

# The Missouri Bar Foundation



The Missouri Bar Foundation is the philanthropic partner of The Missouri Bar, receiving financial support through the generosity of bar members, their families, and friends. Founded in 1950, the Missouri Bar Foundation has quietly funded charitable and educational projects that meet the law-related needs of the public and the legal profession. Working to educate the public on matters of the law and promote improvement in, and preservation of, Missouri's system of justice, the Missouri Bar Foundation was created as a way to support projects that parallel its objectives. These include:

- To aid needy members of the bar or dependents of deceased members of the bar;
- To improve the administration of justice, and advance the science of jurisprudence;
- To contribute to the study and improvement of legal education;
- To elevate judicial standards;
- To preserve the American constitutional form of government; and
- To preserve historic books, documents and other items of legal significance or bearing on the administration of justice.

## *The Fellows of the Missouri Bar Foundation*

Membership in the Fellows of the Missouri Bar Foundation is evidence of professional distinction and constitutes a professional honor. The Fellows program consists of levels of financial commitment to the Foundation, including Fellows, Life Fellows and Sustaining Life Fellows. Membership in the Fellows is by special invitation from the Foundation's Board of Trustees and membership cannot exceed one percent of the members of The Missouri Bar.

A Fellow of the Missouri Bar Foundation is a member in good standing of The Missouri Bar who has made significant contributions to the legal community throughout the state. An applicant must also contribute \$1,000 to the Foundation or agree to complete a five-year financial commitment to the Foundation in the amount of \$200 per year.

A Life Fellow is a member in good standing of The Missouri Bar who has met the criteria to be a Fellow and has contributed an additional \$2,500 to the Foundation or has agreed to a 10-year financial commitment in the amount of at least \$250 per year.

A Sustaining Life Fellow is a Life Fellow who, after meeting the criteria to be a Life Fellow, continues to contribute the annual minimum contribution required to be a Life Fellow.

## *The Keith A. Birkes Fund for Justice System Education*

In 2011, the Foundation created a new fund in honor of The Missouri Bar's Executive Director, Keith Birkes, who will retire after 27 years in that post at the end of 2012. The new fund will support efforts by Missouri lawyers to educate Missouri citizens about their justice system. To give to this fund, a donor need only designate their donation for this purpose at the time the gift is made.

The state bar's Citizenship Education Department has served hundreds of teachers who have educated thousands of students about the role of our courts and the importance of a fair and impartial judiciary. At the heart of a successful judicial system are informed citizens who understand the role of the judges who impartially serve in our courts, the lawyers who dutifully advocate for their clients, and the citizen jurors who carefully consider the decisions of guilt or innocence, right or wrong. This fund will support programs and projects that will ensure that Missouri's citizens of all ages and backgrounds understand the judicial branch and the vital role it plays in our democracy.

## *Grants – What Does the Foundation Do With Your Generosity?*

In recent years, the Foundation has provided more than \$100,000 in grants annually to support projects that further the Foundation's objectives. In 2011, grant funds were provided to support: law-related education, which educates Missouri teachers and students about their justice system; legal aid offices throughout Missouri; and a research project on criminal justice through the Supreme Court of Missouri's Fellows Program.

Other notable grants, provided in previous years, include funds to support the Missouri Lawyers Assistance Program (MOLAP), which is a professional, confidential counseling program for members of The Missouri Bar, their families and law students. Through a variety of free services, MOLAP helps individuals overcome personal problems such as depression, substance abuse, stress and burnout.

Also, the Foundation helped fund the continued printing

and distribution of the *Senior Citizens Handbook*, which provides information relevant to senior citizens on a variety of law-related topics. Similarly, the Foundation assists the Missouri Girls State and Missouri Boys State programs by providing printed materials related to their study of Missouri government.

A final category of grants that has been particularly important has been assistance to needy members of the bar and dependents of lawyers who have fallen on hard times during the recent bad economy.

### *Awards and Scholarships*

Mary B. Hocker established the Lon O. Hocker Awards in 1954 in memory of her late husband, an outstanding St. Louis trial lawyer. The Missouri Bar Foundation makes the awards annually to young lawyers who have demonstrated unusual proficiency in the art of trial advocacy

The David J. Dixon Appellate Advocacy Awards were created by the Missouri Bar Foundation to recognize outstanding achievement in appellate practice by young lawyer members of The Missouri Bar. The award is named after the late Judge Dixon of the Missouri Court of Appeals for the Western District, whose tenacity, professionalism and judicial skills epitomized outstanding appellate practice.

The Purcell Professionalism Award was created in honor of, and by the family of, Mr. and Mrs. Martin J. Purcell to acknowledge outstanding professionalism in a Missouri lawyer who has consistently demonstrated an exceptional degree of competency, integrity and civility in both their professional and civic activities.

The Spurgeon Smithson Awards were established in 1976 by bequest of the late Mr. Smithson, an outstanding Kansas City lawyer. The Missouri Bar Foundation makes the awards annually to Missouri judges, law professors and/or lawyers deemed "to have rendered outstanding service toward the increase and diffusion of justice."

The W. Oliver Rasch Award was created by the Editorial Board of the *Journal of The Missouri Bar* to recognize outstanding substantive articles appearing in the *Journal*. The award carries with it a cash stipend from the Missouri Bar Foundation. The award is named after the late longtime member and former chair of the Editorial Board.

The Henry C. McDougal Northwest Missouri Scholarship Fund was established in 1992 by a bequest from Miss



*Awards from The Missouri Bar Foundation recognize outstanding achievement by members of the bar.*

Helen Roosevelt, Mr. McDougal's granddaughter, to provide scholarships for deserving Missouri law students from northwest Missouri based on academic scholarship and financial need. Mr. McDougal was an outstanding attorney from northwest Missouri and president of the Missouri Bar Association in 1894.

### *Other Ways to Support The Missouri Bar Foundation*

Lawyer support is vital to the Missouri Bar Foundation's ability to serve as a source of financial assistance. Through gifts, contributions and donations of all sizes, the Foundation is able to continue its long tradition of support for outstanding projects.

**The Missouri Bar Foundation's Memorial Program** serves as a special way to remember a loved one or colleague, and to honor a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion.

**Gifts of stock** are simple and beneficial for both the Foundation and the donor. Donors can receive an income tax deduction for the full fair market value of the stock at the time the gift is made, regardless of the price of the stock, so long as the stock has been held for at least one year.

**An estate gift** to the Missouri Bar Foundation is a lasting monument to your life's contribution to the legal profession. Specific testamentary grants or legacies are easily added to most fundamental estate plans.