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**PRESENTATION OF SMBA AWARDS**

By Debbie Dodge, SMBA President

*Equal Access to Justice Award*

*Liberty Bell Award*

*Distinguished Attorney Award*

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For, in a democracy, every citizen, regardless of his interest in politics, 'holds office'; every one of us is in a position of responsibility; and, in the final analysis, the kind of government we get depends upon how we fulfill those responsibilities.”

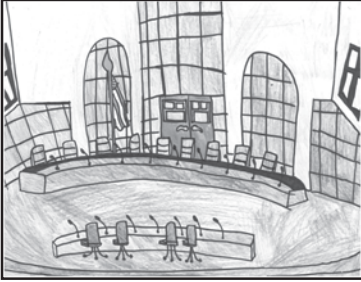
— John F. Kennedy

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2024 SMBA Poster Contest  
Presented by Strong Law, PC

Voices of Democracy:



**First Place**

**Sydney Lacara, 4th Grade**

Wanda Gray Elementary



**Second Place**

**Blair Hurst, 3rd Grade**

Wanda Gray Elementary



**Third Place**

**Kinlee Baier, 2nd Grade**

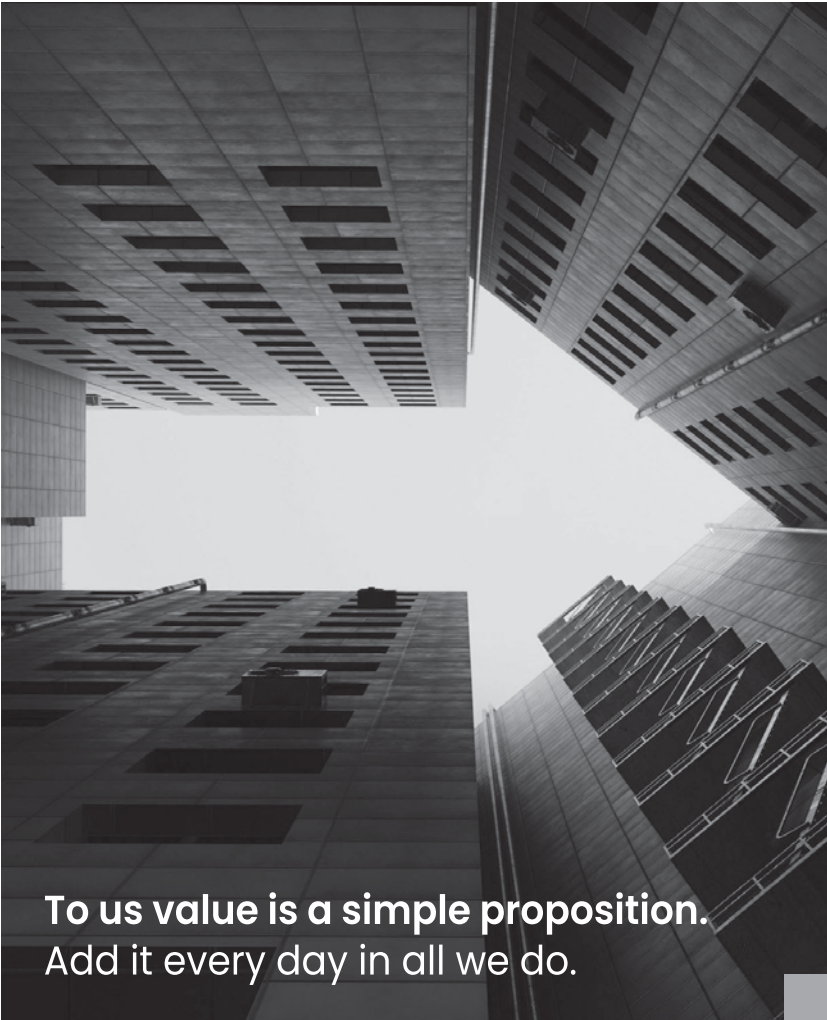
Wanda Gray Elementary



**Fourth Place**

**Aminna Elliott, 4th Grade**

Wanda Gray Elementary



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2024 SMBA Essay Contest  
*Presented by Spencer Fane*

# Voices of Democracy

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*Excerpts from the winning essays-*

*“What are some other ways citizens can be heard? Participate in Town Hall meetings, Public Hearings, and other activities relating to politics and meetings. You can also share your views on social media or platforms to express your views.*

**Quinten Plute, 8th Grade, The Summit Preparatory School**  
First Place

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*“In 2024, our view of democracy can easily be clouded by current events in other places across the world, such as the war between Russia and Ukraine. It’s easy to forget that we all have a say in what happens next to our country. We have the power to decide in which direction our country goes; for example, we could hoard resources and not give to other countries, or we could give a portion of resources away to promote world peace.”*

**Maxwell Powers, 6th Grade, The Summit Preparatory School**  
Second Place

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*“As Abraham Lincoln once said “democracy is the government of the people, by the people and for the people.” no doubt that the core of democracy is the people who have a voice in it..”*

**Rae Rosenbury, 6th Grade, The Summit Preparatory School**  
Third Place

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## 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.

2023	Ty Harden	2004	Jon Gold
2022	Nate Dunville and Scott Pierson	2003	James Arneson
2021	Bryan Musgrave	2002	Evelyn Gwin Mangan
2020	Brennan Pratt	2001	Carl Lippelman
2019	Mike Bridges	2000	Deanna Scott
2018	Scott Smith	1999	Ken Reynolds
2017	Amanda Brown	1998	Christian Wise
2016	Brett Schneider	1997	Betty Pace
2015	Jenifer Placzek	1996	Kay and Richard Van Pelt
2014	John Hacker	1995	Richard Dorr
2013	Derek Ankrom	1994	Jerry Redfern
2012	Lisa Sims	1993	Bill Prince
2011	Justin Rouse	1992	Paul Shackelford
2010	Jim Sharp	1991	Betty Pace
2009	Marsha Jackson	1990	Bruce K. Kirby
2008	Jason Umbarger	1989	Fitzsimmons, Schroeder and Nelson
2007	Nick Venute	1988	David W. Doran
2006	Jason Clough		
2005	Millie Donahoe		



## 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.

2023	Kim Hancock & Dr. Fred McQueary	1994	Linda Maggard
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
		1965	Dr. L.E. Meador

## DISTINGUISHED ATTORNEY AWARD

This 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, who 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.

2023	Clif Smart		
2022	The Hon Michael Cordonnier	2010	Virginia Fry
2021	John Pratt	2009	Kenneth Reid
2020	Mark McQueary	2008	Raymond Whiteaker
2019	Jim Newberry	2007	Glenn Burkart
2018	Bill Hart	2006	Ransom Ellis, Jr.
2017	Gary Cunningham	2005	Tom Strong
2016	The Hon. J. Miles Sweeney	2004	Warren Stafford
2015	Bill Powell	2003	Andy Dalton
2014	The Hon. John Holstein	2002	John Hulston
2013	Leland Bussell	2001	Fred Hall
2012	Link Knauer	2000	Jerry Redfern
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*Please use your voice and vote.*



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-Paula Di Perna, *Faces of American Justice* (1984)

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and a desire to  
know.”

- John Adams, 1765

  
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