



AUGUST 27, 2026

Join us as we once again partner to present a Defense Law Seminar full of
Perspectives, Predictions and Pointers.
Enjoy the Seminar....Stay for the Game!

Seminar

Live! by Loews, 799 Clark Street, St. Louis, MO

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Breakfast/Sponsors

CLE PRESENTATIONS

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.

"The Current State of Personal Jurisdiction for Illinois and Missouri"

Description:

Illinois and Missouri are home to some of the largest toxic tort dockets in the country. Many cases have no connection to Illinois or Missouri and are often filed by nonresident plaintiffs against foreign corporations. Personal jurisdiction, therefore, is an incredibly important defense in both states. This program is a comparative analysis of Illinois and Missouri personal jurisdiction law. Attendees will learn about recent court opinions and rulings related to specific, general, and consent jurisdiction. The program also will feature a discussion of the recent Illinois consent jurisdiction statute. The presenters will offer practical insight into asserting and maintaining a personal jurisdiction defense based on historical precedent, recent case law, and statutory provisions.

Presented by: **Robert F. Chandler**, *Baker Sterchi Cowden & Rice LLC, St. Louis, MO* and **Gregory W. Odom**, *Baker Sterchi Cowden & Rice, LLC, Belleville, IL*

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

“Navigating Bad Faith Law in Illinois and Missouri: Key Risks, Defenses, and Emerging Trends”

Description:

This CLE program provides a focused comparison of insurer bad faith law in Illinois and Missouri, highlighting key statutory and common law frameworks that shape exposure and defense strategies. Attendees will gain practical guidance on claims handling, litigation risks, and effective defenses to minimize bad faith liability in both jurisdictions. The session also examines recent developments and trends, equipping civil defense practitioners with actionable insights for managing complex coverage disputes.

Presented by: **Susan Dimond**, *Roberts, Perryman P.C., St. Louis, MO* and **Donald Patrick Eckler**, *Freeman Mathis & Gary, LLP, Chicago IL*

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Break/Sponsors

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Blended Judicial Panel “Views From the Bench”

This panel will consist of Judges from Illinois and Missouri.

Panel:

The Honorable Kate Watson, *Sixth Judicial Circuit, Tuscola, IL*

The Honorable Renee Hardin-Tammons, *Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District, St. Louis, MO*

The Honorable Patrick G. King, *Circuit Judge, Madison County, IL*

The Honorable Christopher P. Threlkeld, *Third Judicial Circuit, Madison County, IL*

12:30 p.m.

Adjourn

Ballgame

1:15 p.m.

St. Louis Cardinals vs. Baltimore Orioles, Busch Stadium, St. Louis, MO

ABOUT YOUR SPEAKERS



ROBERT F. CHANDLER is a Member in Baker Sterchi’s St. Louis office. He is an experienced litigation defense attorney who focuses his practice on professional and management liability, construction, insurance, real estate, product liability, complex commercial litigation, and related business disputes. He regularly appears in state and federal courts in Missouri and Illinois.



GREGORY W. ODOM is a Member in Baker Sterchi's Belleville office and co-chair of the firm's Toxic Tort Practice Group. He is an experienced trial attorney whose practice focuses on defending clients in mass toxic tort and commercial litigation in Illinois and Missouri state and federal courts. He is second vice president of Illinois Defense Counsel and serves on its Executive Committee.



SUSAN M. DIMOND has focused her practice on the defense of professionals and the analysis of coverage obligations for almost 20 years. Susan leads the firm's legal malpractice defense, professional liability, insurance coverage and extra-contractual liability teams. She has considerable experience defending attorneys in legal malpractice claims, ethical complaints, breach of fiduciary duty claims and cases alleging violations of consumer protection statutes. She also routinely defends design professionals, insurance agents, and small business in similar claims. Susan

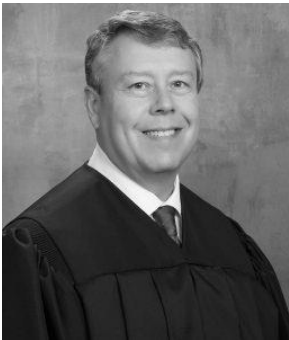
also handles complex first party and third-party insurance coverage questions and frequently litigates cases involving extra contractual liability. She routinely advises both insurers and insureds on complex coverage questions across the Midwest. Susan has spoken extensively on Missouri bad faith law and Mo.Rev.Stat. § 537.065. She has been recognized and included in Best Lawyers since 2020 and Super Lawyers in 2025.

