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Tony Simones

PRESENTATION OF SMBA AWARDS

By Matt Russell, SMBA President

Equal Access to Justice Award

Liberty Bell Award

Judicial Excellence Award

Distinguished Attorney Award

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2025 SMBA Poster Contest

Presented by Strong Law, PC

This year's poster contest theme was "E pluribus unum: Out of Many, One."

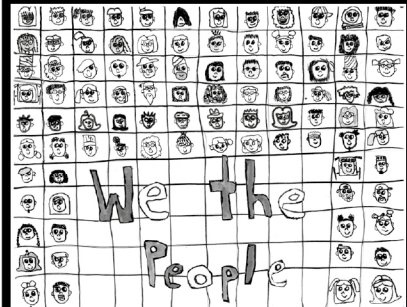
Students in grades 2-5 submitted a total of 67 posters which are now on display at the Library Center through mid-November.



First Place – Blair Hurst,
4th grade, Wanda Gray

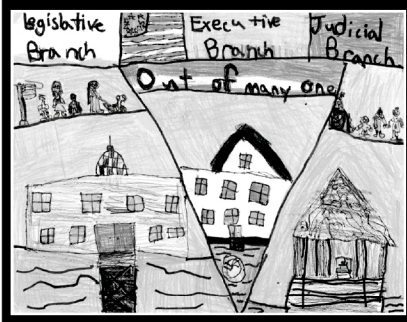
Second Place – Lyla Scott,
4th grade, Wanda Gray

Third Place – Elliot Miller,
3rd grade, Wanda Gray



Honorable Mention:
James Matlock,
2nd Grade, Sherwood

Liam Rodriguez,
2nd Grade, Sherwood



Finalists:
Tasi Bendure
Jeremiah Henry
Jenna Hunt
Terri'onna Klover
Emilia Loyd
London Neely
Aubriana Rosenstengel
Braiden Schaffer
Liam Schlesener
Abijean Shottenkirk



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2025 SMBA Essay Contest
Presented by Spencer Fane

E Pluribus Unum - Out of Many, One

“Out of many people's views, experiences, and actions, these individuals come together, uniting, showing that out of the many, one and all, everyone can make a difference. “

Matt Breckner, 8th Grade, The Summit Preparatory School

“The Great Seal symbolizes our country's national identity. Each part of the image is carefully thought out to honor our country's values and history. Moving forward, I hope that we as Americans can find a way to get back to a more united country. My hope is that E pluribus unum will act as the thread that ties our country together like it was originally meant to be.”

Alayna Pope, 7th Grade, The Summit Preparatory School

“As Americans, we should recognize that we are stronger together than we are apart.”

Gwen Rockne, 7th Grade, The Summit Preparatory School

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.

2025	Curtis Garner	2006	Jason Clough
2024	Anne Sallee Mason	2005	Millie Donahoe
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

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.

2025	Paul Williams	1995	Jo Thompson
2024	Sharon Alexander	1994	Linda Maggard
2023	Kim Hancock & Dr. Fred McQueary	1993	Fern Bookwalter
2022	Lincoln Hough	1992	Dr. Alice Bartee
2021	Katie Towns	1991	Traci Bauer & John Wylie
2020	Lara Garrett	1990	Jack Harmon
2019	Dr. George Connor	1989	Bob Bilyeu
2018	Paula Baird	1988	Robby O'Neal
2017	Kathleen O'Dell	1987	Sister Lorraine
2016	Thomas Peters	1986	York Johnson
2015	Anne Marie Frost	1985	Jane Coughenour
2014	Jody Austin	1984	Dr. Fred L. Hamburg
2013	Bob Dixon	1983	Gracie Gardner
2012	Crime Stoppers	1982	James D. Hutchinson
2011	Bob Horton	1981	Dr. Roy Grando
2010	Lynn Rowe	1980	Manda Boykin
2009	Morey Mechlin	1979	Mrs. Pat Walker
2008	Jim Anderson	1978	Dr. Duane G. Meyer
2007	Dr. Kenneth Rutherford	1977	Rev. Dorsey E. Levell
2006	Cynthia Rushefsky	1976	C.J. "Buck" Tindle
2005	Michelle Davidson	1975	W. Fred Schaeffer
2004	Kevin Baker	1974	Richard A. Birmingham
2003	Marcia Johnson & Phyllis Shestak	1973	Dr. Durward G. Hall
2002	Kay Murnan	1972	Otis D. Emmert
2001	Truly Applegate	1971	B. Harry Nicholson
2000	Mickie Stark	1970	James R. Craig
1999	Dr. Ruth Bamberger	1969	Barbara Clauser
1998	Sue C. Terry	1968	C. Frank Knox
1997	Stacy Sherrod	1967	Dr. William E. Everheart
1996	Debora S. Biggs	1966	William Henderson
		1965	Dr. L.E. Meador

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.

2025

The Honorable Doug Harpool

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 Honorable J. Miles Sweeney

2007

The Honorable Don Burrell, Jr.

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.

2025 Richard Schnake

2024 Rodney Loomer

2023 Clif Smart

2022 The Hon. 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

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2011 Richard Owensby

2010 Virginia Fry

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2007 Glenn Burkart

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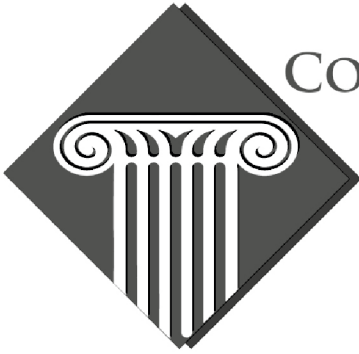
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– Ruth Bader Ginsberg*



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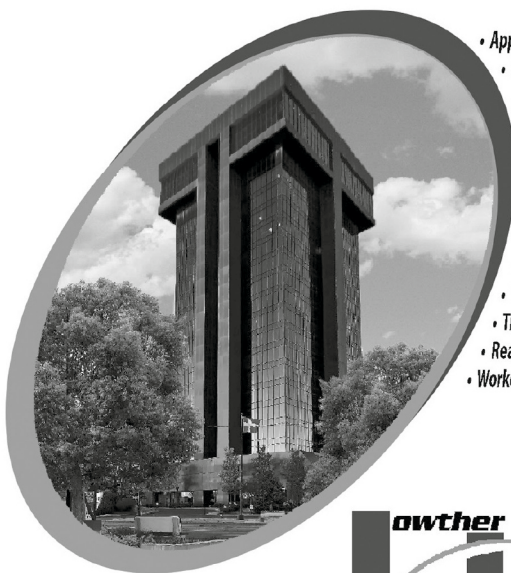
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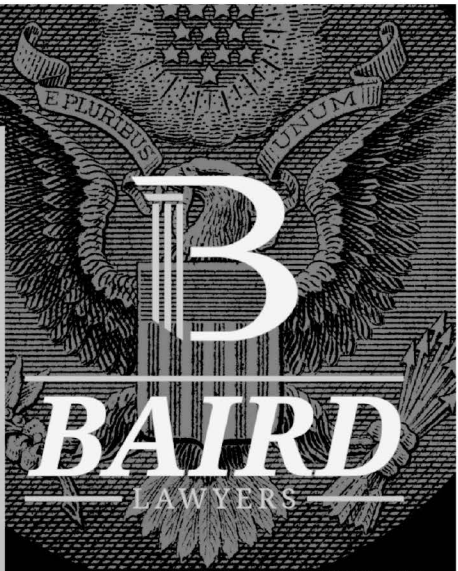
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our cause is one,
and we must
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if we are to
succeed. ”

-Frederick Douglass



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