



On February 24, 2024, the UMKC Law Foundation and Law Alumni Association will recognize these award winners at
The Annual Big Event!

DECADE AWARD – Joanna Orscheln ('14)



Joanna Orscheln is a Partner at Krause and Kinsman Law. Prior to joining the firm, Joanna spent over five years practicing as a civil defense attorney. She currently is representing over 6,000 clients in the Boy Scouts of America litigation and recently lobbies with the United States Congress with the AAJ's Women's Trial Caucus to end forced arbitration in attorney by presenting at the Women's Trial Institute. She successfully defended fortune 500 companies, privately owned companies, and insurance companies in various types of litigation across the county. She also had the opportunity to try civil cases in state court.

In 2022 Joanna was recognized by the Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area for Personal Injury Litigation, and in 2023 she was recognized by Super Lawyers as a Rising Star in Kansas and Missouri. She is also a graduate of the National Association of Railroad Trial Counsel's College of Railroad Trial Advocacy.

THE JAY B. DILLINGHAM AWARD- Butch Rigby ('85)



Butch Rigby is the founder and owner of the Screenland Companies in Kansas City in 2008. Butch is the founder and Chairman of Thank You Walt Disney, Inc., dedicated to the preservation of Walt Disney's first cartoon studio, "Laugh-O-Gram Studio", located in Kansas City, Mo. After Law School, Butch went to Hollywood to work in the film industry crewing motion pictures.

PAT KELLY SERVICE AWARD – David Mayer ('92)



David Mayer's practice concentrates on the safety of children and the elderly. He has a particular emphasis in assisting those who have been sexually abused or harmed by the negligence of other parties. David has helped many clients receive compensation for injuries or damages they suffered, including disabled children who have been neglected or abused; children injured by dangerous conditions in stores; injury or death to the elderly from negligent nursing homes and transportation companies; injuries at swimming facilities; and various automobile claims against negligent drivers.

For these efforts, David has been admitted to the Million Dollar Advocates Forum. He has received the top rating of "AV" for a lawyer by Martindale-Hubbell, which sets him at the top of his profession in both legal ability and professional integrity. He has also been named one of the Top 100 Trial Lawyers by the American Trial Lawyers Association and the American Society of Legal Advocates. The American Institute of Personal Injury Attorneys recognized David as being one of the Top 10% in his profession with regards to customer satisfaction.

David was born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri, where he attended and graduated from Rockhurst High School. He went on to earn a double major in Political Science and Economics from Boston College. Upon returning to Kansas City, David enrolled at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Law School, where he received the American Jurisprudence Award and was a Victor Wilson Scholar. David also volunteers his time for legal aid programs throughout Missouri and Kansas and serves on the boards of various not-for-profit charity organizations.

JOELLEN FLANAGAN ENGELBART PRO BONO/PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD – Traci Stansell ('93)



Traci Stansell, an alum of UMKC School of Law in the year 1993, commenced her legal career as a prosecutor specializing in property crimes. Over the span of three decades, she displayed exceptional dedication and proficiency.

From prosecuting drug offenses to assuming leadership as a trial team leader in 2004, Traci's journey has been marked by versatility and leadership. Her commitment extended beyond the courtroom, nurturing budding legal talent, and mentoring young attorneys in their career beginnings. Elevating her career trajectory, in July 2023, Traci assumed the pivotal role of Chief Trial Assistant in the Special Victims Unit. Her focus shifted to prosecuting cases involving domestic violence, sexual offenses against both adults and children, and child abuse, showcasing her unwavering dedication to safeguarding vulnerable individuals.

Traci's accomplishments speak volumes. Noteworthy awards include 1999-Warrant Desk Attorney of the Year from the Jackson County Prosecutors Office, 1999-Certificate of Appreciation from the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department, 2001-Top Prosecutor Award-Mothers Against Drunk Driving, 2003-Patrick Hall Trial Attorney of the Year Award-Jackson County Prosecutors Office, 2017-Prosecutor of the Year-Professional Fraud and Fire Investigators Association. Her unwavering commitment to justice and tireless advocacy for victims stands as a testament to her exemplary legal career spanning decades.

PHILANTHROPY AWARD – Professor Julie Cheslik



Julie M. Cheslik is a revered legal scholar known for her exceptional leadership and contributions in law. Graduating with honors from the University of Iowa, she earned a Bachelor of Arts with highest distinction in 1982 and later, a J.D. with high distinction from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1985. Admitted to the Missouri Bar in 1985, Julie began her esteemed career as a law clerk to United States District Judge Joseph E. Stevens Jr. Following her tenure at Stinson, Mag and Frizzell specializing in commercial litigation and corporate practice, she joined the faculty of the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law in 1989. With expertise in teaching courses like Property I and Property II, Land Use, and Estates and Trusts, Julie's impact transcends the classroom. Her editorial leadership at The Urban Lawyer, role as the Associate Dean for Students, and establishment of prestigious scholarships at UMKC showcase her enduring commitment to legal education and the future of the legal profession.