DONALD PATRICK ECKLER is a Partner in Freeman Mathis & Gary, LLP's Chicago office where he serves as Office Co-Chair. Mr. Eckler is also Vice-Chair of the firm's Midwest Coverage practice team, Vice-Chair of the firm's Transactional Risks/Representations & Warranties practice team, and a member of the firm's Appellate Advocacy Section. He is a highly experienced litigator who focuses his practice on professionals, insurers, and businesses in disputes in state and federal courts across Illinois, Indiana, and Tennessee.



THE HONORABLE RENEE HARDIN-TAMMONS was appointed appellate court judge in 2022 for the Missouri Court of Appeals for the Eastern District of Missouri. Prior to becoming an appellate judge, in 2017, she was appointed as St. Louis County Associate Circuit Judge. After two years of service in that position, in 2019, she was elevated to the position of St. Louis County Circuit Judge. Serving as Municipal Court judge from 1999 to 2017, she began her judicial career as Berkeley Municipal Court Judge, as St. Louis County Municipal Court Judge and various other municipalities in St. Louis County. She received her Bachelor of Science degree, cum laude in Administration of Justice from the University of Missouri-St. Louis and her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law.

THE HONORABLE PATRICK G. KING is a Circuit Judge in the Third Judicial Circuit, Madison County. Judge King presides in the Civil Law Division. Before taking the bench, he worked in private practice, licensed in Illinois and Missouri, representing individuals, families, small businesses, and local government. His practice areas included civil litigation, municipal law, and alternative dispute resolution. He served as a mediator, arbitrator, special public defender, and Guardian Ad Litem, and hearing officer in municipal zoning. Judge King is a member of the Alton-Wood River Bar Association (Past President), Tri-City Bar Association, Madison County Bar Association (Past President), Catholic Bar Association of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois (Past President), Illinois State Bar Association, American Bar Association, and Illinois Judges Association. Judge King is a graduate of Marquette Catholic High School, University of Missouri, and Thomas M. Cooley Law School (cum laude). He and his wife, Stephanie, reside in Edwardsville with their 7 children (and 1 on the way any day).



THE HONORABLE CHRISTOPHER P. THRELKELD currently serves as the chief judge for the Third Judicial Circuit of Madison County, IL where he supervises court operations. He is an active member of the Illinois Judges Association, serving on the Security, Pro Bono, Media, and Educational Programming Committees. Judge Threlkeld earned his undergraduate degree from The Citadel: The Military College of South Carolina in 1990, followed by an MBA from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, and a Juris Doctor from Saint Louis University School of Law. He also served in the Army National Guard. Before attending law school, he served as a Deputy Treasurer for then Madison County Treasurer John Shimkus.

Following law school, Judge Threlkeld was an attorney and partner for 20 years in private practice, focusing on both civil and criminal cases which included extensive trial work. He is also a past president of the Madison County Bar Association. In 2020, Judge Threlkeld was appointed as a Circuit Judge by Illinois Supreme Court Justice Lloyd Karmeier, and was subsequently elected to the position in 2022.

THE HONORABLE KATE WATSON is the Resident Circuit Judge for Douglas County in the Sixth Judicial Circuit, having won election in November 2024. In 1993, she began her legal career in family law and general practice in Hoopeston, Illinois. Judge Watson became an assistant state's attorney in Douglas County in 1996, gaining further diverse experience in criminal prosecution. From 1998 to 2016, Judge Watson served as the county's first assistant state's attorney. In 2016, she was elected Douglas County State's Attorney, where she expanded her service to include the county's civil litigation division. In 2023, Judge Watson left the position as State's Attorney upon her appointment to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court to fill the vacancy left by Richard L. Broch's retirement. Judge Watson was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1993 after graduating from the University of Illinois Chicago School of Law. She earned an undergraduate in journalism at the University of Colorado Boulder in 1990. Judge Watson is a member of the Douglas County Bar, where she served as President and Treasurer. She is also a member of the Tuscola Community Foundation's Legal Sector. Judge Watson is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Tuscola, where she served as Club Director and is also a member of the Arcola Sunshine Rotary Club. She married John Watson on August 12, 1995, and has four children and one grandson.



Continuing Legal Education Credit

Application will be made for the following credit hours:

- Missouri 3.6 CLE Credit Hours
- Illinois 3.0 CLE Credit Hours

Registration

Full Registration for this event includes CLE presentations, seminar materials, a breakfast and break, Party Suite Reception and one ticket to the St. Louis vs. Baltimore Orioles game. Individual Tickets to the Party Suite Reception and Ballgame are also available for purchase.

Full Registration

- MODL/IDC Members \$290
- Non-Members \$390

Individual Ticket – Party Suite Reception and Ballgame

- Members and Non-Members: \$150

Register on-line at: www.modllaw.com

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