

————— Your Guide to KCMBA —————

# Sections & Committees

————— 2024 —————

## LEADERS PREPARE FOR THE YEAR AT KCMBA'S WELCOME AND ORIENTATION LUNCHEON

As pictured on the cover of this issue, KCMBA Section and Committee leaders gathered at the KCMBA Event Center on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at Noon. The group was welcomed by Vickie Mauck, KCMBA Executive Director, who introduced KCMBA President, Keith A. Cutler.

President Cutler talked about the KCMBA Strategic Vision Plan, provided helpful governance information and meeting tips, and shared information on how to plan a successful CLE program. He also outlined the roles of KCMBA's Board of Directors, Section and Committee Leaders, and Staff.

Executive Director Mauck introduced the KCMBA Staff to the group and explained the role that each staff member plays in the organization and how each staff member specifically supports the work of Sections and Committees. The program provided Section and Committee leaders a fun opportunity to connect and get all the information they need to have a successful year!

All KCMBA members are invited to join our active Sections and Committees! Thank you to all who serve now, and in the past, as Section and Committee leaders and members.

Contact us at [committee@kcmba.org](mailto:committee@kcmba.org) to find out more!



# – Sections & Committees –

## BUSINESS LAW SECTION

### President

K. Rene Calabrese - rcalabrese@sb-kc.com | (816) 421-4460

### President-Elect

John R. Bednarz - john@freship.com | (571) 228-5692

### Secretary/Treasurer

Salama M. Gallimore - sgallimore@mwn.org | (913) 261-6157

### Immediate Past President

Andrew Dockter - adockter@shb.com | (816) 474-6550

### Senior Member-at-Large

Malika S. Simmons - malika.simmons@kclife.com | (816) 753-7299

### Junior Member-at-Large

Crystal L. Howard - choward@atllp.com | (816) 472-3111

## BUSINESS TRANSACTIONAL LAW

This committee's focus is business transactional law, which includes entity formation, mergers and acquisitions, risk management/insurance, employee benefits, network security, and contract negotiations/best practices. The committee also focuses on corporate due diligence and disclosures pursuant to securities laws and regulations.

### Chair

Crystal L. Howard - choward@atllp.com | (816) 472-3111

### Vice Chair

Jordan T. Haas - Jordan.haas@bclplaw.com | (816) 374-3265

## CONSTRUCTION LAW

This committee holds periodic meetings to encourage camaraderie among its members, and discusses new state and federal legislation court decisions affecting construction law practice and presents seminars on new developments in this area.

### Co-Chair

Stacey K. Gibson - sgibson@millerlawkc.com | (816) 979-1600

### Co-Chair

Alec Joseph Locascio - ajl@tropicomiller.com | (816) 221-6006

### Vice Chair

Chad Stoker - cstoker@polsinelli.com | (816) 360-4117

## CORPORATE HOUSE COUNSEL

This committee develops communication between corporate house counsel and outside counsel, focusing on topics of common interest.

### Chair

Brandon L. Steenson - brandon.steenson@commercebank.com  
(816) 234-2618

### Vice Chair

Henry Thomas - h.thomas@sportradar.com | (612) 361-4100

## MEDIA LAW

This committee plans and arranges from time to time a regional meeting for members of the legal and journalism professions to promote a better understanding between both professions, to develop favorable public opinion and a more thorough public understanding of our legal system. These objectives are to be carried out by initiating a dignified informational program designed to reach and inform the individual local lawyers. The committee assists KCMBA with publicizing public service activities of KCMBA and individual lawyers to increase public acceptance of lawyers, obtains information concerning proposed legislation relating to the conduct of the business of the courts, county officers or laws, and generally examines and considers such proposed legislation.

### Chair

Katie Studt - katie.studt@axiscapital.com | (816) 681-8579

## PATENT/TRADEMARK/COPYRIGHT

This committee holds periodic meetings to discuss recent IP decisions as well as to discuss IP cases concerning local businesses or IP cases filed in local courts. This committee also plans continuing legal education programs, including a spring seminar on Trademark and Copyright law and a fall seminar on Patent law.

### Chair

Mary Jane Peal - mpeal@shb.com | (816) 474-6550

### Vice Chair

Blake E. Vande Garde - bvandegarde@avekip.com | (913) 549-4700

## REAL ESTATE LAW

This committee considers the law and procedures pertaining to real property and promotes its fair and just administration; studies and reports to the Board of Directors any proposed, necessary or desirable legislation; and promotes legal education of members of KCMBA and the public on real property law.

