

The Missouri Bar Mid-Year Seminar

Faculty

Suzanne B. Bradley
Shughart Thomson & Kilroy, P.C.
St. Joseph

Ms. Suzanne B. Bradley's experience includes a diversified general practice with an emphasis in Wills and Trusts, Real Estate and Family Matters.

Suzanne has practiced law in Missouri since 1979 and has served as a Substitute Municipal Judge since 1986. She teaches Ethics in Fall Judicial Seminars for the training and certification of municipal judge.

She received her J.D. from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, in 1976, President, Phi Delta Phi Legal Fraternity. She received her B.S., Education, from the University of Kansas in 1971, Strickland Award (Outstanding Senior Woman); Mortar Board; Senior Class Treasurer; President K.U. Commission on the Status of Women; CWENS (Sophomore honorary); Chi Omega Sorority (Officer and Outstanding Pledge).

P. John Brady
Shughart Thomson & Kilroy, PC
Kansas City

Jack's legal focus is civil trial practice in both business litigation and tort law.

Jack represents both plaintiffs and defendants; his clients are both individuals and corporations. His successful business litigation trial experience includes cases involving class action breach of warranty, breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, director and officer liability, fraud, tortious interference, antitrust, accounting malpractice, lender liability, product liability, adversary bankruptcy proceedings, and insurance bad faith litigation. Successful tort litigation trial experience includes cases involving product defects of farm implements, auto crashworthiness, medical devices, and construction machinery; negligence in auto/truck collisions, wrongful death, medical malpractice, and hotel security and premises liability.

Having tried cases for both plaintiffs and defendants, for individuals and corporations, provides Jack with a diversity of experience and valuable insight into his opponents' trial strategy which allows for successful and efficient resolutions.

Thomas M. Burke
The Hulverson Law Firm
St. Louis

Mr. Thomas M. Burke received his BA degree from the University of Notre Dame and his JD degree from St. Louis University. He is currently the President-Elect of The Missouri Bar. He is a member of The Missouri Bar, Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys, American Bar Association, The Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis, Lawyers Association of St. Louis, St. Louis County Bar Association, Illinois Bar Association, Workers' Injury Law & Advocacy Group, Missouri Bar Foundation.

Steven C. Couch
The Bar Plan Mutual Insurance Company
St. Louis

Mr. Steve Couch joined The Bar Plan on April 2, 2007 as Vice President of Claims. He hails from Dallas, Texas, where he was licensed to practice law in 1990. Prior to joining The Bar Plan, Steve spent over seven years in-house at a national legal malpractice insurance carrier managing and resolving thousands of legal malpractice claims and lawsuits against lawyers. Steve's experience also includes handling many other types of professional liability claims, including those against accountants, insurance and real estate professionals.

Steve's professional background also includes over nine years of commercial litigation and insurance defense trial experience in such areas of practice as professional liability, errors and omissions, and premises and product liability. Steve has also had a keen interest in providing risk management and consulting services to lawyers and law firms, assisting and guiding lawyers and law firms through various ethical nuances, conflict resolution, and many other issues affecting the practice of law.

Steve is a graduate of Baylor University and Baylor Law School. He is a member of the American Bar Association, Missouri Bar, State Bar of Texas, Dallas and Collin County Bar Associations. Steve is blessed with a beautiful wife, Katherine, and three young children, Evan, Austin, and Courtney. When he can find the time, Steve is also an avid golfer and sports enthusiast.

Dana Tippin Cutler
James W. Tippin & Associates
Kansas City

Ms. Dana Tippin Cutler is a partner in her family's law firm, James W. Tippin & Associates. She graduated from UMKC School of Law in 1989 and from Spelman College with a B.A. in 1986. Dana is a member of the American Bar Association; Jackson County Bar Association; and the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association. She currently is an elected member of The Missouri Bar Board of Governors and is an appointed member of The Missouri Bar Foundation and The Missouri Bar Trustees. She was appointed to serve on the ABA Standing Committee for Judicial Independence. She has served as the Chair of the Committee on Minority Issues for The Missouri Bar and was instrumental in starting The Missouri Bar's Leadership Academy; serves on the 16th Judicial Circuit Bench Bar Committee; serves as legal counsel for the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Foundation; and has served as chair and vice-chair for the KCMBA's Circuit Court & Civil Practice Committee and vice-chair of the Insurance Law Committee. Dana is a two-time recipient of The Missouri Bar's President Award for service. Dana serves on the Board of Curators for Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri, a gubernatorial appointment. Her community service includes serving on the Boards of Swope Parkway Health Center and Swope Community Enterprises. Her practice is concentrated primarily in insurance defense litigation. She is an active member of Concord Fortress of Hope and is the proud mother of three sons Keith, Jr., Dean and Austin Cutler and is the partner, in practice and in life, of Keith Cutler, Sr.

