

Nominations Now Being Accepted for Major Bar Awards

LON O. HOCKER AWARDS

The Missouri Bar Foundation is seeking the names of nominees for the Lon O. Hocker Award, which is presented to young lawyers who have demonstrated unusual proficiency in the art of trial advocacy.

Fifty years ago, Mary B. Hocker established the Lon O. Hocker Awards to memorialize her husband's faith in our system of law. Lon O. Hocker loved the law and believed the law was the foundation of our freedom. Further, he believed that the courts, and only the courts, could preserve that law, and he believed the trial lawyer was the key to our system of justice. In Mary's words, Lon O. Hocker recognized the importance of trial lawyers "in seeing that all who came before the courts of justice were given a fair trial regardless of race, color, condition of purse, or religion."

The award is presented annually to three lawyers 36 years of age or younger – one each from the St. Louis, Kansas City and outstate Missouri areas – in recognition of outstanding trial work.

Past recipients are among the finest lawyers in the profession.

The deadline for receipt of nominations is March 28, 2008. Nominees are required to complete an application outlining their trial experience.

Anonymous committees in each of the three areas of the state recognized by this award will consider all nominations and other eligible young lawyers. The recommendations of these committees will then be forwarded to the Trustees of the Missouri Bar Foundation, who will select the award recipients.

Nominations for this award should be sent to: The Missouri Bar Foundation, c/o Keith A. Birkes, P.O. Box 119, Jefferson City, MO 65102.

TOM COCHRAN COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

The Missouri Bar Young Lawyers' Section is seeking nominations for the

Tom Cochran Community Service Award. The Tom Cochran Community Service Award is presented to a member of the Bar whose community service and professionalism have significantly enhanced his or her community.

The award is named after Thomas D. Cochran (1934-1981). Mr. Cochran was a member of the law firm of Cochran, Kramer, Kapke & Willerth in Independence, whose early death in 1981 robbed the legal profession of one of its most dedicated members. His commitment to and contributions to the practice of law, his community and his church is an inspiration to all lawyers.

Mr. Cochran was long active in the work of the organized bar at the local, state and national level.

Mr. Cochran was president of The Missouri Bar in 1975-1976, and a member of its Board of Governors from 1965-1977. At the time of his death, he was serving as the Missouri state delegate to the American Bar Association House of Delegates. He had previously served as chairman of the Young Lawyers Section of the American Bar Association in 1969-1970, and was chair of the ABA Family Law Section in 1979-1980.

In addition to his work within the legal profession, Mr. Cochran was also deeply involved in the activities of his community and his church. He served as assistant city counselor for the City of Independence, was president of the Independence Neighborhood Councils, and was vice president of the Heart of America Chapter of the American Diabetes Association.

Mr. Cochran was an alumnus of Graceland College, president of its Alumni Association in 1967 and recipient of its Distinguished Service Award in 1976. He was also a graduate of the University of Missouri Kansas City School of Law.

Seldom has anyone, in such a short lifetime, contributed more to his profession, his community, his church and his fellow man.

Nominations for the Tom Cochran Community Service Award should be mailed to Stephen M. Murrell, P.O. Box 119, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0119. The nomination should include the name of the nominee, the award for which the nominee should

be considered, and a brief description of the nominee's public service activities. The nomination deadline for the award is March 28, 2008.

THE LIBERTY BELL AWARD

The Missouri Bar Young Lawyers' Section is seeking nominations for the Liberty Bell Award. This award is presented to a non-lawyer or non-legal organization engaged in public service activities enhancing the legal community or dedicated to the advancement of justice. The award will be presented at The Missouri Bar's Annual Meeting in Kansas City in September of 2008.

Nominations for the Liberty Bell Award should be mailed to Stephen M. Murrell, P.O. Box 119, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0119. The nomination should include the name of the nominee, the award for which the nominee should be considered, and a brief description of the nominee's public service activities. The nomination deadline for the Liberty Bell Award is March 28, 2008.

PRO BONO PUBLICO AWARD

The Missouri Bar is seeking nominees for the Pro Bono Publico Awards. The Pro Bono Publico Awards are presented annually to three persons – one each from the St. Louis, Kansas City and outstate Missouri areas – who have, within the past year, rendered outstanding pro bono service to indigent or low-income persons in need of legal assistance. The award will be presented at The Missouri Bar's Annual Meeting in Kansas City in September of 2008.

Nominations for the Pro Bono Publico Award should be mailed to Keith A. Birkes, P.O. Box 119, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0119. The nomination should include the name of the nominee, the name of the award for which the nominee should be considered, and a brief description of the nominee's public service activities. The nomination deadline for the Pro Bono Publico Award is March 28, 2008.