### Chair

K. Rene Calabrese - rcalabrese@sb-kc.com | (816) 421-4460

### Vice Chair

Jordan T. Haas - Jordan.haas@bclplaw.com | (816) 374-3265

## SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT LAW

This committee keeps up to date on current developments in the law affecting amateur, collegiate, and professional sports and the entertainment field. The committee disseminates that information by way of continuing legal education programs, periodic meetings, and any other appropriate methods. The committee involves lawyers in private practice and those who work for organizations in the sports or entertainment field. The committee encourages the development of sports and entertainment law practice by appropriate activities designed to widen understanding of the field and its practice opportunities.

### Chair

Kyle D. Ritchie - kritch@bsk.com | (913) 234-4421

### Vice Chair

Taylor P. Thompson - tthompson@sb-kc.com | (816) 421-4460



“The Business Law Section is the umbrella for a diverse array of practice areas. It is our goal to bring these areas together for collaboration and referrals to give our members the tools they need to provide the best possible representation for their clients. These resources are becoming even more critical as laws and regulations seem to change and become more complex daily for many of our practice areas.”

— K. René Calabrese  
Business Law Section President



# – Sections & Committees –

## TAX LAW

This committee considers the laws and procedures pertaining to federal, state and local taxation; promotes its fair and just administration; studies and reports upon proposed, necessary, or desirable legislation; and promotes legal education to members of KCMBA and the public on taxation law.

### Chair

Bobby J. Taylor - btaylor@lewisricekc.com | (816) 472-2591

### Co-Vice Chair

Rebecca D. Martin - rmartin@mcdowellrice.com | (816) 960-7318

### Co-Vice Chair

Nicole Forsythe - nicole@forsythelawoffice.com | (816) 730-9120

## CIVIL LITIGATION SECTION

### President

Katrina L. Smeltzer - ksmeltzer@sandbergphoenix.com  
(816) 627-5332

### President-Elect

Raymond A. Dake - rdake@sirosmithdickson.com | (816) 471-4881

### Secretary/Treasurer

Chris C. Tillery - ctillery@sb-kc.com | (816) 421-4460

### Immediate Past President

Edward 'Kip' Robertson III - k Robertson@bflawfirm.com | (913) 266-2300

### Senior Member-at-Large

Kevin M. Johnson - kjohnson@wallacesaunders.com  
(913) 888-1000

### Junior Member-at-Large

Landon W. Magnusson - lmagnusson@withersbrant.com  
(816) 781-4788

## APPELLATE PRACTICE

The Appellate Practice Committee strives to clarify and explain the appellate process (civil and criminal, state and federal) through its programs and work for experienced appellate practitioners and attorneys new to appellate litigation alike. Committee members monitor developments in case law and amendments to procedural rules and statutes, present appellate institutes and other educational programming, and link practitioners with the appellate judiciary.

### Co-Chair

Jonathan Sternberg - jonathan@sternberg-law.com | (816) 292-7020

### Co-Chair

Landon W. Magnusson - lmagnusson@withersbrant.com  
(816) 781-4788

### Vice Chair

Karen Fritts - kfritts@wcllp.com | (816) 701-1158

## BUSINESS LITIGATION

This committee promotes and enhances the business litigation practice of its members who litigate in all areas impacting business enterprises by building relationships, providing hands-on mentorship opportunities, offering practice-specific continuing legal education courses, and recommending changes to current law. The committee accomplishes its mission through social events, member recruitment and instruction, and subcommittee involvement.

### Co-Chair

Cody S. Hagan - chagan@gravesgarrett.com | (816) 285-3055

### Co-Chair

Catherine D. Singer - catherines@gmlawpc.com | (816) 471-7700

### Vice Chair

Nicolette C. Rodriguez - nicolette.rodriguez@stinson.com  
(816) 854-8600

## LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW

This committee supports the just and lawful administration of workplace laws through programs and activities designed to educate and train attorneys and other interested parties about substantive, procedural, and practical considerations in a manner reflecting the concerns, interests, and positions of both employees and employers. Additionally, the committee strives to develop goodwill and positive relationships among KCMBA members practicing in this area of law.

