



# BOYD KENTER THOMAS & PARRISH NEWS

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## Gov. Parson Issues Executive Order Protecting First Responders With COVID-19 Under the Missouri Workers' Compensation Act

On April 7, Missouri Governor Mike Parson issued his newest Executive Order to extend the presumption that COVID-19 shall now be considered an occupational disease under the Missouri Workers' Compensation Act. In the event a first responder is quarantined by their employer and is suspected of having the disease; displays symptoms of the disease; tests positive for the disease based upon a lab-confirmed diagnosis; or receives a diagnosis from their physician, the occupational disease presumption shall apply.

This presumption can be refuted if the employer presents clear and convincing evidence that the disease was contracted in a non-employment manner. This order defines a first responder as a law enforcement officer, public safety officer, firefighter, or EMT.

"While we believe this to be a positive step by extending the presumption to first responders, we call upon the Governor to extend that presumption to other workers who continue to provide Missouri families with groceries, gasoline, and other necessities of life; to the drivers who continue to ship goods to our homes and stores throughout the state; to those doctors, nurses and other health care workers who are exposed daily while treating patients at hospitals; and to those workers who are considered 'essential' and exempted from the stay-at-home orders and whose jobs have been deemed critical to the state and local economy.

They too, face an increased risk of exposure to the coronavirus and should be protected"

– John B. Boyd



## What Do Unions Do in a Pandemic?

Buried on page 524 of the recent Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act was a [small provision](#) with big implications: mid-sized businesses that accept a stimulus loan must pledge to “remain neutral in any union organizing effort for the term of the loan.”

**As the disease has spread and the economy has slowed, organized labor has taken centerstage in the nation’s response. Unions have shown their value not only in protecting employees at individual workplaces, but also in fighting for workers—members and non-members alike—in the halls of government.**

Conservative groups decried the measure, calling it “[a handout to unions](#)” and “[a gem for the union bosses.](#)” Facilitating unionization, they claimed, “has nothing to do with the current COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak.”

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## We’re Here for You

In these challenging times, we hope that you are staying safe and well. To the many of our first responder and other essential labor clients, our hearts are with you and your families.

The COVID-19 is an unprecedented event that is impacting all of us, our nation and the planet. Our commitment will not waiver in continuing to work on your claim or case – but please understand, much of that work will be performed remotely. We will also be limiting communication to email and phone to prevent the spread of the virus.

Please don’t hesitate to reach out to your lawyer or staff member if you should have any questions.

We will make it through this trying time together.

Stay well,  
The Boyd Kenter Thomas & Parrish team

[Get the latest public health information from CDC](#)  
[Get the latest research information from NIH.](#)

# Annual Luncheon to Benefit Operation Breakthrough

We are proud to again support the annual Mardi Gras luncheon for Lawyers Encouraging Academic Performance (LEAP). The organization promotes community service for lawyers in Greater Kansas City and supports Operation Breakthrough.



## Low Prices and High Crime for Walmart Parking Lots

By some estimates, 80% of Walmart's crime happens in the store's parking lot. The company has long focused on in-store theft prevention and not on the violent crimes committed just outside of its stores. And at most stores, parking lot security is left up to the cart pusher.





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