



WELCOME  
TO THE BAR

*Letters from Past Presidents  
of the Springfield Bar*

*2018 Edition*



## *Presidents of the Springfield Bar*

1903	J. T. White	1955	Charles F. Newman	1989	<b>Topper Glass</b>
1918	C. D. Merritt	1956	York Johnson	1990	Jerry Redfern
1919	Charles J. Wright	1957	Jack A. Powell	1991	<b>Bruce McCurry</b>
1920	H. E. Howell	1958	A. Ronald Stewart	1992	<b>Fred Hall</b>
1921	F. M. McDavid	1959	Edmund C. Forehand	1993	<b>Ronald Baird</b>
1922	James E. Ruffin	1960	B. H. Clampett	1994	<b>Virginia Fry</b>
1923	C. H. Skinner	1961	George Donegan	1995	<b>James Newberry</b>
1924	M. C. Smith	1962	Leonard W. Chinn	1996	<b>Donald Woody</b>
1925	Harry Durst	1963	<b>Kenneth H. Reid</b>	1997	<b>David Ansley</b>
1926	Leonard Haydon	1964	Richard Farrington	1998	<b>Michael Cully</b>
1927	Frank C. Mann	1965	Wayne T. Walker	1999	<b>Dee Wampler</b>
1928	Frank C. Mann	1966	<b>Turner White</b>	2000	Gary Cunningham
1929	Frank C. Mann	1967	<b>Glenn A. Burkart</b>	2001	<b>Rodney Loomer</b>
1930	Albert Page	1968	Theodore Beezley	2002	<b>Richard Owensby</b>
1931	James E. Ruffin	1969	O. J. Taylor	2003	<b>Linda Thomas</b>
1932	James E. Ruffin	1970	<b>Raymond E. Whiteaker</b>	2004	<b>Charles Cowherd</b>
1935	O. T. Hamlin	1971	Sam Dickey	2005	<b>Lee Viorel</b>
1936	Frank B. Williams	1972	Horace Haseltine	2006	<b>Clifford S. Brown</b>
1937	Frank C. Mann	1973	<b>John Hulston</b>	2007	<b>Steve Garner</b>
1938	Frank C. Mann	1974	Lawrence Askinosie	2008	Brent Green
1939	J. Weston Miller	1975	Flavius B. Freeman	2009	Wallace Squibb
1941	William Vendeventer	1976	Wallace N. Springer	2010	Brian Hamburg
1942	Matthew N. Galt	1977	Meredith Turner	2011	<b>Gary Powell</b>
1943	Arthur W. Allen	1978	<b>Thomas Strong</b>	2012	<b>Teresa Grantham</b>
1944	Fred A. Moon	1979	<b>Vincent Tyndall</b>	2013	<b>Joseph D. "Chip" Sheppard, III</b>
1945	Ben M. Neale	1980	Buell Weathers	2014	<b>Dwayne Fulk</b>
1946	Ed Barbour	1981	<b>William A. R. Dalton</b>	2015	Mark McQueary
1947	Ed Barbour	1982	Harold Fisher	2016	<b>Robert Palmer</b>
1948	John H. Fairman	1983	<b>Leland Bussell</b>	2017	<b>Ginger Gooch</b>
1949	Louren G. Davidson	1984	<b>Warren S. Stafford</b>	2018	John Pratt
1950	Lon S. Haymes	1985	<b>Ransom Ellis, Jr.</b>		
1951	Ray Daniel	1986	<b>Robert Schroff</b>		
1952	Clarence O. Woolsey	1987	<b>Benjamin Francka</b>		
1953	William P. Sanford	1988	<b>William Francis, Jr.</b>		
1954	Charles W. Dickey				

Letters included from those designated in **bold print**.

# HUSCH BLACKWELL

Ginger K. Gooch  
Partner

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June 8, 2018

Dear New Member:

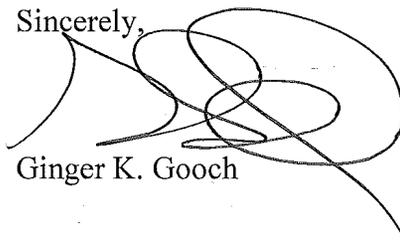
It is my pleasure to welcome you to the profession of practicing law as a member of the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association.

There is so much good advice in this booklet that I've struggled with what to say and decided on this: You will make mistakes in the practice of law. You are not perfect. We do ourselves and the practice of law a disservice when we pretend we are perfect and when we are not open and honest with new lawyers about mistakes we've made in the practice of law. I understand why it happens. Lawyers want to look (and be) smart and aggressive for our clients. No one, probably least of all lawyers, wants to be reminded of mistakes.

So let me be open and honest and share a few mistakes I've made as a lawyer. There have been minor, embarrassing things—like making it halfway through the day before realizing I had on one blue shoe and one black shoe. Oh well, at least I didn't have court that day, I thought. Then there have been major, embarrassing things—like appearing in Christian County for a matter set in Taney County and like blowing a deadline. I cringe still when I think about these mistakes, the negative consequences of which were lessened thanks to the kindness of other attorneys in this Bar. For example, when I showed up in the wrong court, I called my opposing counsel and he agreed to wait until I arrived in Taney County. I think and hope he knew I would have done the same for him. As you can see, I have firsthand experience with the collegiality of our Bar. Then there are the countless times I could have presented an argument better or dealt with a client better. Practicing law is humbling and challenging, which is wonderful and terrifying.

When you are overwhelmed, or when you have screwed up something, know we have been there. No matter how smart, cool, calm, and collected, each of us has had cringe-worthy moments in the practice of law (and in life in general), some more than others. The true test is how you deal with the mistake and mostly it involves dusting yourself off and trying to do better the next day and the next time. I am so proud to be a lawyer but I am not perfect, far from it. I hope your experience practicing law here will be as rewarding as mine.

Sincerely,



Ginger K. Gooch

**Robert M.N. Palmer\***  
**Craig R. Oliver\*\***

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The Law  
Offices of  
**PalmerOliver**

A Professional  
Corporation

December 16, 2016

Dear Fellow Lawyer,

The most important quality I look for in judging my fellow lawyers is integrity. It takes years to build a good reputation but only a minute to lose it. Always maintain your integrity. Make your word your bond. Your fellow lawyers will know your reputation for integrity and will judge you accordingly.

Also take time for yourself away from the practice of law. You have to work hard to be a good lawyer however you need your own time so you can also work on being a happy and healthy individual.

Respectfully,

By: 

Robert M.N. Palmer  
[palmer@palmerlaw.com](mailto:palmer@palmerlaw.com)

nmb

# LATHROP & GAGE<sub>LLP</sub>

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December 19, 2016

New Members of the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association ("SMBA"):

Welcome to the SMBA and to our esteemed profession; please consider this my suggested "12-step" program to transition from law school to the practice of law:

1. If you are required to do so, contemporaneously record actual time worked and update or make a note every time you switch to a different matter;
2. Plan ahead, meet deadlines (even better, try to beat them with a cushion), try to exceed expectations, and be available during the client's working hours;
3. Copy the client on every communication, and always proofread your work (including emails) but don't rely on a word processing program to do so;
4. Carefully read and shepardize/keycite applicable cases/rules, and don't presume a supervising or opposing attorney has done so;
5. Try to represent only clients you like, but always remember who the client is, and state clearly and be an advocate for their position;
6. Always be marketing, but keep strict confidentiality about your firm/employer and its clients, even with (non-team) colleagues, friends and significant others;
7. Know your clients and their industries, preferences, challenges and goals;
8. Treat everyone with respect (including clients, colleagues and support staff), not the least because you need their cooperation, but the client is paramount;
9. Think like the client and be scrupulous with expenses, treating firm/employer and client money like every penny counts (because it does);
10. Strive to be accurate, thorough and timely, but not necessarily perfect;
11. Always ask questions, observe other attorneys, and learn from their (and your) strengths, weaknesses and mistakes; and
12. Build and protect your reputation, as it is your most valuable asset and law is a profession of trust, and have fun!

Very truly yours,

LATHROP & GAGE LLP

By: 

Dwayne A. Fulk  
2014 SMBA President



*Carnahan  
Evans  
Cantwell  
& Brown  
P. C.*

JOHN M. CARNAHAN III, LL.M., TAXATION  
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JOHN E. PRICE  
JENNIFER K. HUCKFELDT, LL.M., TAXATION  
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EMILY J. KEMBELL, LL.M., TAXATION <sup>4</sup>  
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OF COUNSEL  
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HOWARD C. WRIGHT, JR.

DON G. BUSCH (RETIRED)  
JOHN M. CARNAHAN, JR (1915-1998)

FIRM ADMINISTRATOR  
SHELLY BIVINS

December 18, 2012

Dear New SMBA Members:

Welcome to one of the best metropolitan bar associations in the country! The statewide and nationwide awards for both the SMBA and its Executive Director, Crista Hogan, should give you some comfort that the SMBA will be there for a host of issues and challenges you will face as an attorney. Please take advantage of it. Then, when you are able, please pay it forward with your service to the SMBA, which will almost certainly be a very rewarding part of your career.

This is a small town. With less than 1,000 attorneys think of the Bar Association as a high school. One that you attend for the rest of your career, assuming you stay in the Springfield area. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. I remember being a young, "aggressive big city lawyer" from Dallas, Texas, who returned home to practice in Springfield after about 5 years of practicing in Dallas. Not a small legal community, you were taught on the first day at any firm that you could not trust any other lawyer in the Dallas area so we spent a great deal of time covering our backsides. It only took me about 6 months in Springfield being "aggressive", covering my backside and assuming that the other attorneys were trying to "trick me" before a really good friend of mine and fellow lawyer, Pat Sweeney, called me to tell me to quit being such a jerk (I think his term was a little more colorful). Trusting Pat, I really did make an effort to change my tune, quit assuming the worse motives and rely more on the reputations of the individual members of the local bar. That will serve you well.