### Co-Chair

Jason Kotlyarov - jkotlyarov@rousepc.com | (913) 387-1600

### Co-Chair

Nicholas S. Ruble - nruble@bscr-law.com | (816) 471-2121

### Vice Chair

Alicia O'Connell - Alicia.oconnell@modot.mo.gov | (816) 607-2076

## MEDICAL-LEGAL/NURSING HOME NEGLIGENCE

This committee provides a common meeting ground for those members of KCMBA who are engaged in representing clients in medical malpractice litigation, and studies proposed medical malpractice legislation; encourages members of the association involved with medical malpractice litigation to meet and confer upon various problems; and reports any recommendations to KCMBA, as may be considered to be useful, in the practice and development of medical malpractice law.

### Co-Chair

Rachel D. Stahle - rachels@dollar-law.com | (816) 876-2600

### Co-Chair

Matthew N. Sparks - matt.sparks@usdoj.gov | (816) 426-4122



The Civil Litigation Section covers a wide variety of practice areas and includes six committees. Our primary goals are to help create and enhance relationships among attorneys and judges and to promote professional development. The Section provides ample opportunity to become involved, further your learning, and grow relationships. I encourage you to take advantage of those opportunities. Doing so will enhance your practice and enjoyment of our profession.



— Katrina L. Smeltzer  
Civil Litigation Section President



# – Sections & Committees –

## TORTS LAW

This committee studies and considers matters in the field of tort and negligence law, except in the area of Workers' Compensation Law, in both state and federal jurisdictions.

### Co-Chair

Kasey A. Klenda - kasey@shullklenda.com | (816) 905-3405

### Co-Chair

Matthew R. Klose - mklose@hab-law.com | (816) 595-7751

### Vice Chair

Michelle L. Cocayne - mcocayne@turneylg.com | (816) 949-1104

## WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAW AND PROCEDURES

This committee considers the practice and procedure before the division, commission, and courts and collects and distributes information concerning the developments of compensation law and administration thereof to members of KCMBA.

### Chair

Kristina D. Mulvany - kmulvany@mvplaw.com | (913) 371-3838

### Vice Chair

Adam M. Brillhart - Adam.brillhart@dmlawusa.com  
(816) 307-9130

## CRIMINAL LAW SECTION

### President

Joshuah W. Peter - josh@solomonandpeter.com | (816) 800-9529

### President-Elect

Sheena A. Foye - sfoye@whmlaw.net | (816) 221-0080

### Secretary/Treasurer

Lesley D. Smith - lesley\_smith@fd.org | (816) 471-8282

### Immediate Past President

Hallie Leigh Schuman - hschuman@jacksongov.org  
(816) 881-4407

### Senior Member-at-Large

Andrew T. Christie - atclawoffice@gmail.com | (816) 674-2737

### Junior Member-at-Large

TBD

## CRIMINAL LAW

This committee studies the criminal laws and procedures in the courts of state and federal jurisdictions and all other practices in said courts relating thereto; makes recommendations to the Board of Directors for corrective legislation or procedure changes; and, assists the Board of Directors in having these laws passed or procedures adopted by the appropriate body.

### Chair

Sean T. Foley - sean.foley@usdoj.gov | (816) 426-3122

### Vice Chair

Lesley D. Smith - Lesley\_Smith@fd.org | (816) 471-8282

## MUNICIPAL COURT

This committee considers all matters involving the municipal courts, observing the practical workings of the courts, both civil and criminal, and the workings of our judicial system; collects information on the subjects relating to the improvement of same and the administration of the law.

### Chair

Sean LaJaunie - seanlajaunie@gmail.com | (816) 897-3381

### Vice Chair

Brianna Zavadil - bzavadil7768@gmail.com | (636) 212-1407

## DIVERSITY SECTION

### President

Sharon L. Ivy - sharonstewa@gmail.com | (816) 691-3357

### President Elect

Matthew DePaz - mdepaz@shb.com (816) 474-6550

### Secretary/Treasurer

Allison M. Williamson - allison.williamson@ag.ks.gov  
(785) 291-3797

### Immediate Past President

Whitney Fay - wfay@swansonbernard.com | (816) 410-4600

### Senior Member-at-Large

Kamillia M. Scott - kamillia.scott@dentons.com | (816) 460-2513

### Junior Member-at-Large

Lesley D. Smith - lesley\_smith@fd.org | (816) 471-8282

## DIVERSITY EDUCATION

### Chair

Seema Chawla - seema.chawla@finra.org | (816) 802-4712

### Vice Chair

Ashley M. Barton - Ashley.barton@kcmo.org | (816) 513-3158



“Comprised of prosecutors from municipal, state and federal courts, along with private attorneys, public defenders, and our judiciary, the Criminal Law Section is a diverse group dedicated to keeping our members informed and up to date on changes in the law, local courtroom policies and procedures, public policies and reform, and continuing legal education. Our section meets to discuss issues and socialize, no matter which side of a criminal case you represent. If you practice in any area of criminal law, I encourage you to join our Criminal Law Section or attend an upcoming event.”

