

MISSOURI LAWYERS WEEKLY

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Hearsay

Somebody's gotta do it

By Heather Cole

Lump the recent duties of Jennifer Wolsing, intrepid St. Louis chapter president for the Federalist Society, into the sacrifices-that-aren't category.

On the society's dime, Wolsing took a trip to the Bahamas to report on the Missouri Bar's midyear meeting. Her accounts launched coverage of the bar for the newly created Missouri bar Watch Web site.

The site will provide "timely updates on the Missouri Bar's political, social and legal activities," according to a statement on the home page at www.mobarwatch.com. The site is the first state bar watch, but similar to the ABA (American Bar Association) Watch maintained by the National Federalist Society, said Wolsing, an associate with Blackwell Sanders.

The site's purpose is to monitor Missouri Bar activities, but the society says it won't take any positions. With the development of controversial issues such as judicial selection, the time was right to launch the site, Wolsing said. "The Missouri Bar has taken a position, and is using members' dues to take a position. It's good to know where the dues are going to."

"People are free to express their opinions," Jack Wax, spokesman for the bar, said of the site.

In addition to covering the issues such as attorney advertising discussed at the Board of Governors' meeting, Wolsing's accounts included Bahamas weather updates, including this one for Day 3, Jan. 25: "In the afternoon, the clouds further descended on Nassau. The Board of Governors returned from its long lunch to conduct an open meeting."

On Days One and Two, the reports noted, continuing legal education courses ended at 11 a.m. to allow the 90 participants time for recreation.

Missouri Lawyers Weekly reported in October that the Missouri Bar would provide an allowance likely to be more than \$1,100 to each of the 42 members of the Board of Governors to cover the cost of attending the midyear seminar. This is the first time in about 15 years the meeting was held in the Bahamas.

Next year it might be a little closer to home. Missouri Bar Watch reported that president elect Thomas M. Burke plans to hold the next midyear meeting in southern California or southern Florida.