The way you treat other lawyers, as you would like to be treated, will make the practice much more enjoyable. On the other hand, without being paranoid, you do still have to "cover" yourself with written confirmations to opposing counsel, clients and others to make sure there aren't any misunderstandings later and to avoid malpractice and ethical claims. The key: doing it with a tone that is respectful. This is true even if your opposing counsel is less than respectful or his/her client wants everything but your client's first born child.

If you are solo make sure you have a mentor or at least know who to reach out to in certain situations: Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel for ethical issues; the judge's assistants concerning the judge's pet peeves; the different committees of the Missouri Bar, the SMBA and other bar associations you join.

Finally, this is a profession and while, in the early years, it may be a struggle for you to keep money in the account and put food on the table, those early years and the long hours that are almost certainly necessary, with few exceptions, should lay a great foundation for years of sage advice to your clients.

I truly hope that you look back on your career after 30 or 40 years and are at least half as pleased as I am to have had the privilege to practice in this great profession. You can certainly be proud if you know that over the years you were diligent in your investigation of the facts, competent in your research of the law and totally honest with your clients in your evaluations and recommendations.

Very Truly Yours,

Joseph D. Sheppard, III

JDS:kds

<sup>1</sup> ALSO ADMITTED IN FLORIDA  
<sup>2</sup> ALSO ADMITTED IN TEXAS  
<sup>3</sup> ALSO ADMITTED IN OREGON

<sup>4</sup> ALSO ADMITTED IN NEW YORK  
and ARKANSAS  
<sup>5</sup> ALSO ADMITTED IN ILLINOIS



**CarverCantin&Grantham**  
Attorneys at Law

Thomas D. Carver  
Shane P. Cantin  
Teresa Grantham

December 18, 2012

To all new attorneys:

In composing this letter I realize that I am somewhere in the middle of my own legal career. I'm no longer fresh and new but I fall short of sage and wise. I'll try to impart three ideas that have been learned through time, frustration and even tears.

First, you must treat your opponents with respect even if they are behaving in a manner that does not command respect. You will be known for how you act. You can't control how others act and it's irrational to try.

Second, and really along the same lines, there is seldom a shortage of lawyers who make snarky comments when they are not getting their way. This is a trait I am still fighting after practicing law for 17 years. Learn not to say those things even if you think them. It never helps your client.

Third, try to smile frequently. Of course, I'm talking friendly smile, not recent lobotomy smile. Clients like friendly lawyers. No matter your area of practice your primary job is to help people. You should be honored that you have found a useful profession that has the power to change lives for the better with the work you do. Feel good about it and let it show. If you are not doing work that makes you smile frequently, do something else. As part of this, try to learn how to do your job in a way that also lets you be yourself. It's helpful to watch good lawyers but you should not just copy them. Try to find your own style by using your best assets as an individual.

You are entering a profession that can garner both immense respect and incredible disdain from the public. Try to learn from other lawyers, be nice to your clients and hold yourself out as a proud member of your legal community and you will be successful.

Sincerely,  
  
**Teresa Grantham**  
SMBA President, 2012

# STRONG GARNER BAUER

TRIAL ATTORNEYS

LAWYERS  
JEFF BAUER \*\*  
NEIL CHANTER  
STEVE GARNER \*\*\*\*  
CHANDLER GREGG  
GRANT RAHMEYER\*\*\*  
NICK SMART  
THOMAS STRONG \*

PARALEGALS  
VICKI ANDERSON  
AMANDA BIRD  
GREG BOONE  
BRADLEY HOLT  
MINDY MEINKING  
ANN WAITE  
JACQUELINE BAKER

\*\*\*\* Licensed Also in Arkansas  
\*\*\* Licensed Also in Arkansas & Kansas  
Licensed Also in Kansas  
Retired

January 21, 2013

NURSES  
DEBRA AMTOWER, RN, LNCC, EMT  
FRANCES COLOGNA, RN, BSN, CNOR

Dear New Members:

To those who just passed the Bar and to those experienced lawyers who have just joined our Bar Association, let me congratulate you on an excellent choice.

I have practiced law in Springfield for over 27 years. I have also had the opportunity to practice in courts throughout Missouri, as well as other states. I can tell you we have a very special Bar Association and a very special culture to practice law in. The lawyers in Springfield still value the Rules of Ethics and keep professional matters professional. In short, manners matter here.

To those who are starting their careers, I hope that you will become involved in the bar so that the quality of practice in Springfield remains high. I hope that you will adhere to the highest ethics while, at all times, seeking to improve your practice abilities. Always remember that our profession is a service profession. We are here to serve the system of justice and to serve our clients and must strive to put both ahead of our personal interests.

While some attack our profession, our profession remains the only viable means for our society to seek social change, resolve basic disputes and administer justice. There is no system in the world that accomplishes these goals as efficiently as our system of justice. Those who seek to destroy the legal profession do so because they do not want to be held accountable. Under our system, might does not make right; power does not elevate the powerful over justice; and those in power, at times, want to destroy the system that holds them accountable.

I hope that you will give back to the profession – not only in how you practice, but in how you stand up for our profession. The courts are, in fact, the third branch of government and you are the foot-soldiers of the third branch of government. Every day you step into a courtroom or meet with a client to give them legal advice or help people with any legal matter, I hope you will be proud of not only what you are doing but the place that you hold in our society. Know the law, keep your word, and be professional to your colleagues and opponents and you will enjoy the practice of law and thrive as a lawyer in Springfield.

Welcome aboard!

Sincerely,



Steve Garner

# HUSCH BLACKWELL

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Partner

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January 11, 2013

Ms. Crista Hogan  
Executive Director  
Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association  
1615 S. Ingram Mill Road, Bldg D  
Springfield, MO 65804

Dear Crista:

When you asked me to write a letter to the new lawyers in our community, I thought about the commencement address given by Professor John Wade when I graduated from the University of Missouri School of Law in 1979.

Professor Wade had taught torts at the University of Missouri School of Law, and the graduating class asked him to come back to Columbia and deliver the commencement address.

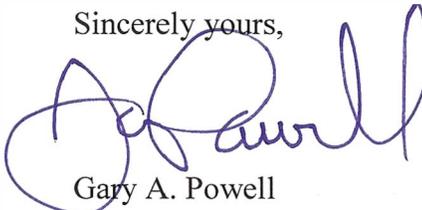
Professor Wade had a long and distinguished career practicing and teaching law, and I suppose he could have talked about a number of things in his commencement address, but what he chose to speak about was practical advice to young lawyers, as they started out on their careers.

Thus, as I was thinking about what to put in this letter, I was thinking about professor Wade's practical advice, and also some things which I have learned over the years, that I thought might be useful to young lawyers. With that as a background, here is my advice (the items are in no particular order):

1. Communicate frequently with you client. Always let the client know what is going on in his or her case or matter. Try to respond to each phone call or e-mail the day you receive it.
2. Be a problem solver, not a problem creator. Always try to give the clients options. Try to avoid complex solutions. If a solution is too complex for the client to understand, then it is probably too complex.
3. Keep your integrity, and keep your ethical standards. Do not sacrifice them in order to win a particular case, or to secure an advantage in a particular matter.
4. Know what you don't know.
5. Always remember that you are in a service business.
6. Be aware of the client's budget. Keep track of your time as you move forward with the client's case or matter, and know when you are exceeding that budget. Communicate with the client, so that you and the client can decide how to proceed further.
7. Always remember when working with other attorneys that "what goes around comes around". You will probably work with the same attorneys several times over your legal career.
8. You are always representing the profession, whether you are at the office, in the courtroom, or even in a social situation.

The practice of law can provide a challenging and fulfilling career, perhaps over a period of 30 or 40 years. Hopefully my advice will help enhance that career.

Sincerely yours,



Gary A. Powell



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FIRM ADMINISTRATOR  
SHEILY BIVINS

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December 18, 2012

Dear New Lawyers:

Welcome to Springfield and to the practice of law -- both of which can be, and will be, both fascinating and frustrating.

As an assist, hopefully, to you in beginning your practice of law, a short story of my initial foray into the practice and an extremely important lesson learned:

One week after graduating law school, I began working for a large firm in Kansas City. One of the first matters I was asked to undertake involved a traffic ticket of a client. A senior partner of the firm asked me to take the ticket to the courthouse, contact the assistant prosecutor involved and attempt to "work out a deal" on the ticket. The senior partner then asked if I had any questions. I assured him I did not and that I would handle the matter promptly.

Within about two minutes after the senior partner left my office, I realized that not only did I not know how to "fix" the ticket, I did not even know where the courthouse was!

Lesson learned? There are no stupid questions (only stupid answers). If you don't know, ask. It can save you an immense amount of time -- and embarrassment.

So, as a "present" to you as you begin your practice, I offer my assistance to answer questions you may have, if I know the answer. I am certain most members of the bar will also respond.

Now, go forth and enjoy the practice of law!

Sincerely,

Clifford S. Brown

CSB:sjh  
99104-013/410975



December 20, 2005

Dear New SMBA Member:

I would like to welcome you to the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association. You are a part of an organization that is more than 100 years old. It is steeped in tradition and has hosted some of the best lawyers in Missouri as well as in the United States. You will find that your fellow lawyers of the SMBA are men and women of character and true legal ability.

The law is often a daunting and unforgiving practice. It is called a practice because that is what you do. You've learned the rudimentary facts necessary to be a lawyer but follow the lead of other members in your firm in learning the true art of practicing law. It is certainly something that will take a lifetime.

