January 2017

Common Ground

HELLO, I AM
Invested

EDWARDSVILLE/GLEN CARBON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Annual Community Awards Gala & Auction

5:30pm Mingling & Silent Auction

6:00pm Dinner Buffet

8:00pm Awards Program

MARCH 4, 2017
SIUE Morris University Center Meridian Ballroom

[ MAKE A NAME FOR YOUR BUSINESS ]
on the cover

2017 Annual Community Awards Gala & Auction: Saturday, March 4

The Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce’s Annual Community Awards Gala & Auction will take place Saturday, March 4 in SIUE’s Meridian Ballroom with the theme ‘Make A Name For Your Business.’ This gala is the highlight of the chamber’s year – an opportunity to celebrate our achievements and our vibrant business community. The gala/auction is one of two major fundraisers and social events sponsored by the chamber.

The Ed/Glen Chamber will present awards to members of our community at the dinner: the Albert Cassens Award for Outstanding Community Achievement, the Tallero Leadership Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award. The Business of the Year award will also be presented.

Sponsorship, auction item donation and award nomination forms have been mailed to all Ed/Glen Chamber members and are also available online at www.edglenchamber.com. All sponsorships and silent auction donations are due by February 21, 2017 in order to be included in event print materials.

Guiding Principles

Chambers of Commerce honor and respect capitalism and well-informed private sector job creators as a central and foundational element of regional and national prosperity. Chambers of Commerce actively facilitate collaboration and open discussion between business and public officials through education, business advocacy and leadership.

2017 Ambassadors

Breck Newman, HireLevel
Lisa Allen, Allen Insurance Group
Jeremy Colton, Big Frog Custom T-Shirts & More
James DeMoulin, First Clover Leaf Bank
David Jones, Scott Credit Union
Angie Lange, Express Employment Professionals
Tim Mahnesmith, Edward Jones Investments

Rob Picerelli, Midwest Regional Bank*
Kate Redmon, Redmon Insurance Agency
John Schuelke, Merrill Lynch
Mary Jo Smith, Hospice of Southern Illinois
Walter Williams, City of Edwardsville

* denotes committee chair
special investors

Gold Level
Anderson Hospital
Gateway Regional Medical Center

Silver Level
Amazon.com
Ameren Illinois Utilities
AT&T Mobility Edwardsville
Horicor Insurance & Employee Benefits
Meridian Village
Sam’s Club 4878
Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard, PC
Scott Credit Union
TheBANK of Edwardsville

Bronze Level
1st MidAmerica Credit Union
Associated Bank
Breakthru Beverage Illinois
Butter & Grill & Bar
Cassens & Sons
Cassens Transport
Castelli’s Moonlight Restaurant of 255
City of Edwardsville
CTS Technology Solutions, Inc.
DoubleTree by Hilton
Eden Village Retirement Community
Edwardsville USD 7
Edwardsville Intelligencer
First Clover Leaf Bank
Got Julian & Associates, PC
Holland Construction Services, Inc.
Homefield Energy, A Dynegy Company
Jennex Associates Inc., PC
Korle & Lulijothan Contractors, Inc.
Lowe’s Travel Stop
Madison Mutual Insurance Company
Mathis, Marifian & Richter, LTD
Mike Shannon’s Grill Edwardsville, LLC
R. P. Lumber Company, Inc.
Robert ‘Chick’ Fritz, Inc.
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Spectrum Business
Village of Glen Carbon
Volkert, Inc.
West & Company, LLC

Premier Level
1818 Chophouse
A Julian Felix Beauteque
AARC Inc.
ABRA Auto Body & Glass
Abstracts & Titles Inc.
Allison’s Comfort Shoes & Boots
American Family Insurance
Annie’s Frozen Custard
Assurance Brokers, Ltd.
Benedictine Hospital
BARBERVoss Home Core
Bord & Didikeren Pediatrics, PC
Bauer Hile Orthodontic Specialists
Bella Mira Edwardsville
Best Western Plus Pontoon Beach
Big Daddy’s Edwardsville
Brain Balance Achievement Centers
Brickman Orthodontics
Chava’s Mexican Restaurant
Chef’s Shoppe
Cleveland-Heath
Club Z! In-Home Tutoring Services
Cold Stone Creamery
Comfort Inn
Commerce Bank
CompuType, Inc.
Conlega Construction Company, LLC
Cornerstone Insurance Group
Country Club Lawn & Tree Specialists, Inc.
Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc.
Culver’s of Edwardsville
Days Inn

save the date

2/14 Tuesday 7:15-8am
Morning B2B Connections
Source Juicery
220 West Main Street
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online

