



Press Release

Kansas City, Mo., May 3, 2010

For Immediate Publication

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KCMBA Spotlights 2010 BBBC Award Winners

The Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association (KCMBA) will recognize their 2010 honorees at the 37th Annual Bench-Bar & Boardroom Conference held at The Lodge of Four Seasons at the Lake of the Ozarks. More than 400 attendees will pack the resort for educational seminars, award dinners, sports and recreational events, music, fun and collegial camaraderie. The 2010 award winners to be recognized at the conference include:

Congenial Counselor Award

Robert A. Horn is the 2010 recipient of the Congenial Counselor Award. Created in 1998, this award is presented annually to one or more members of the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association who their peers believe to exemplify professional gallantry, peacemaking, harmony and friendship.

Robert A. Horn

Robert “Bob” A. Horn has been a practicing trial lawyer for more than 30 years. Born in St. Joseph, Missouri in 1954, he was the third of five kids of Jim and Sue Horn. His father was an assistant city prosecutor for the city of St. Joe whose handling of a case made the local paper catching the attention of Bill Sanders—who was putting together the trial department for what would become Blackwell Sanders Matheny Weary and Lombardi. Jim Horn moved his family to Kansas City to join Blackwell Sanders and young Bob, who was four at the time, grew up in Kansas City.

After graduating from North Kansas City High School, Horn received his B.A. degree in 1976 from the University of Missouri, graduating *Phi Beta Kappa*. He went on to the University of Missouri at Columbia School of Law where he was a member of the *Law Review* and graduated in 1979 with his J.D. During law school, Horn clerked for Knight and Ford in Columbia and gave serious consideration to remaining with them after graduation—but elected to become an

associate at Blackwell Sanders in 1979 to have an opportunity to work with his father and Bill Sanders.

In 1999, with his two best friends at Blackwell Sanders, Horn formed Horn Aylward & Bandy, LLC and continues to do trial work for both defendants and plaintiffs as a Member of the firm. Horn has tried a number of cases in state and federal courts in Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Nebraska and New Mexico. On the defense side, he has tried cases involving product liability, truck wrecks, medical malpractice, legal malpractice, premises liability and commercial litigation. More recently his practice has focused on representing plaintiffs in nationwide consumer class actions and he has been appointed as lead plaintiffs' counsel in a number of cases.

Thomas J. Conway Award

Jeffrey M. Kuntz is the 2010 recipient of the Thomas J. Conway Award. This award honors a younger trial lawyer who exemplifies two traits of the late Tom Conway: 1.) Outstanding trial skills and 2.) The ability to be a fierce advocate and a good friend to opposing counsel at the same time.

Jeffrey M. Kuntz

Jeffrey M. Kuntz is a Partner at Wagstaff & Cartmell with a broad litigation practice that has emphasis in the areas of professional liability, products liability, mass torts, drug and medical device litigation and personal injury cases. He has significant jury trial experience, including participating in cases with multi-million dollar damage claims.

Kuntz was born in Seattle, Washington and grew up in the Kansas City area. He graduated from the University of Kansas with a B.S. in Psychology in 1996 and received his law degree from the University of Kansas School of Law in 2000. During his second year of law school, Kuntz spent the spring semester studying in England as part of the London Law Consortium. After working as a law clerk for Wagstaff & Cartmell during his third year of law school, he then began private practice with the firm in the fall of 2000. Kuntz became a partner in 2007.

Over the last several years, Kuntz has helped try numerous cases to a verdict which have been listed by *Missouri Lawyer's Weekly* in its annual listing of the Top Verdicts of the Year. He has been listed on both the Defendant's Top Verdicts and the Plaintiff's Top Verdicts (*Dick v. The Children's Mercy Hospital*; *Mitchell v. Joseph Evans, et al.*; *Beatty v. Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City, et al.* and *Phillip Sgroi v. Saint Louis University, et al.*). He has also been recognized in the latest edition of the *Kansas City Business Journal's* "Best of the Bar" and included in the *Kansas City Super Lawyer's* edition.