Furthermore, you have entered one of the noblest professions in our society. You will be a steward of the judiciary, an officer of the court and a keeper of the Constitution. You will find that you have the abilities to be the protector of some of the most important rights that we hold in our society. You have the ability to help the downtrodden, the weak and the unfortunate in society. You have a true gift and this is your opportunity to use that gift.

In using your gifts that come with being a lawyer you should always remember to treat those around you with respect, to act in a humble manner and to show the court and your clients the respect that the law entails. You have the unique opportunity to cross the bar and address the court. It is a great privilege and one which you should always respect.

As you travel the course of your profession there will be many highs and a few lows. I would ask that you search out older more experienced attorneys and seek help whenever you need it. You are fortunate because the Springfield Metropolitan Bar is very collegial. You don't find the collegiality that you find here in the other bars in the State or in other States. I would encourage you to take full advantage of that.

Also, the Springfield Metropolitan Bar is a wonderful association that offers many benefits to its members. I urge you to take part in all aspects of the SMBA from the monthly luncheons to the law day activities. You will find that being a member of the association is a wonderful resource. The Executive Director, Crista Hogan, is an incredible woman who always seems to accomplish great things. I would suggest that you tap her when you need a resource.

It is my great pleasure to again welcome you to the Bar Association and encourage you to take full part in that. The members of the SMBA are anxious to have you join them and ready in their encouragement for your success.

Very truly yours,

SPRINGFIELD METROPOLITAN  
BAR ASSOCIATION

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lee J. Viorel, President

LJV/blv

Dear Fellow Attorneys:

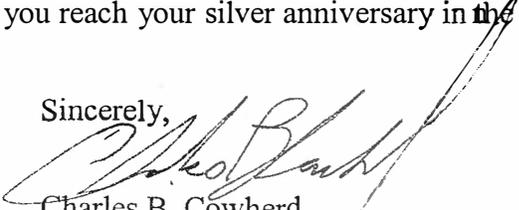
As you begin your practice you no doubt feel somewhat defenseless. After all, at times it will appear that everyone around you knows more than you do about your chosen profession, including (if you are lucky) your secretary. They know the proper form for a pleading or contract or will, they know the people at city hall or the courthouse or the IRS, and most importantly, they know each other and their strengths and weaknesses.

Those disadvantages will pass with time, but having been in that same position myself, I have a few pieces of armor that I recommend that you keep close at hand as protection while you mature:

1. Always be truthful and honest with your clients, other attorneys and the judges. It is far easier than the alternative, and you will win far more battles with those characteristics on your side. Credible, successful, respected and many other like adjectives will soon become attached to your name.
2. Remember who you are. You are the embodiment of our legal system. You may be the only lawyer some people will ever know. What a tremendous responsibility and what a privilege! It also helps to keep you humble and open.
3. Find someone who knows. The SMBA is filled with patient, considerate and competent teachers, who are happy to share their knowledge with you and help you be a better lawyer. Seek them out and you will find that they have faced many of the same challenges and survived.
4. It is better to give than to receive. The more of yourself that you share with the community, your church, your fellow employees and your bar association, the faster you will see your practice blossom.
5. Respect yourself. Your failures are not final and your flaws are not fatal. You have been chosen for a reason, and it is not because you are perfect. If you were, there would be no reason to practice.

I hope you will find these suggestions helpful and not too heavy to carry with you as you enter into one of the greatest journeys of your life. I am proud of my profession and of those that practice in this community, and I hope that when you reach your silver anniversary in the practice you will feel the same way.

Sincerely,



Charles B. Cowherd

SMBA President 2004

**Linda K. Thomas**

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Telephone: (417) 865-6609

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December 18, 2003

Dear New SMBA Member:

I can recall with absolute clarity the day the idea for this booklet came to me. I was bursting with pride in Jesse Hall on August 6, 2003, as I was attending the White Coat Ceremony held each year for first year medical students on the campus of the University of Missouri-Columbia. My oldest son was a part of the class and had just received his first white coat, a symbol of the profession to which he aspires. Students, parents and friends were inspired by words from various faculty members on what it means to be a part of the medical profession. Words like faith, courage, compassion, and love were spoken with reverence and sincerity. Faculty members told the students that this is who we are and that they were now a part of that profession. There was not a parent in the room who failed to sob like a baby over the fact that their son or daughter was now a part of this noble group. At the end of the ceremony, we were invited to travel across the street to the Alumni Center for a reception featuring delicious food and beverages. One faculty member stated that a student should remember his or her first day in the medical profession as more than an occasion to receive a parking pass and, indeed, it was.

As I left the auditorium, I asked myself, what does the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association do for our new members. What do we do to let members know that they are now a part of a professional organization that has served the legal profession in our community for over a century? How can we let them know that they are a part of something special?

As an organization, we are unable to welcome our new members in a setting that matches the splendor of Jesse Hall. We have no faculty members to inspire and challenge our new members to reach for the stars and aspire to greatness. We have nothing as distinct as a white coat to offer to symbolize that you are now one of us. What we can offer is delicious food and beverages and this booklet, which is our first attempt to pass on the collective wisdom of some of our members to new lawyers or lawyers who are new to our community.

You will soon come to know that practicing law with members of the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association is a privilege and a delight. I am continually amazed by the talent and diversity found in this group of men and women who now form the family of your profession. In all families, there is conflict as well as feelings of fondness and admiration. This family is no different. There will almost certainly be a time when you

will swear that you would sooner burn in the fires of hell than ever speak to a certain lawyer again and it is equally certain that later you will join that lawyer in the lounge for a cup of coffee and laugh at the memory of that very moment. You will learn that being one of us is easier when you learn the value of tolerance and forgiveness. Tolerance and forgiveness are some of the virtues you would learn about if we were able to offer you Jesse Hall and a white coat.

If we could be in Jesse Hall, we would ask our wisest and most senior member to speak about how to make decisions and the fact that just because a decision is permissible by law is often not good enough. A better test of a good decision adds the additional standards of whether the decision is also moral and ethical. A man that I admire once expressed his belief that a person should regard each decision he makes and each action he takes as a call to honor and conduct himself accordingly. That is a lofty goal for which to strive and one for which we should all aim.

I suppose that I am a little jealous that lawyers do not have the equivalent of a white coat to serve as a means by which we can be readily identified because I truly believe that being a member of the legal profession should be a source of pride. In spite of all the lawyer jokes, the truth remains that when people need help, they call a lawyer. You are now a part of the group that responds to those calls. Offering assistance to those who need help has never struck me as being particularly funny. As a lawyer, you have the ability to access information and help people in crisis find an orderly way to resolve their disputes. That is a powerful gift, a gift that should be willingly shared with those in need and with community organizations that do so much to enrich our daily lives. Do not be stingy with your time. The personal satisfaction that you will receive from your community service will far outweigh any inconvenience caused by the investment of your time and energy.

In the drawer of my desk, there is a little rock. It looks like any rock you would find on the street or kick with your toe on a parking lot. One of the most needy of the children that I represented picked it up on the way to my office and gave it to me. He said that he wanted to give me something for trying to help him and it was all that he had. For many years, I have kept that rock as a reminder of what it means to be a lawyer. While I do not have a white coat, I have my rock and that is enough for me. I hope that it will be enough for you, too.

Welcome to the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association. We are glad you are here.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Linda K. Thomas".

Linda K. Thomas  
SMBA President  
2003

JERRY L. REDFERN  
THOM G. FIELD  
J. RICHARD OWENSBY  
PAUL G. WHITE  
RICHARD L. SCHNAKE  
KEVIN HAYS DUNAWAY  
BRIAN K. ASBERRY  
MICHAEL J. DEARMON\*  
DWAYNE A. FULK  
CHRISTIAAN D. HORTON  
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BEN M. NEALE (1876-1966)  
CHARLES F. NEWMAN (1680-1968)  
JEAN PAUL BRADSHAW (1906-1970)  
FLAVIUS B. FREEMAN (1911-1995)  
PAUL L. BRADSHAW (1930-1985)

OF COUNSEL  
LELAND C. BUSSELL  
DAVID W. HALL, JR. ‡  
PATRICK J. PLATTER  
MARK L. McQUEARY  
ANNE SALLEE MASON

\*ALSO ADMITTED IN OKLAHOMA  
†ALSO ADMITTED IN ARKANSAS  
‡ALSO ADMITTED IN TEXAS

December 17, 2003

Dear New Member:

Welcome to membership in the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association (SMBA). It is an organization in which most of the attorneys in the Springfield area belong.

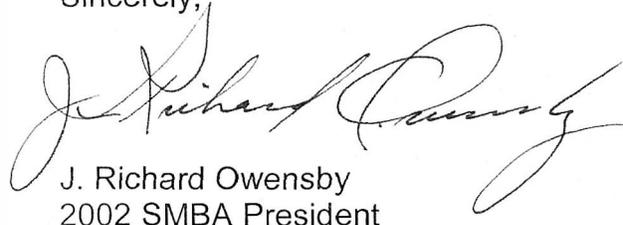
I would urge you to take advantage of the many opportunities which SMBA membership affords. Our local Bar sponsors a number of professional and social activities which will allow you to become well acquainted with many of the attorneys with whom you will deal for years to come. In addition to our monthly membership meetings, the Bar also conducts Continuing Legal Education seminars on a wide variety of legal subjects, all at reasonable cost. Your attendance at the monthly meetings and these seminars will allow you to improve your legal abilities as well as permit you to meet the annual CLE requirements which are imposed by the Missouri Bar Association.

The SMBA also sponsors a number of social events, such as the annual installation banquet, the golf tournament, and the spring fashion show. Your participation in these activities will allow you to become better acquainted, not only with your fellow attorneys, but also with the local judges.

