

UNIFIED MISSOURI BAR

Background

The Missouri Bar is a unified bar, which means lawyers must belong in order to practice law in the state. Approximately one-third of the state bars are unified bars, some being unified by order of the Supreme Court and others by legislative enactment. Since *Keller v. State Bar of California* (June 1990), when the U. S. Supreme Court stated that unified bars must establish a relief mechanism for members who object to certain political/ideological activity funded by their mandatory dues, The Missouri Bar and 21 other unified state bars have adopted such a relief mechanism.

Missouri Bar Activities

The Missouri Bar receives five to eight requests for refunds based on the *Keller* decision each year. The Executive Committee first reviews the request for a refund and the nature of the challenged activity, and then authorizes a refund if appropriate.

The Missouri Bar continues to monitor all activities to determine their appropriateness for the state bar's involvement. Delicate matters require a separate vote on whether an activity is within the scope of The Missouri Bar, with that vote conducted before a position is determined.



The Missouri Bar Center is located in downtown Jefferson City.