

THE ADVOCATE

November
2015

Upcoming events:



Sheri Mitchell Weedman left, the owner of Annedore's Fine Chocolates in Westwood Hills with employee Pauline Freeman

November Ethics CLE and Board Elections

*When: November 18
CLE at 4:00 pm
Meeting at 6:00 pm*

Where: Hollywood Casino

*Cost: \$25 for the CLE
\$25 for dinner*

January President's Gala

*When: January 30 at
6:00 pm*

*Where: James P. Davis Hall
at Wyandotte
County Lake*

*Cost: \$50 per person
(\$40 per person for
attorneys 35 and
under)*

ETHICS AND CHOCOLATE THIS WEDNESDAY

Our guest speaker this Wednesday will be Sheri Mitchell Weedman, owner of Annedore's Chocolates. Annedore's is located just west of the Plaza in the shops at 50th and State Line Road in historic Westwood Hills, Kansas. Recently voted "Kansas City's Best Chocolate Shop" by Pitch magazine; Annedore's is known for its European style truffles, chocolate "Plaza Lights" light bulbs, and unique chocolate gifts weddings and special events. More importantly, the rumor is that Weedman will be bringing some samples of her wares to share at the meeting.

If chocolate alone can't get you to come, the CLE program is two hours of ethics by Disciplinary Administrator Stan Hazlett. So if you don't feel like waiting until the last minute to get those ethics hours in then join us this Wednesday.

2016 Election Ballot

President-Elect
-Jenny Myers

Secretary
-Lisa Garza

Treasurer
-JD Baker

Board of Governors (vote for two)
-Katie Devlin
-Hon. Aaron Roberts
-Hon. Wes Griffin
-Kelsy Allison

You can vote by dropping your ballot off with Linda Brozenic in Division 3 no later than 4:00 pm on November 18, or by turning it in at the meeting that evening.



A message from our President

In 1800, when Thomas Jefferson was elected President of the United States, there was a terrible acrimony when he took the Oath of Office. There was not one Republican serving on the federal bench. Jefferson's predecessor, John Adams, had stacked the bench with members of his own Federalist party. This ultimately led to the collision between the judicial branch and executive and legislative branches in *Marbury v. Madison* three years later. The justices established the essential Rule of Law that Courts were empowered to declare the improper actions of the legislative and executive branches as being unconstitutional—thereby serving as the ultimate check and balance in our democracy.

The same rule of law is being severely tested in our State. I do not think that any other state in our country has the very existence of their court system tied legislatively to the outcome of appellate rulings. After *Gannon* was announced—finding that the school financing formula was unconstitutional under the Kansas Constitution, it was a remarkable scene to have reporters ask our Governor if we still had a court system. Legislatively, the Court system was supposed to lose its funding in the event of this outcome. Apparently, we are still waiting to see as this matter pends on appeal.

We are now just two months away from the start of the next legislative session and it does not appear that the hostilities are going to lessen but only continue as the executive and legislative branches endeavor to change—and politicize—the selection of our appellate judges. This is so disconcerting when our non-partisan selection process has served our State so well for decades. It is almost unimaginable to even think about our appellate judges running statewide for re-election. It is unsavory to consider the role of special interests and money entering our judicial selection process.

While it is clear that all of us have a First Amendment Right to criticize judicial decisions, threats against judges are as irresponsible as threats against any other civil servant. Threats or intimidation of judges is incompatible with the Rule of Law set forth more than 100 years ago by the United States Supreme Court. As lawyers and servants of the law, it is our continuing duty to work to preserve the independence of our judiciary and to defend our Constitution. Make your voices heard!

**Mike Sexton,
President**



On October 14, members of the Wyandotte County Bar Association took part in our annual community service project at Harvesters Community Food Network. Volunteers sorted and repackaged donated food and other items at Harvesters' Volunteer Engagement Center.

Jury verdicts September and October

Civil

No trials.

Criminal

Division 4

10/5/15

Case/ No. 15 CR 8
 State of Kansas vs. Faustino Salazar
 Prosecution: Alan Fogleman
 Defense: James Spies
 Charges: Count I—Second Degree Murder
 Count II—Eluding a Law Enforcement Officer
 Count III—Criminal Possession of a Weapon by a Convicted Felon
 Count IV—Criminal Possession of a Weapon by a Convicted Felon
 Count V—Criminal Damage to Property
 Count VI—Domestic Battery
 Verdict: Guilty on Count II, not guilty on all other counts.

10/19/15

Case/ No. 14 CR 747
 State of Kansas vs. Robert Dickerson
 Prosecution: Jennifer Tatum
 Defense: Rick Carney
 Charges: Count I—Aggravated Indecent Liberties with a Child
 Count II—Criminal Sodomy
 Verdict: Guilty on Count I, not guilty on Count II.

10/26/15

Case/ No. 15 CR 408
 State of Kansas vs. Robert Johnson, Jr.
 Prosecution: John Grube
 Defense: Fred Zimmerman
 Charges: Count I—Theft
 Verdict: Not guilty.

