



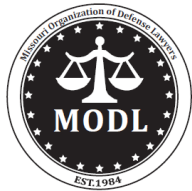
MISSOURI ORGANIZATION OF DEFENSE LAWYERS

39th Annual Meeting

JUNE 6-8, 2024

**CHATEAU
ON THE LAKE**

415 North State Highway 254 ▪ Branson, MO



MISSOURI ORGANIZATION OF DEFENSE LAWYERS

101 East High Street
P.O. Box 1072
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
(573) 636-6100
FAX: (573) 636-9749
www.modllaw.com

Dear MODL Member:

The 39th Annual Meeting of the Missouri Organization of Defense Lawyers will be held June 6-8, 2024. MODL's Board has brought the conference back to Chateau on the Lake in Branson, Missouri. This is the first time we've been back to this property in about a decade and we are excited for the return visit.

Please accept this invite and take advantage of earning a large portion of your needed CLE credit by attending the Annual Meeting. Bring your family and have a great long weekend staying at what the properly bills as the iconic "Castle on the Hill," which sits on the beautiful Table Rock Lake.

The Annual Meeting kicks off with the "President's Welcome Reception" Thursday evening hosted by Matt Noce.

The Conference's Keynote Speaker is legal humorist Sean Carter from Mesa, Arizona. He'll have just flown in and boy will his arms be tired. Okay. Okay. I'll leave the humor up to Jay-Z. Okay, I promise, I'm done; that stage name is already taken by the other "Shawn Carter." Sean's presentation, "I Think Therefore I Am Biased," will hit on implicit biases in the legal profession. It is a presentation you will not want to miss on Friday morning. He'll definitely be funnier than this terrible attempt.

Also on Friday, members will enjoy a CLE presentation from MATA's Jeff Bauer and MODL's own Scott Bellm. On the last day of the conference, wake up with Randy and Brian who will provide the always informative "Legislative Update." Thereafter we have put together a mediator's panel featuring some of the state's best neutrals who will offer members some great insights on ADR. Finally, we will welcome Missouri's newest Supreme Court Judge, the Honorable Ginger K. Gooch, who will moderate a blended judicial panel as we hear from those on the other side of the bench. The entire program will provide our members with 7.2 hours of CLE credit.

Members and their spouses can participate in the MODL Golf Tournament, scheduled to be held on Friday afternoon at Ledgestone Golf Course. Come Friday evening, MODL will celebrate with the Cocktail Party followed by the Awards Dinner. While you sip on a cocktail or two, and with the help of our sponsors, MODL has arranged a kid friendly program on Friday night from 6:00-8:00 p.m. to entertain the children. During the conference you and/or your family will of course have free time to explore historic Branson and all that Table Rock Lake has to offer.

Rooms are limited and the room cut-off is **MAY 7, 2024**. Please make your room reservations ASAP as we anticipate a sold-out conference. See the room reservation form located at the end of this brochure for more details. You can register for the meeting on-line at www.modllaw.com, or by emailing the registration form to info@modllaw.com, or by mailing the form to the MODL Office (please see the meeting registration form). We look forward to seeing you!

Best Regards,
Josh
Joshua Engelbart, Annual Meeting Chair

AGENDA

THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2024



5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME RECEPTION.....Windsor

7:00 p.m. **DINNER ON YOUR OWN**

FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2024

7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

**FAMILY BUFFET
BREAKFAST**.....Windsor

CLE AGENDA

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

REGISTRATION/EXHIBITS.....Versailles

8:30 a.m. – 8:40 a.m.

WELCOME/OPENING.....Versailles

**MATTHEW H. NOCE, MODL PRESIDENT,
REICHARDT NOCE & YOUNG LLC, ST. LOUIS, MO**

8:40 a.m. – 9:40 a.m.

“PROFESSIONALISM IN PRACTICE”.....Versailles

**JEFF BAUER, STRONG-GARNER-BAUER, P.C., SPRINGFIELD, MO
SCOTT E. BELLM, TURNER, REID, DUNCAN, LOOMER & PATTON, P.C.,
SPRINGFIELD, MO**

9:40 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

BREAK/EXHIBITS.....Versailles

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

KEYNOTE:

**“I THINK, THEREFORE, I AM BIASED: How Implicit Biases Manifest
in the Legal Profession”**.....Versailles

SEAN CARTER, CHIEF HUMOR OFFICER, MESA, AZ

The human brain is wired to recognize patterns and make generalizations, even those based on faulty or incomplete information. And contrary to popular opinion, lawyers are human as well and therefore, we are just as susceptible to forming biases and acting upon them. And it does not require that we harbor ill will or animus towards other people. In fact, most often, our biases are not even our own, but rather those that have been taught to us. In this eye-opening presentation, the presenter will use videos to show lawyers just how easy it is to form these biases, how they manifest themselves in the way we treat clients, colleagues and opposing parties, and most importantly, how we can reduce the effect of these biases by recognizing and compensating for them.

