

# From the President

These are trying times for all Americans. The downturn in our nation's economy has cost many people their livelihoods, their savings, and even their hard-earned retirement funds. As we enter 2009, we do so with many unresolved questions about the future.

To whatever degree the current economic woes have affected Missouri's legal community, our professional responsibility to our clients remains undimmed. In fact, with so many in our own communities in crisis as a result of the economy, lawyers have an even more important role to play in providing sound counsel to those in need of help in meeting their obligations.

For those reasons and many more, it is the role of The Missouri Bar to work for you and the clients you represent by keeping you – the individual lawyer – abreast of the information you need to effectively represent the interests of those who seek your assistance.

Within the pages of the 2008-2009 Missouri Bar Annual Report, you will find a summary of our activities during the past year and a look ahead to the issues, programs and services that will occupy the organization during 2009. From the development of beneficial legislative proposals to the presentation of quality legal education programs and ongoing efforts to enhance public understanding the justice system, your Missouri Bar continues to strive for excellence. This is a goal facilitated by the unselfish donation of time, talent and effort by the thousands of men and women across Missouri who have become involved in bar work through The Missouri Bar's committees and sections.



As with any endeavor, however, there is always room for improvement. Your voice is eagerly sought and appreciated – whether it be through involvement in bar activities or the more informal option of simply letting us know what is on your mind. Your suggestions and comments are not only sought and welcomed, but appreciated. It is only by remaining responsive to the needs of its individual members that The Missouri Bar may continue to serve all of its members.

On behalf of the officers and Board of Governors of The Missouri Bar, I sincerely hope that you enjoy reading this review of the activities of your state bar during the past year. We look forward to working with you throughout the next year on the important issues facing you, your clients, and the justice system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas M. Burke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas M. Burke  
President