## **BOYD KENTER THOMAS & PARRISH NEWS**

www.bktplaw.com Spring 2017



### IN THIS ISSUE

- Concerning Legislation
- Firm's Managing Partner Takes
  Leadership Role with AWL
- Meet New Attorneys

"In our democracy officers of the government are the servants, and never the masters of the people." - Franklin D. Roosevelt

# WORKERS' BENEFITS IN JEOPARDY IN MISSOURI

## What Missouri's Legislators Have Done to You So Far

The legislature has heard testimony about bills that are designed to take away your family's security and reward the business interests that so heavily contributed to their campaigns. The small minority of bipartisan support is not enough to stop what is going



to happen. This assault won't end with just the attacks on labor organizations about which so much is already written. For example:

## Eliminating your ability to sue companies when you fall victim to a fraudulent practice.

Ever hear of TAMKO Building Products–David Humphreys? His company is a defendant in a class action lawsuit accusing it of fraudulently labeling shingles for three decades. And, he's the guy who gave Greitens and others millions of dollars in the 2016 election.

Do you think that legislation doesn't apply to you? Consider Brian Cook's case. Brian had a fraudulent car loan collection effort on a debt he had fully paid. The collection company sued him even with the proof that he'd fully paid the loan, so he sued them for scam debts against 100s of Missourians - all over \$450 in phony debt. Cook and those other citizens' access to consumer protection laws would be eliminated. (Continued on page 2)

#### (Continued from page 1)

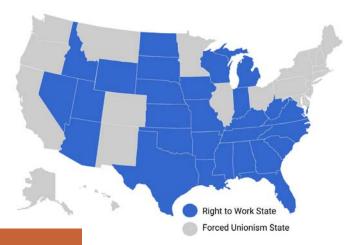
#### Referring to Missouri as a "Judicial Hell-hole"

That's what Governor Greitens and his supporters call our state.

Access to justice for you and your families will become infinitely more difficult with a series of bills designed for Tort Reform – to do away with "frivolous lawsuits." Never mind that the terminology is based upon fake news – it was written by the American Tort Reform Association and supported by the Institute for Legal Reform – 100% funded by major corporations that do not want to be held accountable for illegal actions.

#### Right To Work Bill -Governor Greitens Signed into Law February 6.

The law is designed to reduce your income and reduce any influence you collectively may have for the future. Missouri has joined 27 other states in enacting such a misnamed piece of legislation. Are you curious about the 27 other states?



# MORE CONCERNING LEGISLATION IN MISSOURI IS AHEAD

Several troubling 7th Amendment debates are currently underway in the House and Senate:

- SB 113 will make it more difficult to collect workers' compensation benefits when injured on the job.
- SB 45 is a modified bill that requires the employee's signature on the arbitration agreement, but did not change the language which requires disputes over the validity of the agreement to go to the arbitrator rather than the court.
- HB 156 is a House version of the employment arbitration bill, and an insurance proposal, HB 784.

- There will be a Senate hearing on the House version of the Expert Witness standard, HB 153.
- It is likely we will see the employment discrimination bill, SB 43, debated on the Senate floor.



#### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT JUDGE NEIL GORSUCH

There is much at stake for working families in filling this Supreme Court vacancy:

The Court rules on whether we are paid properly for the time we work; we have jobs to return to after caring for a sick family member; we are safe from harmful substances on the job; and we are protected from illegal firings when we choose to form unions. Judge Gorsuch's record is deeply troubling in its treatment of workers' rights and protections.



## BRIANNE THOMAS IS THE NEW PRESIDENT OF AWL

Managing partner Brianne Thomas will serve a one-year term as president of the Association for Women Lawyers of Greater Kansas City (AWL). AWL is a nonprofit organization with more than 400 members in the Kansas City metropolitan



area. The organization promotes the equality of women in the legal profession. Boyd Kenter Thomas & Parrish was recognized with AWL's Firm of the Year distinction in 2016.

# NEW ATTORNEYS JOIN BOYD KENTER THOMAS & PARRISH

Jeff Carey has joined Boyd Kenter Thomas & Parrish as Of Counsel. Jeff has been practicing law for nearly 20 years and has been recognized by the National 100 Trial Lawyers and the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum. In 2014 Jeff received the Legal Champion's Award from Missouri Lawyers Weekly for his work on a federal corruption case and in support of the initiative petition process. Jeff's fields of practice include personal injury, litigation, bankruptcy and family law.

Ray Salva, Jr., has joined Boyd Kenter Thomas & Parrish as an associate attorney. Ray is a member of the Missouri Bar Association, the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association and the Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys. Ray focuses on civil litigation, personal injury and products liability.







221 W. Lexington Ave., Suite 200 Independence, MO 64050

#### **AREAS OF PRACTICE**

- Workers' Compensation
- Civil Litigation
- Labor Law



# DISTINGUISHED. DECORATED. DETERMINED.

Civil justice attorneys committed to protecting the rights of injured people and their families.



816.471.4511 · bktplaw