The SMBA also affords you the opportunity to help others in the community by allowing you to participate in such projects as the "Call The Lawyer" series, which is broadcast on a local television station, by allowing you to participate in public awareness seminars for members of the public in general, by allowing you to act as a debate judge for local high school students, and by allowing you to participate in many other similar events and projects.

Therefore, I would urge you to join in. Become active. You will be personally and financially rewarded for doing so.

Sincerely,



J. Richard Owensby  
2002 SMBA President

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Michael J. Patton  
Sherry A. Rozell  
Joseph P. Winget  
Wallace S. Squibb\*  
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Jeffrey T. Davis\*\*

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\*\*\*Scott E. Bellm  
Whitney E. Deacon

Of Counsel:  
Kenneth H. Reid  
Donald R. Duncan  
Ben K. Upp

\* Also Admitted in Illinois  
\*\* Also Admitted in Kansas  
\*\*\*Also Admitted in Arkansas

Meredith B. Turner (1913-1993)

December 19, 2003

Ms. Linda Thomas, President  
Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association  
333 Park Central East, Suite 1010  
Springfield MO 65806

Dear Linda:

You have asked for a letter or essay which might contain some advice for young lawyers just beginning their careers in the Springfield area. While I feel somewhat ill-equipped to give such advice, I will share a couple of thoughts.

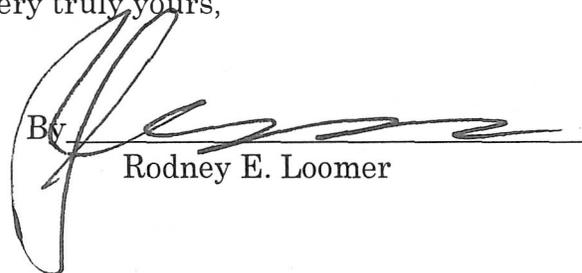
First, the old saying "what goes around comes around" is particularly applicable in the practice of law. The reputation you develop relating to how you treat your fellow lawyers will last long after people have forgotten about your skills in the courtroom.

Second, embrace the virtue of patience. Don't expect too much too soon. This is not as easy a business as it appears on TV.

Finally, maintain a healthy sense of humor and share it with your colleagues. No one enjoys practicing with or against a curmudgeon.

I would conclude by saying to those who are starting their practice in Springfield that they are truly fortunate. Having handled cases in numerous states over the past 29 years, I can personally vouch for the fact that some of the finest lawyers in the country acquired their legal skills in Springfield, Missouri.

Very truly yours,

  
By \_\_\_\_\_  
Rodney E. Loomer

ps: I am enclosing herewith an article from the June 1982 "The Young Lawyer"

# THE young lawyer

JUNE, 1982

Published quarterly by the Young Lawyers Section of the Missouri Bar

## "To Be An Out-State Lawyer"

By Rod Loomer

Among the learned brethren, there are certain esoteric terms which denote geographic location of fellow practitioners. "Kansas City" signifies the metropolis wherein those of the west advocate the cause of their clients. To designate those wise men of the east, fellow practitioners use the term "St. Louis" (pronounced San-Loo-aye). However, there is a third term, though rarely used, which causes inevitable association with rugged hills, barefooted tow-headed youngins, moonshiners, revenueurs and, last but not least, Circuit-riding lawyers. Yes, the "Ozarks".

One of the many attributes of Ozark lawyers is the ability to poke fun at themselves and other Ozark lawyers and pass down through the years stories about other Ozark lawyers. The story goes that a Webster County lawyer was once cited for contempt for failing to honor a commitment he made to the Circuit Judge. When the Judge insinuated that his practice was run in a rather sloppy fashion, the lawyer replied, "Judge, I resent that insinuation. I have a practice second to anyone."

Although few of the law firms in out-state Missouri have the size sufficient to support an outdoor privy, much less an in-house cafeteria, few of our brethren from the metropolitan areas can boast that he or she had lunch with the Judge in his chambers along with every other lawyer attending Law Day on the fourth Thursday in the month. Recently, at the Wright County Courthouse in Hartville, the Judge treated the entire Bar of Wright County (and guests) to a feast of catfish and potatoes. If the Judge had attempted to put on this same feast in Kansas City or St. Louis, a miracle not unlike

the one reported in the most-read book in America would have been required in light of the fact that only two fish were used.

It has long been thought that the practice of criminal law was an art invented for and cultivated by "city" lawyers and that "country" lawyers should stick to writing deeds and drawing wills. Two examples come to mind which indicate nothing could be further from the truth. In a recent case in Greene County, the attorney representing the defendant surprised the Judge by announcing that his client wanted to take the stand. Thereupon, the defendant marched to the stand and defense counsel asked, "Luther, do you have anything to tell the jury?" Luther responded by immediately confessing to the crime and begging the jury for mercy. Defense counsel sat smugly while the jury filed out. Of course, the jury returned with a verdict of guilty, and because the Defendant was a third-time offender, the Judge, not the jury, sentenced the defendant to the maximum sentence receivable for that particular crime.

In another move, equally as brilliant, a local lawyer (who has since been elevated to the bench), represented a defendant charged with burglary. In a move which likewise surprised the prosecuting attorney and the Court, counsel called his client to the stand. "What's your occupation, Willie?" asked counsel. "I am a professional burglar," said Willie. "You heard the evidence today, and can you tell the jury why it is obvious that you were not involved in this case?" asked counsel. "Yes, it is obvious that this was a botched-up job done by a bunch of amateurs that no self-respecting burglar with my years of experience would ever

want to be associated with," said Willie with a sense of professional pride. When we last checked, Willie was serving time in Jeff City.

Ozark lawyers are likewise noted for their ability to command high fees. One day a representative of a national corporation called a lawyer in Springfield to see if he would be willing to represent the corporation. After describing the nature of the complicated dispute, the subject of fees was tentatively approached by the attorney. After the attorney advised the corporation's representative that he would need a retainer of at least \$250.00, a long pause ensued whereupon the representative agreed to send a check in the following day's mail. The attorney was later heard to remark to his partner, "I thought I'd lost him."

In closing, I provide you with the definition of these natives as provided by the Honorable Justin Ruark in *Moore v. Moore*, 337 S.W. 2d 781 (Mo. App. 1 ), at page 789:

An "Ozark hillbilly" is an individual who has learned the real luxury of doing without the entangling complications of things which the dependent and over-pressured city dweller is required to consider as necessities, and who foregoes the hard grandeur of high buildings and canyon streets in exchange for wooded hills and verdant valleys.

LAW OFFICES OF  
**DEE WAMPLER**  
TRIAL ATTORNEYS

DEE WAMPLER JOSEPH S. PASSANISE HOMER D. WAMPLER, JR (1913-1999)

PARALEGALS KAY MCMILLAN BETTY JACKSON TAMMY JACKSON

December 13, 2004

Charles B. Cowherd  
SMBA President  
1949 E. Sunshine, Suite 2-300  
Springfield, MO 65804

Attn: All new members of the Bar

Dear Mr. Cowherd:

After 40 years trial practice of criminal law and having served as Greene County Prosecuting Attorney and having appeared in front of many judges and with hundreds of attorneys in Southwest Missouri, I highly recommend to all new members of the bar that they be a "lawyer to be reckoned with."

This lawyer is one who is effective on a continual basis, who enjoys a certain status because of earned respect. It is a person that is sincere, who has a presence which allows them to quietly command attention in a court room and in legal settings, always prepared on the facts and law.

A lawyer to be reckoned with is an advocate for their client, candid with the Court while not compromising the attorney/client privilege, not intimidated by judges or prosecutors but one that holds judges, prosecutors, and other attorneys accountable for their rulings, actions and conduct.

A lawyer to be reckoned with shows respect for the Court, inspires others to "do the right thing," does not grandstand and shows respect for their fellow professionals by being courteous, on time, and returning telephone calls. Be confident in your own abilities, yet exhibit appropriate humility. Conduct yourself as a professional and be aware of all ethical and "cutting edge issues" effecting your profession. Be aware of the Court's time as well as the limited staff and resources of judges and be courteous to court personnel.

A lawyer to be reckoned with does not unnecessarily attack witnesses, does not flaunt wealth or success but yet understands the suffering of his clients and victims. A lawyer to be reckoned with is one who is a faithful partner to his or her spouse, a good family member, one who attends the church of their faith and becomes active in civic and charitable organizations within the community. While hard work is desirable, never neglect your family or your faith.

Sincerely yours,





December 17, 2003

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RANDY J. REICHARD  
ANGELA K. GREEN\*  
LEE J. VIOREL

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JUSTIN A. HARRIS  
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SAMIE K. PAYNE

\* ALSO ADMITTED IN KANSAS

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Dear New Members:

Welcome to the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association. As I reflect upon my admittance to the SMBA (formerly Greene County Bar Association) some 25 years ago, I am reminded of how intimidating it seemed to appear in front of judges such as Jack Powell and Jim Keet and to oppose senior members of the bar in litigation matters. Initially, I approached the practice of law strictly as a series of battles to be fought and hopefully won.

As time marched on, I became much more familiar with the members of the judiciary and with my fellow members of the then Greene County Bar Association. I came to recognize they were men and women who had families, who contributed their time, money, and efforts to many different worthy causes in our community, and all of whom, with minor exceptions, enjoyed the camaraderie with their fellow lawyers. Many of the jurists, as well as many of my fellow members of the bar, offered words of encouragement and assistance to me as I matured in the practice of law. It is these acts of kindness and generosity that will always have a place in my memory. Each of us can foster these feelings as we interact with one another in the day-to-day practice of law. I would encourage you to make this a goal of yours.