— Joshuah W. Peter  
Criminal Law Section President



# – Sections & Committees –



“ The Diversity Section promotes a welcoming and inclusive legal community for lawyers and law students through networking, educational and mentoring opportunities. The Heartland Legal Diversity Job Fair, Continuing Legal Education programs, and the Unity Event are initiatives hosted by the section to advance diversity and inclusion. The Sly James Diversity and Inclusion Award recognizes KCMBA members who champion greater diversity in the profession.

— Sharon L. Ivy  
Diversity Section President ”

## DIVERSITY EDUCATION

This committee develops CLE activities as it also identifies and implements other learning opportunities of benefit to section members and other KCMBA members for the advancement of diversity issues. The committee's work focuses on the practical aspects of ways diversity issues in legal practice can be appreciated, anticipated, recognized and fully utilized.

### Chair

Seema Chawla - seema.chawla@finra.org | (816) 802-4712

### Vice Chair

Ashley M. Barton - Ashley.barton@kcmo.org | (816) 513-3158

## HEARTLAND DIVERSITY LEGAL JOB FAIR

This committee plans and organizes the annual Heartland Diversity Legal Job Fair (HDLJF). The committee consists of no more than ten members appointed by the KCMBA President.

### Chair

Jessica Venters - Jessica.Venters@usdoj.gov | (816) 581-5000

### Vice Chair

Matthew DePaz - mdepaz@shb.com | (816) 474-6550

## MEMBERSHIP AND SOCIAL

This committee plans and coordinates social activities that allow section members to network with each other as they celebrate and enhance their work together. Additionally, the committee is attentive to ways to get others involved and interacts with diverse groups to help bring people together on a less formal basis.

### Co-Chair

Amy M. Fowler - amy@hflawfirmllc.com | (913) 522-4110

### Co-Chair

Seema Chawla - seema.chawla@finra.org | (816) 802-4712

### Co-Vice Chair

Allison M. Williamson - allison.williamson@ag.ks.gov | (785) 291-3797

### Co-Vice Chair

Jordan T. Haas - Jordan.haas@bcplaw.com | (816) 374-3265

## DIVERSITY RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

As this committee works on membership recruitment and retention to help facilitate and advance the work of the Diversity Section, it also provides an even greater focus for the section's work. In those endeavors, the committee works, in conjunction with the Education Committee, to help advance awareness of resources that can assist in creating and maintaining inclusive environments.

### Chair

Marcus McLaughlin - mclaughlin4you@gmail.com | (913) 281-7707

### Vice Chair

Adunni Gueye - adunni.gueye@lathropgm.com | (816) 292-2000

## FAMILY AND THE LAW SECTION

### President

Amanda B. Kivett - amanda@kivettlaw.com | (816) 942-1900

### President-Elect

Rochelle B. Falk - rfalk@polsinelli.com | (816) 360-4183

### Secretary/Treasurer

Jennipher M.C. Hawkins - Jennipher.hawkins@courts.mo.gov  
(816) 435-8008

### Immediate Past President

Crissy L. Del Percio - cdplawkc@gmail.com | (816) 615-5555

### Domestic Member-at-Large

Sandy A. Jadric - sandy@kclawpractice.com | (816) 524-3838

### Juvenile Member-at-Large

Erin L. Mayfield Craig - emc@or-law.com | (816) 229-8121

### Probate Member-at-Large

Stacey L. Janssen - stacey@staceyelderlaw.com | (913) 322-6300

## DOMESTIC LAW

This committee includes the study and consideration of all substantive laws of state and federal jurisdictions concerning the family, juveniles, divorce, separate maintenance, adoption and other laws thereto related. Recommendations for changes in the common or statutory law shall be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval.

The committee also serves as liaison with the courts dealing in the area of family law, assisting them in their administrative problems and serving as a sounding board for any suggestions in procedure and legislative acts.

