

## DON'T KILL ALL THE LAWYERS

As we all know, in Henry VI, one of Shakespeare's characters says, "The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers." People spout this quote and say Shakespeare wanted all lawyers dead.

It is amazing how few people, even lawyers, know that the speaker planning to kill all the lawyers is an evil anarchist who wants to destroy civil society. His name, appropriately, is Dick the Butcher. Shakespeare was actually saying that without lawyers, society and government could not possibly function.

One of my goals as president of BAMSL is to spread the word about all of the good that lawyers do, not just while practicing law, but while giving their time, energy, talent and funds to do so many positive things for the community.

Typically, their community service efforts are conducted with little fanfare as they selflessly try to make a difference in other people's lives. I would like to acknowledge just a few who have crossed my path and made an impression on me with their selfless acts of service to others.

### Frankie Muse Freeman

Freeman is an attorney who courageously led the fight against racism and for civil rights. Freeman was the first woman to be appointed to the United States Commission on Civil Rights, a federal fact-finding body that investigates complaints alleging discrimination. She was instrumental in creating the Citizens' Commission on Civil Rights in 1982.

Freeman began her work in civil rights when she became legal counsel to the NAACP legal team that filed suit against the St. Louis Board of Education in 1949. In 1954, Freeman was the lead attorney for the landmark NAACP case *Davis, et al. v. The St. Louis Housing Authority*, which ended legal racial discrimination in public housing in the city.

She is still a BAMSL member and will celebrate her 101st birthday in November. She truly is an inspiration for the rest of us with all that she has done for not only our community but the country. She is an inspiration to all, but particularly for lawyers.

### Hon. Stephen N. Limbaugh, Sr.

Limbaugh is a former U.S. District Judge who held concurrent appointments to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri and the Western District of Missouri from 1983 until his retirement in 2008. He served his country in the U.S. Navy in World War II. Prior to his appointment as a federal judge, he was a distinguished trial lawyer, prosecuting attorney and city attorney for Cape Girardeau County.

Now at Armstrong Teasdale, he serves as senior counsel. He has presided over, ruled on and been involved in virtually every aspect of federal law and issues associated with complex business litigation.

He has spent countless hours raising money for legal services so that all of our citizens could be well represented in litigation. He has been totally supportive of BAMSL and has served as president of the Saint Louis Bar Foundation. He also has served as president of the Missouri Bar, in the House of Delegates for the American Bar Association, on the Missouri Supreme Court Rules Committee, as American Bar

Foundation Fellow, and an arbitrator for Federal Arbitration, Inc.

He is a past recipient of BAMSL's "William L. Weiss Award."

### Mary Beth Soffer

We are pleased to support the efforts of Soffer, an attorney, and her son, Don, who agreed to continue the efforts of St. Louis World Food Day, an annual food-packaging event to help feed hungry people living locally and abroad. St. Louis World Food Day 2017 is on Fri., Nov. 3 at John Burroughs School. In a single day, 2,000 "Packaging Partners" will help package 350,000-plus rice/soy protein meals (for international hunger relief), and fortified macaroni and cheese meals (for local hunger relief), nourishing malnourished children and adults. More information about this program can be found at [www.stlwf.org](http://www.stlwf.org).

### Sara Neill

Neill, BAMSL's vice president, has taken the lead on our Board's new initiative this year: St. Louis Attorneys Against Hunger. This charitable endeavor aims to fight the serious, troubling issue of hunger in our community. We kicked off this ongoing program in conjunction with the annual Project XOXO 5K run/walk on Aug. 19 in Tower Grove Park with tremendous support from runners and walkers of all ages. We also have Porter and Penny, two piggy bank pigs, for BAMSL members to feed their change to when you see them at our events.

### Patrick Chavez

Chavez, the Saint Louis Bar Foundation president, was making an impact in the legal profession and with BAMSL long before he took over this year as president of the Foundation, our attorneys' charitable organization. He has served as emcee at the Foundation's Spirit of Justice Celebration since its inception. He also has served on the BAMSL Board of Governors, and chaired the Minorities in the Legal Profession Committee.

Chavez became involved in BAMSL and the Bar Foundation when he was a law student in 1996.

As president of the Foundation, he assists abused women, children whose parents are in prison, people who are hungry, people who need scholarships to attend school, all of the kids who attend Motion for Kids and many other worthy causes. All of our members support these efforts.