The members of the SMBA have for many years prided themselves on the fact that opposing lawyers could agree among themselves upon matters such as extensions of time, continuances, and similar matters, which makes the practice of law less contentious as well as easier and more enjoyable for the attorneys. This has been the custom and practice in Springfield and Greene County as opposed to a very different type of practice in larger metropolitan areas. Although SMBA's membership has more than tripled since I became a member, I would encourage you to continue to foster this atmosphere within our association. Such actions will serve to maintain and enhance the quality of life which each of us enjoys in our professional practice.

I would also encourage each of you to become involved in the activities and work of the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association. Although each of us has an obligation to the legal profession which can be fulfilled in part through service to our local bar association, it is the benefits, not the duties, which make service to our local bar association rewarding. Existing friendships that are enriched, and new friendships forged, stand out as one of the many benefits of service within our association, in addition to the satisfaction of making a positive contribution to our profession.

Again, welcome to our membership. My wish is that you enjoy a long and fruitful legal practice in the Springfield community and surrounding area.

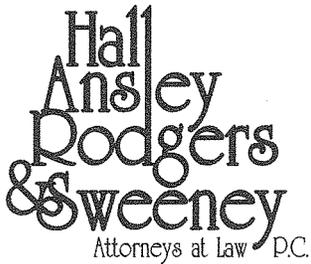
Sincerely,

LOWTHER JOHNSON  
Attorneys at Law, LLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael K. Cully', is written over the typed name.

Michael K. Cully

MKC:ism



December 12, 2012

Welcome New Member:

**ATTORNEYS:**

Fred L. Hall  
David W. Ansley  
Lynn C. Rodgers  
D. Patrick Sweeney  
Michael P. Mergen  
Deborah K. Dodge  
Benjamin A. Stringer  
Steven J. Blair  
Adam P. Pihana  
Timothy A. Ricker  
Donald E. Woody

**PARALEGALS:**

Jeanine G. Roe  
Jane L. Abbey, RN  
Merry K. Jones  
Marlena E. Bennett, RN

Welcome to membership in the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association (SMBA). It is an organization with which I believe you can find friendship, camaraderie, assistance, and important contacts.

The practice of law is an evolving, challenging profession. You have been provided no doubt the finest legal education. Unfortunately, I think that law schools tend to focus on the theory of the practice of law, but do very little insofar as teaching a lawyer how to practice law. Nevertheless, do not be dismayed. Every other lawyer ahead of you has been in the same position that you occupy today. I can assure you, that all of us, myself especially included, are learning how to practice law on a daily basis.

If I can be so bold, I would like to give you some observations and suggestions based upon my 40 years of practicing law. Hopefully they may be of some assistance; perhaps not. Regardless, they are extended merely as an extension of good will to those embarking upon this great profession.

First, I have found that those attorneys senior to me have always been willing to provide their expertise to young attorneys. Thus, always feel free to ask questions. I suspect that for the most part all questions that you do ask will be answered with kindness. Those who rebuff such inquiry will be in the minority.

Secondly, I do not believe a lawyer can be too prepared. You will find that your success will be measured in part upon how prepared you are in connection with the task at hand. I have tried cases in probably 25-30 counties in the State of Missouri. If there is one thing I have learned, judges appreciate attorneys who are prepared with whatever issue comes before the Court.

Thirdly, the practice of law is a profession, not just a job. There is a certain decorum that I believe is demanded of attorneys. I am not talking about how a lawyer dresses, etc. Instead, I am talking about the civility that lawyers should exercise in dealing with clients, fellow lawyers, and the judiciary.

Finally, I believe that the golden rule has great application to attorneys practicing law. "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you" is a maxim that, if followed, will ensure success in the profession, respect among your peers, and happiness in your professional life.

I am especially proud to have practiced in Springfield, Missouri. I believe that attorneys in Greene County are truly some of the finest lawyers with whom I have had the experience of practicing law. I think you will find this to be a wonderful community to practice law.

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Yours very truly

David W. Ansley

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LYNN C. RODGERS  
JAMES B. CONDRY  
D. PATRICK SWEENEY  
JAN Y. MILLINGTON  
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MATTHEW E. SEARING

LEGAL ASSISTANTS:  
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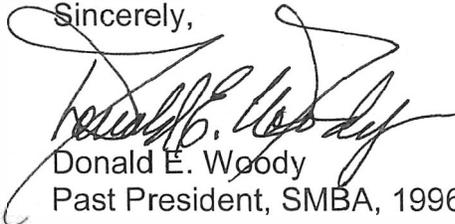
OF COUNSEL:  
DONALD E. WOODY

Welcome New Member:

The only piece of advice that I offer you as a new member of our organization and as a new lawyer to our community is be civil, congenial, and keep your sense of humor. There is always an easy and a hard way to practice law. I suggest that you always try the easy way first. Don't be afraid to pick up the phone and call the other attorney to attempt to work out some disagreement or dispute. It will save you and your client time and money and will result in you developing a reputation that you can be trusted and relied upon.

Good luck to you in the practice of law in Greene County, Missouri, and if I can ever be of any assistance to you, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,



Donald E. Woody  
Past President, SMBA, 1996

Installation Banquet Remarks  
January 21, 1995

You'll hear no lawyer jokes tonight because I do not consider being a lawyer a joke.

Our trust is more sacred than that of any other profession. Individuals trust their health to doctors and dentists. They trust their accountant with the management of their money. They trust architects and engineers with the soundness of their structures and products. We help with all of these things, but more importantly, the public has trusted us with the truth. Whatever we've done to cause the public to lose respect for us, we must change.

We must remember and live by this: Our first duty is not to our client...it is to the Court...the system we serve. If we live by this our conduct will give no one cause for complaint.

We will seek to solve disputes, not create them.

We will do so more quickly, rather than more slowly.

We will make things simpler, not more complex; easier, not harder.

We will act with dignity, not with rancor.

We will see the formality of the process not as an obstacle, but as an affirmation of our traditions...traditions that have worked.

Our clients do not need us to be angry. They do not need us to be inflexible, They do not need us to be rude. They do not need us to be petty and mean-spirited. They easily manage all of this by themselves. It is because this comes so readily to them that we are needed...needed to calm the stormy seas...to be steady at the helm...to find safe harbor before all is lost.

If we cannot as a group do this, we all will go and be not missed or mourned. If, on the other hand, we are the solution to the problem and not its cause, if we are the grease, not the grit, everyone will feel better about us and we will feel better about ourselves. Unless we honor our profession by what we say and do, we cannot expect anyone else to do so.

James W. Newberry  
SMBA President 1995

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Virginia L. Fry  
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E-MAIL: vfry@blackwellsanders.com

November 15, 2006

Hello New Lawyers!

Welcome to the practice of law. Although you have been "official" for only a few days, you have no doubt figured out by now that practice in the real world is something different than the way it is depicted in the media. You will deal with many issues that you did not learn about in law school. You will find yourself in situations with no clear cut answers. The good news is that you have developed skills in the course of your legal education that will help you handle these things. Remember also a few basic rules.

1. Many times your success will not be measured by winning or losing, but by your ability to be a problem solver.
2. Discretion is often the toughest part of advocacy.
3. Your word is your bond.
4. What goes around comes around.
5. It is not really "work" when you love what you do.

You have selected a wonderful venue for your practice. You will find that the members of the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association are excellent lawyers. Watch, listen and learn from them.

The practice of law will provide you with many opportunities. You will learn about many things. You will meet people that you would never otherwise have had the opportunity to meet. You will go places that you would not otherwise go. There is a big wide wonderful world out there waiting for you. Go and make your mark, remembering all the while that this is a profession of service. The more that you give; the more that you will get back.

Very truly yours,



Virginia L. Fry  
SMBA President 1994

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C. RONALD BAIRD  
JOHN R. LIGHTNER  
MARK J. MILLSAP  
BRETT W. KOUBAL  
J. MATTHEW MILLER

December 15, 2001

*Welcome to the SMBA.* We are happy to have you.

As you know, lawyers serve many roles in a community. As such, we should be good stewards in ensuring that the judiciary, the third branch of government, remains independent.

The practice of law is a time honored profession. When you take your oath you agree, among other things, to: "... faithfully demean myself ... to the best of my knowledge and ability; that I will maintain the respect due to Courts of Justice and judicial officers; ... that I will abstain from all offensive personality ...". This is a serious commitment. However, lawyers have always advanced and safeguarded the profession. This part of the oath simply means that we will respect the Court, opposing counsel, clients and the general public as we move legal issues forward.

Persons experiencing our system, either directly or indirectly, use their perceptions of those who work within its boundaries in forming their conclusions as to the system's independence and fairness. Professional respect for one another, timeliness in appearances, respect of the persons in the Courtroom, including staff, and dignity toward all involved are necessary for us to foster the reality of fairness and the independent disposition of disputes.

You will also provide other services in the community that are equally important. You will serve on boards, such as city, county or state government, religious organizations, educational boards, and charitable organizations just to mention a few. Get involved and stay involved.

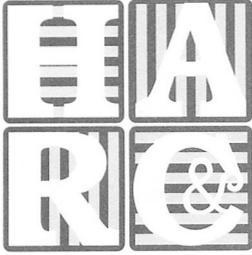
You should also make sure that you make time for your family and yourself. This is important. Have fun, enjoy your profession and enjoy the rewards that come from it. You are the next generation of the profession. We wish you luck. You will find the SMBA Bar open to discussion and assistance if you need it.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Ronald Baird" with a stylized flourish at the end.

C. Ronald Baird  
President SMBA 1993

CRB/sdj



December 10, 2004

Charles B. Cowherd  
SMBA President  
H1949 E. Sunshine, Suite 2-300  
Springfield, MO 65804-1605

A N S L E Y

C O N D R Y  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW, P. C

SMBA/New Member Reception

Dear Charles:

In response to your request by letter dated December 3, 2004, I have jotted down a few suggestions that I hope will be helpful in assembling a book for the new members of the Bar.

