

## Gridiron! Gridiron! Gridiron!

By Jared Byrne, President, The Lawyers Association of St. Louis

The 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Gridiron Show is less than a week away and you do not want to miss it. We have an amazing cast of lawyers from a wide range of backgrounds who all have one thing in common, they have been working extremely hard while eating too much pizza at rehearsals to bring you a great show.

Every person who has been in a Gridiron cast has their own story about how they got there. This will be my fifth Gridiron show, which is probably news to those in the audience who attended those five shows. I am always one of the guys relegated to the back row, probably due to my above average height and below average talent. I joined the cast for the same reason men do things every day that they are unsure about, to spend more time with a woman. Six years later I'm married to the same woman so things worked out.

There are Gridiron lifers who come back year after year. This group of grizzled show veterans form the backbone of cast. They never get too worried during rehearsals no matter how grim things look because they know it will all come together at the end. They also have benefitted from years practicing a handful of time tested Gridiron dance moves such as the jazz square and the contagion.



Then there are the newbies. An adorable group of bright eyed lawyers who slowly begin to regret their decision as their billable hours plummet in October only to relish in the excitement that only a first time show night can bring. This group brings the energy.

And last, but not least, there is the director. This year veteran directors Bill Thomas and Tom Germeroth have turned the show over to Erin Madden and she has not missed a beat. Her enthusiasm to deliver an amazing show is remarkable and we thank her for all the blood, sweat and tears she has put into this year's show. To Tom and Bill, I have said it before and I will say it again, THANK YOU. Erin and the cast would not be where we are today without your guidance.

The music is terrific, the cast is superb, and we are all excited about bringing you a memorable show. If you have not bought your tickets act now because this is one you do not want to miss!

## Gridiron

### "Look what's happened to the show since Bill and Tom just up and left..."

By Erin Madden, Gridiron Director

Although THAT is an ACTUAL lyric in this year's opening number, our hapless, first year director Erin Madden says that no offense is taken. "See, that is the beauty of this tradition - 61 years in the making!

As we say, 'if we make fun of you in the show...it is because we love and respect you...' and geez, I have never felt more loved and respected than in these last several weeks."

When asked how the show preparation is going and flowing along, Erin stated..."I have grown accustomed to being in a constant state of panic. That is normal, right?"

When further asked how she was dealing with the show being a full week earlier this year and what it was like to follow such a huge celebration like last year's "boffo and stupendous 60th Gridiron celebration," the new director only could communicate sobbing cries with emphatically punctuated swear words thrown in the mix.

Erin has assured us that this year's show is the culmination of the creative and talented energies of its cast and crew. "My



goal, early on, was to put this show in the hands of the funniest and most seasoned writers, dancers, and singers, and once that delegation of roles and tasks was in place, I knew I was in good hands... BUT, if the show completely tanks...I can disclaim any involvement, and I can point fingers at those

responsible. It is a win-win for everyone!"

All joking aside, Erin states that she is completely blown away to have seen this show come together from this new perspective, and she is honored and humbled to have her name somehow attached to these collective efforts. She prom-



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St. Louis, MO 63141

## Congratulations....

..... to Chantal Fink of Blitz, Bardgett & Deutsch on being named to the Up and Coming list by Missouri Lawyers Weekly.

... to Judge Jimmie Edwards, formerly of the 22nd Judicial Circuit, on being named Director of Public Safety for the City of St. Louis.

## The Lawyers Association of St. Louis & United States Arbitration & Mediation



CLE PROGRAM



**November 30, 2017**

**9:00am – 12:00pm**

500 N. Broadway, St. Louis, MO - Training facility on the Lobby Level  
3.0\* hours MO CLE (including 1.0\* ethics) \*pending approval

- **537.065 Agreements & Recent Updates on the Law**

- David Ahlheim - Childress Ahlheim Cary LLC
- Matt Padberg - Padberg, Corrigan & Appelbaum Law Firm

- **Medical Depositions**

- Ken Vuylsteke - Fox & Vuylsteke
- Peter Dunne - Pitzer Snodgrass, P.C.

