

better
COURTS
— FOR —
MISSOURI

info@newmoplan.com | 573-635-0782 | PO Box 1524 Jefferson City Missouri 65102

February 21, 2008

Missouri Bar Member
ADDRESS
ADDRESS

Dear Missouri Bar Member:

As you are aware, the Missouri Bar's Board of Governors recently approved a large increase in the dues you are required to pay. The Missouri Bar also paid for its Board of Governors and several judges to travel to Atlantis, the "playground of the gods," in the Bahamas. Additionally, the Missouri Bar recently decided to spend \$500,000 of your dues to fund a political campaign to oppose reform of Missouri's judicial selection process.

Regardless of your position on judicial selection reform or mandatory dues, we believe the Missouri Bar is managing its fiscal affairs without regard to the concerns of its membership.

With all due respect for your valuable time, we encourage you to take a look at the Missouri Bar's financial audits and judge for yourself. Fortunately, there is a process in place for requesting a refund of dues used for political purposes. This process grows out of the U.S. Supreme Court's compelled political speech precedent.

Attached to this letter you will find a form letter (and an envelope) you may use to request that the Bar return any portion of your mandatory dues you believe are being wasted. We encourage each of you to consider using your refund to make a contribution to Missouri's Legal Services or Public Defender System, as both could benefit from additional funding from the Missouri Bar.

In summary, the Missouri Bar is using your mandatory dues to subsidize its political lobbying efforts and fiscally irresponsible trips to places like the Bahamas. By its own admission, the Missouri Bar is a tax-exempt "instrumentality of the state." We encourage you to take this opportunity to hold that government instrumentality accountable.

For more information, please see www.newMOplan.com.

Sincerely,

Better Courts for Missouri

Keith Birkes
Executive Director
The Missouri Bar
PO Box 119
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Mr. Birkes,

The Missouri Bar recently announced that it would spend \$500,000 to oppose reform of the Missouri Plan for selecting judges. I do not wish my Missouri Bar enrollment fees to financially support what could reasonably be characterized as a political campaign.

As you state on your website “Any member of The Missouri Bar who believes that specific activities of The Missouri Bar supported by enrollment fees are outside of its proper scope may direct a letter to the Executive Director stating what activity is challenged.”

By this letter I wish to communicate my desire for a refund of my enrollment fees and respectfully request that such refund be processed as follows:

- Please mail the refund to my address.
- Please make a contribution in my name to **Missouri’s Legal Services System** in the amount of my refund and provide me with a receipt for the contribution.
- Please make a contribution in my name directly to **Missouri’s Public Defender System** in the amount of my refund and provide me with a receipt for the contribution.

Sincerely,

Missouri Bar No.: