

# BOYD KENTER THOMAS & PARRISH NEWS

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Winter 2016



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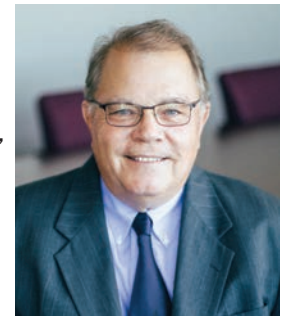
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*"In the midst of winter, I found there was, within me, an invincible summer. And that makes me happy. For it says that no matter how hard the world pushes against me, within me, there's something stronger - something better, pushing right back." - Albert Camus*

## WORKERS' BENEFITS IN JEOPARDY IN KANSAS AND MISSOURI

The Labor Department is investigating the new state laws, policies and procedures that have resulted in decreasing benefits to injured workers and complicating the process for applying for those benefits. According to an October 15, 2016 article in *The Labor Beacon*, "The Labor Department is looking strongly at the possibility of establishing standards that would increase federal oversight if a state's program failed to meet those standards."



Boyd Kenter Thomas & Parrish partner and Workers' Compensation attorney, John B. Boyd, made the following statement, "States continue to race to the bottom with wholesale curtailment of access to adequate medical care and wage loss for work related injuries. That's been the case in Kansas and Missouri, with a change in focus from adequacy to protect working families to that of lowering and shifting employer cost. This has fostered an environment of failure to provide adequate coverage for serious injury. It has placed at risk our neighbors injured at work as well as their families, and shifted those costs to our communities. The principle that the costs of injury are to be included in the price of the product made or service provided has been lost, with those costs now shouldered by our families and communities. Until the national scrutiny resulting in reasonable minimums amongst the states occurs, the downward spiral will shamefully continue, as will taxpayer subsidy of the results of job injuries."

Of course, there is opposition to the oversight by employers, business groups and insurance companies who feel that it is unnecessary for the government to intercede, which could cause a decrease in their profits.

Excerpts from *The Labor Beacon*, October 15, 2016, Volume 23, Number 18



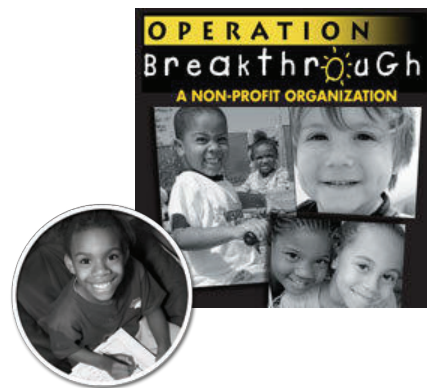


## BEST OF THE BAR HONOREE

Our partner and friend, Brianne Thomas has been recognized in the *Kansas City Business Journal* as a 2016 Best of the Bar Honoree. 198 lawyers were selected by their peers as the top attorneys in private practice in Kansas City. Brianne was quoted, “I chose to become a lawyer because I wanted to try jury trials. Jury trials and trial lawyers fascinated me when I was young. I am lucky I get to try cases every once in a while. Over the years, my love for the practice of law has evolved. The profession as a whole is admirable and inspiring. I get to help people every day, and I know so many dedicated attorneys who sacrifice for their clients and take on causes just to make a positive change in the world. I’m honored to call myself a lawyer.”

## LEAP RECEIVES THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Lawyers Encouraging Academic Performance (LEAP) helps the community by ensuring that children are able to reach their highest potential through education. Through LEAP, Boyd Kenter Thomas & Parrish support Operation Breakthrough, an organization that provides education and social services daily to over 400 of Kansas City’s impoverished children and their families. Mark Parrish is the current Treasurer and a past President of LEAP. Organized more than 25 years ago, LEAP has partnered with Operation Breakthrough for 21 years. This year the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association (KCMBA) recognized LEAP’s dedication. The Honorable, Christine Sill-Rogers, one of LEAP’s founders and current President, was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award at KCMBA’s 132nd Annual Meeting on December 9. The award was **“presented for a lifetime of outstanding service resulting in the growth and development of the law, improvement in the administration of justice and increased recognition of the contributions by the legal profession to the welfare of society.”**



# UNION NIGHT AT THE MISSOURI MAVERICKS IS BACK!

The Missouri Mavericks are back for their 2016 – 2017 season and once again Boyd Kenter Thomas and Parrish is sponsoring Union Night. There will be two sponsor dates. Saturday, December 17, 2016 the Mavs will host the Alaska Aces and on Wednesday, January 25, 2017 they will take on the Cincinnati Cyclones. Come out and cheer on our Mavericks!



## MISSOURI LEGISLATURE BILL SB19

In 2015, Missouri legislature passed SB19. It was a corporate tax relief bill. The Fiscal Note indicated that it would result in a modest drop to the state's revenues of no more than \$15 million. But the net corporate income collections in Missouri's Fiscal Year 2016 is down by over \$165 million, and is projected to be more than \$200 million.

It seems that despite what we've seen with Kansas' budget woes of late, Missouri is certainly poised to go down the same road already traveled by our neighbors to the West.

From that bill's summary: "Currently, in determining what portion of a corporation's income is taxable in Missouri, the business may use a method whereby the ratio of in-state sales to total sales is multiplied by the net income. A method for determining whether the sale of tangible property are to be considered in-state is already established in current law. This act specifies a process for all other sales....If it cannot be determined or reasonably approximated, that a sale occurs in this state, such sale shall be excluded from the sales factor for corporate income taxation."

Credit: *Missouri Scout*, David Drebes, Editor

## DID YOU KNOW?

Company holiday party injuries – are they covered by workers' compensation? Well, as with most laws, that depends on the state in which you are injured and the circumstances surrounding the injury. There are steps that employers can take to avoid the pitfalls of holiday injuries, including workers' compensation claims:

1. Do not implicitly endorse or benefit from the event
2. Do not pay employees to attend the event
3. Limit alcohol – drink tickets can help to restrain consumption
4. If applicable, host the event away from the employer's property
5. Events held at the employer's property should be free of unsafe conditions or hazards
6. Do not make employee attendance mandatory

<http://www.safetynewsalert.com/are-injuries-at-holiday-workplace-parties-covered-by-workers-comp/>





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## AREAS OF PRACTICE

- *Workers' Compensation*
- *Civil Litigation*
- *Labor Law*



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES**



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