2/15 Wednesday 9am-4pm
HR Laws Seminar
Holiday Inn Express & Suites
1101 Formosa Road
Troy, IL 62294
SEE PAGE 12

2/15 Wednesday 4pm
Ribbon Cutting
Gucciardo CPA
226 South Main Street
Edwardsville, IL 62025

3/1 Wednesday 8–9am
Chamber Q&A: Maximize Your Membership
Ed/Glen Chamber Office
1 North Research Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online

3/4 Saturday 5:30pm
Annual Community Awards Gala & Auction
SIUE Morris University Center
Meridian Ballroom
Edwardsville, IL 62026
SEE PAGES 8 & 9

3/7 Tuesday 8–9am
ACCELERATE Executive-Led TED Talk Facilitation w/ Dr. James Brooks of First Christian Church
Holiday Inn Express & Suites
1000 Plummer Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online

3/14 Tuesday 12–1pm
nexus&noon
Edison’s Entertainment Complex
2477 South IL Route 157
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online

3/16 Thursday 5–7pm
Business After 5
Metro Eye Care, PC
6620 Center Grove Road
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

4/4 Tuesday 8–9am
ACCELERATE Executive-Led TED Talk Facilitation w/ David Toby of FCB Edwardsville Bank
Holiday Inn Express & Suites
1000 Plummer Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online

4/5 Wednesday 8–9am
Chamber Q&A: Maximize Your Membership
Ed/Glen Chamber Office
1 North Research Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online

4/11 Tuesday 7:15–8am
Morning B2B Connections
Source Juicery
220 West Main Street
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online

4/18 Tuesday 4pm
Ribbon Cutting
Metro East Humane Society
8495 IL Route 143
Edwardsville, IL 62025

4/20 Thursday 5–7pm
Business After 5
Location TBD

4/27 Thursday 7:30–9am
Mayor’s Legislative Breakfast
LeClaire Room @ N.O. Nelson
600 Troy Road
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online

5/2 Tuesday 8–9am
ACCELERATE Executive-Led TED Talk Facilitation w/ Edwardsville Police Chief Jay Keeven
Holiday Inn Express & Suites
1000 Plummer Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online

5/3 Wednesday 8–9am
Chamber Q&A: Maximize Your Membership
Ed/Glen Chamber Office
1 North Research Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online

5/9 Tuesday 12–1pm
nexus&noon
Edison’s Entertainment Complex
2477 South IL Route 157
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online
business of the month

COMPANY HISTORY: Scott Credit Union was founded by a group of visionaries at Scott Field who decided to create a local credit union where the average person could save and borrow money. Membership in the new credit union was limited to any civil service employee of the Technical School and the Army Air Force Technical Training Command at Scott Field. The credit union, led by board president Lawrence Donna, consisted of 27 charter members and $145.60 in share deposits. The first two loans on the books totaled $45. Today, Scott Credit Union membership is open to anyone living or working in Monroe, Madison, St. Clair, Randolph, Perry, Franklin, Jefferson, Washington, Clinton, Marion, Bond, Macoupin, Montgomery, Fayette, Effingham, Williamson, or Jackson counties in Illinois or St. Louis County, Missouri. Just as in 1943, the credit union is a member owned, member operated, not-for-profit cooperative. However, the credit union now features 15 branches and a variety of products and services including checking and savings accounts; auto and home loans; credit cards; and investment, mobile and online services. Scott Credit Union currently has more than 130,000 members and more than $1 billion in assets, and employs more than 200 people.