Brian K. Francka
Schreimann, Rackers, Francka & Blunt, LLC
Jefferson City

Mr. Brian K. Francka is a Member in the Jefferson City, Missouri Law Firm of Schreimann, Rackers, Francka & Blunt, LLC. He received a B.S. in Finance Cum Laude from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1991 and a J.D. from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1994. Mr. Francka has been in private practice in Jefferson City, Missouri since 1994. His primary areas of practice are construction and commercial litigation.

The Honorable Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr.
United State District Court
Western District
Kansas City

Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr. was graduated from Pittsburg State University (B.S., 1970), and the University of Missouri at Kansas City (J.D., 1974) where he was a member of the Law Review. He serves as a United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri (1991 - present) and is currently Chief Judge. He also serves as a member of the Eighth Circuit Judicial Council. By appointment of Chief Justice William Rehnquist, he served as a member of the Federal-State Jurisdiction Committee of the Judicial Conference from 1997 to 2003. He has also served as a transferee judge by appointment of the Multidistrict Litigation Panel. Prior to his appointment to the federal bench, Judge Gaitan served as an appellate judge on the Missouri Court of Appeals-Western District (1986-91), and as a state trial judge for the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit in Kansas City, Missouri (1980-86). Before his appointment to the state trial bench, Judge Gaitan served as counsel for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company.

Judge Gaitan currently serves as a UMKC Trustee. He has served as adjunct professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law. Judge Gaitan has been a member of numerous not-for-profit boards including 25 years of service as a St. Luke's Hospital board member. He is a member of local, state and national bar associations, and is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. Judge Gaitan has been honored on a number of occasions for his professional achievements. He was listed by Lawdragon, a national legal magazine, as one of the 500 leading judges in America. Other awards of note are the Hon. Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr. Award created by his alma mater and presented to the outstanding student participant at the U.M.K.C. Law School's Youth Court, the UMKC Alumnus of the Year Award, Outstanding Alumnus - Pittsburg State University, the Difference Maker Award received by the Urban League of Greater Kansas City, the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce Centurion Leadership Award, and induction into the Missouri Walk of Fame.

**Tracy Hunsaker Gilroy
The Gilroy Law Firm
St. Louis**

Ms. Tracy Hunsaker Gilroy is the President of The Gilroy Law Firm, P.C., which is located in Clayton, Missouri. She has practiced law for the last 23 years in the areas of eminent domain/condemnation and real estate litigation with her early training in such matters coming as Assistant Counsel for the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission.

For the last 13 years, Ms. Gilroy has also mediated and arbitrated disputes involving valuation matters for the AAA and serves on AAA's Commercial Advisory Committee.

Ms. Gilroy has served as chairman of the Missouri Bar Eminent Domain Committee and remains an active author and speaker throughout the state of Missouri on the topic of eminent domain, law practice management and mediation practices.

Ms. Gilroy has been recognized in her profession in her election as President of the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis and as a Governor of the Missouri Bar Board of Governors. She has also received numerous Presidential appointments within the American Bar Association, the most recent of which was Chairman of the Standing Committee for Solo and Small Firm Practitioners.

Charlie J. Harris, Jr.
Berkowitz Oliver Williams Shaw & Eisenbrandt LLP
Kansas City

Mr. Charlie J. Harris, Jr., received his undergraduate degree from Tarkio College in Tarkio, Missouri. Over the next twelve years he was employed by three *Fortune 500* corporations in various positions in management and human resources. Among his responsibilities was the compliance of the companies with applicable state and federal employment laws.

Mr. Harris graduated in 1995 from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Law School, where he was a member of the *UMKC Law Review* and received the Bureau of National Affairs, Inc. National Academic Excellence Award. Mr. Harris also served as vice-president of the Black Law Students Association. Upon graduation, Mr. Harris served as law clerk to the Honorable Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., United States District Court Judge for the Western District of Missouri.

After his clerkship Mr. Harris practiced law at Shook, Hardy & Bacon, LLP, in Kansas City, Missouri, where he served as defense counsel for clients in a wide variety of labor, employment, and commercial matters. In July 1999 Mr. Harris joined Berkowitz Oliver Williams Shaw & Eisenbrandt LLP, where he not only practices general litigation, but also handles a substantial amount of employment litigation, defending against claims of race, sex and age discrimination, sexual harassment, and claims involving the ADA and FMLA. Mr. Harris has handled matters before various arbitrators, state and federal courts, the EEOC, and the National Labor Relations Board.

In 1999 the attorneys in the greater Kansas City metropolitan area first elected Mr. Harris to represent them on the Missouri State Bar's Board of Governors. He is currently President of The Missouri Bar. Mr. Harris also serves on the Western District of Missouri Federal Practice Committee by appointment by the Court en banc. He is a member of The Missouri Bar, Kansas Bar, Jackson County Bar, and the American Bar Association. Mr. Harris is admitted to practice before the Kansas and Missouri federal courts. In 2005 the University of Missouri at Kansas City School of Law honored Mr. Harris with the Pat Kelley Distinguished Alumni Award for service to the community, bar, and civic organizations.

