



IN THIS ISSUE

- National Anthem
- BBQ Bragging Rights
- KCMBA's Annual Workers' Compensation Institute
- Reflections: Show Us the Money!

KNEELING DURING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM: DEFLECTING ATTENTION FROM REAL ISSUES

We salute our flag, as well as our Nation's active duty servicemen and women, and of course, our veterans. Our partner Jerry Kenter is a wounded Vietnam Veteran whose practice includes helping other Vets daily. As a Firm, we have participated in raising funds to educate the children of Marines and Navy Fleet Marine Force Corpsmen who paid the ultimate sacrifice.



But we do not automatically equate the actions of those who seek to register their lawful protests by kneeling during the National Anthem as actions designed to be either disrespectful or unpatriotic. All citizens have the right to express themselves--but that doesn't mean we as a nation, or as a law firm, always agree with that expression. It does mean that we are proud to be a citizen of a nation which allows for peaceable protest, and we respect that right. It also recognizes that the most important free speech is that with which we disagree. Without this ability, freedom exists for no one.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

As lawyers who believe the finest document written since the 18th Century is the United States Constitution, we are mindful of legal precedent guaranteeing the right to peaceful protest. We believe that for nothing more than political gain, this “issue” has been conjured up to deflect attention from real issues facing our safety, security, health, and ability to make ends meet. It is dividing us as a nation, and seeks to denigrate those who choose to protest by labeling them as unpatriotic.

Our United States Supreme Court has confirmed every citizen’s freedom to protest some 74 years ago when it determined elementary school children could not be forced to salute Old Glory and say the Pledge of Allegiance.

“If there is any fixed star in our constitutional constellation, it is that no official, high or petty, can prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, nationalism, religion, or other matters of opinion, or force citizens to confess by word or act their faith therein. If there are any circumstances which permit an exception, they do not now occur to us... compelling the flag salute and pledge...invades the sphere of intellect and spirit which it is the purpose of the First Amendment to our Constitution to reserve from all official control.” *West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette*, 319 U.S. 624 (1943)

Mark Twain wrote “Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it.”
One can be a patriot and nonetheless reject racism, inequality and injustice.

BBQ BRAGGING RIGHTS

Greater Kansas City Fire Fighters IAFF Local 42 and John Boyd partnered to win first place in Brisket and first place overall at the Working Families’ Friend 2nd Annual BBQ Cook-Off.

We have bragging rights until next year and we were able to support a great cause at the Working Families’ Friend 2nd Annual BBQ Cook-Off!



WE CELEBRATE AND HONOR
AMERICA'S VETERANS

Jerry Kenter served as an expert panelist for Kansas City Missouri Bar Association (KCMBA)'s Annual Workers' Compensation Institute. The Institute offers continuing learning education credits for attorney-members of KCMBA.

NOVEMBER 11
Veterans Day

REFLECTIONS: SHOW US THE MONEY

“Union bosses...”. Representative Holly Rehder uses that phrase in her attempt to denigrate over 310,000 Missourians whose efforts to repudiate once and for all the misnamed Right to Work law through the initiative referendum process. These citizens recognize that out of state influence and greedy billionaires and their huge political contributions, so-called “pay to play” money, seek to buy the allegiance of Rehder, Governor Greitens, and others who share their desire to reward the wealthy at the expense of the majority of Missourians who live paycheck to paycheck. We see legislation pushed by state representatives and senators who aspire to pass favorable laws which end up lining the pockets of their most wealthy donors.

Rehder, Greitens and their ilk prefer cutting wages, eliminating pensions, and doing away with rudimentary workplace protections to “attract business.” Why haven’t Kansas, Arkansas, and Tennessee prospered? Do they want our state to be like Alabama or Mississippi?

To apply Rehder’s and Greiten’s logic, my business should be able to take the benefits from a membership in the Chamber of Commerce but not pay for the services it provides its members. Someday when I need a new roof, I may want Tamko products

overhead, but I shouldn’t have to pay for their shingles. (I wouldn’t really want their product, even if free, but you understand the point.)

Employers enter into contracts with labor unions. The union must represent everyone in the bargaining unit. Those members wouldn’t pay for the representation if Rehder, Greitens and their disciples have their way. That representation has secured improved wages, health insurance, a pension, training and safety. If a member is unjustly terminated, the union pursues a process for resolution.

I suppose it is ok for businesses to collectively belong to associations to advance their agendas, but dare those associations exist without payment for their services by the very businesses who derive benefit?

Big Money buys influence, and we Missourians say to Rehder, Governor Greitens, and their minions who are responsible for “right to work” legislation and who continue to hide their biggest donors: “SHOW ME THE MONEY” Let Missourians see who is financing your campaign to lower wages and take away the ability of labor organizations to exist. Who are your bosses?

- John Boyd



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

- Righting the Wrongs in the Workplace.
- Advanced Experience in Personal Injury Law.
- Advocating for Consumer Rights Through Civil Litigation.

Like us on Facebook  /BKTPLaw

Find us on LinkedIn 



REMEMBERING YVONNE DOUGLAS

It is with the great sadness that we share the heartbreaking news of the death of our colleague and friend, Yvonne Douglas. Yvonne joined the firm in 2012 and everyone who'd ever had the privilege of working with her, always found her to be a pleasure to work with. She would do anything to help those around her. She leaves behind her husband and two children. Yvonne's family has our most heartfelt condolences and sympathy.



DISTINGUISHED. DECORATED. DETERMINED.

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