

# THE ADVOCATE

March  
2014



## Upcoming events:

### April

#### Criminal Law CLE & Meeting

*When:* April 16  
CLE at 4:00 pm  
Dinner at 6:00 pm

*Where:* Hollywood Casino

*Cost:* \$25 for CLE  
\$25/\$35 for Dinner  
(buffet with lobster  
tails \$35)

### May

#### Estate Planning/Elder Law CLE & Meeting

*When:* May 21  
CLE at 4:00 pm  
Dinner at 6:00 pm

*Where:* Hollywood Casino

*Cost:* \$25 for CLE  
\$25 for Dinner

### June

#### Golf Tournament & Ethics CLE

*When:* June 26  
CLE at 10:00 am  
Tee off at noon

*Where:* Dub's Dread Golf  
Course

## GRAUBERGER CELEBRATES 50 YEARS PRACTICING LAW

Fifty years ago this past February Albert E. Grauberger was sworn in as an attorney in the state of Kansas. Shortly thereafter Al, who was raised in Kansas City, Kansas, joined the Wyandotte County Bar Association and he has been practicing in Wyandotte County ever since. Join the Bar Association at our meeting this Wednesday, April 16 at the Hollywood Casino as we help Al celebrate 50 years practicing law by honoring him as a Legend of the Bar.

The Bar Association will also be honoring The Honorable David J. Waxse for his contributions to the practice of law in Wyandotte County. Social hour begins at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner and the meeting. Dinner is \$25.00 for the buffet or \$35 for the buffet and lobster tails.

We also have another great CLE scheduled this Wednesday before the Bar Association meeting. The topic this month is criminal law. Gary Stone of Stone Law Office will give a presentation about representing criminal clients before formal charges are filed and Josh Allen of Joshua K. Allen, P.A. will give a presentation about municipal court practice. The CLE starts at 4:00 p.m. and costs \$25 for members, \$35 for non-members.



The 34th Annual Wyandotte County Bar Association Golf Tournament is just a couple of months away.

For more information, or to register, contact Zak Kolich at [zak@mrwallaw.com](mailto:zak@mrwallaw.com)

## A message from our President



This year promises to be an exciting year for the Bar Association. In April and May, both of our meetings will be held at Hollywood Casino- April 16<sup>th</sup> and May 21<sup>st</sup>. Our CLE co-chairs, Lisa Garza and Tim Alvarez, have first-rate CLEs lined up for both of those meetings. Our Deceased Attorney committee co-chairs, Judge Wes Griffin and Judge Bob Burns, are organizing a program to pay tribute to members that we have lost in the recent years. Please keep an eye out for that date and mark your calendars accordingly. Our social co-chairs, Judge Dan Cahill and Ray Probst, are working on organizing happy hours for our members to social and network. If you know of anyone that is not currently a member, please get them in touch with Katie Devlin, our new member chair, or Pearl King, our Executive Secretary.

This summer, the Bar Association will have a softball team in the lawyer league held at City Park in KCK on Tuesday nights. Anyone interested in playing or coming out to enjoy great weather and good times should get in touch with Ian Tomasic, our appointed General Manager.

Zak Kolich, with the help of new co-chair Judge Aaron Roberts, is working to put together yet another excellent golf tournament on June 26, 2014. As always, the ethics CLE will be in the morning, followed by a day spent away from the office and out in the beautiful KCK weather. Please be sure to register soon as we hope to have a great turnout again this year. Entertainment will be provided afterwards and it is promising to be top-notch.

Obviously, I'm very excited about our committee chairs and Board of Governors for this year. Also, our new Executive Secretary, Pearl King, will no doubt keep things running smoothly for our Bar Association. Please be sure to introduce yourself to Pearl at the next meeting.

If you have any questions for me, Pearl, or any board members or committee chairs, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our information can be found on the Bar Association website which is also in the process of being updated, thanks to the Bar Foundation's generosity.

**Jane Sieve-Wilson,  
President**

## Bar Association hires new Executive Secretary



The Bar Association is pleased to announce that we have hired Pearl King as our new Executive Secretary. She replaces Brenda Eaton who retired earlier this year. Pearl has years of experience as a legal secretary and currently works for the law firm of Robb, Taylor and O'Connor. While Pearl will not be located in the Wyandotte County Law Library like Brenda was, the Law Library will continue to be the

Bar Association's physical address. Applications, dues or other items can be placed in a locked box located in the Law Library.

You can reach Pearl at:

827 Armstrong Avenue, Suite 200  
Kansas City, Kansas 66101  
Phone: (913) 948-0401  
Fax: (913)281-5227  
Email: [pearlk@kc.rr.com](mailto:pearlk@kc.rr.com)

## Patricia Thomas *Legend of the Bar*

*At each meeting we highlight our rich history by honoring one of our members, past or present, who has been an important piece of the colorful patchwork that is the Wyandotte County Bar Association.*

Patricia Thomas, a.k.a. PT was born in Kansas City Missouri and grew up in the Waldo area. Although she has traveled and lived on three different continents, she has made Kansas City her home.