11:30 a.m.

FAMILY BUFFET LUNCH.....Windsor



12:15 p.m.

GOLF TOURNAMENT – T-Times

Ledgestone Golf Course

1600 Ledgestone Way

Branson West, MO 65737

REFRESHMENTS SPONSORED BY RINGLER - DENISE FREY



1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

FAMILY/KIDS' TIME

MODL'S CELEBRATION

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	COCKTAIL PARTYPre-Convention Area
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	KID'S PROGRAMInnsbruck <i>SPONSORED BY SHELTER INSURANCE COMPANIES</i>
7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	AWARDS DINNERWindsor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Service and Amicus Awards ◆ Retiring Board Member Recognition ◆ Karl Blanchard, Jr. Award of Excellence ◆ President's Award ◆ Ben Ely, Jr. Award

SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2024

7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	FAMILY BUFFET BREAKFASTWindsor
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CLE AGENDA

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	“LEGISLATIVE UPDATE”Versailles RANDY J. SCHERR, MODL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JEFFERSON CITY, MO BRIAN BERNSKOETTER, MODL OFFICE, JEFFERSON CITY, MO A review of legislation considered during the 2024 Legislative Session.
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	“MEDIATORS PANEL”Versailles MODERATOR: ROBERT D. LITZ, U.S. ARBITRATION & MEDIATION, ST. LOUIS, MO PANEL: THE HONORABLE JASON BROWN (RET.), JAY DAUGHERTY MEDIATION & ARBITRATION, SPRINGFIELD, MO SYLVESTER “SLY” JAMES, JR., WICKHAM JAMES, KANSAS CITY, MO RON MITCHELL, RON MITCHELL MEDIATION, JOPLIN, MO GERARD (JERRY) T. NOCE, REICHARDT NOCE & YOUNG LLC, ST. LOUIS, MO
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	BREAK/EXHIBITSVersailles
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	“BLENDED JUDICIAL PANEL”Versailles MODERATOR: THE HONORABLE GINGER K. GOOCH, MISSOURI SUPREME COURT, JEFFERSON CITY, MO PANEL: THE HONORABLE CRISTIAN M. STEVENS, EASTERN DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS, ST. LOUIS, MO THE HONORABLE MARTY W. SEATON, 16TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, KANSAS CITY, MO THE HONORABLE JOHN N. BORBONUS, CIRCUIT COURT OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY, ST. LOUIS, MO THE HONORABLE JOSHUA “JOSH” C. DEVINE, 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, COLUMBIA, MO
12:00 p.m. – 12:10 p.m.	CLOSING REMARKS MATTHEW H. NOCE, MODL PRESIDENT, REICHARDT NOCE & YOUNG LLC, ST. LOUIS, MO

12:10 p.m. – 12:15 p.m. **MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**7.2 hours Missouri CLE which includes
1.8 hours of Ethics which includes
1.8 hours Cultural Competency, Diversity, Inclusion and Implicit Bias**

MODL PAST PRESIDENTS

2022-2023 – James P. Maloney

2021-2022 – Brian Waller

2020-2021 – Debbie Champion

2019-2020 – Mimi Doherty

2018-2019 – Dana Frese

2017-2018 – Kurt Hentz

2016-2017 – Wm. Clayton Crawford

2015-2016 – Scott E. Bellm

2014-2015 – John J. Farmer

2013-2014 – Steven F. Coronado

2012-2013 – Robert J. Buckley

2011-2012 – Jeffrey J. Brinker

2010-2011 – Louis (Lou) J. Leonatti

2009-2010 – Dale L. Beckerman

2008-2009 – Martin J. Buckley

2007-2008 – Karl W. Blanchard, Jr.

2006-2007 – Jack T. Bangert

2005-2006 – Dean L. Franklin

2004-2005 – Susan Ford Robertson

2003-2004 – Lisa Weixelman

2002-2003 – Clark H. Cole

2001-2002 – Duane E. Schreimann

2000-2001 – Randa Rawlins

1999-2000 – Gerard T. Noce

1998-1999 – Jeffrey O. Parshall

1997-1998 – Joseph J. Roper

1996-1997 – John H. Quinn III

1995-1996 – Wendell E. Koerner, Jr.