Division 8

9/14/15

Case/ No. 15 CR 71
 State of Kansas vs. Dexter Gilliam
 Prosecution: Katie Devlin
 Defense: Cheryl Stewart
 Charges: Count I—Theft
 Count II—Interference with a Law Enforcement Officer
 Verdict: Not guilty on Count I, guilty on Count II.

10/5/15

Case/ No. 14 CR 858
 State of Kansas vs. Samuel Chavez
 Prosecution: Susan Alig
 Defense: Timothy Olsen
 Charges: Count I—Aggravated Burglary
 Count II—Aggravated Assault
 Count III—Stalking
 Count IV—Domestic Battery
 Count V—Criminal Damage to Property.
 Count VI—Aggravated Burglary
 Count VII—Stalking
 Count VIII—Criminal Threat
 Verdict: Not guilty on Counts I-IV.
 Directed verdict for the defendant on Count V. Guilty on Counts VI-VIII. Counts VI-VIII found to be acts of domestic violence.



Unified Government Mayor Mark Holland and his Chief Of Staff Maureen Mahoney at Judge's Appreciation Night.

Jury verdicts (continued):

10/26/15

Case No.14 CR 575

State of Kansas vs. Elnore Smith

Prosecution: Stefani Hepford (Assistant
Attorney General)

Defense: Bill Dunn

Charges: Count I—Making a False Medicaid
Claim

Count II—Theft

Verdict: Not guilty on all counts.

Division 13

9/8/15

Case No.15 CR 225

City of Kansas City, Kansas vs. Emmanuel
Thomas (Municipal Court Appeal)

Prosecution: Vicki Meyer

Defense: Jim Colgan

Charges: Count I—Criminal Restraint
Count II—Domestic Battery

Verdict: Guilty on all counts.

SAVE

WYANDOTTE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

President's Gala

THE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 2016

FORMAL INVITATION TO FOLLOW

DATE

Member Spotlight: Pearl King

There are 271 members of the Wyandotte County Bar Association with a part-time staff of one – the one and only Pearl King. Since joining the Bar Association in March, 2014 as Executive Secretary, she has brought to the organization her outstanding resume of job experience and organizational skills. But most us know her by her kindness and her unmistakable bold personality.

As Executive Secretary, Pearl promotes, builds and maintains membership in the Wyandotte County Bar Association, which has added 26 new members since she started. Pearl makes the arrangements for



the monthly meetings and dinners, sends out notices and helps with the CLE paperwork. She handles the details of literally everything we do.

Besides working for the WCBA, Pearl does paralegal work on a contract basis for a number of attorneys in Wyandotte County; handles the receipts from cash drawers for concessionaires at Cricket Wireless Amphitheater; manages compliance for club liquor licenses; and serves as a registered agent for several corporate entities.

Pearl has been married for 19 years to Glen King who has worked for UPS for 36 years. They love their home and yard, follow the Royals and Chiefs, and both share a passion for gambling tournaments, sometimes competing against each other.

Ask a Lawyer Program

Bankruptcy

Rick Wallace (913) 962-8700
Paul Dent (913) 621-2528
Ray Probst (913) 281-0699

Criminal

Mike Nichols (913) 281-0300
Gary Stone (913) 281-6601
Michael Duma (913) 782-7072
Josh Allen (913) 515-5853
John Bryant (913) 220-9916

Traffic/DUI

Jay Vader (913) 334-4800
Shane Rockey (913) 371-6063
Mike Nichols (913) 281-0300

Juvenile

Jeff Leiker (913) 281-6601
Patricia Kalb (913) 371-2299
Serena Hawkins (913) 390-9835

Probate

Dave Duckers (913) 281-2375
Bill Hutton (913) 371-1944
Pete Peterson (913) 371-1930

Worker's Compensation

Denise Tomasic (913) 371-5750
Zak Kolich (913) 362-5400
Tim Alvarez (913) 371-1030
Jack O'Connor (913) 321-9600

Personal Injury

Don Taylor (913) 321-9600
Roger McLean (913) 381-3221
Mike Sexton (913) 789-7477

Civil Litigation

Leo Logan (913) 381-4000
Jane Sieve-Wilson (816) 372-3912
A.J. Stecklein (913) 371-0727

Domestic/Family Law

Reed Walker (913) 432-1826
Karen Shelor (913) 789-7477
Betsy Mellor (913) 381-5650

Bankruptcy

Rick Wallace (913) 962-8700
Paul Dent (913) 621-2528
Ray Probst (913) 281-0699

Employment/Civil Rights

Ruth Benein (913) 621-7100

Office Management/I.T.

Mike Nichols (913) 281-0300

Ethics

John Duma (913) 782-7072

THE ADVOCATE

WYANDOTTE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

2015 Board Members

MIKE SEXTON, PRESIDENT

RENEE HENRY, PRESIDENT-ELECT

JENNIFER MYERS, SECRETARY

J.D. BAKER, TREASURER

JANE SIEVE-WILSON, PAST PRESIDENT

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

ALAN FOGLEMAN

LISA GARZA

IAN TOMASIC

ZAK KOLICH

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