### Chair

Arielle A. Spiridigliozzi - arielles@berkowitz-cook.com | (816) 753-5000

### Co-Chair

Kristin K. Jacobs Alexander - kristin@ffl-kc.com | (816) 701-9221

## JUVENILE LAW

This committee studies and considers the state laws, local practice and rules regarding juveniles and other issues related thereto, including review of available treatment services and consideration of other legal actions affecting juveniles.

### Chair

Bree A. Sturner - Bree.Sturner@courts.mo.gov | (816) 435-4725

### Vice Chair

Sara H. Christensen - sara.christensen@lathropgm.com | (816) 460-5709



“ The Family and the Law Section is comprised of the Domestic Law, Juvenile Law, and Probate and Estate Planning committees. These committees are united in providing support to lawyers who practice in areas that directly impact families. Each committee meets monthly, offering round tables, relevant guest speakers, and an opportunity to socialize to members. Each year the section offers an excellent interdisciplinary CLE for all of KCMBA. I am excited to continue the section's amazing work and welcome your involvement.”

— Amanda B. Kivett  
Family and the Law Section President ”

# – Sections & Committees –

## PROBATE AND ESTATE PLANNING

The purpose of this committee is to 1) study and develop projects in and connected with a) the administration of justice in courts having probate jurisdiction in Missouri and Kansas, b) tax matters related to the administration of probate estates, conservatorships and trusts, c) assist clients in planning for handling of their financial affairs in the event of disability and transfer of their assets to beneficiaries during their lifetime or at their deaths, d) assist clients in planning for personal disability and disability of family members, including termination of life support systems, e) plan for transfer of assets outside of probate and f) assist concerning persons needing service in the foregoing areas who are not otherwise able to obtain such services; 2) study and recommend through the Board of Directors proposed legislative enactments designed to improve the administration of justice in all areas to which this committee relates; 3) plan and present seminars for KCMBA in all areas to which this committee relates, including matters of ethical considerations; and 4) develop appropriate means of educating the public in the areas of the law to which this committee relates.

### Chair

Stacey L. Janssen - stacey@staceyelderlaw.com | (913) 322-6300

### Vice Chair

Rochelle B. Falk - rfalk@polsinelli.com | (816) 360-4183

## FEDERAL COURTS ADVOCATES SECTION

### President

Jeffrey Q. McCarther - jeffrey.mccarther@usdoj.gov | (816) 426-3122

### President-Elect

Matthew N. Sparks - matt.sparks@usdoj.gov | (816) 426-4122

### Secretary/Treasurer

J. Austin Moore - moore@stuevesiegel.com | (816) 714-7105

### Immediate Past President

Angela D. Gupta - angeladgupta@gmail.com | (785) 357-1800

### Senior Member-at-Large

Sarah R. Holdmeyer - sarah.holdmeyer@bclplaw.com | (816) 374-3200

### Senior Member-at-Large

Julia D. Kitsmiller - julia\_kitsmiller@mow.uscourts.gov | (816) 512-5652

### Junior Member-at-Large

Elizabeth A. Murray - emurray@batyotto.com | (816) 360-8113

### Junior Member-at-Large

Jillian R. Dent - dent@stuevesiegel.com | (816) 714-7142

*\*Membership in the Federal Courts Advocates Section requires annual dues of \$25 for KCMBA members; \$35 for non-KCMBA members.\* The FCAS is the only KCMBA committee that does not require a KCMBA membership.*



The Federal Courts Advocates Section (FCAS) endeavors to provide a forum for interaction and discussion with fellow federal court practitioners, including the judiciary. FCAS will host 2-4 free CLEs per year focusing on new and changing issues at the forefront of federal practice. In addition to the CLE opportunities, FCAS will host several social events so that practitioners can have an opportunity to informally engage with judges, law clerks, and fellow federal court practitioners. We're looking forward to having an active year!

— Jeffrey Q. McCarther

Federal Courts Advocates Section President



## FCAS CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

This committee offers legal seminars of interest and furthers relations of benefit to section members and other KCMBA members through its continuing legal education.

### KS Co-Chair

Brandon L. Corl - bcorl@hslawllc.com | (816) 283-8738

### KS Co-Chair

Courtney M. Stout - courtneym.stout@bclplaw.com | (816) 374-3200

### MO Co-Chair

Jillian R. Dent - dent@stuevesiegel.com | (816) 714-7142

### KS Co-Chair

Julia D. Kitsmiller - julia\_kitsmiller@mow.uscourts.gov | (816) 512-5652

## FCAS MEMBERSHIP AND SOCIAL

This committee focuses on membership recruitment and retention to help facilitate and enhance the work of the FCAS along with planning social events including, but not limited to, events that may involve other groups and other bar associations.