ECONOMIC IMPACT: In 2012, SCU opened its home office in Edwardsville. The 50,000-square-foot building provided construction jobs and moved more than 100 employees to the Edwardsville area to work, eat and shop. Scott Credit Union has a lunch program by which employees can have lunch delivered by a different local restaurant each day of the week. The credit union has more than 4,000 members in the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon community.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT: Scott Credit Union has a three-person community relations department which focuses solely on the betterment of the credit union’s local communities. The department oversees an employee volunteer incentive program (VIP) which produced more than 2,700 hours of community involvement and financial education in 2014. The credit union contributed more than $330,000 in 2014 through charitable and civic support in its local communities. Major partnerships in the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon market include the Edwardsville YMCA; Edwardsville Rotary Criterium; Edwardsville Rotary Playground; Route 66 Festival; Edwardsville High School Tennis; Edwardsville Little Tigers Football; Edwardsville Art Fair; Edwardsville Orchestra Boosters and Edwardsville Children’s Museum.

WORKFORCE COMMITMENT: Scott Credit Union has remained committed to its strategy of being the best place to work. That commitment paid off again in 2015 when named a St. Louis Post-Dispatch Top Workplace for the fourth straight year. SCU surveys its employees each year to measure satisfaction and makes improvements based on the results of the surveys. The credit union implemented an ideas program that allows employees to give their ideas on how to help the organization meet its mission of “Banking Simplified.” And SCU offers a competitive employee benefits package including education reimbursement.

INNOVATION: One of Scott Credit Union’s major value propositions is that as a non-profit cooperative, it is able to offer better rates and lower fees than other financial institutions. Any would-be profits that remain after operating expenses and reserves are returned straight back to its members. Scott Credit Union has given $7.7 million back to its members over the last seven years in the form of a year-end bonus dividend and loan rebate. As members themselves, Scott Credit Union’s volunteer board of directors make each decision with the best interest of the credit union’s entire membership in mind.

EXCELLENCE: Scott Credit Union consistently wins marketing awards at the state and national level for its marketing campaigns, community projects and financial education programs. Scott Credit Union’s home office was LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified in 2013. Scott Credit Union exceeds industry best practices through its unyielding commitment to the credit union philosophy of “People Helping People.” Of the other credit unions in its asset size, Scott Credit Union’s community volunteer and financial education hours rank among the highest in the state.

CHARACTER: Scott Credit Union’s mission is “Banking Simplified.” The credit union strives to be the financial institution of choice by helping members and employees succeed. Scott Credit Union is dedicated to its community of members by maintaining the highest ethical standards and promoting personal and professional growth of its employees.

FUTURE FOCUS: Scott Credit Union’s plans are to continue providing its members with the services they need. More of the business continues to focus on delivering online and mobile solutions that offer convenience to members. Scott Credit Union also plans to continue to support its communities with both monetary and volunteer support. The credit union provides financial support to civic organizations, fund-raisers, schools and community events. Its employees also are encouraged to volunteer in the community. This will continue to be an important priority for Scott Credit Union.
We’ve taken comfort to a whole new level.

Introducing...private patient rooms and our new Anderson Mercy Cancer Care services.

Welcome to Your Private Room
We’re excited to now offer private patient rooms so you can rest better and recover faster. Our private rooms offer a welcome retreat to patients seeking reduced noise, more rest and an increased level of comfort... at no additional cost.

Improved Cancer Care Services
We’ve partnered with Mercy St. Louis to bring a new level of clinical expertise to cancer patients in the metro east. AndersonMercy Cancer Care brings the best integrated, cancer care treatments close to home and family.
We would like to recognize the many Ed/Glen Chamber investors who are celebrating membership anniversaries in the month of January. This monthly feature spotlights members for their ongoing support of the Ed/Glen Chamber. We offer our sincerest thanks to each of the following business for their continued membership!

**40+ YEARS**

Coldwell Banker Brown Realtors
Richards Brick Company

**30–39 YEARS**

Village of Glen Carbon

**20–29 YEARS**

Jan’s Hallmark Shop
Ameren Illinois Utilities

**10–19 YEARS**

Sunset Hills Country Club
Meridian Village
GCS Credit Union
Bank of Springfield
First National Bank - Maryville
St. Louis Regional Chamber

Walmart of Glen Carbon
Royal Office Products, Inc.
Days Inn
Casual Tees
Annie’s Frozen Custard
Baha’i Faith

**5–9 YEARS**

Salvation Army
Patriot Sunrooms
EdwardsvilleOnline
Network Specialists, LLC

Papa Murphy’s Take ‘N’ Bake Pizza
Thompson & Lengacher, P.C.
Robert ‘Chick’ Fritz, Inc.

