**



HYDE, LOVE & OVERBY, LLP

AAV LAW OFFICE OF
Adam Woody

The Law Offices Of

**TAYLOR, STAFFORD,
CLITHERO & HARRIS LLP**

Proud to support the SMBA and
we Salute all the Retiring Judges!

Warren Harris
Nathan Taylor
Cara Harris
Darynne O'Neal

3315 East Ridgeview, Suite 1000, Springfield, Missouri 65804 417.887.2020

ROGERS | EHRHARDT

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

INSURANCE LAW • LITIGATION • ESTATE PLANNING

ATTORNEYS

COLUMBIA, MO

GLEN R. EHRHARDT
ELIZABETH H. WEBER
JAMES R. HOWARD

DAVID R. WALLIS
KATHERINE M. JOHNSON
KAYLA I. JACKSON-WILLIAMS

ATTORNEYS

SPRINGFIELD, MO

CELESTE J. L. CARDIN
WILLIAM D. POWELL*
GARY B. BREWER*

*OF COUNSEL

302 CAMPUSVIEW DR | SUITE 204
COLUMBIA, MO 65201

COLUMBIA: 573.442.0131

300 S. JOHN Q. HAMMONS PKWY, #600
SPRINGFIELD, MO 65806

SPRINGFIELD: 417.864.4500

ROGERSEHRHARDT.COM

LAW OFFICES OF | **BRYAN MUSGRAVE**

We are proud to support the SMBA and
we salute all the Retiring judges. Thank you
for your dedication to our profession.

Bryan Musgrave
Emily Titus
Chad Mann
Christopher Moberg

2005 W. Chesterfield Blvd., Ste 108, Springfield, MO 65807

BRONZE LEVEL SPONSORS

Michelle Nahon Moulder

Robert Palmer

Croley Insurance & Financial

Law Offices of Sam F. Hamra, PC

Reynolds & Gold, LLC

Lexitas

NONPARTISAN COURT PLAN

In 1940 Missouri became a model for the nation when the voters adopted the Nonpartisan Court Plan, embedding the judicial selection process in the state constitution.

In 2008 the citizens of Greene County voted to extend the plan to the 31st Circuit.

The Springfield Metropolitan Bar wishes to recognize the work of the Appellate Judicial Commission and the 31st Circuit Judicial Commission. Their critically important role goes largely unnoticed, but we greatly appreciate their service and contribution to the efficient administration of justice in our community.

31st Circuit Judicial Commission

The Honorable Jack Goodman

Debbie Dodge

Kurt Larson

Kim Hancock

Dr. Fred McQueary

Appellate Judicial Commission

The Honorable Paul Wilson

Neil Chanter

Sally Hargis

Thomas Neill

Tim Drury

Kirk R. Presley

Kathy Ritter

THE IMPORTANCE OF AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY

Samantha Tong

7th Grade, The Summit Preparatory

The importance of an independent judiciary is that it provides a necessary check and balance against other branches of government.

Historically, the judicial system in government was not independent. It was often controlled by the monarch or other ruler of an empire or state, and judges were not allowed to rule against the desires or rulings of the government's leaders. When the authors of the Constitution arrived in Philadelphia in 1787 to devise a new form of government, they determined they would divide it into three branches: Legislative, Executive and Judicial. (Times of Israel) They based the concept of an independent judicial system from the British model of the early 18th century. The Constitutional Convention was also worried about power within the branches. They wanted the government to have enough power to solve the nation's problems, but not be overpowering. They also wanted each branch to be totally independent. Article III of the Constitution established the model for the Supreme and Federal courts, and this model was followed by state and local courts as they were formed.

It is important for the judiciary to be independent because decisions regarding new laws should not be influenced by the legislative and executive branches. If this were not the case, the other branches would try to convince the judicial branch to do what they think is a better option based on politics, and not what the judges actually decide is in agreement with the Constitution and established law. An independent judiciary can make rulings against existing laws or previous court rulings that do not agree with Federal and state constitutions. Without this independence, the courts would automatically approve any decisions made by the other branches of government.

Finally, an independent judiciary can also make changes in laws and society that politicians in the other two government branches are unable, or unwilling, to make due to political pressure. One example of this was Brown vs. Board of Education in 1954. An independent judiciary allowed for the integration of America's public schools.

In conclusion, the idea of an independent judiciary came from our history of British rule. It was made a permanent part of our system of government by the Founding Fathers in the US Constitution. The most important advantage of an independent judiciary is it is not subject to the political pressures of the executive legislative branches of government. With this, they can look at proposed or actual new laws or review old laws to see if they agree with the Federal or state constitution. And in some instances, the judiciary can make decisions that change the lives of large groups of Americans for the better.

Sources:

<https://www.history.com/topics/us-government/judicial-branch> <https://news.stthomas.edu/publication-article/the-importance-of-an-independent-judiciary/>
<https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/the-importance-of-an-independent-judiciary/>
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/our-government/the-judicial-branch/>
<https://legaldictionary.net/judicial-branch/>
<https://www.juscorpus.com/independence-of-judiciary/>
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/judicial-independence>
<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/brown-v-board-of-education-of-topeka>