### Chair

Sarah R. Holdmeyer - sarah.holdmeyer@bclplaw.com | (816) 374-3200

### Co-Vice Chair

Bryce B. Bell - bryce@belllawkc.com | (816) 886-8206

### Co-Vice Chair

Elizabeth Sharp Lynch - blynch@chinnery.com | (816) 525-2050

## FCAS OUTREACH

This committee focuses on membership recruitment and retention to help facilitate and enhance the work of the FCAS along with planning social events including, but not limited to, events that may involve other groups and other bar associations.

### Chair

Elizabeth A. Murray - emurray@batyotto.com | (816) 360-8113

### Vice Chair

Brandi S. Spates - spates@stuevesiegel.com | (816) 714-7114

## SOLO PRACTITIONER AND SMALL FIRM SECTION

### President

Robert A. Thrasher - rthrasher@monseesmayer.com | (816) 361-5555

### President-Elect

Mark D. Molner - mmolner@emlawkc.com | (913) 962-8700

### Secretary/Treasurer

Danielle M. Atchison - datchison@uslegalimmigration.com  
(913) 317-6200

### Immediate Past President

Heather J. Hardinger - hhardinger@meyerslaw.com | (816) 444-8500

### Senior Member-at-Large

Jasmine J. Abou-Kassem - jasmine@jaklawllc.com | (816) 298-5214

### Junior Member-at-large

Antonette DuPree - antonette@adlitigationep.com | (816) 643-3295

*\*Membership in this Section is limited to attorneys who own or practice law in any area as solo practitioners or within a firm of 15 or fewer attorneys.*

# – Sections & Committees –



Being a solo practitioner or working in a small firm can be a daunting experience. Not only are you navigating legal issues on your own, but you are also in charge of running the business of your firm. The Solo and Small Firm Section fosters a network for lawyers looking to enhance their practice through their shared experiences and individualized expertise. Investment in the Solo and Small Firm Section is an investment in your practice.



— Robert A. Thrasher  
Solo Practitioner/Small Firm Section President



## LAW PRACTICE MANAGEMENT & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

This committee provides its members with information on practice management trends, marketing, client development, legal technology and finance. Members will find law practice management resources to meet their day-to-day law practice needs. The committee will offer checklists, best practices, publications and annual continuing legal education programs that provide up-to-date information and practical tips to help members better manage their law practice.

### Chair

Lori E. Korth - lkorth@lawofficemo.com | (816) 532-3895

### Vice Chair

Christopher D. Dandurand - chris@gornylawfirm.com  
(816) 756-5071

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE

This committee will work with the Social Committee to promote activities that foster a greater awareness of opportunities within the section. It will also sponsor projects and forums that allow solo practitioners and small firm lawyers to provide needed services to the public for the betterment of the community at large. This goal will be fulfilled through a variety of projects that emphasize the legal skills of the section participants while providing opportunities to develop contacts both within and outside the legal community.

### Chair

Ronald Nguyen - ron@ronnguyenlaw.com | (816) 237-0808

### Vice Chair

Anne M. Marchael - anne@marchaelconsulting.com | (816) 419-8659

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The scope of this committee is planning and facilitating social events for the Section. The committee will work with the Outreach Committee on membership recruitment of solo practitioners and small firm lawyers.

### Chair

Danielle M. Atchison - datchison@uslegalimmigration.com  
(913) 317-6200

### Vice Chair

Antonette DuPree - antonette@adlitigationep.com  
(816) 643-3295

## YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION

### President

Carrie D. Savage - carries@glmawpc.com | (816) 471-7700

### President-Elect

Courtney M. Stout - courtneym.stout@bclplaw.com | (816) 374-3200

## YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION (Continued)

### Secretary

Austin Osborn - aosborn@mc-stlaw.com | (816) 994-4040

### Treasurer

Stephen L. Bishop - stephenb@getbc.com | (816) 298-6437

### Immediate Past President

Robert L. Kinsman - robert@krauseandkinsman.com | (816) 760-2700

*\*Membership in this Section is limited to individuals (1) under thirty-six (36) years of age, (2) lawyers, regardless of age, who have graduated from law school within the last three (3) years or (3) who are currently enrolled in law school*

## CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

The scope of this committee is dedicated to the purpose of generating ideas for legal educational programs of interest and benefit to young lawyers and other members of KCMBA.

