



Jill Katz

Giving With Purpose

This month's President's message was intended to be the opportunity for me to highlight the events of the KCMBF Liberty & Justice Gala that was scheduled for September. I expected to write about the joyous feelings of celebrating in person; I expected to highlight the pleasure of meeting and celebrating in person. I also expected to write about the wonderful food and music we experienced. I would have shared the fun we had with the silent and live auctions. Overall, I had anticipated that I would be highlighting a fabulous party.

Instead, I am highlighting a purpose. In early August the Foundation Board of Directors made the difficult decision to cancel the in-person 2021 Liberty & Justice Gala. This hard decision came along with the regret of not being able to gather and celebrate in person. This decision was made because we understand our obligation to consider the health and safety of our legal community. So, as we set about cancelling the event, we pivoted to a fundraising campaign.

As we contacted our sponsors and donors, we were overwhelmed with their commitment to the purpose of KCMBF and the Legal Connection programs. As I continually learn, while we like a fun party, our legal community is fundamentally committed to helping others. The unwavering commitment of our sponsors and donors allows our Legal Connection programs to grow and thrive.

Ketchmark & McCreight, PC, is a prime example of the unwavering commitment to KCMBF, the Legal Connection programs, and our community in general. As a 2020 Liberty & Justice Diamond Sponsor, the firm provided much needed support for the Foundation and its programs. Their longstanding commitment has continued into this year as a 2021 Liberty & Justice Diamond Sponsor. Because of the unwavering commitment of Michael Ketchmark, Scott McCreight, Ben Fadler, and their entire firm, KCMBF will be able to continue to expand the Legal Connection programs and continue to serve our community.

The firm of Ketchmark & McCreight, PC was formed by three attorneys: two were friends from law school and the third is a former opposing counsel that joined them to make their unique team of attorneys who work hard for their clients. The law firm is well known for their honesty and integrity. They are known for their focused work, for fighting fair, and for their commitment to their clients.

Fundamentally, the firm values the relationships they build with others. Mike Ketchmark believes that building relationships is important and fundamental in law and in life. He lives this behavior daily in the respect he shows for those on the side of his client as well as those on the opposing side. Advocacy and respect for others can exist at the same time. This is a message he believes should be imparted to the next generation, especially the next generations of lawyers.

Mike Ketchmark recognizes that KCMBF are built on the volunteer work of attorneys. This is impressive to him. He sees that KCMBF are important to lawyers as they give of their time and money to support. They also allow for attorneys to get together at non-adversarial events which build relationships. When the firm provides support to KCMBF and KCMBF they appreciate that they are joining others to support the legal community.

Mike Ketchmark did not come from a family of lawyers. He was first inspired to become a lawyer, like so many others, by Atticus Finch. Early in his legal career, Mike Ketchmark worked at Shughart Thomson & Kilroy. It was at this firm he worked with and met many lawyers that continue to inspire him. Fictional and nonfictional lawyers have helped him to be the lawyer he is today. He learned to not give up, to fight fair, and to act with integrity. And it is these qualities that he and his law partners have become known for in their work.

The KCMBF Legal Connection program, Domestic Violence Alliance, has benefited from the Diamond Sponsorship of Ketchmark & McCreight, PC. On October 22, 2021, the DVA will

KCMBF

Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Foundation

MILITARY MATTERS PRO BONO SPOTLIGHT



Gabriel T. Hinkebein

Gabriel T. Hinkebein of Pittenger Law Group, LLC is this month's honoree of the Military Matters Spotlight, a monthly recognition to distinguish the great work per-

formed by the hundreds of pro bono volunteer attorneys within the Military Matters network. Please go to the KCMBF Facebook page to learn more about Gabriel's service to Military Matters.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE FOUNDATION?

Contact: Sharra Wagner,
Foundation Director
swagner@kcmbf.org



Advocacy & respect for others can exist at the same time. This is a message (Mike Ketchmark) believes should be imparted to the next generation, especially the next generations of lawyers.



host the 24th Annual conference providing cutting edge information and training to attorneys, judges, social workers, law enforcement, teachers, and other community partners. The lawyers and community volunteers that plan this conference show a commitment to working together to protect victims of domestic violence. And while that is highly important, the added value of this conference is the relationship-building among the various community partners, lawyers, and judges. Because of the unwavering support of Ketchmark & McCreight, PC, cross-discipline relationships are built which not only enhance the participants but the clients they serve.

The KCMBF Legal Connection program, Student Law Academy, is another program that has benefited from the Diamond Sponsorship of Ketchmark & McCreight, PC. SLA embodies the importance of learning about law and the importance of being a lawyer. This is one of the important messages that the firm supports: lawyers reaching out to others to teach about what we do and why we do it. In addition to being a lawyer, Mike Ketchmark and Ketchmark & McCreight, PC deeply support the Missouri Nonpartisan Court Plan. They believe we have a responsibility to be vocal about preserving the Missouri Plan.

I am truly grateful for the unwavering support of Ketchmark & McCreight, PC as a Diamond Sponsor for the 2020 and 2021 Liberty & Justice Campaigns. They are truly committed to the purpose, even without a party. Our Legal Connection programs are forever impacted by their generosity. So, the next time you see Mike, Scott, Ben, or anyone from their firm, take time to thank them for helping us serve our community. ■

Race, Equity, & Inclusion in Law Firms

The Future of Better Policy



November 19 | 9:00am - 12:00pm | A Virtual Event

CLE Credit:

MO - 3.0 ethics, incl. elimination of bias
KS - pending

Cost:

FREE to KCMBF Members
\$200 - Non-Members



Heather McGhee

The featured speaker is Heather McGhee, author of the New York Times bestseller, *The Sum of Us*, which reveals the devastating true cost of racism-not just for people of color, but for everyone. McGhee's talks offer us an actionable roadmap during one of the most critical and most troubled periods in history. McGhee holds a B.A. in American Studies from Yale University and a J.D. from the University of California at Berkeley School of Law. She is the Chair of the Board of Color of Change, the country's largest online racial justice organization, and serves on multiple other boards of trustees, including the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and Demos.

Register at kcmba.org