1994-1995 – Stephen E. Scheve

1993-1994 – Robert A. Wulff

1992-1993 – Michael A. Dallmeyer

1991-1992 – W. James Foland

1990-1991 – John L. Oliver, Jr.

1989-1990 – Lawrence B. Grebel

1988-1989 – Robert A. Babcock

1987-1988 – Raymond E. Whiteaker

1986-1987 – Ben Ely, Jr.

1984-1986 – Paul L. Wickens



ABOUT YOUR SPEAKERS



SEAN CARTER graduated from Harvard Law School in 1992. His ten years of legal practice focused on corporate securities and mergers and acquisitions. During this time, he represented such clients as GNC, Experian, The Boston Beer Company, Homeside Lending, Safelite Auto Glass, J. Crew and many others. Most recently, he served as in-house counsel to a publicly-traded finance company. In 2002, Mr. Carter left the practice of law to pursue a career as the country's foremost Humorist at Law. Since then, Mr. Carter has crisscrossed the country delivering comedic professional educational seminars for more than 400 organizations in more than 40 states. He is also the author of the first-ever comedic legal treatise -- If It Does Not Fit, Must You Acquit?: Your Humorous Guide to the Law. Finally, Sean lives in Mesa, Arizona with his wife and four sons.

JEFF BAUER graduated Cum Laude from the University of Notre Dame Law School in 1997. At Notre Dame, he was the recipient of the Dean's Award for Excellence in Statutory Interpretation and the winner of the Thomas C. Hollywood scholarship. Before law school, Jeff graduated with honors from Southwest Missouri State University. Jeff Bauer joined Strong-Garner-Bauer P.C., in 2000, and has been a shareholder since 2004.



SCOTT E. BELLM has been a Member of the Missouri Bar since 1996. After spending several years representing injured plaintiffs, he joined Turner, Reid, Duncan, Loomer & Patton, P.C. as an associate in 1999 and became a shareholder in 2004. Since 1999, Scott has focused his practice on personal injury and medical malpractice defense, construction defect defense, and general insurance defense. He also devotes a significant part of his practice to insurance coverage issues, and the defense of "bad faith" claims for a number of insurance companies. Scott is an active member of the Missouri Organization of Defense Lawyers, having served on the Board of Directors from 2009-2017. He was additionally honored to serve as MODL's President from 2015-2016.

RANDY J. SCHERR is President and founder of R. J. Scherr and Associates and a principal in the lobbying firm of Scherr, Winter LLC. He holds both a Bachelor and a Master of Arts Degree in Political Science. Mr. Scherr has been actively involved in the political and legislative process in Missouri on a full-time basis for 46 years and represents over 30 clients before the Missouri Legislature. Mr. Scherr is the Executive Director for the Missouri Organization of Defense Lawyers.





ROBERT D. LITZ is an experienced civil trial lawyer, arbitrator and mediator and President of USA&M. The majority of his practice was concentrated in commercial finance, and bankruptcy litigation, as well as business disputes. He has mediated and arbitrated full time since 2011 in the areas of personal injury, breach of contract, real estate, employment, professional negligence, partnership dissolution, construction, securities, environmental, products liability and computer contract matters. Litz served as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Washington University between 2005-2017 teaching arbitration and mediation courses and has authored publications in numerous periodicals, including the Missouri Bar Journal, the St. Louis Bar Journal, the Missouri Business Law Quarterly, and the Missouri

Bar "Litigation Settlements" deskbook ADR chapter. He has served as faculty for numerous ADR training programs and seminars, including the Practicing Law Institute (New York, NY), AAA ADR Super Conferences (Washington D.C. and New York, NY), the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis, Washington University, The Missouri Bar, and University of Missouri-Kansas City. He is admitted to the Missouri Bar (1981); U.S. District Court Eastern District of Missouri (1981); 8th Circuit Court of Appeals (1981); and 11th Circuit Court of Appeals (1989).



THE HONORABLE JASON BROWN After serving 18 years as a trial judge in Greene County, Jason Brown joined Jay Daugherty Mediation & Arbitration in January, 2023. He has conducted well over 100 mediations in several locales in Missouri, featuring a wide variety of disputes--the vast majority of which have been successfully resolved. An approved neutral in both the Eastern and Western Districts of the U.S. District Court in Missouri, Jason is also a certified panel member of the American Arbitration Association (AAA). In 2022, he received the SMBA's "Judicial Excellence" award, as well as the Missouri Supreme Court's Judicial Civics Education Award. He received his B.A. in 1985 from the University of Missouri (Phi Beta Kappa), and his J.D. in 1988 from Vanderbilt University Law School. Jay Daugherty Mediation hosts mediations at its offices in both Springfield and Kansas City.