### Chair

Brice Barnard - bbarnard@vnjlaw.com | (816) 895-8800

### Vice Chair

Hallie Bodamer - hbodamer@gravesgarrett.com | (816) 256-3181

## GOLF TOURNAMENT

This committee is responsible for planning the annual YLS Benefit Golf Tournament.

### Chair

Kelly St. John - Kelly.St.John@dmlawusa.com | (816) 888-7500

### Co-Vice Chair

John S. Carroll - jcarroll@dbjlaw.net | (816) 421-1600

### Co-Vice Chair

Eric M. Korth - eric@ngkclaw.com | (816) 895-8983

## MEMBERSHIP/NEW LAWYERS

This committee's leadership is invited to serve on the KCMBA Membership Advisory Committee. This Committee assists in generating ideas to collaborate with area law schools and new lawyers to encourage engagement with KCMBA

### Chair

Jordan T. Haas - Jordan.haas@bclplaw.com | (816) 374-3265

### Vice Chair

Michael Bene - mbene@emlawkc.com | (913) 962-8700



If you are new to the legal professional, Kansas City, and/or the KCMBA, the Young Lawyers' Section ("YLS") is an excellent way to get involved. I find the best way to meet and build relationships with other attorneys is to collaborate on projects. The YLS provides fun and rewarding projects for attorneys to collaborate on, including fundraisers like the golf tournament, volunteer opportunities like the Ask-A-Lawyer telethon, and networking events like the KCMBA's monthly socials.



— Carrie Savage  
Young Lawyers Section President



# – Sections & Committees –

## PUBLIC RELATIONS

The scope of this committee is to publicize various YLS events including YLS Law Week activities and author articles highlighting events in KCMBA publications.

### Chair

Rachel Lawrence - rachel@getbc.com | (314) 222-2222

### Vice Chair

Margaret Stansell - margaret@lelaw.com | (816) 471-4511

## PUBLIC SERVICE

This committee is involved in projects including: **Community Service** - to support KCMBA initiatives that allow young lawyers to provide needed services to the public for the betterment of the community at large. This goal is fulfilled through a variety of projects that emphasize the legal skills of KCMBA members.

**Law Week** - to carry out various Law Week activities in connection with the national Law Day celebration sponsored by the American Bar Association. The activities sponsored by the committee give KCMBA and the Kansas City legal community the opportunity to directly serve and educate the community, who might otherwise have no access to legal advice.

### Co-Chair

C. Chesney Thompson - cchesneythompson@gmail.com  
(816) 536-7232

### Co-Chair

Kevin D. Buchanan - kbuchanan@dbjlaw.net | (816) 421-1600

### Vice Chair

Vera Hogarth - Vera.hogarth@creativeplanning.com  
(913) 327-9455

## ROSS T. ROBERTS TRIAL ACADEMY

The scope of this committee is to assist in organizing the Ross T. Roberts Trial Academy. The leadership provides support to the judicial liaisons and helps facilitate communication with participants.

### Co-Chair

Jessica Lile - jessl@waldeckpatterson.com | (913) 749-0300

### Co-Chair

Samuel N. Sherman - ssherman@sandbergphoenix.com  
(816) 425-9690

### Co-Vice Chair

Savina A. Balano - savina.balano@claycopa.com | (816) 736-8336

### Co-Vice Chair

Robert L. Curtis - robertlcurtis10@gmail.com | (913) 888-1000

### Co-Vice Chair

Sarah Kanoy Hobbs - shobbs@spencerfane.com | (816) 474-8100

## SOCIAL

The scope of this committee is to assist in identifying and securing sponsors and venues in planning monthly member social events for KCMBA.

### Chair

Samantha Sader - ssader@krigelandkrigel.com | (816) 756-5800

### Co-Vice Chair

Brandon Landt - blandt@midwest-law.com | (913) 901-0505

### Co-Vice Chair

Austin Green - agreen@bflawfirm.com | (913) 266-2300

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

This committee assists in identifying, planning and implementing special projects.

### Chair

Alexander M. Thrasher - alex@lelaw.com | (660) 259-9913

### Vice Chair

Alexander Hartley - alec@thehartleylawfirm.com  
(816) 451-0909

## INDEPENDENT COMMITTEES

### GOVERNMENTAL LAW

This Committee will provide a forum for education, shared expertise, professional development and networking opportunities for lawyers involved in urban, state, and local government law including lawyers who provide legal work for local government entities.