Kuntz was recently appointed to the Plaintiff's Steering Committee (PSC) in the national Multi-District Kugel Mesh Hernia Patch Products Liability Litigation (MDL No. 1842). He was also part of the trial team which tried the first Kugel Bellwether case in the District Court of Rhode Island, and was recently appointed to the Science Committee in the In re: Yasmin and Yaz Multi-District Litigation (MDL No. 2100) pending in the Southern District of Illinois.

Young Lawyer of the Year

Amanda “Mandy” Pennington Ketchum of Dysart Taylor Lay Cotter & McMonigle, PC, will receive the 2010 Young Lawyer of the Year Award. Presented annually at the Bench-Bar & Boardroom Conference, the award recognizes excellence in public service, professionalism and legal accomplishments.

Amanda “Mandy” Pennington Ketchum

Amanda “Mandy” Pennington Ketchum joined Dysart Taylor Lay Cotter & McMonigle, PC in May of 2008. Her practice primarily focuses on personal injury and employment litigation. She began her career working for a plaintiff’s firm during and after law school, and then operated her own firm for four years, focusing mainly on plaintiff’s personal injury litigation as well as business litigation.

In 2009, Ketchum was named a “Super Lawyer – Rising Star” by the legal publication *Law & Politics*, and was recognized as Best of the Bar by the *Kansas City Business Journal*. She has been an active member of The Missouri Bar Young Lawyers’ Section Council since 2005, and was elected to its Executive Committee in 2007. She is currently serving as a board member of the Young Lawyers Section of the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association and is Chair of the Special Projects Committee. In May of 2009, she graduated from the KCMBA Leadership Academy. She is also a board member of the Association for Women Lawyers and serves as Chair of Awards and Scholarship.

Robert C. Welch Volunteer Attorney Project

Each year the Robert C. Welch Volunteer Attorney Project Award is given to recognize attorneys and law firms, who, through their participation in the Volunteer Attorney Project (VAP), have demonstrated exemplary commitment to the delivery of pro bono services in our community. Amanda Smith and Tom Roszak will be honored with the 2010 Robert C. Welch Volunteer Attorney Project Award for their outstanding contributions to pro bono legal services.

Amanda Smith

Amanda Smith is a staff attorney with Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP and is being honored for her outstanding devotion to the provision of *pro bono* legal services. She received her B.S. degree in Communications from Missouri State University in 1998 and her J.D. from the University of Missouri – Kansas City in 2004. Smith has been a member of VAP for less than two years—yet, her contribution has been significant. She is also a member of the Christian Legal Society who, in conjunction with VAP, created the Zenas Outreach Project. Through Zenas, attorneys volunteer to meet with residents of Kansas City area homeless shelters. The project focuses on identifying and resolving legal issues they may help to ending their homelessness and making a fresh start. Not only does Smith help in coordinating visits and recruiting volunteers, she also regularly attends the site meetings providing counsel, advice and legal representation to shelters residents. The quality of her work is exemplary and the numbers of people she has helped through her work is extraordinary. Since January 2009, Smith has provided legal assistance to 160 pro bono clients.

Tom Roszak

Thomas E. Roszak is Managing Partner of Dysart Taylor Lay Cotter & McMonigle, PC in

Kansas City, Missouri. He received his B.S.E.E. from the University of Notre Dame in 1973 and his J.D. from Washington University in 1976. He then obtained his L.L.M. in Taxation from the University of Missouri – Kansas City in 1982. Roszak is recognized for his outstanding and ongoing dedication to providing *pro bono* services. He was one of VAP's first volunteers, joining the project in 1982. Throughout the years, he has represented pro bono clients on a regular basis, representing client in the areas of probate, tax and real estate—all with successful resolutions. One of his most memorable VAP cases was resolved last year. The matter involved a real estate dispute between family members. After months of including investigation, negotiation and mediation, Roszak was able to help his client reach a favorable settlement agreement. He donated 224 pro bono hours of service in this matter.

Deans of the Trial Bar and Barons of the Boardroom

(Winners announced in an earlier April Press Release)

The Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association (KCMBA) has selected John W. Cowden and R. Pete Smith as this year's recipients of the prestigious Deans of the Trial Bar Award; and John "Jack" C. Craft and Thomas W. Van Dyke for the Barons of the Boardroom Award.

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.