1. Build practice systems that will be efficient, productive and durable for 40 years.
2. Treat each client with respect and dignity.
3. When you accept a case, devote yourself fully - no shortcuts.
4. Don't accept every case; only those for which you have the time, knowledge and skill.
5. Provide the best service of which you are capable.
6. Return telephone calls promptly; especially to fellow attorneys.
7. Keep your client informed.
8. Better to be one hour early than one minute late for court appearances.
9. Be considerate and respectful of your fellow attorney; especially the young and inexperienced.
10. Share your knowledge freely with less experienced members of the Bar.
11. Your clients are your greatest source of referrals; treat them well.
12. Attend twice the CLE that you are required.
13. Send your support staff to CLE programs.
14. Don't be cheapest, nor the most expensive, lawyer.
15. Maintain an organized desk: prepare "to-do" lists and reminder systems.
16. Be kind and considerate of your support staff; pay them as much as you can because they can hurt you or help you.
17. Time is your most valuable asset; allocate it wisely between your clients, your profession, your community, your family and yourself.

Best personal regards.

Fred L. Hall

FLH:cso

**HALL, ANSLEY, RODGERS & CONDRY, P.C.**

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**JEFF McCURRY**

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December 10, 2012

Dear New Member of The Missouri Bar:

Welcome to the profession. Members of The Missouri Bar are the people in Missouri entrusted with the search for the truth in the Missouri justice system. Attorneys are also given the responsibility of insuring that legal transactions of all types are accomplished according to law, while protecting the client.

You will hear it repeated that the key to success in any legal endeavor is preparation. This means constantly sharpening one's legal skills, and understanding the duties of a lawyer to his client, to opposing attorneys and to the courts. The Missouri Bar has a mentoring program which is designed to assist you in the conduct of your legal affairs. Seeking advice from experienced attorneys, whether you are in a law firm or in the mentoring program, will serve you well.

When you have been practicing law for decades and look back, you will see that your integrity, credibility, and perseverance are among your most important assets. Clients, opposing attorneys and judges will not listen long if they cannot trust your message. Disagreeing without being disagreeable is a great attribute to cultivate.

A deep respect for the ethical responsibilities of an attorney will stand you in good stead. You may have heard everything you need to know you learned in kindergarten. In the legal profession, much of what you need to know can be learned by reading Rule 4 of the Missouri Rules of Court.

Welcome to the legal profession. It is a profession which needs assistance in improving its public image, beginning with you.

Sincerely,



Bruce McCurry  
Springfield Metropolitan Bar President, 1991

BMc:ch

## MILLINGTON, GLASS & LOVE

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THOMAS W. MILLINGTON \*  
HAROLD F. GLASS  
JEFFERY J. LOVE  
JEFFRY O. YOUNG

\* Also Licensed in Oklahoma

November 14, 2014

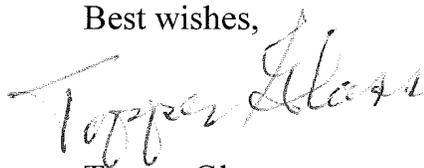
Dear New Member:

I urge you to participate in the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association's programs and events. Over the years the Association has made a positive difference. It will help you and give you an opportunity to serve your profession and the community.

Otherwise, other than telling you to remember the oath you took when you were admitted to the Bar, I don't believe there is any sage advice myself or any other lawyer can give you that's worth much.

Your future as a lawyer will depend on the character, the instincts and the work habits you already have in place. Success or failure will follow as those traits play out. That's all there is to it.

Best wishes,



Topper Glass  
SMBA President 1989

# *Placzek & Francis*

*Attorneys At Law*

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—  
TRIAL PRACTICE  
WORKERS' COMPENSATION

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*William W. Francis, Jr., L.L.C.*

*Angela DeSanctis Myers*

*Ryan E. Murphy*

## PARALEGALS

*Alice Hill*

*Patty Hangen*

*Tracy Stuart*

*Jennifer Hazelrigg*

*Luann Mattson*

Dear New Member:

You have just finished your education and Bar examination which required long hours of study and preparation. You have now taken the oath of admission to the Bar and as you recited the words to that oath, I am sure you were struck by the responsibility which you would be asked to undertake as a practicing attorney.

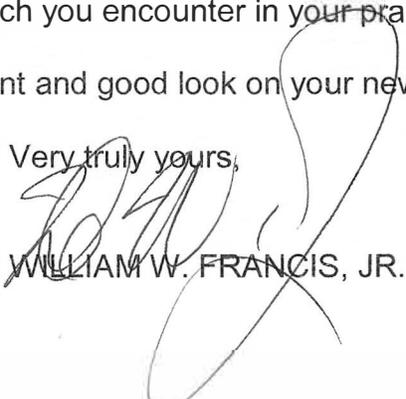
Your years in the practice will be more fruitful and rewarding if you keep in mind that you have not only been trained in the law, but your license also refers to you as "counselor." People will come to you for advice in the law, but they do not expect simply a hard cold recitation of what you may know about the law. You will be asked to counsel, also. Whether it be interviewing a young mother who is faced with the loss of her children, a young father who is on the verge of bankruptcy because he has been injured, a senior citizen who wants to take care of his family, or any other person you may encounter, you will now find that there are very real and human problems which will be put to you as a part of your practice.

A successful and rewarding practice not only blends your knowledge and education in the law, but your ability to assimilate with the humanity of your clients. If you always keep in mind that your clients are facing very real and human problems, and often times do not consult an attorney unless they are facing a crisis in their life, you will be far less frustrated and you will be much more proud of the advice you give to your clients. Always keep in mind there is a human face to every problem.

A second component of a successful and rewarding practice is keeping up good relations with your fellow attorneys. Whether it be joining in the Bar Association, serving on committees, volunteering on projects, or insuring that you make it a point to meet and gain the acquaintance of as many attorneys as possible, you will find it much easier to pick up the phone and discuss a problem or a concern which you encounter in your practice.

Congratulations on the hard work up to this point and good luck on your new career.

Very truly yours,

  
WILLIAM W. FRANCIS, JR.

WWF:dsg

RANSOM A. ELLIS, JR.  
RANSOM A. ELLIS, III\*  
JOHN D. HAMMONS, JR.  
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July 27, 2005

Mr. Lee J. Viorel, President  
Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association  
1615 S. Ingram Mill Road, Bldg. D  
Springfield, MO 65804

Dear Mr. Viorel:

It is a pleasure to respond to your request that I join with other past presidents of our Bar Association, in recounting notable events occurring during our respective terms in office.

My tenure as president covered the year 1985. It was a blessing to have a Board of Directors that was to respond with viable solutions to our problems and visionary in perceiving how we could move the Association forward. A tribute of thanks is due each Board member: Michael Cordonnier, Jack Yocom, Bill Francis, Warren Stafford, Virginia Fry, Lynn Heitman, Paul Ludwig Bradshaw, Gary Powell, Robert Schroff and Gary Cunningham. Special thanks is also due to our Executive Director, York Johnson, for his day to day wisdom in our guidance.

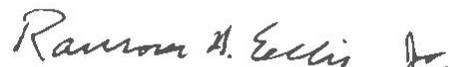
In 1985, there were 409 practicing attorneys in Springfield. By 2005 this number had doubled. Accomplishments of the Association in 1985 included: filing for and obtaining tax exempt status for certain interest income received; creation and adoption of an annual budget (which I am told was a first); creation of a Scholarship Fund, which has since grown to a \$50,000 endowed fund supporting two scholarships for local law students; assisting the Judges of the Circuit Court in the drafting of new local rules regarding the use of paralegals in the courtroom; filing for and obtaining an American Bar Association grant providing initial funding for a pro-bono service for Greene County; and working with the Judges of the Southern District Court of Appeals to provide joint use of a law library to the members of the Bar.

My feelings at the close of my tenure as President in 1985 about the Greene County Bar Association (which had not yet substituted the name "Metropolitan" for "Greene County") was one of immense thanks for the opportunity to serve such a great organization in company with such great people on our Board. I view it as an honor to have served this organization.

In every instance, the Boards' ultimate decision was based upon what was the best thing to do for the profession.

It made me proud to be an attorney.

Sincerely,



Ransom A. Ellis, Jr.

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WARRE S . STA ORD  
MO TE P . CLIT ERO  
KE I M . IT ERALD  
WARRE E . ARRIS  
ME DIE . SC OELLER

December 16, 2003

O . TAYLOR 1925-2002

To: New Members of the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association

As a long time practicing lawyer, I have seen many changes in the legal profession. Some of these changes are for the better and some for the worse. I think there is a danger of the profession changing to where it is no longer a profession but just a commodity. Somewhere along the line, some of the professionalism has been lost, and this is true not only to the clients but to fellow attorneys. In my opinion, one of the most important aspects of the profession that attorneys should not forget would be the integrity of the attorneys to not only his client but fellow attorneys and the courts and judges. If an attorney cannot be respectful and courteous to his fellow attorneys and to the courts, then he or she is going to have a very difficult time practicing law.

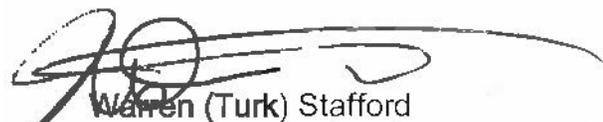
When I started practicing law, with a few exceptions, a lot of things were handled with oral agreements and there was no problem. I realize there are more attorneys today, but it seems distrust sometimes prevails. Attorneys spend a lot of time working together, and it not only makes life easier for all concerned, but it increases the lawyer's standing in the community if everyone, including fellow attorneys, are treated with respect and courtesy. I think it is definitely important that the courts and judges are treated with respect and courtesy and that the attorney do nothing to cause any loss of integrity. There are several old sayings to which these rules apply, including - "Chickens come home to roost", "There will be a time when the shoe is on the other foot" and "What goes around comes around".