PRESIDENTS' AWARD – Cary Powers



Cary Powers has served the UMKC School of Law as its alumni and constituent relations officer for more than 14 years, but she has served Kansas City's legal community for more than 40 years. Her professional and personal relationships exemplify Cary's commitment to that community and have been the most meaningful part of her career. Cary led the Kansas City Irish Center as its executive director for two years in 2008-2009, before her role at the UMKC School of Law. But her presence was solidified in the legal community when she started as a receptionist in 1983 for the Kansas City Bar Association.

Cary held many positions which included Bar Directory Editor, Membership Director, Young Lawyers Coordinator, and was promoted to associate executive director, served in that role for 24 years. Under her leadership at KCMBA, she spearheaded public service projects that benefited the community including the El Centro holiday party, Halloween party for Rose Brooks Women's Shelter, Legal Beagles Pet Therapy Group with the Pets for Life, Protect Your Child Day, Big Brothers and Big Sisters picnic, Law Week Activities, Ask-A Lawyer Telethon, and the Swearing in Ceremony for new citizens. Cary has planned numerous social events and fundraisers during her career, and her impact to keep alumni connected to the UMKC School of Law and raise critical funds for the UMKC Law Foundation will last for many years to come.

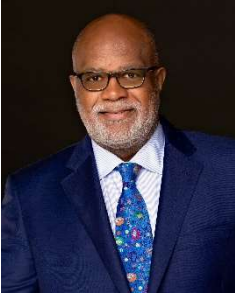
ALVIN SYKES JUSTICE AWARD – Latricia Scott Adams



Latricia Scott Adams is a distinguished figure serving as the Director of Legal Aid of Western Missouri's pro bono program, known as the Volunteer Attorney Project (VAP). Her journey with VAP commenced in October 1989 when the program had only 264 enrolled attorneys. Since assuming the role of VAP Director, Latricia has exhibited unwavering dedication to its growth and success.

Armed with a BA degree in Human Resources Management and Organization Development from Mid-America Nazarene University, Latricia Scott Adams has played a pivotal role in expanding VAP's reach and impact. Under her guidance, the program now collaborates with a substantial panel of over 960 volunteer attorneys, fostering crucial partnerships with institutions like the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law and 14 non-profit organizations. She serves as a peer consultant for the American Bar Association's Center for Pro Bono, showcasing her expertise and commitment to advancing pro bono initiatives. Additionally, her leadership roles include past presidencies of both the National Association of Pro Bono Professionals and the Volunteer Coordinators Council of Kansas City, Missouri.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD– The Honorable Jon R. Gray ('76)



He was appointed by the Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri, to serve on the Kansas City Human Relations Commission and as Chair of the Liquor Control Board of Review of Kansas City, Missouri. Judge Gray was nominated by the Sixteenth Circuit Court Nominating Commission to fill a vacancy on the Circuit Court of Jackson County, Missouri. He was appointed Circuit Judge by Missouri Governor John Ashcroft on December 5, 1986, and assumed office on January 1, 1987. He was retained in office by voters at General Elections held in 1988, 1994, 2000 and 2006. From 1987-2009, he served as a faculty member for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy in regional and national trial practice programs, and formerly served as faculty for the Kessler-Edison Program in Trial Techniques at the Emory University School of Law. During the 2007 — 2008 bar year, Judge Gray served as Chair of the National Bar Association Judicial Council, the oldest and largest association of Black judges and judicial officers. He is also a previous recipient of the Urban League of Greater Kansas City Difference Maker Award, the Lewis W. Clymer Award from the Jackson County Bar Association, the Carl R. Johnson Humanitarian Award from the Kansas City, Missouri Branch of the NAACP, the H. Michael Coburn Community Service Award from Legal Aid of Western Missouri, the Rosa Parks Award from the Jefferson City NAACP, the Thurgood Marshall award from the NAACP Chapter at the Jefferson City Correctional Center and the Stanley D. Davis Award for Excellence in Professional Development from Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP. V He was elected as a delegate to The United Methodist Church General Conferences of 1988, 1992, 1996, 2000, 2004 and 2020 by the Missouri Annual Conference and its predecessor, the Missouri West Annual Conference. He was elected to the Board of Trustees of Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, and served from 1988 — 2000, as a member of its reconstituted Board of Trustees following the imposition of sanctions against the Southern Methodist University athletic program by the NCAA. He served a term on the Southern Methodist University Executive Committee and chaired its Legal Affairs Committee.

In 2004, he was elected by the General Conference of The United Methodist Church to serve an eight-year term as a member of the Judicial Council of The United Methodist Church, during which time he sat as a member of the Church's final arbiter of Church Law. He was a contributing author for the 1991 and 2002 editions of *State of Black Kansas City*, published by the Urban League of Greater Kansas City.