**1–4 YEARS**

Anytime Fitness
Integrated Technology Associates
MassageLuXe
CASA of Southwestern Illinois
Country Club
ASAP Coalition
Swing City Music
Cedarhurst Assisted Living & Memory Care
Partners For Pets

Volkert, Inc.
BARBERVoss Home Care
Club Centre, Inc.
Recess Brewing
Rickey Brothers, Inc.
Associated Bank
Big Frog Custom T-Shirts & More of Edwardsville
JK Companies
Allen Insurance Group, LLC

Cabinet Solutions
Midwest Regional Bank
Security Finance
Orion Commercial Properties, LLC
Gordon Food Service
Enterprise Car Sales
Alliance Technologies, LLC
Catrinas
J.S. Excavating & Hauling, LLC
Hello, I am Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce

Invested
EDWARDSVILLE/GLEN CARBON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

[ MAKE A NAME FOR YOUR BUSINESS ]

RSVP by February 21

Annual Community Awards Gala & Auction
MARCH 4, 2017

Edwardsville | Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce

Please reserve ____ chamber member seats at $65 each.
Please reserve ____ guest seats at $75 each.

BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION _______________________________________________________
CONTACT PERSON ____________________________________________________________
MAILING ADDRESS ____________________________________________________________
PHONE NUMBER __________ EMAIL ADDRESS ________________________________________
ATTENDEE NAMES ____________________________________________________________

I am enclosing a check for $ _________________________________
Please invoice me in the amount of $ _________________________

Please reserve _____ chamber member seats at $65 each.
Please reserve _____ guest seats at $75 each.

Please return response card with your payment to the chamber office by Tuesday, February 21.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPONSORSHIP FORM</th>
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<tr>
<td>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION</td>
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<td>CONTACT PERSON</td>
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We would like to sponsor at the ______________ Level at $ ______________

Please return with check by February 21, with check payable to:
Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce
1 North Research Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
phone: 618.656.7600    fax: 618.656.7611
schmooze
business after 5 & ribbon cuttings

Gulf Shores Restaurant & Grill, December 15

Gulf Shores Restaurant & Grill, December 15

Gulf Shores Restaurant & Grill, December 15

Gulf Shores Restaurant & Grill, December 15

Gulf Shores Restaurant & Grill, December 15

Gulf Shores Restaurant & Grill, December 15

Dayspring Natural Health LLC, December 8
ACCELERATE Edwardsville/Glen Carbon is a new Ed/Glen Chamber initiative designed to build and solidify our region’s vibrant future workforce.

ACCELERATE Edwardsville/Glen Carbon is a business-centric initiative designed to provide professionals like you with the tools to accelerate your leadership acumen, hone your communication skills, expand your professional network, connect you with mentors, and ultimately strengthen our business community as a whole.

Your Contact Information

First Name: __________________________ Last Name: __________________________

Company: __________________________ Title: __________________________

Address: __________________________ City: __________________________ State: ______ Zip: __________

Phone: __________________________ Email Address: __________________________

$50 Participation Fee Enclosed (Make checks payable to Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce)

Signature: __________________________ Date: __________________________

* * * PAYMENT DUE UPON RECEIPT OF APPLICATION * * *
Have you updated all of your policies to be in compliance? Don’t let one missed update cost your company big money!

Join us for an in-depth interactive seminar focusing on the myriad of new employment laws and legal developments which affect all Illinois employers in early 2017. This seminar will cover new leave laws, wage and hour regulations for exempt/non-exempt, new OSHA regulations, new case law trends, new government enforcement tactics, update on ACA following the presidential election. Includes both Federal and Illinois updates! This seminar is essential for all HR professionals.

**Bonus! All attendees receive a one year subscription to our online Employment Law Handbook!**

Visit ilchamber.org/event/seminar-new-hr-laws-troy/

**Continuing Education Credits Available:**
This seminar has been pre-approved to offer 6 CPE credits for accountants.
This seminar has been submitted for approval to offer 6 CLE credits for attorneys.
This seminar has been pre-approved to offer 6 HRCI credits.
This seminar has been pre-approved to offer 6 SHRM Professional Development Credits (PDCs).