SYLVESTER "SLY" JAMES, JR. has worn many hats over the years – lead singer in a band, military police officer in the Marines, successful trial attorney, dynamic mayor who oversaw Kansas City, Missouri's renaissance, and award-winning author. He's never shied away from taking on tough challenges, as evidenced by how he moved public opinion on whether or not to build a new airport terminal from only 25% of voters in agreement to 76% voting in favor in just under one year. He also moved the needle on universal pre-K when no other leader was willing to take on the issue. Sly's uncanny ability to bring a bold vision to life are evident through results like the construction and expansion of a transformative modern streetcar line, overwhelming passage of an \$800 million infrastructure package, creating the

first "Smart City" initiative in North America, attracting an 800-room convention hotel to the heart of Kansas City's downtown, collaborating with Major League Baseball and the Royals to build the Kansas City Urban Youth Academy, and closing the gap between the city's third grade reading proficiency and the state average by a third.



RON MITCHELL currently mediates more than 200 cases per year. Since 1974, he tried more than 200 cases in state and federal court. A fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Distinguished Fellow of the International Academy of Mediators and a member of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals. He served as President of the Missouri Bar in 1994-1995 and served and chaired several committees for the Bar. Formerly a partner with the firm Blanchard, Robertson, Mitchell & Carter, P.C., Joplin, MO. The Missouri State Delegate from 1998-2004 in the ABA House of Delegates and is a Life Member Fellow of the ABA Foundation.



GERARD (JERRY) T. NOCE graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia Law School in 1979. Since then, he has tried over 137 jury trials to verdict, in all Missouri Federal District Courts and over 25 Missouri Circuits. He has specialized in defending automobile, premises, clergy, product and professional liability cases. He has served as the Missouri State Representative to the Defense Research Institution (DRI). He has been President of the Missouri Organization of Defense Lawyers (MODL) and director of its annual Trial Academy. He has received the MODL Ben Ely, Jr. Award. He is a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers. He has received the Award of Honor from the Lawyers Association of St. Louis. He has served on the St. Louis Archdiocesan Board of Education, including a term as president. He is Missouri Representative of the Board of Governors for the Western Golf Association (WGA). The WGA awards Evans Scholarships and currently has over 1180 former caddies attending 24 universities nationally.



THE HONORABLE GINGER K. GOOCH has served on the Supreme Court of Missouri since November 2023. She previously served as a judge on the Missouri Court of Appeals, Southern District. Gooch earned her bachelor of arts, *summa cum laude*, from Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri, in three years of study, double-majoring in English and in Philosophy, Law & Rhetoric. She then earned her law degree, *cum laude*, from the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law, where she was editor-in-chief of the Missouri Law Review. Upon graduation, she was awarded two additional honors: Order of the Coif, recognizing academic achievements; and Order of the Barristers, recognizing excellence in advocacy programs. After serving as a law clerk to Judge Ann K. Covington at the Supreme Court of Missouri, Gooch returned to Springfield to work for the Husch Blackwell LLP law firm, where her practice focused on civil litigation and appellate matters. In 2007, she was awarded the Missouri Bar Foundation's David J. Dixon Award for Outstanding Appellate Advocacy. Gooch also has been an active member of the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association throughout her career and is a former president of both the association and its foundation. She had been a partner with Husch Blackwell for 14 years at the time she was appointed to the bench. In addition, Gooch has been an active member of her community, speaking frequently to both law and lay audiences. She also was a board member of the American Red Cross of Southern Missouri and Discovery Center of Springfield.





THE HONORABLE CRISTIAN M. STEVENS was appointed by Governor Mike Parson to the Missouri Court of Appeals-Eastern District in October 2021. Before taking the bench, Judge Stevens was the First Assistant Attorney General to Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt. He is a graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law, where he was editor-in-chief of the Missouri Law Review. Upon graduation, he served as law clerk to the Honorable Pasco M. Bowman II, Chief Judge of the Eighth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, in Kansas City, Missouri. Judge Stevens practiced law as an associate at Bryan Cave LLP and as a partner at Armstrong Teasdale LLP in St. Louis. He was a federal prosecutor for 15 years at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Missouri.

THE HONORABLE MARTY W. SEATON was appointed as circuit judge of the 16th Circuit by Governor Michael Parson on March 31, 2023. At the time of his appointment, Judge Seaton was a partner in the law firm of Turner, Sweeny & Seaton, focusing on civil litigation. He joined the firm in 2008. Judge Seaton grew up on a farm in southern Missouri. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Drury University in Springfield, Missouri. He is a 2006 graduate of the University of Missouri School of Law in Columbia where he was Associate Editor in Chief of the Journal of Dispute Resolution. Following law school, he served as a law clerk to the Honorable Justine E. Del Muro from 2006-2008. Judge Seaton is a member of The Missouri Bar, Kansas Bar Association, Association for Women Lawyers of Greater Kansas City, and the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association.



