

Hear Me!  
Hear Me!



# DOCKET CALL

THE CLAY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

March 2005

## CALENDAR of Upcoming Events

- Mar. 25 - CLE: Personal Injury  
Finnigan's - NKC  
11:30 Lunch  
12:30 - 4:00 - Program  
Moderator:  
James H. Thompson, Jr.
- Apr. 8 - Spring Luncheon Meeting  
Cascone's  
11:30 Reception  
12:00 Lunch  
Speaker:  
Missouri Bar President,  
Joe B. Whisler
- Apr. 22 - Tentative date  
CLE: Ethics  
Finnigan's - NKC  
12:00 Lunch
- Jun. 10 - Tentative date  
CLE: Case & Legislation  
Updates  
Finnigan's - NKC  
12:00 Lunch
- Sep. 16 - Golf Tournament  
12:00 Lunch  
1:00 Start  
Smithville Paradise Pointe

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*This newsletter is a publication of The Clay County Bar Association. The contents are intended for general purposes only, and should not be construed as legal advice or legal opinion on any specific facts or circumstances.*

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Douglass F. Noland, Editor

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## From the President. . .

In a speech in Cape Town, South Africa, on June 7, 1966, Robert F. Kennedy said, "There is a Chinese curse which says, "May he live in interesting times."

Like it or not, we, as lawyers, find ourselves living in "interesting times" in 2005. The political gales have once again focused on lawyers with demands for reform in everything from judicial selection to medical malpractice. We continue to be blamed for almost every ailment that plagues society.

The general public has lost sight of the basic fact that lawyers have played an integral part in the development and protection of those things that have made America the single greatest country in history. The Bill of Rights has a meaningful existence only because we have repeatedly stood up and fought for those rights even in the face of vicious opposition.

For example, racial desegregation became meaningful only after Thurgood Marshall took up the fight that resulted in the landmark decision of *Brown v. Board of Education*. It was a battle that lasted for many bitter years with great public hostility and even violence, but equality in America had a real meaning when it was over. Pages and pages can be written about the critical rights created, maintained and protected by the legal profession. The list goes on and on, but the conclusion is the same. Lawyers have given strength and meaning to the right of every American that they will be treated fairly and equally, regardless of sex, race, creed or national origin.

Like any other career, we are far from a perfect profession. We have members who have forgotten the special role that lawyers have in our society. Because we are at the forefront of many of the most heated issues in this country, we are subject to extra scrutiny and all of the extra criticism that comes with it. A few members who are most interested in greed or fame can easily hurt the rest of us.

To a certain extent, it's easy to understand the public's berating of the legal profession. We now advertise aggressively, openly solicit for business and even have "discount" law offices that talk about the "lowest rates in town." Sometimes such activities are not done in good taste and put us on the same level as used car salesmen.

The legendary, although fictional, British barrister Horace Rumpole is fond of saying that it is time for him "to rise up on my hind legs and speak for the defense."

May I suggest that it is time for all lawyers, and especially Clay County lawyers, to stand up and speak in their own defense. Make a commitment that you will accept the great heritage of the legal profession. Act like a professional, treat your clients like a professional and treat other attorneys like a professional. If unfair attacks are made on our profession, protect it. If changes are needed, help make those changes.

*Bill Shull*

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**Clay County Bar Web site:**  
[www.claycountybar.org](http://www.claycountybar.org)

# Recent Laws

## JURY DUTY

**A**ttorneys are no longer exempt from jury service. §494.425 was repealed by the legislature and amended to no longer exclude licensed attorneys from jury service. Persons still disqualified are persons less than 21 years of age, any person not a citizen, any person who has been convicted of a felony unless the person has been restored to his/her civil liberties. Doctors are able to be excused from jury service only if they provide a written statement to the Court certifying that he or she is actually providing health care services to patients and that service as a juror would be detrimental to the health of a person's patient. I have personally spoken with several attorneys who have been called to jury duty and while they enjoyed the experience, I have yet to run into anyone who has been selected as an actual juror.

## MOTOR VEHICLES

**W**onder how many vehicles you meet on the road may have substantial damage, yet not be salvaged? What is a salvage vehicle? Under §301.010(9) the legislature defined a salvage vehicle as one which had been damaged to the extent that the total cost of repairs to rebuild or reconstruct exceeds 75% of the fair market value of the vehicle. However, the total cost of repairs to rebuild or reconstruct does not include the cost of repairing, replacing or reinstalling inflatable safety restraints (airbags), tires, or sound systems.

# Meet Your Legislators

THE CLAY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION is proud to have two of its members serving in the Missouri General Assembly and State Senate.

The Bar congratulates TIMOTHY J. FLOOK for his recent election to the Missouri House of Representatives 34<sup>th</sup> District. His Capitol address is 201 West Capitol Avenue, Room 201G, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101, phone 573-751-1218, email [tim-flook@house.mo.gov](mailto:tim-flook@house.mo.gov).

Congratulations also go to B. LUANN RIDGEWAY in her election for District 17 of the Missouri State Senate. Her address is the State Capitol Building, Room 419, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101, phone 573-751-2547.

## Christmas Luncheon Recap

On December 12, 2004, The Clay County Bar Association held its annual Christmas Luncheon at the Ameristar Casino. The program included guest speaker Buck O'Neal, a baseball legend, and election of new officers and directors. The Distinguished Attorney Award was presented to T.K. Thompson.