- **Ethics Panel**

- Ken Vuylsteke, Peter Dunne, David Ahlheim, Matt Padberg, Debbie Champion & Genevieve Nichols

**Moderators:**

Mr. Jared M. Byrne - Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard P.C.  
Mr. Rob Litz - USA&M

**REGISTRATION ENDS Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>**

Doors open at 8:30 am. Refreshments provided.

Enrollment is limited and participation based on first-come first-serve.

Register via e-mail [kspiller@usam.com](mailto:kspiller@usam.com) or call Kelly Spiller at (314) 231-4642

\$40 for Lawyers Association members and \$50 for non-members

Please make checks payable to USA&M and mail to 500 N. Broadway, Suite 1800, St. Louis, MO 63102. Net proceeds will be donated to Legal Services of Eastern Missouri.

### Gridiron continued from Page 1

ised this year's President, Jared Byrne, that he would be a "household name," and there would be as many seats filled as last year. If Erin's family can't fill twenty extra tables or so, she said she can just Photoshop the crowd as "the biggest crowd ever assembled - people were overflowing onto Lindell Boulevard!!! No one can fact-check that - we are golden!"

The cast and crew promise the same mediocre jokes and poorly written lyrics you have grown and "groaned" to love throughout the years. Bill and Tom still wrote several songs and videos. Peter Dunne is still "singing" in several numbers. Judge Norton will have some sort of a ballad that will bring a tear to your eye. The band will still be amazing, and the food will still be served cold. The Gridiron News desk will be staffed by your favorite news team. Buy a ticket. You'll love this show, or you'll hate it...and you will be just as disappointed as you have been for the previous 60 years. See you on the 10th!

Tickets may be purchased by contacting Jim Susman at [susgroup@gmail.com](mailto:susgroup@gmail.com) or 314-991-LAWS (5297).

# Annual October Happy Hour and Gridiron Preview at the Goff-Moll American Legion Hall



Ken Vuylsteke treats Past President Bob Tucker to a premium brew.

Food and Drinks were sponsored by Charlie Gitto's Downtown and Fox and Vuylsteke, LLP.



ALJ Kathy Hart, Bob Hart and newly minted lawyer David Weber.



Gridiron cast member Ashly Vaughn visits with Gridiron writer Judge Jason Sengheiser.



Gridiron Cast Members from left: Jared Byrne, Bharat Varadachari, and Morgan Murphy.

## Upcoming Events

**CLE Seminar with USA&M**  
Thursday, November 30

**Holiday Party**  
Tuesday, December 12

**Bowling Tournament**  
Wednesday, January 24, 2018  
Saratoga Lanes

**Black History Month Program**  
Thursday, February 22  
The Westin Hotel

**Award of Honor**  
Saturday, April 28  
Marriott Grand Hotel



**Friday,  
November 10,  
2017  
Chase Park  
Plaza Hotel**

# LAWYER ON THE STREET

By Justin Guerra, Holloran, Schwartz & Gaertner

At the Judicial Appreciation Dinner, we caught up with some attorneys and judges. We asked them a question, and gave them each 10 seconds to answer. Here is what they said:

*When your career is over, what would you like it to say on your legal tombstone?*



*He practiced his way.*  
Lyndon Sommer  
Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard, PC



*Justice for all.*  
Former Judge Edward W. Sweeney  
22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit, City of St. Louis



*He married a hot attorney.*  
Rob Chandler (husband of Rebecca Cary)  
Baker Sterchi Cowden & Rice, LLC



*He fairly and zealously represented his clients.*  
Corey Kraushaar  
Brown & James, PC

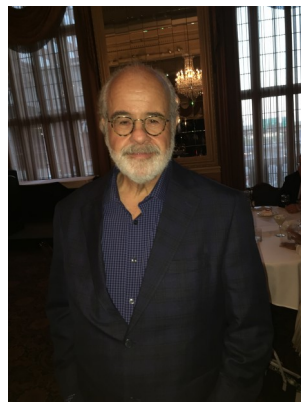
*She provided access to justice.*  
Judge Nicole Colbert-Botchway  
22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit, City of St. Louis



*She was fair.*  
Heather Hays  
Rynearson, Suess, Schnurbusch & Champion, LLC



*He was fair. He treated people with respect. And he made judgments according to the law.*  
Judge Jason M. Sengheiser  
22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit, City of St. Louis



*He lived to be over 300 years old.*  
Terry Crouppen  
Brown & Crouppen, PC

# Judicial Appreciation Honors Judges Celebrating 25 Years on the Bench

The Lawyers Association hosted its Annual Judicial Appreciation program in September when it honored all members of the Bench and gave special recognition to those celebrating 25 years on the Bench. Ken Vuylsteke was also honored for completing his one-year term as President of the association. Former Judge John Riley was honored for his on-going support of the organization.