**Registration Information:**
Wednesday, February 15, 2017 | 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Holiday Inn Express
2011 Formosa Road, Troy, IL 62294
(Located just off I-55)

Early Bird - (For everybody) - Sign up before February 5th - $249.00
Member (For members of the Illinois Chamber, local chamber partners, ILSHRM, & SHRM) - $299.00
Retail Price - $349.00

To register or for more information go to www.ilchamber.org/events or call Kelli Jessup at (217) 522-5512, ext. 227, or kjessup@ilchamber.org.
Ameren Recognized for Outstanding Service

Ameren recently received “Best Social Presence” and earned an honorable mention in the “Best Customer Communication & Service via Social Media” category of the Midwest Energy Association’s Member Social Media Awards. The awards panel singled out Ameren Illinois for its effective use of social media to update customers about power restoration status and showcase its commitment to community development and charitable giving.

Ameren Illinois is also the highest-ranked energy company in the Midwest for providing superior service to business customers, according to a study by a leading market research firm. In a survey of 59 utilities, Market Strategies International recognized Ameren Illinois as a 2016 Business Customer Champion for developing engaging customer relationships. The study ranked Ameren Illinois sixth among 59 nationwide utilities.

Ameren Illinois President Richard J. Mark said, “Businesses are the backbone of our local economies, particularly in smaller towns throughout central and southern Illinois. We put great emphasis on providing industry-leading services to our business customers. I’m particularly proud of our key account teams for being personally invested in helping our business customers to succeed.”

With more than 40,000 Facebook followers and 18,000 subscribers on Twitter, Ameren Illinois utilizes social media to engage in authentic conversations with customers to address their needs, including storm response inquiries, billing questions, important safety information, and energy efficiency education.

Connect with Ameren Illinois by searching Ameren Illinois on Facebook, @AmerenIllinois on Twitter, or going to AmerenIllinois.com.

St. Louis BOS Branch Now Full Service

Bank of Springfield (BOS) recently announced that the BOS lending office, located at 1790 Brentwood Boulevard in St. Louis, is now a full-service branch offering all BOS bank products and services. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday 9am–5pm. The branch is closed Saturday and Sunday.

BOS was founded in 1965 in Springfield, IL and remains locally owned and operated. BOS serves eight communities in Illinois with full service branches in Springfield, Chatham, Jacksonville, Quincy, Shiloh, Swansea, Staunton and Glen Carbon and has one lending center in Brentwood, MO.
AN ADDED MEMBER BENEFIT

As a member of
EDWARDSVILLE/
GLEN CARBON
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

YOU’LL SAVE BIG!

We are pleased to offer
special discount rates from
Auto-Owners Insurance
Company on business
insurance — to members
of company approved
organizations like yours!

Fast, fair and
efficient service — from
The “No Problem” People®

CALL TODAY AND SEE
HOW YOU’LL SAVE!

Auto-Owners Insurance
Life Home Car Business
The “No Problem” People®

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
UNDERWRITERS AGENCY, INC.
P.O. Box 485
3 Club Centre Ct., Suite C
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-656-0120

C. William Schmidt
Matt Rogler, CIC

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887 WSIE
THE SOUND

We’re proud to introduce you to the newest
45-year-old radio station in the region.

For information, contact Steve Jankowski at 650-3607 or stejank@siue.edu.
Mark Vaughn, CPA, CGMA Named to St. Louis Small Business Monthly’s ‘People to Know’ List

St. Louis Small Business Monthly has named Mark Vaughn, one of the founding principals of Franklin & Vaughn, LLC to its list of ‘People to Know’ in the Southwestern Illinois business community in its December 2016 issue. The list recognizes individuals nominated by fellow business leaders for their work with small businesses in the region.

Vaughn stated, “Any time other business leaders recognize your work and recommend you for an award, it is an honor.”

Franklin & Vaughn, LLC is a full service certified public accounting firm that works with small businesses in the Metro-East area.

Franklin & Vaughn, LLC initially started in 2010 with one office in Edwardsville. It has since opened an office in South County (St. Louis), and acquired another practice in Alton in the fall of 2015. The firm currently has thirteen staff members including six certified public accountants, two enrolled agents, and five other staff members.