THE HONORABLE JOHN N. BORBONUS was appointed Associate Circuit Judge in 2011 by Governor Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon in 2011, and Circuit Judge in 2018 by Governor Michael L. Parson. He obtained his B.A. in government and politics from George Mason University in 1988, and his law degree from St. Louis University School of Law in 1994. Judge Borbonus served as an assistant attorney general for the State of Missouri from 1994-1997. Prior to his appointment to the bench, he was a principal with the law firm of King, Krehbiel, Hellmich & Borbonus, LLC, handling civil litigation matters and trials with an emphasis on commercial law, real estate law, civil rights defense, insurance defense, and employment law.

THE HONORABLE JOSHUA "JOSH" C. DEVINE serves as a circuit judge in the 13th Judicial Circuit of Missouri, which consists of Boone and Callaway counties. He was initially appointed to his position by Governor Michael Parson on June 12, 2020. In November of 2020, he was elected to serve a six-year term. He presides over a substantial portion of the circuit level criminal, civil, family, and expungement cases filed in the 13th Judicial Circuit. Before taking the bench, Judge Devine worked as a Principal attorney with Rogers, Ehrhardt, Weber & Howard, LLC, where he specialized in complex civil litigation. In 2018, Judge Devine served as an Associate Circuit Judge in Boone County, where he presided over thousands of associate level criminal and civil cases. He previously worked as a litigator with Husch Blackwell LLP in St. Louis, and with Ford, Parshall & Baker, LLC in Columbia. Judge Devine earned his law degree from the University of Missouri – Columbia, where he was named to the Order of the Coif. He received numerous awards in law school, including the Judge L.F. Cottey Award for excellence in written and oral advocacy. He earned an undergraduate degree in Political Science from Truman State University, where he graduated with honors.



MISSOURI ORGANIZATION OF DEFENSE LAWYERS

39TH ANNUAL MEETING

June 6-8, 2024

Chateau On The Lake • Branson, Missouri

REGISTRATION FORM

MODL Member/Client (Individual)	\$600.00	_____
MODL Member/Client (Spouse/Guest and Family) <i>(Includes Member, Spouse/Guest and Member's Children under the age of 18)</i>	\$750.00	_____
Additional Guest Package (Meals and all Social Functions) <i>(Married Children and Children over the age of 18 must sign up as an additional guest package)</i>	\$250.00	_____
MODL 1 st Time Attendees Discount <i>(Includes Member, Spouse/Guest and Member's Children under the age of 18)</i>	\$500.00	_____
I _____ and my spouse/guest _____ will play golf Friday/\$155.00 per person		_____

If you wish to pay by credit card you can pay on-line at www.modllaw.com or email to info@modllaw.com (a 3% service charge will apply).

Please check one: ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ DISCOVER ☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS

Charge Card No.: _____

Name of Card Holder: _____

Expiration Date: _____ CVV: _____ Zip: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

YOUR NAME _____ SPOUSE/GUEST NAME _____

CHILD NAME(S) & AGE(S) _____

CHILD NAME(S) & AGE(S) _____

FIRM/COMPANY NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

Sorry, No Refunds After Noon, May 23, 2024.

Refunds will be made if MODL office is notified prior to that time.

573-636-6100

RETURN THIS REGISTRATION FORM AND YOUR CHECK TO:

MODL • P.O. BOX 1072 • JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65102

**Please make your hotel reservations directly with CHATEAU ON THE LAKE
Deadline to reserve is May 7, 2024.**



**415 North State Highway 265
Branson, MO**

Room rate is \$175.00.

Deadline to reserve is 5/7/24

Call 417-334-1161 OR use this booking link to reserve your room:

<http://bookings.ihotelier.com/bookings.jsp?groupID=3758672&hotelID=11529>

**KIDS' PROGRAM
FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2024
6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.**

Sports Combo Unit

Get the party started with this 4 in 1 combo – combines which combines a large jumping area, an inflatable basketball hoop, a tall slide, and a challenging climbing area.



Tiki Bounce House w/ Slide

Kids will have great fun with this large jumping area and a slide.



Mini Turbo Obstacle Course

Exciting obstacle course that ends in a tall slide.



And more.....

**Cotton Candy Machine, Popcorn, Ice Cream Treats!
GAMES, FOOD, FUN!**

