

## **14TH ANNUAL LEAP LUNCHEON BENEFITS "OPERATION BREAK-THROUGH"; LAWYERS RECOGNIZED**

The Foundation for Lawyers Encouraging Academic Performance (LEAP) held its 14th annual Mardi Gras luncheon to raise funds for "Operation Breakthrough" and present awards.

LEAP is a joint professional effort of the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association, the Eastern Jackson County Bar Association, the Association for Women Lawyers of Greater Kansas City, Lawyers Association of Kansas City, Jackson County Bar Association, Hispanic Bar Association, and the Association of Corporate Counsel Mid-America Chapter. LEAP, a not-for-profit foundation, provides needy children with mentoring services. Since

its inception, LEAP has raised more than \$565,000 for various Kansas City charities.

**Victoria Schatz** of Great Plains Energy and **James A. Heeter** of Sonnenschein, Nath & Rosenthal, L.L.P. received the President's Awards. Also honored at the luncheon for their continued commitment were LEAP's 2008 King and Queen, the Honorable **Andrew J. Higgins** of English & Monaco in Jefferson City and **Laura H. Tyler** of Stinson, Morrison, Hecker, L.L.P.

## **KCMB A RECOGNIZES AWARD WINNERS AT THE 35TH ANNUAL BENCH-BAR & BOARDROOM CONFERENCE**

The Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association (KCMB A) has selected **Sheldon Bernstein** of Bernstein, Roderdarte & Hatheway, P.C.; Circuit Judge

**Edith L. Messina**; and **Thomas W. Wagstaff**, founding partner of Wagstaff & Cartmell, L.L.P. as this year's recipients of the Deans of the Trial Bar Award.

**G. Robert Fischer**, senior partner at the firm of Sonnenschein, Nath & Rosenthal, L.L.P., and **Herbert M. Kohn**, a partner of Bryan Cave, L.L.P., were chosen for the Barons of the Boardroom Award. The recipients were recognized at an awards dinner during the 35th Annual Bench-Bar & Boardroom Conference. Recipients of the 2008 Robert C. Welch Volunteer Attorney Project Award included: **Gary M. Mouse**, G.M. Mouse Law Office of Independence; **Dwight D. Sutherland, Jr.**, of counsel with the Olathe, Kansas law firm of Norton, Hubbard, Ruzicka & Kreamer, L.C.; and the law firm of Bryan Cave, L.L.P.