Mr. Harris is married to Vickie Harris. They have two daughters: Sydney and Sarah.

Aaron D. Jones
Hulston Jones & Marsh
Springfield

Mr. Aaron D. Jones received his J.D. from the University of Missouri at Columbia, in 1998, and his A.B., with honors, magna cum laude, from Drury College, in 1995.

**Thomas M. Lang
Private Practice
St. Louis**

Mr. Tom Lang has been a member of the Board of Governors since 1992. Served as Vice President (2002); Finance Committee 1997 to 2002; Chairman Finance Committee 1999 to 2002; Executive Committee 1996 to 1997; Chaired the Redistricting Committee 1992 to 1994; and served on numerous committees and task forces. Bachelor's degree Business Administration, St. Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas (1968); J.D. St. Louis University School of Law (1971). Admitted to practice in Missouri/Illinois in 1971 and has continuously maintained an office in St. Louis County. Past President St. Louis County Bar Association. Received The Missouri Bar Foundation Lon O. Hocker Memorial Trial Lawyer Award; St. Louis County Bar Association Distinguished Service Award and Outstanding Young Lawyer Award; Metropolitan Bar Association's President's Award; Outstanding Leadership Service Award from St. Louis University School of Law; Legal Services of Eastern Missouri's Equal Justice Award; served as an adjunct professor in clinical trial practice, St. Louis University School of Law; a founder of "The Justice For All Ball"; and certified mediator and arbitrator. Tom and his wife, Jill, have 5 children and 5 grandchildren.

**Max E. Mitchell
Law Office of Max E. Mitchell
Sedalia**

Mr. Max E. Mitchell practices in litigation, medical malpractice, probate, family law and criminal law. He received his J.D. from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, in 1981. He attended college at the University of Kansas; University of Missouri at Columbia, B.J., 1973. He is a member of the Pettis County Bar Association (Past President); The Missouri Bar; Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys; The Association of Trial Lawyers of America; Missouri Bar Board of Governors; Gerry Spence's Trial Lawyers College (Graduate).

**Matthew M. Mocherman
Bradshaw, Steele, Cochrane & Berens, LC
Cape Girardeau**

Mr. Matthew M. Mocherman was born in Detroit, Michigan in 1962. He received his law degree from the University of Missouri in Kansas City, Missouri in 1988. He entered private practice with the firm of Cardin & Mocherman in Cassville, Missouri from 1988 - 1994, where he maintained a general civil practice. In 1995, he joined Bradshaw, Steele, Cochrane & Berens and became a member of the firm in 1998. His practice is limited to civil litigation, concentrating in the areas of insurance defense, medical malpractice, and workers' compensation. Mr. Mocherman has extensive jury and appellate experience throughout the State of Missouri. Mr. Mocherman is a member of the Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys and the Missouri Organization of Defense Lawyers. He has served on the Board of Governors for the Missouri Bar since 2005.

Christian A. Stiegemeyer
Director of Risk Management
The Bar Plan Mutual Insurance Company
St. Louis

Mr. Christian A. Stiegemeyer is the Director of Risk Management for The Bar Plan Mutual Insurance Company and Executive Vice President of The Bar Plan Foundation. He received his B.A. from Southeast Missouri State University and his J.D. from The Saint Louis University School of Law in 1992. While in private practice he practiced primarily in the areas of domestic relations, criminal law and appellate practice.

Harold A. (Skip) Walther
Walther, Antel, Stamper & Fischer, P.C.
Columbia

Mr. Skip Walther is a principal in the firm of Walther, Antel, Stamper & Fischer, P.C., and practices in Columbia, Missouri. He was admitted to The Missouri Bar in 1979 and spent two and one half years in the Boone County Prosecuting Attorney's office before entering private practice. He is a member of the Boone County Bar Association (*Newsletter* Editor, 1995 - 2001), the American Bar Association, Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys, Association of Trial Lawyers of America and The Missouri Bar (Board of Governors, 1999 - present). He has served or is serving as a director with the Columbia Soccer Club, Cosmopolitan Club of Columbia, Columbia Special Business District, Columbia Country Club, Reality House Board of Directors, Mid-Missouri Tennis Association, United States Tennis Association Missouri District Board of Directors, Boone County Chapter – University of Missouri Alumni Association, Mayor's Community Recreation Center Executive Committee, Columbians Advocating Recreation and Environment, and Alpha Tau Omega Housing Corporation. He is an Elder and Trustee and former Treasurer with First Presbyterian Church in Columbia, Missouri. He appeared as a weekly legal commentator on KOMU-TV in Columbia (1998 – 2000) and hosted a radio talk show program on legal and political issues with KFRU – 1400 AM. His primary practice areas are corporate and real estate law, civil litigation and estate planning.