PT earned her Associates of Arts from Kansas City, Kansas Community College. Patricia double majored and graduated with Bachelor of Arts Degrees in Art Education and English from the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque. She began her teaching career in New Mexico and from there went on to teach English as a second language to adult students in France. During her time off from teaching she traveled throughout Europe when she responded to an advertisement in the London Times for a teaching position in Sudan, Africa. She spent four years teaching young Sudanese, Korean, German and Italian children in a Sudanese proprietary school. Upon returning home, she took a teaching position at Saint Francis Xavier preparatory school in Kansas City, Missouri.

While at home and teaching at St. Francis, Patricia surrounded herself with friends who worked on the housing project through Legal Aid of Western Missouri (LAWMO). It was during this time in her life that she realized how much fun legal aid attorneys have while tackling challenges on behalf of those faced with often unfair or unequal opposition whether it be a government agency, private corporation or opposing counsel. Through her involvement with LAWMO she gained a genuine appreciation for the value of legal representation for those who might otherwise have none. Her passion

for equal access to justice for all was ignited and she took the LSAT with the goal of becoming a legal aid attorney.

Patricia earned her law degree at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC). While at UMKC she participated in their legal aid internship and also worked for LAWMO. She first passed the Missouri Bar Exam and then quickly passed in Kansas thereafter.

A legal aid position opened up in Kentucky and PT decided to take it. She promptly passed the Kentucky bar and practiced there four years. Prior to her arrival, Kentucky had not yet adopted the Uniform Residential Landlord Tenant Act. Through her dedication and hard work with other Kentucky legal aid attorneys the Act was adopted county by county until the state of Kentucky eventually made it a state law. As a result, sewage drainage and treatment was significantly improved for residents in the Appalachian region of the state. During her tenure there she earned the title of Managing Attorney Columbia, Kentucky Office of the Appalachian Research and Defense Fund of Kentucky, Inc., a.k.a. "Apple Red."

On February 1, 1999, PT returned home and began her tenure with Kansas Legal Services. Here, she served as the interim office manager in 2004 and 2005. In 2007 PT got together with KU law professor David Gottlieb, and local physician Dr. Sharon Lee and collaboratively pioneered a medical/legal clinic where doctors and lawyers could work together to solve medical problems caused by legal issues. In January, 2008 the Southwest Boulevard Medical Legal Partnership opened its doors to the



Patricia Thomas (left) poses for a picture with Lisa Garza (right).

public. The clinic offered internships to KU law students and PT mentored and supervised on average 10 students per semester. Patients who needed a variety of legal services were able to access legal representation by interns under her careful supervision. What started out as a vision to serve a population denied medical and/or legal services has evolved into the Family Health Medical Legal Partnership which now employs a full time attorney and a full time paralegal in addition to the medical professionals staffed full time.

The ripple effect PT has made in our community can be felt by each student who has gone on to practice influenced by her compassion and genuine service to litigants. Her ability to legally analyze issues has proven to stand up on appeal but more importantly her passion to see justice for all has stood the test of time.

Currently, PT focuses her full time and attention to those whose cases would seem utterly hopeless without the help of legal aid. She works tirelessly taking on as many cases as any one attorney can possibly manage, all of which share an element of despair on either the part of the litigant or the case in general.

Patricia is a fierce advocate for justice and equal access to it for those less resourceful. It is rare for PT to turn away a case, and the more challenging the issues the more she rises to meet those challenges. I am honored and privileged to be mentored by her and to work side by side learning by her example. The opportunity to work with her on a daily basis inspires me to provide exceptional and quality service to those who otherwise would not have the means to obtain legal counsel.

*Submitted by Lisa Garza*

## Member Spotlight: David K. Duckers

Dave grew up in Wyandotte County. He graduated from Bishop Ward High School and enrolled in Washburn University. After a short period in college, Dave joined the Marine Corps and was sent to Vietnam where he served in a helicopter unit. On his discharge from the Marine Corps Dave went to Kansas University where he graduated with a B.A. in accounting. He then chose to go to Washburn University School of Law. While in law school Dave worked as an auditor, and first employee of the Post Audit Division.

Dave returned to Wyandotte County and began practicing law in 1974. He was Kansas City, Kansas Municipal Court judge from 1980 to 1993. For the last twenty-five years he has practiced with Dennis Horner, who is his brother in law. Dave's practice is predominantly domestic along with probate and real estate. He is also the current city attorney for the City of Edwardsville.

Dave has been married for 43 years to Marianne. They have two children: Kirk, who is a teacher and coach in Caney, Kansas; and Ryan who is a CSO for the State of Kansas in Wyandotte County.