### CLE

For this reporting year, the Bar Association has two CLE Program which have been conducted. Those are as follows:

Date: September 24, 2004

Program: Discovery/Consumer Law Issues

Missouri: 4.0 (0 ethics) - Kansas: 4.0 (0 ethics)

Date: November 11, 2004

Program: Tax and Estate Planning Issues

Missouri: 4.0 (0 ethics) - Kansas: 3.5 (0 ethics)

## Legal Advice

As you may know, The Clay County Bar Presidents receive numerous phone calls throughout the year from persons with a variety of legal issues. If you are interested in receiving any of these calls as an opportunity to provide what in all likelihood may be pro bono legal services, please call Bill Shull and advise him. Domestic relations, collection of small claims judgments are frequent topics, as are security deposits and animal rights.

## Classified

LAW OFFICE FOR RENT: 3600 square feet with six offices, two conference rooms, secretary office, off-street parking space; available June 1, 2005. Contact Don Witt at 816-858-2750 or [dwit@wittlaw.com](mailto:dwit@wittlaw.com).

Mediation/Arbitration Services: Call Ward Stuckey at 816-407-1740

Liberty Office Space - full service office space in newly renovated offices. Near courthouse. Reception services, supplies, fax, copier, mail, library. For single low rate. Call 816-792-8700.

Job Opening: The City of North Kansas City is accepting applications for positions of City Prosecutor and Municipal Judge. Both are part-time positions. Applications are available from the city's Website: [www.nkc.org](http://www.nkc.org) and are due by March 15, 2005

## New Lawyers

The Clay County Bar Association is proud to welcome two newly admitted attorneys as they begin their practice of law within our Bar and in Clay County:

① Matthew Thompson. Matthew graduated from Brown University with an undergraduate degree and William and Mary School of Law, Virginia. Matthew is practicing with his father T.K. Thompson in Liberty, Missouri.

② Travis L. Miller. Travis graduated from Park College and the University of Missouri-Kansas City Law School. He practices in Liberty, Missouri.

## Lawyer News

KATHRYN L. MILLS has relocated her office to 14 South Main, Liberty, Missouri 64068; phone 816-781-4403, fax 816-792-1817.

DOUGLASS F. NOLAND, formerly of Norton, Norton & Noland, PC, has formed the Noland Law Firm, LLC, Westowne II, Liberty, MO 64068; phone 816-781-5055, and fax 816-781-3054.

TRAVIS L. MILLER, formerly of Shook, Hardy & Bacon, opened his office at Westowne II, Liberty, MO 64068; phone 816-781-5905, fax 816-781-3054.

RYAN J. McMILLIN has relocated his office to 6000 North Oak Trafficway, Suite 201, Kansas City, MO 64118; phone 816-454-7707, fax 816-454-5016.

MARY MARGARET PARRISH has relocated her office to 122 Westwoods Drive, Seaport Office Complex, Liberty, MO 64068; phone 816-781-5380, fax 816-781-4166.

## Clay County Bar Portraits

One last opportunity to if you have not had your picture taken for the latest edition of the Clay County Bar portrait. You may fax or deliver your picture to Steve Crain at 2909 Brooktree Lane, Kansas City, Missouri 64119, fax number 816-455-2302.

### IN MEMORIAM

Daniel Bishop — 1961-2004

# Court Dockets

Court Docket times for Division 6 and 7 are as follows:

## DIVISION 6

Mon. 9:00 a.m. - Director of Revenue cases  
(dates may change monthly); Trials  
Tues. 9:00 a.m. - Criminal  
1:30 p.m. - Criminal arraignments  
Wed. 9:00 a.m. - Criminal  
1:30 p.m. - Criminal arraignments  
Thurs. 9:00 a.m. - Associate Circuit Court docket  
1:30 p.m. - Associate Circuit Court docket  
Fri. Trials  
Preliminary hearings; trials; throughout the  
week when time available

## DIVISION 7

Mon. Trials  
1:30 p.m. - Criminal arraignments  
Tues. 9:00 a.m. - Public Defender docket  
1:30 p.m. - Criminal arraignments  
Wed. 1:30 p.m. - Preliminary hearings & bench trials  
9:00 a.m. - Traffic and conservation cases  
1:30 p.m. - Criminal arraignments  
1:30 p.m. - Traffic and conservation cases  
Thurs. 9:00 a.m. - Motions  
9:30 a.m. - Landlord/tenant  
1:30 p.m. - Criminal arraignments  
1:30 p.m. - Private attorney criminal cases  
Fri. 9:00 a.m. - Small claims

## 2004 Distinguished Attorney Award

*The Clay County Bar Association Distinguished Attorney Award was presented to T.K. Thompson by his brother and fellow attorney, James H. Thompson, Jr. T.K. will join recent honorees Judge William E. Turnage and Jon M. Krebbs.*

## Speakers Bureau

Anyone interested in speaking at various schools or community groups, please advise President Bill Shull of your availability. The Clay County Bar Association receives many requests for speaking opportunities for lawyers, and if you are willing to participate in this endeavor, be sure to let Bill know.



**The Clay County Bar Association**  
c/o 104 West Kansas  
Liberty, MO 64068