Members of the Bench honored with certificates were: Judge Carol Jackson, Judge Carolyn Whittington, Judge Jimmie Edwards, Judge Kathy Hart and Judge Joseph Denigan. Jerry Noce of HeplerBroom, LLC was the featured speaker.





**Judicial Appreciation Sponsors**

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# A Sit Down With Our New and Not-So New City and County Judges

By James R. Cantalin, Brown & Crouppen, PC



St. Louis County Associate Circuit Court Judge **Jason D. Dodson**, Appointed to the 21<sup>st</sup> Circuit, Division 33 on March 31, 2016, by Governor Nixon

## Where did you go to school?

Kirkwood High School (1988), Bates College, B.A. in Philosophy (1992), Washington University Law School, J.D. (1996).

## What is your favorite thing to do outside of work?

I enjoy spending time with my wife and our children. I have 4 kids, and my wife has 3 and all 7 are involved in a lot of sports.

## Why did you want to become a judge?

I love people, so I wanted to become a judge in order to help people. The “Law” has always been a significant party of my life in that my Mother and Grandfather were both lawyers.

## How is the Bench different from what you initially thought?

There is much more camaraderie amongst the judges than I would have anticipated. We consistently work together on matters and help each other often. Also, there is more administrative work behind the scenes than I anticipated.

## Do you have any recommendations for lawyers who appear before you?

It is best if attorneys come to court prepared, act professional to each other and the litigants, and set expectations with their client early on so to avoid any surprises.

## Where did you work prior to your appointment?

During law school, I worked at Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, Inc. as a student intern. In addition, I was a law student intern at Gray & Ritter, PC (1995-1996). Upon my graduating from Washington University School of Law in 1996, I started as an attorney for Gray & Ritter (1996-2000). Then, I worked as an attorney at Simon, Lowe & Passanante, LLC (2000-2002). Afterward, I became a sole practitioner until 2003. Next, I worked for a short time at Thomas J. Noonan, PC (2003). In 2005, I began working again for Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, Inc. as an in-house volunteer, then in 2006 became a staff attorney, and in 2008 became a managing attorney.

## The one thing that lawyers do in court that drives me crazy is . . .

I dislike when attorneys interrupt each other, and act in a condescending manner towards one another.

## What part of your legal career best prepared you for this job?

The time I spent at legal services practicing civil litigation in domestic law greatly prepared me for this position.

## As a group, is there anything lawyers could do to help judges?

Attorneys could participate more in Pro Bono services which would be a great benefit to judges and the community.



St. Louis City Circuit Court Judge **Jason Sengheiser**, Appointed to the 22nd Circuit Court on September 8, 2017, by Governor Greitens.

## Where did you go to school?

St. John Vianney High School, St. Louis University – Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Science and German Studies (2000), St. Louis University School of Law (2003),

Columbia University School of Law, L.L.M. in International and Comparative Law (2006).

## What is your favorite thing to do outside of work?

In addition to spending time with his family, he devotes a significant amount of time to coaching youth hockey with the Meramec Sharks Hockey Club and is involved in numerous charitable organizations.

## Why did you want to become a lawyer?

The idea of going to law school started at St. Louis University when he became involved in Amnesty International, an organization that works to protect human rights. As a lawyer, you have the ability to serve society and help others.

## Why did you want to become a judge?

After working for judges for so long, he developed a real respect and admiration for what they do. It was natural for him to take the next step and become a judge himself.

