



# MACDL

## *Action Report*

*Newsletter*

MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS

### **NEWSLETTER**

#### *President's Letter*

Now that the elections are over, and we've survived, whether or not the candidate of our choice has, it's time to focus on our legislative goals for the coming year. I do want to thank all those who contributed to the MACDL Political Action Committee (PAC). It's been said more than once by more than one of you during this campaign year that MACDL's PAC fund may be more influential than any other activity or goal of this organization. Whether or not you personally agree with recent election reform laws which resulted in the creation of political action committees, PAC contributions to elected officials can and do have an impact.

November 8th is behind us. It's important to realize, though, that our PAC should be alive and well and funded even between elections. If each MACDL member would contribute \$60.00 a year - (\$5.00 per month, or the equivalent of one beer a week!), we would have almost \$20,000 in our PAC account. In state politics, that can get people's attention.

The Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys is recognized as one of the most influential organizations in the state,

### **WINTER 1988**

largely because of the strength (read, wealth) of its PAC.

You and I, fellow members of MACDL, belong to this organization and believe in it because we share a commitment to protect the rights of individuals as guaranteed by the Constitution of these United States. Missouri law, though, can change daily, at the whim of a committee in Jefferson City. We can affect that process, if we choose to do so. You can change a little bit of the world by contributing a few dollars to MACDL-PAC; by volunteering to participate in a legislative telephone network; by developing contacts with public officials; by driving to Jefferson City to testify for or against a piece of legislation. Think about it. If we don't do it, who will?

**HUGH KRANITZ, PRESIDENT**

#### **MACDL EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

**FRANCES M. HALL**  
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## **PUBLIC DEFENDER SYSTEM**

As almost everyone knows, the Missouri Public Defender System is facing, half-way through the fiscal year, a crisis of approximately 6.8 on the Richter Scale. They're running out of money. The legislature must pass a rather large emergency appropriation. Governor Ashcroft must then approve it. The alternative is closing the doors of public defender offices throughout Missouri. While that might make a good "sound-bite" on the evening news, no thinking person wants it to happen. Have you written to your senator/representative lately? Why not?

MACDL appreciates and supports the efforts of Richard Callahan, the Criminal Law Committee of the Missouri Bar, The Honorable H. Michael Coburn, Senator Thomas Eagleton, and the many Missouri citizens who believe people are entitled to effective legal representation when charged with a criminal offense, regardless of their ability to pay.

By the way, you do know the definition of a liberal, don't you? It's a conservative who's charged with a felony.

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### **MACDL - CLE**

Dates are not absolutely firm at press time, but plan on attending a terrific CLE program on criminal law sponsored by MACDL in conjunction with the Missouri Bar in early February. The seminar will be presented in several locations throughout the state. You'll receive more information soon.

For those of you who can't wait to make entries in your new 1989 diaries, MACDL's annual meeting and seminar will take place at the Marriot Pavillion in Downtown St. Louis on April 28-29, 1989. It's shaping up as a great program. Book it! Details soon.

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### **MACDL-PAC LIVES!**

We take great pride in announcing that MACDL's political action fund has been reincarnated! For at least the past couple of years, our PAC fund was moribund. Even drawing interest, \$12.83 was not setting the world on fire. Jim Worthington of Lexington got the proverbial ball rolling at a board meeting last August at Louis Caskey's place. Jim got up on a soapbox (we always have one available at board meetings), jumped up and down a few times, and said things like, "If MACDL doesn't attempt to influence the legislative process in Missouri, then what are we all about?" As a result of these histrionics, a motion was passed: board members would contribute \$200 to MACDL-PAC, and we would solicit contributions from our membership. The effort paid off: we raised almost \$3,000 in less than a month. Thanks and praise to the people listed below who responded to our appeal with a

monetary contribution to MACDL-PAC.

- Jim Worthington
- J. D. Williamson
- Robert Duncan
- Dee Wampler
- David Godfrey
- Dan Viets
- Bernard Edelman
- J. R. Hobbs
- Jay DeHardt
- Murry Marks
- Susan Hunt
- Gary Stamper
- Louis Caskey
- Jess Mueller
- Charles Fitzgerald
- Bruce Simon
- Charles James
- Joe Downey
- Thomas Howe
- Edward Campbell
- Charlie Atwell
- Hugh Kranitz
- B. J. Gepford
- Patrick Eng
- T. J. Stephens
- Larry Schaffer
- Donald Catlett

vided invaluable insights. MACDL, via our PAC, contributed funds to the following Missouri candidates:

- W. T. Dawson
- Vern Scoville
- Mark Youngdahl
- Jeff Schaeperkoepfer
- John Snyder
- Lester Patterson
- Dottie Doll
- Harold Caskey

MACDL-PAC, amazingly enough, is not broke after the elections. The PAC board will distribute remaining funds to certain recently elected legislators to help defray debts they incurred campaigning for office.

Rest assured, we are not "buying" votes (for \$100 or so, are you kidding?). We are, however, raising our profile, making more people aware of what MACDL stands for.

Thank you, Jim Worthington, and all those who donated to MACDL-PAC this year.



**MISSOURI APPELLATE OPINIONS**

Because of these people, our PAC had money (more than \$12.83 - a lot more). Money! What a concept! The PAC executive committee was forced to meet and decide how to spend these funds. [Ed. note: I told them I needed a winter coat, but they ignored me.] Randy Scherr, our lobbyist in Jeff City, advised us well. A certain board member (past president) with political expertise pro-

You may recall that in times past this newsletter has attempted to provide a brief summary of recent appellate decisions for criminal practitioners. No longer. In fact, we'll readily concede a TKO in this area. "Missouri Appellate Opinions" provides a service that your humble editor cannot. Within a day or two of hand-down, this stylish, well

shaped and formatted journal provides full text opinions on every Missouri decision. A separate monthly issue provides full text opinions of the Supreme Court. The cumulative index, by category, (published every two months) is invaluable for the appellate practitioner. For a mere \$139.00 a year, you will receive 64 issues

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THE MACDL WISH TO  
EXTEND TO YOU  
SINCERE THANKS AND  
BEST WISHES FOR THE  
HOLIDAYS!*