Vaughn and his co-founder Nathan Franklin each have more than twenty years of experience advising and assisting small businesses. Their past experience includes serving as controller and chief financial officer for a private equity conglomerate of businesses, and holding various other controller/accounting positions with companies of various sizes. Franklin said, “It is great to see how our past experience advising small businesses is noted and appreciated by those we assist.”

In addition to his work with small businesses, Vaughn volunteers with the William M. Bedell Achievement and Resource Center, East Alton Rotary, and Bunker Hill Area Ambulance Service. He sees his volunteer involvement as a way to give back to the community that has given so much to him.

Go go franklinvaughncpa.com for more information.
Great BJC Doctors, right where you live.

Spine Surgeon at Christian Hospital

Dr. Ravindra Shitut has over 30 years of experience as a spine surgeon. He is board certified in spine surgery as well as orthopedic surgery and specializes in innovative minimally invasive spine surgeries and motion preservation techniques.

Dr. Shitut surgically treats many spinal conditions including:

- Degenerative disc disease
- Spinal stenosis
- Cervical/low back pain
- Cervical/lumbar herniated discs
- Sciatica
- Scoliosis
- Kyphosis
- Fractures, tumors and infections of the spinal column

CH Orthopedic and Spine Surgeons
(on the Christian Hospital campus)
11125 Dunn Road, Suite 301
St. Louis, MO 63136

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Shitut or to learn more about the conditions he treats, please call his office at 314-953-8250.
Gori Julian & Associates Donate $100,000 for Mannie Jackson Center for the Humanities Initiative

Gori Julian & Associates is committed to making the future a bit brighter for Madison County area youth. Joining an initiative started in February 2016, Gori Julian is donating $100,000 toward the “Conversation Toward a Brighter Future” endeavor. More than 200 middle school and high school students from 23 schools in Madison County, Illinois are participating in this discussion and action-based project.

“Conversation Toward a Brighter Future” is occurring as a solution to the negative discourse that is taking place across the country among national leaders. This program will rely on the future leaders of this nation, our youth, to begin the conversation toward ways we can make this country better in an increasingly polarized environment.

Randy Gori, founding partner at Gori Julian & Associates said, “We are happy to support this initiative that encourages our youth to ‘think outside of the box’ and consider how we must treat each other to exist and thrive as a society. The mission of the Mannie Jackson Center for the Humanities is important work so we encourage others to do what they can to keep conversations like this one ongoing.”

The Mannie Jackson Center for the Humanities (MJCHF), Lewis and Clark Community College and Madison County’s Regional Superintendent of Schools office have partnered to work with area schools in support of this mission. Participants are now working in school teams to identify and research issues and create a plan that yields positive results and measurable outcomes that can be replicated by other schools and communities. Additionally, local students have the opportunity to earn up to $5,000 to fund a two-year research project of their creation.

To learn more about this county-wide project, go to the Mannie Jackson Center for the Humanities website at mjchf.org/page/brighter-future-new
Todd Sivia Named Super Lawyers ‘Rising Star’ For Third Consecutive Year

Sivia Business & Legal Services, P.C. (SBLS) is pleased to announce Todd Sivia, managing partner of SBLS, was again named to the Super Lawyers list of 2017 Rising Stars. Super Lawyers, a highly respected rating service of outstanding legal professionals, releases a list of top up-and-coming attorneys in each state every year.

All peer-nominated candidates undergo the Super Lawyers patented selection process, which includes independent research and peer evaluations. Every candidate is evaluated on 12 indicators of peer recognition and professional achievement. In addition, Rising Star nominees must be under 40 years of age or in practice for fewer than 10 years. No more than the top 2.5% of lawyers in each state are named to the annual Rising Stars list.

“It is humbling to be chosen the past three years,” says Sivia. “I’m honored to be recognized by my peers and value this distinction. I hope this is a reflection of not just me but of all the attorneys at our firm and their commitment to providing innovative services and trusted solutions to our clients.”

SBLS and Todd Sivia celebrated their 10th anniversary in 2016. The firm has been dedicated to protecting what’s important to their clients for a decade. Sivia has incorporated new planning techniques and problem-solving solutions to help businesses achieve all aspects of their professional and planning goals.