## Where did you work prior to your appointment?

2006 – 2016	Judicial Clerk for Judge Robert Dowd, Jr. of the Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District
2016 – 2017	Associate Circuit Court Judge for the City of St. Louis
2017 – present	Circuit Court Judge for the City of St. Louis

## Accomplishments and Achievements

Board Member for the Missouri Bar Board of Governors, The Young Friend of Legal Services of Eastern Missouri and Paragard. In 2014, the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division awarded him the National Outstanding Young Lawyer Award, and the Missouri Bar has awarded him the Young Lawyers’ Section Chairperson’s Award three times. He was the Young Lawyers Division District Representative for both Missouri and Kansas in 2011. He also served as an adjunct professor at Fontbonne University, where he teaches Introduction to Law and American Constitutional Development. Additionally, his community work has included the Saint Louis University Prison Program, Amnesty International USA and St. Louis B-Works, a youth education program.

*Judge Articles Continued on Next Page*

# A Sit Down With Our New and Not-So New City and County Judges

By James R. Cantalin, Brown & Crouppen, PC



St. Louis City Circuit Court [Judge Paula Perkins Bryant](#), Appointed to the 22nd Circuit Court on June 10, by Governor Nixon. Division 9, Family Court

## Where did you go to school?

Southwest High School, UMSL – Bachelor of Science, St. Louis University School of Law.

## Why did you want to become a judge?

After spending time as a public defender and prosecutor, I felt I could do more for our community by serving as a judge.

## Do you have any recommendations for lawyers who appear before you?

Be prepared. Additionally, it is very helpful to get to know all of the court personnel and appreciate their duties and responsibilities.

## What do you wish you knew when you were practicing that you know now as a trial judge?

As a trial lawyer your focus is your client and how the court's decision is going to affect your client or the case. As a trial judge you have a larger number of similar cases which allows you to have the benefit of knowing how a decision played out in other similar cases.

## Where did you work prior to your appointment?

1987 – 1991	Assistant Public Defender
1991 – 1993	Private Practice
1993 – 2004	Assistant Circuit Attorney for the City of St. Louis
2004 – 2016	Associate Circuit Court Judge for the City of St. Louis
2016 – present	Circuit Court Judge for the City of St. Louis

## Who were some of your mentors throughout your career?

Judges Floyd McBride, Jimmie Edwards, Michael Calvin and Maggie Neill.

## Do you have any special preferences for hearings or trials? I

strongly recommend that the attorneys request a pre-trial conference at least one week before trial. Please bring all pre-trial motions and issues.

## Anything else we should know about you?

I am very proud of spearheading the GPS monitoring program for our Pre-Trial Release Program. This program has worked very well and allows individuals to be released without bond pending trial. Also, I am an Adjunct Professor at Webster University where I teach in the legal studies program.



St. Louis County Associate Circuit Court [Judge Richard M. Stewart](#), Appointed to the 21st Circuit Court on June 29, 2016, by Governor Nixon.

## Where did you go to school?

Mercy High School, University of Missouri – Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (1989), St. Louis University School of Law J.D. (1994).

## What is your favorite thing to do outside of work?

Spending time with my wife and four children, including coaching my kids in a variety of sports and spending quality family time at our lake house.

## Why did you want to become a judge?

While serving as a Guardian ad Litem, I had been approached by a number of judges who suggested that I should consider becoming a judge. Initially, I did not really consider applying since I didn't have the type of political connections that I thought were needed to be appointed to the bench. Nevertheless, I looked into it, applied and I was fortunate to be appointed to the bench on June 29, 2016 by Governor Nixon.

## Is there anything you miss about the practice of law now that you are on the Bench?

There are times when I miss being an advocate. As a judge, we no longer advocate for one side or the other. We take the facts and apply them to the law.

## Do you have any recommendations for lawyers who appear before you?

Be prepared and maintain a professional conduct by dressing well, acting in a professional manner and treating others with respect.

## What do you wish you knew when you were practicing that you know now that you are on the Bench?

How to respectfully, yet firmly, respond to a judge who takes a position adverse to my position. In situations where the judge does not seem to accept your argument, it is important to respectfully point out the statute, case law or precedent which supports your position to allow the court to come to the correct conclusion.

## Who were some of your mentors throughout your career?

Dan Rabbitt, Peter Dunne and Jim Herd

## Do you have any special preferences for hearings or trials?

Attorneys should request a pre-trial conference at least one week before the trial and bring a draft of their proposed jury instructions.