It doesn't take much time to be courteous and contact the other attorney with regard to a date for depositions instead of serving a blind notice. I recently received a blind notice from the opposing party's attorney notifying me that the opposing party, who was out of state, was going to take the depositions of the defendant's employee, whom I represent, eight days later at the attorney's office which was out of state. The notice date was the day before a holiday. The witness was not a party but was an employee of the corporate defendant, and I'm not sure how the attorney thought he could make this witness appear for deposition out of state at his office. Sometimes lack of courtesy and respect for fellow attorneys backfires.

One other piece of advice would be not to become too cocky. "Humble" usually works far better. You never know how a jury is going to react. One of the first cases that I second chaired was an automobile accident involving two defendants and also involving three well-known attorneys. One of the defendants, who was more at fault in my opinion than the other defendant, was a nice-looking young salesman. The jury did not bring in a verdict against this defendant. After the verdict I was talking to a young divorcee on the jury and her comment was "I couldn't find against him, he was too cute".

I'm not saying that I was cocky or that I knew what I was doing at this time, but sometimes things are out of your control regardless of the circumstances or your ability, etc.

Sincerely,

  
Warren (Turk) Stafford  
Past President - 1984

JERRY L. REDFERN  
THOM G. FIELD  
J. RICHARD OWENSBY  
PAUL G. WHITE  
RICHARD L. SCHNAKE  
KEVIN HAYS DUNAWAY  
BRIAN K. ASBERRY  
MICHAEL J. DEARMON\*  
DWAYNE A. FULK  
CHRISTIAAN D. HORTON  
DANIEL K. WOOTEN<sup>o</sup>  
MARK L. MC OUEARY  
PATRICK J. PLATTER  
MICHAEL C. STOFFREGEN  
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BEN M. NEALE (1876-1966)  
CHARLES F. NEWMAN (1860-1968)  
JEAN PAUL BRADSHAW (1906-1970)  
FLAVIUS B. FREEMAN (1911-1995)  
PAUL L. BRADSHAW (1930-1986)

OF COUNSEL  
LELAND C. BUSSELL  
DAVID W. HALL, JR. ‡  
ANNE SALLEE MASON

\*ALSO ADMITTED IN OKLAHOMA  
<sup>o</sup>ALSO ADMITTED IN ARKANSAS  
<sup>‡</sup>ALSO ADMITTED IN TEXAS  
<sup>oo</sup>ALSO ADMITTED IN KANSAS

September 1, 2005

Mr. Lee J. Viorel, President  
Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association  
1615 S. Ingram Mill Road, Bldg. D  
Springfield, Missouri 65804

In Re: Ancient History

Dear Lee:

This is in response to your recent letter to me indicating that past presidents of the SMBA were being requested to give you a letter concerning the heroic and monumental accomplishments made during the course of their administration.

I have never been a believer in term limits and, therefore, feel that the term of a bar president is never sufficient to accomplish a great deal. There were two or three things which occurred during my 1983 tenure that are interesting to me, if not to others.

During my short tenure, we were having a great problem, we thought, getting people to pay their dues. I find in reviewing the percentage of attorneys paying their bar dues in 1983 (73%) that we were really doing very well. If 73% of the eligible attorneys in the area were paying their dues at the present time, we would have approximately 580 to 600 paid members and that would full most any meeting hall.

I remember very well receiving the gavel from Hal Fisher, past president in 1982, which was presented to me at a gala affair at Riverside. I remember the banquet and thought the whole group not only cleaned up very well but made a wonderful presentation. We filled the entire upstairs of the south room at Riverside Inn, the food was excellent and speeches were short.

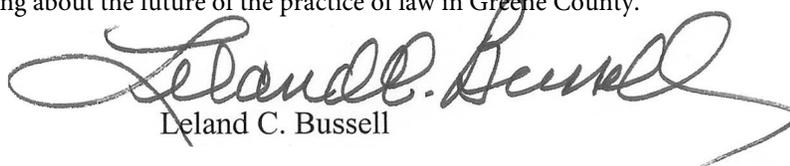
During the course of the year, I found something out I had never realized before which was some attorneys did not pay their bills. We were attempting to collect money for use of the associations copy machine without success. The minutes of the meeting ask the board to write off certain copying charges for local bar members as uncollectable. There was discussion as to keeping those attorneys who did not pay their bar dues from bar sponsored events but actually no action was taken on that as we would not have had the crowds, although sparse, we had otherwise.

I guess one of the most farsighted things happening during my tenure was I agreed to co-sponsor with SMS a seminar to teach lawyers how to use computers. That was approximately 20 years before I learned to use one myself but at least it was a start.

Apparently credit cards were already becoming a problem in 1983 since I note I appointed a bankruptcy committee which was the first time the association had seen the necessity for such a committee.

We, also, had a short tenure in the production of a play wherein we co-produced a play with Springfield Little Theatre. This program entitled "Clarence Darrow" was presented to the general public and earned the Springfield Bar Association's Scholarship Fund the huge amount of \$341.55 in income. At least our first (and probably last) attempt at a theatrical production was not a loss. Part of the reason it was not a loss was one member of the Board of Directors, Paul Bradshaw, represented TWA Airlines and they transported the show personnel to Springfield without charge.

All in all, 1983 was a great year and everyone enjoyed meeting at the Kentwood Arms Hotel where our meetings seldom lasted more than one hour. I recall no one ever refused to take an assignment for a committee or to do any work necessary for the promotion of the bar which gave me a very comfortable feeling about the future of the practice of law in Greene County.

  
Leland C. Bussell

CITY  UTILITIES  
*Bringing Power Home.*

December 18, 2003

VIA FACSIMILE--831-2842

Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association  
333 Park Central East, Suite 1010  
Springfield, MO 65806

TO: Fellow Members of the Bar Association

I had to look at the plaque on my office wall to see when I was President of the Greene County Bar Association. It is impossible to believe that was over 20 years ago.

Looking over my few accomplishments, I must say that it gave me a sense of pride to recall that I had the privilege of serving as President. What greater honor than the opportunity to work with fellow attorneys, to further the recognition due attorneys in this community. Most, if not all, take seriously their responsibility to serve their clients and to achieve fairness and justice to the best of their ability.

These are confusing times for "older" attorneys. I believed in the sanctity of the confidential relationship with the client. I believed the community reputation of an attorney for ability and knowledge of the law was enough to attract clients. It seemed to me, the relationships between lawyers with each other and the court were based on mutual trust and confidence. Attorneys and the courts shared responsibility to move litigation to closure, win or lose. There were few who attempted to take unfair advantage. Relationships were cordial for the most part, maybe not always in the big cities, but they were in Greene County.

Have times changed? Yes, and maybe some would say for the better. Young lawyers are brighter, have knowledge of the new technology, are quicker, and possess greater knowledge of the complexities of modern law and procedure.

Nonetheless, old or new, it would be well for each of us to read, and re-read the oath of admission, which most of us have framed on our office walls. Admission to practice law confers responsibility to carry on the higher traditions of the bar association.

It is good to be reminded, as I am, as I write this letter to my fellow attorneys.

Sincerely,



William A. (Andy) Dalton  
President 1981

To a new lawyer:

I have seen the letters written by my colleagues, and they have taken all the best ideas and wisdom for their own. Therefore, while it may sound a little bit like plagiarism, I incorporate by reference everyone else's letter. But I do have a few notions of my own.

When I graduated from Mizzou law school in 1960, I had a wife and baby, and two volumes of the Missouri Practice Series, Legal Forms with Comments, by my old professors, Peterson and Eckhardt; I didn't know squat. It is humbling for me to be handing out advice to today's new lawyer, who is brighter and probably better schooled. And I have the feeling that the new lawyer of today does, actually, know squat.

Law school was nothing but a bunch of words. And yet, WORDS are arguably the most powerful invention humans have created. Your livelihood is dependent upon your ability to use words to convey your ideas, and the goals of your clients, to others. Words are the tools of the legal trade. We often hear arguments made by lay folks about what the framers of the Constitution intended; but in the final analysis, it is lawyers who decide. Words are used to argue, to establish rights and liabilities, and to destroy. The atomic bomb was nothing but a pile of scrap minerals until words were used to launch it.

Thoughts and dreams are just that, until words give them life and form. Lawyers- not journalists, not advertising executives, not preachers- are the real curators of words.

You will do well to be kind and courteous to the clerks of the courts and other public offices, and to the secretaries and paralegals in any office. Most are pleased to assist, and educate, when asked. Treat them as though they are smarter than you; in some cases, they are. Humility and humor will pay dividends. Arrogance seldom does, and in fact is counterproductive.

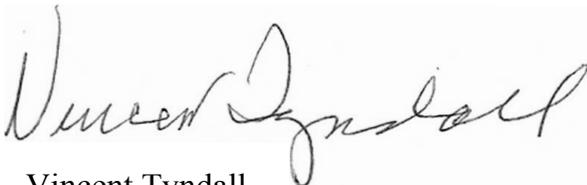
Attend CLEs frequently; if possible become a speaker at them. The result will be to enhance your reputation and your expertise. It's a win-win situation and worth the effort. Speaking at one CLE means more to your colleagues than 100 TV ads.