Dave has been a member of the Wyandotte County Bar Association for over 40 years. He remembers fondly the social and athletic activities of the bar association in the 1970s and 1980s. Dave is active in the bar. He thinks the CLE is the best it has ever been and really enjoys the programs at the bar meetings. He attends the meetings, in part because it gives him the opportunity to see other members of the bar that he doesn't see on a regular basis.



*Submitted by Mike Sexton*

## Jury verdicts:

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### Civil

#### Division 1

**2/17/14**

Case No. 12 CV 1296

Jeffrey Calvin vs. Augusta White

Plaintiff: John O'Connor

Defense: Kenneth Morton

Cause of action: Automobile accident.

Verdict: Defendant's verdict.

### Criminal

#### Division 4

**2/17/14**

Case No. 13 CR 688

State of Kansas vs. Orlando Taylor

Prosecution: Susan Alig

Defense: Paul Dent

Charges: Count I—Possession of Cocaine  
Count II—Possession of Marijuana

Verdict: Not guilty on Count I, guilty on  
Count II.

#### Division 5

**2/11/14**

Case No. 13 CR 112

State of Kansas vs. Brandi Casey

Prosecution: Jacob Fishman

Defense: Dwight Alexander

Charges: Count I—Criminal Damage to  
Property

Verdict: Not guilty.

**2/24/14**

Case No. 13 CR 297

State of Kansas vs. Keith Dean

Prosecution: Jennifer Tatum

Defense: Mike Nichols

Charges: Count I—Aggravated Kidnapping  
Count II—Aggravated Kidnapping  
Count III—Aggravated Burglary  
Count IV—Battery

Verdict: Not guilty on all counts.

#### Division 9

**1/27/14**

Case No. 12 CR 1573

State of Kansas vs. Terrence Crith

Prosecution: Mollie Hill

Defense: James Spies

Charges: Count I—Aggravated Robbery  
Count II—Aggravated Battery  
Count III—Aggravated Battery  
Count IV—Aggravated Burglary

Verdict: Not guilty on all counts.

**2/24/14**

Case No. 13 CR 1090

State of Kansas vs. Ray Lee Farley

Prosecution: Brett Richman

Defense: Kyle Sciolaro

Charges: Count I—Aggravated Assault  
Count II—DUI  
Count III—No Seat Belt

Verdict: Not guilty on Counts I and III,  
guilty on Count II.

**Jury Verdicts (continued):****Division 15****2/25/14**

Case No. 13 CR 1112

State of Kansas vs. Chong Her

Prosecution: Ian Tomasic

Defense: Joshua Seiden

Charges: Count I—Possession of  
Methamphetamine  
Count II—Possession of Drug  
ParaphernaliaVerdict: Guilty on Count I, not guilty on  
Count II.**Division 16****1/7/14**

Case No. 12 CR 938

State of Kansas vs. David Cole

Prosecution: Susan Alig

Defense: Mark Birmingham

Charges: Count I—Possession of Cocaine  
Count II—Driving while  
Suspended

Verdict: Guilty on all counts.

**1/14/14**

Case No. 13 CR 182

State of Kansas vs. Richard Langston

Prosecution: Logan McRae

Defense: Curtis Holmes

Charges: Count I—Possession of  
Methamphetamine

Verdict: Not guilty.

**1/28/14**

Case No. 12 CR 1104

State of Kansas vs. Lamonte James

Prosecution: Jennifer Tatum

Defense: Dwight Alexander

Charges: Count I—Aggravated Indecent  
Liberties with a Child  
Count II—Aggravated Indecent  
Liberties with a Child  
Count III—Criminal Sodomy  
Count IV—Aggravated Indecent  
Liberties with a Child  
Count V—Criminal Sodomy  
Count VI—Criminal Sodomy

Verdict: Guilty on all counts.

**Announcements:**

The Wyandotte County Bar Foundation is proud to announce that it will sponsor two candidates to attend the up-coming Leadership 2000 class.

Candidates may be attorneys, courthouse personnel or anyone who is involved in the administration of justice in Wyandotte County.

For information about Leadership 2000 and an application for this year's class, go to [www.leadershipwyco.com](http://www.leadershipwyco.com).

To apply for a Bar Foundation sponsorship, please contact Denise Tomasic, 913-371-5750, or Ruth Benien, 913-621-7100.

The Bar Association will no longer be sending out notices and announcements via fax unless specifically requested.

If you would like to continue to receive notice and announcements via fax please contact Pearl King at:

Phone: (913) 948-0401

Fax: (913) 281-5227

Email: [pearlk@kc.rr.com](mailto:pearlk@kc.rr.com)

To receive notices, announcements and this publication electronically please make sure you are registered through our website: [www.wycobar.com](http://www.wycobar.com)

# THE ADVOCATE

## WYANDOTTE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

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