### Chair

Paul F. Gordon - pgordon@batyotto.com - (816) 360-8120

### Co-Vice Chair

D. Ryan Taylor - rtaylor@jacksongov.org - (816) 881-3656

### Co-Vice Chair

Alicia O'Connell - Alicia.oconnell@modot.mo.gov  
(816) 607-2076

### WELL-BEING COMMITTEE

This committee identifies factors that impact lawyer well-being, recommends programs to promote the health and well-being of KCMBA members, and educates the legal community about well-being issues and resources.

### Chair

Mark D. Molner - mmolner@emlawkc.com - (816) 962-8700

### Vice Chair

Amy L. Coopman - amy@bridgemediationkc.com - (816) 260-5635

## DISTINCT COMMITTEES

### MANAGING PARTNERS

This committee provides a forum for law firm managing partners on issues of common interest. Membership on this committee is restricted to current managing partners of law firms.

### Chair

Jeffrey J. Simon - jeff.simon@huschblackwell.com  
(816) 329-4711

### PAST PRESIDENTS' CLUB

This committee provides guidance to the Executive Director and Board of Directors in the purpose and mission of the association, in addition to providing leadership on special projects. Membership on this committee is restricted to former presidents of KCMBA.

### President

Scott Bethune - sbethune@dbjlaw.net | (816) 421-1600

### President-Elect

Athena M. Dickson - adickson@sirsmithdickson.com  
(816) 665-7859



# – Sections & Committees –

## SENIOR LAWYERS

This Committee consists of members of KCMBA who are 65 years of age and older to provide opportunity and forum to exchange ideas in areas of interest to the Committee's members and to encourage and promote educational activities, as well as social engagements.

### President

Rod L. Richardson - armadillo19910@icloud.com | (816) 835-8627

## STANDING COMMITTEES

### AUDIT

This committee is a joint committee of KCMBA and KCMBF, will consist of at least two Directors appointed by the President and confirmed by the Board. The Audit Committee will have the authority to hire and fire the external auditor; determine what services the auditor will provide; and receive the reports of the auditor. At a minimum, on an annual basis the external auditor hired by the Audit Committee will perform a compilation or review of the Association's books and report its findings to the Audit Committee and, separately, to the Board.

### Chair

Meghan A. Litecky - mlitecky@dysarttaylor.com | (816) 931-2700

### COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY

This Committee maintains quality and editorial standards for, as well as contributing concepts and content for KCMBA's award-winning publications, KC Counselor.

### Chair

Raymond A. Dake - rdake@sirosmithdickson.com | (816) 471-4881

### Vice Chair

W. Perry Brandt - pbrandt@sandbergphoenix.com | (816) 471-4881

### CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION ADVISORY

This Committee provides assistance to staff in maintaining quality continuing legal education, works with staff to establish policy, and supports Section and Committee driven programming. In addition, it reviews and advises staff on program presentation proposals by members and proposed program collaborations with other organizations. The Committee is appointed by the KCMBA President.

### Chair

Ebonie S. Davis - Ebonie.davis@lathropgpm.com | (816) 460-5764

### Vice Chair

Angela D. Gupta - angeladgupta@gmail.com | (785) 357-1800

## FINANCE/INVESTMENT

This committee is a joint committee of KCMBA and KCMBF. It is responsible for reviewing and monitoring the finances of the Association and Foundation and reviewing and advising the Boards on any Investments of the Association and Foundation. The committee includes the elected Treasurers of the two organizations, the President-Elect of the Association and the Vice President of the Foundation.

### Chair

Michael A. Williams - mwilliams@williamsdirks.com | (816) 945-7175

### Vice Chair

Meghan A. Litecky - mlitecky@dysarttaylor.com | (816) 931-2700

## MEMBERSHIP

This committee works with staff when conducting in-depth analysis of KCMBA members among diverse practice, geographic, gender and other classifications of lawyers. It develops and makes recommendations to the KCMBA Board of Directors for increasing membership. The committee also reviews and recommends to the Board of Directors new affinity partnerships and member benefits. This committee is appointed by the KCMBA President.

### Chair

Rachel D. Stahle - rachels@dollar-law.com | (816) 876-2600

### Vice Chair

Shaun Stallworth - sstallworth@hslawllc.com | (816) 283-8738

Contact us at [committee@kcmba.org](mailto:committee@kcmba.org) to find out more!

