

EARL E. O'CONNOR INN OF COURT THE INNFORMATION

March 2012

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UPCOMING MEETING DATES

April 10, 2012 Meeting	5:15 Social Hour 6:00 Dinner 6:50 Pro- gram
May 8, 2012 Meeting	
June 2012 Ethics CLE June 7, 2012	1:30

APRIL PROGRAM TOPIC:

“How to Behave at a Deposition, Even if You Don’t Want To.” Judge Standridge’s team will be presenting.

DON’T FORGET! SPECIAL PROM

The Prom for Special Education Students in Wyandotte County will be held on Friday, March 30, from 6 to 9 pm at J.C. Harmon High School. Questions? Email Veronica Dersch, veronica@smizak-law.com, or Janell Avila, javila@salawkc.com.

SAVE THE DATE: ETHICS CLE

You will not want to miss this year’s ethics CLE on June 7, 2012 in Courtroom 655 of the Robert J. Dole Federal Courthouse. Our CLE team is putting together a fantastic program. They have secured Stuart Teicher to present two CLE hours on the legal ethics of technology. They have also confirmed Judge Julie Robinson and Stan Hazlett, Kansas Disciplinary Administrator, to participate in a one CLE hour panel discussion following Mr. Teicher’s presentation. Mark it on your calendar and look for more information to come on this year’s program. We encourage you to support our Inn by attending.

President’s Message

David A. Rameden, a long time member and former president of the Earl E. O’Connor Inn of Court, passed away unexpectedly on February 26, 2012 while vacationing with his wife in Nevada. A Celebration of Life for Dave was held March 10 and was attended by many members of our Inn.

Dave’s brilliance was apparent to everyone who had the pleasure of meeting him. He was valedictorian of his high school class in Forest Lake, Minnesota, and a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point. After receiving a B.S. degree in Operations Research from Stanford University, he returned to West Point as an associate professor of mathematics. He concluded his military career as an Operations Research and Systems Analyst at Fort Leaven-

worth, Kansas. Dave then entered UMKC’s Joint Law and MBA program, graduating at the top of his class. He joined Shook, Hardy and Bacon, LLC where he became a partner specializing in anti-trust and other complex business litigation. In addition to serving as a former president of our Inn, Dave was past president of the Kansas Association of Defense Counsel and a member of the Defense Research Institute.

Dave was much more than a brilliant attorney and polymath. He was a wonderful person who was always ready to share his talents and knowledge with others and to assist our Inn, young lawyers and everyone else with whom he came into contact. As the longtime webmaster for the Inn, Dave was responsible for many innovations at

our Inn. Whether in his role as webmaster, organizing and distributing member name tags at the monthly meetings that he seemed never to miss, or in countless other tasks for the Inn, Dave’s boundless energy, amazing efficiency and unfailing good nature were an inspiration and joy to the Inn. He will always serve as a model for how an attorney should conduct his or her professional and personal life. We can never replace Dave. We can only hope to honor his memory by emulating his worthy example.

—Charles A. Getto

New Member Profiles

JENNIFER VATH

Jennifer Vath is an attorney at the law firm of SNR Denton US LLP. A commercial litigator, Jennifer focuses on commercial loan enforcement actions. Her practice ranges across the country. Jennifer is originally from Kansas City, with a two year detour to southern California, where she learned to surf. She obtained her undergraduate degree from Northeast Missouri State University and her law degree from Kansas University. When asked what is the aspect of practicing law that Jennifer enjoys most, she responded that it is helping people resolve problems. Jennifer is married with three children. Originally, she wanted to become a veterinarian . . . until she became weak-kneed while witnessing her first surgery. When not working or tending to her family, Jennifer enjoys taking boxing classes and hiking in the Canadian Rockies.

DAVID LANGSTON

David Langston obtained his law degree from UMKC, and he founded his practice, Langston Law Chtd., in 1993. His office is located in Olathe, Kansas. David's practice is dedicated solely to criminal defense in Federal, State, and Municipal courts in both Kansas and Missouri. David is proud to be the founder of the Justice Initiative, a nonprofit organization which provides discounted legal representation to qualified criminal defendants in complex cases. A well-known case David defended which received national attention a few years back was the Marlon Brando Gill "cell phone" case. Some of you might remember that a cell phone had somehow become lodged in the throat of defendant Gill's girlfriend. Moving on to more restful pursuits, David enjoys being a National Football League player's agent. His fashion hallmark is the bow tie. He appreciates luxury cars and collects vintage watches. Finally, he wants everyone to know that his best friend in the world is his wife, Connie Shidler, who is a long-time member of our Inn of Court chapter.

MARK ANTHONY DUPREE, SR.

Mark Anthony Dupree, Sr. graduated from the University of Kansas with his B.A. in Political Science and earned his Juris Doctorate from Washburn University School of Law in 2007. Mark began his legal career as judicial clerk in Circuit Court of Jackson County, Missouri. Mark continued on the path of public service after his judicial clerkship. Mark served as a prosecutor in Jackson County, Missouri, then moved back to Jayhawk territory, and currently works as a public defender in Johnson County, Kansas.

Beyond the law, Mark has a contagious personality and inspirational life journey. Mark is an inspirational speaker and an Associate Pastor at the Grace Tabernacle Family Life Outreach Center in Kansas City, Kansas. Reaching out to inner city high school students, Mark is dedicated to being a role model for minority and impoverished children in the Kansas City area. When asked about his message to high school students, Mark said, "I am dedicated to being a positive role model, and my message is that 'seeing is believing.' I want to expose high school students to the notion that they can be lawyers, doctors, politicians ~ and that I am a living example that anything is possible."

Mark is married to the love of his life, Shanelle Dupree, who is also an attorney. Mark said, "Being two attorneys, we created and recognize the foundational rule for a happy marriage...no arguing." (For the record, Mark also admits that Shanelle would, and I quote, "kick his butt in the court room.") Mark and Shanelle live in Kansas City, Kansas and are the proud parents to "3 under 3" ~ Lilly, Layle, and Mark II.

A special thanks to members of our Newsletter Committee who interviewed our new members and wrote the profiles for this newsletter: Jason Buchanan, Nancy Crawford, and Lee Urban.

The mission of the American Inns of Court is to foster excellence in professionalism, ethics, civility, and legal skills.

*All meetings at Homestead
Country Club, 6510 Mission Road,
Prairie Village, KS 66208*

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