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2009 President's, Outstanding CLE Contributor and YLS President's Award Recipients Selected

A special feature of Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association's Annual Meeting is honoring several individuals for their outstanding contributions to the legal profession. This year's 125th Annual Meeting will be held at the Kansas City Marriott Muehlebach Hotel on Friday, December 11, and all KCMBA Members are invited to attend. Chosen by the current KCMBA President, the President's Award recognizes individuals or entities who have contributed to the success of the Association during the bar year. This year's recipients are W. Perry Brandt, Gregg Lombardi and Leah M. Mason. Patrick M. Gavin will be honored as this year's Outstanding CLE Contributor. Jenny R. Redix is this year's YLS President's Award recipient.

President's Awards

W. Perry Brandt

W. Perry Brandt is a Partner at the Bryan Cave LLP law firm in Kansas City. Since 1977, Brandt has acted as lead trial counsel in all types of business and commercial litigation in state and federal courts across the nation, as well as before various governmental agencies and arbitration panels. Born in Phoenix, Arizona but raised in Memphis, Tennessee—Brandt graduated from Vanderbilt Law School in 1977. He immediately came to Kansas City where he started out in the trial department at Stinson Mag & Fizzell. Brandt spent almost 20 years at the firm before joining Bryan Cave in 2005 to focus on commercial, securities, class action, antitrust and white collar litigation.

“Perry Brandt has become KCMBA's go-to-guy,” said Rebecca Lake Wood, KCMBA President. “He never says no. He is continually working to improve outcomes and services for the bar and the community. I am honored to call him a friend.”

Gregg Lombardi

Gregg Lombardi is currently Executive Director of Legal Aid of Western Missouri. He received his undergraduate degree in Philosophy from Yale in 1982 and his J.D. from Michigan in 1986. Lombardi started out his practice as a corporate litigator with Stinson, Mag & Fizzell, and in 1992, he went to work with Arthur Benson & Associates where he handled civil rights and business litigation. Lombardi joined the board of directors of Legal Aid of Western Missouri in 1998 and in 2001 he became Deputy Executive Director before becoming Interim Executive Director and ultimately the E.D. At Legal Aid, he works with 50 attorneys on staff to come up with solutions to the legal problems of people in need in the Kansas City area and throughout Western Missouri.

“Gregg Lombardi brings a constant stream of energy and optimism with him,” said Wood. “When I first discussed the idea of developing a pro bono initiative through KCMBA, he jumped in with both feet and has been working with me side by side ever since.”

Leah M. Mason

Leah M. Mason works in the legal department for American Family Insurance Company. She graduated from the University of Kansas in 1988 with a degree in Journalism, and received her J.D. from the University of Kansas School of Law in 1990. Mason’s legal career began clerking and working in private practice for a firm in downtown, Kansas City, Missouri. From there, Mason went in-house with American Family, where she has been practicing insurance defense litigation for almost 18 years. Mason graduated from the KCMBA Leadership Academy in 2006 and also has been involved in the Heartland Diversity Legal Job Fair for the past three years—serving as chair for 2009’s event.

“Leah Mason is a picture of strength and serenity,” said Wood. “Through her leadership, the Heartland Diversity Job Fair had one of its best years ever.”

Outstanding CLE Contributor Award

This honor goes to an individual whose exemplary efforts produced outstanding CLE programs for the Bar.

Patrick Gavin

Patrick M. Gavin is Of Counsel for Husch Blackwell Sanders LLP in Kansas City. Gavin graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in May 1986. After graduating from the Armor officer basic course at Fort Knox, Kentucky, he spent the next three years as a Tank Platoon Leader and then HHC Executive Officer in 4-66 armor located in Aschaffenberg, Germany. In 1989, he was assigned to 3-37 armor—where his unit deployed with the First Infantry Division to Operation Desert Storm. After receiving a Bronze Star for service in the Gulf War, he left the Army and went to UMKC Law School graduating in May of 1995. Gavin began his law practice with the Lathrop & Norquist firm which soon became Lathrop & Gage before joining Husch Blackwell Sanders.

“Pat Gavin’s commitment to providing CLE opportunities is an exceptional example for the entire KCMBA,” said Dan Blegen, CLE Co-Chair. “Pat developed a comprehensive approach to

CLE that not only served members of the Labor and Employment Law Committee, but also members of the Bar in general through a range of seminars designed to meet both the needs of practitioners in the area of law and those new to it. Pat throughout the year worked diligently to meet deadlines and to keep his plan on track. His creative choices of topics, formats, locations, speakers, and efforts to increase participation also contributed to a successful year.”

YLS President’s Awards

Selected by the current KCMBA YLS President, this award recognizes outstanding contribution to the KCMBA Young Lawyers Section during the bar year.

Jenny R. Redix

Jenny R. Redix is a lawyer at The Henning Law Firm, P.C. She represents plaintiffs in catastrophic injury and wrongful death litigation. Redix received her B.A. from the University of Northern Iowa in 2000 and J.D. from UMKC in 2006. She began her legal career as a law clerk for the Honorable Sandra C. Midkiff of the Circuit Court of Jackson County, Missouri. Prior to practicing law, Redix was a protective services and rehabilitative treatment provider serving children removed from the parental home due to abuse and neglect. Actively involved in KCMBA since 2006—Redix was a barrister in the Ross T. Roberts Inn of Court, serves on the YLS Public Relations Committee, and is vice-chair of the YLS Public Service Committee.

“Jenny is very deserving of this award,” said YLS President Chris Wirken. “She spearheaded a project with Radio Disney this year which ran public service announcements and put on presentations regarding the ABA Law Day theme of the Legacy of Lincoln. Without Jenny’s leadership on this project, it simply would not have developed.”

Photo’s available upon request.

The Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association serves approximately 5,000 members in the nine-county Kansas City metro area: Johnson and Wyandotte counties in Kansas and Cass, Clay, Jackson, Johnson, Lafayette, Platte and Ray counties in Missouri. The mission of this Association is to serve our members and our community by promoting justice, professional excellence and respect for the law.