He previously was a partner at Williams Venker & Sanders. In December of 2014, he became chief privacy officer and associate general counsel for Edward Jones.

### Hon. Jimmie Edwards

Edwards, a 2010 honoree of the Spirit of Justice Award from our attorneys' Foundation, was appointed as a Circuit Judge for the 22nd Judicial Circuit in Missouri in 1992. He was appointed to the Juvenile Division in 2007, and became Chief Judge of the St. Louis City

Family Court in 2008. He has made a significant impact in the lives of children as well as the community overall. He has improved the processing of child abuse and neglect cases; implemented standards to ensure swifter processing of juvenile delinquency cases and initiated programs such as the Simon Foundation Transitions Program, assisting juveniles in obtaining a G.E.D. or high school diploma and assisting with job placement.

### Sheila Burton

Burton, an attorney, was previously honored as a Spirit of Justice Award winner. She founded Join Hands ELS and has served for the Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation. She spearheaded Girls Club, a program providing outings and opportunities for children living in poverty in East St. Louis. The Boys Club, a Family Mentoring Program, and the Alternative Education Program were added later. Her husband, Circuit Judge Michael Burton, has also led in this effort to help people who need help the most.

### Richard Scherrer

I was delighted to learn that Scherrer has signed on to work in the Missouri Public Defender's Office overseeing special assignments in the St. Louis City and County Courts. He recently left Armstrong Teasdale where he had served for more than 40 years, at one time as the managing partner and most recently as senior counsel, to work for free in the Public Defender's Office.

In early 2017, Scherrer founded the non-profit Missouri Coalition for the Right to Counsel, which was formed so private attorneys can provide pro bono assistance to the state's overburdened public defender system. Dozens of law firms have signed on to assist in making sure people charged with crimes have adequate counsel. The program is now expanding to Kansas City.

In 2016, he received the Atticus Finch Award for pro bono work on a civil rights case.

### Maurice Graham

Graham is president of Gray, Ritter & Graham, P.C. He is a frequent speaker and author on litigation and legal ethics.

I marvel at how he has served in numerous capacities for so many organizations. He is a past president of the Saint Louis Bar Foundation. He has served on several Missouri Bar and Missouri Supreme Court task forces and committees, including co-chairing the Supreme Court Cameras in the Courtroom Task Force. He served as a member and Chairman of the Supreme Court Advisory Committee which oversees attorney discipline in Missouri.

In 2015, Graham was appointed to a six-year term on the University of Missouri Board of Curators, serving as chairman in 2017. This is a full-time job. He is active in University affairs, having served as president of the University of Missouri Law School Foundation and a trustee of the Jefferson Club. Graham served as chairman of the University of Missouri-Columbia Law School's \$17 million

endowment campaign. He has received dozens of awards, including BAMSL's "William L. Weiss Award" and the Saint Louis Bar Foundation's 2014 Spirit of Justice Award. He has done so much for so many who need help.

### Gabriel Gore

Gore, my partner at Dowd Bennett LLP, who concentrates on complex civil litigation and white collar defense, has an impressive background in helping make his community better.

He is a gubernatorial appointee to the Ferguson Commission, which was charged with making recommendations to move the St. Louis community forward following the unrest in Ferguson. In 2015, he received a gubernatorial appointment to serve on the Missouri State University Board of Governors. He also is a founding board member of KIPP St. Louis Public Charter Schools, and served on the St. Louis Public Library Board of Directors, acting as President from 2006 to 2010.

I am amazed at all of the public service he has performed in a relatively short time, including serving as an elected fellow of the American Bar Foundation. He received the St. Louis Argus Community Leadership Award, St. Louis Business Journal Inclusive Leadership Award and St. Louis Business Journal 40 Under 40. He received a Department of Justice Award for Distinguished Service, Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms – Award for Noteworthy Contributions to Federal Law Enforcement, Federal Bureau of Investigation – Director's Award for Demonstrated Excellence in Prosecution, and the United States Attorney's Office for Eastern District of Missouri – Special Achievement Award.

Shakespeare was correct. Lawyers do make our society a better place for so many people and without lawyers, chaos reigns.



**EDWARD L. DOWD, JR.**

BAMSL President, 2017-2018

Dowd Bennett, LLP