The most recent report from Missouri's Legal Ethics Counsel shows the total number of complaints opened as formal investigations during 2010 was 870. The most common complaints of clients, almost half, had to do with communications. Many of the excuses by the accused and embarrassed lawyer had to do with failing to return phone calls or not answering letters. Dumb stuff. Make every effort to assure your communications practices are efficient. Avoid the Office of Disciplinary Counsel; it's a messy business.

Buy and read a copy of Life's Little Instruction Book, by H. Jackson Browne, Jr. I will send you one, free, upon request. Some restrictions apply.

Learn the capital of Surinam, and use "Fibonacci Numbers" in a sentence. It will impress your clients.

Be proud to be a lawyer and part of the legal profession. Before you became a lawyer, you were flotsam and jetsam. Whatever jokesters may say about lawyers, people have a respect for you that they have for few others. You are a mystic. Now, when you speak, people will listen; your advice or opinion will be sought, even though it may have nothing to do with the law. Your membership in any organization, or on any board, will be to their credit.



Vincent Tyndall  
President, 1979

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NEIL CHANTER  
JEFF BAUER \*\*  
KIRSTEN EHLEN\*\*  
CHANDLER GREGG



TRIAL PRACTICE

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ANN WAITE  
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REGINA BEATTY  
AMANDA BIRD

NURSES

DEBBIE AMTOWER, RN  
JILL COOPER, RN

\* LICENSED ALSO IN ARKANSAS

\*\* LICENSED ALSO IN KANSAS

December 20, 2004

Dear New Member of Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association

Congratulations! You will be practicing in the largest city of the fastest growing area of the state of Missouri. With six universities, many manufacturing companies, and as a close neighbor to Branson, the type of law available for you to practice is unlimited. In addition to being a leader in the local bar, you also can be recognized throughout our state and nation. Several Springfield attorneys are listed in "The Best Lawyers in America," or are members of prestigious national legal organizations. You can receive prominence as an outstanding attorney in our city, area, state, and nation if you fulfill your potential.

Practicing in the Springfield area is not all work and no play. You can watch outstanding collegiate athletic performances at our universities, as well as semi-pro hockey and football and professional baseball at the AA level. Vocalists and nationally known musicians perform at the Center for Performing Arts, as do many Broadway productions. The nation's Mecca for musical entertainment is less than an hour away at Branson. If you like to fish, boat, water-ski or hunt, no place in the country will offer you better opportunities so close to your home.

If you intend to raise a family, Springfield offers the best possible environment. Your children can participate in ballet, gymnastics, soccer, Might Mite football, or a host of other activities. There are churches of every denomination and faith. An excellent education is offered from kindergarten through college.

We welcome you to Springfield and hope you will become a productive part of our bar association, community and area.

Very truly yours,

Thomas Strong

TS/pjh

HULSTON, JONES, MARSH AND SHAFFER

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December 15, 2003

Ms. Linda K. Thomas, President  
Springfield Metropolitan Bar Assn.  
333 Park Central East, Ste. 1010  
Springfield, MO 65806

Dear Linda:

Thank you for your letter of December 10, 2003. Everything I know about our bench and bar is contained in my book "An Ozarks Lawyer's Story 1946-1976" and I send you Chapter 11 and you can use any part of it you desire.

I hope that your project will be a huge success, and with kind personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,



John K. Hulston

JKH:ji  
encl.

# WHITEAKER & WILSON

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W TODD NEWCOMB  
STUART P. HUFFMAN  
MICHAEL W. LUTKE

December 16, 2003

## IT SEEMS LIKE YESTERDAY

It seems like yesterday that I graduated from law school at University of Missouri - Columbia on July 8, 1953.

It seems like yesterday that I spent two years in the military during the Korean conflict at which time I served as a first lieutenant in the field artillery.

It seems like yesterday that I was searching for a job following my military tour throughout the state. I was the first attorney to grace (disgrace?) the Whiteaker family. After all I was born and raised in Campbell, Missouri during the depression prior to World War II in the cotton fields of Dunklin County.

It seems like yesterday that I was in Springfield with no known destination, simply looking for a place to hang my shingle.

I encountered Russell G. Clark (the well known Federal Judge Clark) on the first floor of the Woodruff building. I had known Russell from law school, and at that time he was working for Woolsey, Fisher (Clarence L. Woolsey and Harold J. Fisher) as an associate. There were only those three in the firm and he thought they might be interested in adding somebody. That somebody turned out to be me and I went to work for Woolsey, Fisher in April of 1955.

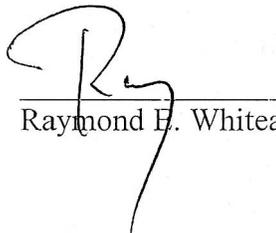
I practiced law in Springfield from then to the present.

From that beginning in April of 1955 to the present it has been my honor and privilege to work with the members of the Greene County Bar Association, now known as the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association. To say that I have been taught, nurtured, mentored by that experience, would be an understatement. I have enjoyed my experience over the past years in what I have been taught or learned though this experience with, what I consider, to be the most talented attorneys in the state of Missouri.

A good lawyer is one who is honest, conscientious, a good advocate for his client, and responds to his client's requirements in a timely fashion, but throughout maintains a civil attitude with his opposing lawyer.

Obviously, I have had a love affair with the law. I hope the same will be true for you. After all you will be amazed how quickly it will seem like - it was almost yesterday.

Very Truly Yours,



Raymond E. Whiteaker

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JOHANNA HARRINGTON

PARALEGAL  
MARSHA J. SKAGGS  
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR  
ELAINE JOHNSON

December 7, 2004

**Re: Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association / New Member Reception**

Charles B. Cowherd  
SMBA President  
Husch & Eppenberger, L.C.  
1949 East Sunshine, Suite 2 – 300  
Springfield, MO 65804-1605

Dear Charles:

This is written to respond to your letter of December 2, 2004. As your letter points out, in 1967 I occupied your position of what was then called the Greene County Bar Association.

Having practiced law since 1947, except for one year as a circuit judge, experience has taught me that the most valuable lesson I have learned is the preservation of a lawyer's trust and integrity. Knowledge of the law, of course, is essential, but that can be obtained by reading prior cases, as well as the statutes. However, the courteous treatment of fellow lawyers is equally important, as well as respect for the bench. I hope these basic precepts will be of help and inspiration to those new entrants into our wonderful practice of law.

Sincerely yours,



Glenn A. Burkart

GB:ej

**Turner White**  
1141 South Kentwood Avenue  
Springfield, Missouri 65804-0216  
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July 16, 2005

Ms. Crista Hogan  
Springfield Metro Bar Association  
1615 S. Ingram Mill Road Bldg D  
Springfield, MO 65804

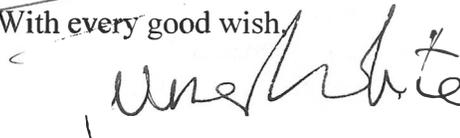
Dear Ms. Hogan:

Mr. Viorel, as the association's president asked past presidents for feelings about their experiences and solicited information nuggets and words of wisdom suitable for sharing. Any attempt at wisdom on my part would make this letter embarrassingly brief, so I'll limit my comment to the feelings part..

In sixty six everybody in the local practice knew everybody else "up close and personal" and with minor exception it was very much a congenial association. There were, as in every group, a few guys a little hard to get along with but personal acquaintance and close association tended to ease even that friction. (the word "guys" should not give offense to women members, as the entire female component in 1966 consisted of Ivella Elsey and Maite Hardie). Being president of that group was, as has been said by others, a lot like herding cats. Our meetings were largely social, dues were trivial and we had mostly a good time practicing pretty decent law. York Johnson looked after whatever needed looking after and the president's most important duty was arranging an entertaining speaker for the annual meeting. I got a lawyer named Irby Jenkins from Knoxville, TN who was a smash hit, thus insuring the success of my administration.

I said I wouldn't presume to offer wise words, but will offer a no brainer, which may also qualify as an information nugget- our generation was civil. We didn't all loe each other in 1966 but we did act with civility. There here were exceptions no doubt, but none I remember so they couldn't have amounted to much. A few years ago in St. Louis, Sandra Day O' Connor made a speech on civility, or rather the lack of it, and observed that our trade is hard enough without adding the burden of lawyer snarling. Maybe Civility 101 should become a required law school course or maybe we should just reflect on what we learned in kindergarten.

With every good wish,



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Meredith B. Turner (1913-1993)

MEMO TO: NEW MEMBERS OF  
SPRINGFIELD METROPOLITAN BAR ASSOCIATION

You are entering into a group of Missouri attorneys with whom you are going to be practicing law for many years into the future. One of the most important things you will want to keep in mind in your contacts and communications with the lawyers with whom you are going to be dealing will be the simple suggestion that you show common courtesy in dealing with other members of your profession.

In handling litigation, you are going to be much better off making it a point to get along with the attorneys on the other side of the litigation. You are not the litigants. You simply are going to be doing your best to represent the interests of those litigants. In doing so, you need to recognize that your reputation in the legal community means more to you than simply creating problems for opposing counsel. Let me suggest that the most important thing you can have as an attorney in dealing with other attorneys is the simple recognition that "That attorney's word is good!"

In addition to making your contacts with other attorneys more pleasant, your life also can be a lot more pleasant and enjoyable if you make it a point to get along personally with the other lawyers with whom you practice. There is enough stress in the nature of litigation that none of us need to make it worse by practicing law "the hard way."



Kenneth H. Reid  
President - 1963



This booklet is a collection of letters from the Springfield Bar's Past Presidents. The authors of these letters were asked to share a bit of wisdom with our new members. Most of the letters offer sage advice; some include information about our association's history. They are interesting and entertaining, and collectively, they offer a glimpse of the past and the promise of the future.

*Crista Hogan*  
*Executive Director*

*December 2012*