St. Louis Small Business Monthly named SBLS one of the ‘Top 20 Businesses in St. Louis’ in 2014 and Todd Sivia was named to the Super Lawyers Rising Stars in Illinois list, in 2015, 2016, and now again in 2017. The firm holds memberships with the Macoupin County, Jersey County and Madison County Bar Associations as well as the Million Dollar Advocates Forum.

Todd Sivia is also committed to being an asset to the Metro-East community. He is a long-standing member of Edwardsville Rotary, the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce, the National Rifle Association and Scouting.
Illinois Chamber of Commerce: Senate Package Net-Negative For Business Community

This was published by the Illinois Chamber of Commerce in a January 2017 ‘Government Affairs Report’ email.

SENATE PACKAGE NET-NEGATIVE FOR THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY: The Illinois Chamber officially opposed the Senate’s “grand bargain package” of 13 bills designed to add clout to the state’s current budget impasse. The reasoning behind opposing the entire package is simple. Language in each bill ties them all together. In other words, each piece of legislation must become law in order for the entire package to become effective.

For example, a vote for Chicago Teach Pension Fund parity (SB 5) is a vote for a tax on jobs (SB 9). A vote for a property tax freeze (SB 13) is a vote for a minimum wage increase (SB 2). And so on. If the current package were to pass as is, it would no doubt result in a net-negative for the Illinois business community. While there are bills in the package that are welcoming such as reinstating the research and design credit, local government consolidation and procurement reform, there is too much give from the business community and not enough in return.

While the chamber is keeping an eye on each bill in the package, we have been heavily focused on two pieces in particular. SB 9 (tax omnibus bill) and SB 12 (workers’ compensation reform) are both opposed in their current form.

SB 9 received two identical amendments. Changes to SB 9 most notably include the removal of the unpopular penny per ounce soda tax, replaced by what is being called the “Illinois Opportunity Tax.” The only thing opportunity about the “opportunity tax” is the opportunity for businesses to hire outside state lines. Under Senate amendment no. 1 and 2 to SB 9, the franchise tax would be repealed and replaced with a tax on the amount of annual payroll employers pay.

The new tax would range anywhere from $250 a year for employers with under $100K in annual payroll to $15,000 for employers between $1.5M to $3.0M in annual payroll. The proposed tax is estimated to bring in $750M. However, the tax is regressive in nature relying heavily on small to medium sized businesses with annual payrolls of $250k to $1.5M - picking up more than half of the estimated $750M in new dollars.

The bill also decouples from the Domestic Activities Production Deduction (DPAD). Business activities such as manufacturing tangible personal property, software development, production of electricity, residential and commercial construction, communications facilities, farmers and agriculture cooperatives and various infrastructure are eligible for the deduction.

DPAD provides a deduction for companies that are producers. DPAD provides a deduction for companies that create good jobs that drive the development of the Illinois economy.

Decoupling from the federal Domestic Production Activities Deduction would make Illinois business less competitive in comparison to the many other states that allow the flow-through of the federal deduction.

The General Assembly is not scheduled to return until February 7. Until then the Chamber is continuing negotiations with leadership of all four caucuses.

ANOTHER WIN FOR THE CHAMBER AMICUS PROGRAM: Earlier this month the Illinois Supreme Court ruled in favor of Illinois Chamber of Commerce member firm Enterprise Leasing Company of Chicago, in Hertz Corporation and Enterprise Leasing Company of Chicago v. The City of Chicago.

The court ruled that the City of Chicago’s Administrative Ruling 11 violated the Home Rule article of the Illinois constitution because it has extraterritorial effect and is, therefore, an improper exercise of the City’s home rule powers. The Supreme Court’s ruling adopted the arguments made by the Illinois Chamber of Commerce in an amicus brief filed with the Supreme Court in this case on behalf of our member Enterprise Leasing.

At issue in the case was the validity of a City of Chicago Tax Ruling that required automobile leasing companies engaged in short term leases, with locations outside the City of Chicago within 3 miles of the city border, to charge and collect the City of Chicago Personal Property Lease Transaction Tax on rentals to Chicago residents at those suburban locations.

Enterprise challenged the validity of the City’s Administrative Ruling. The circuit court ruled in favor of Enterprise finding the Chicago Department of Revenue Ruling unconstitutional on its face. The City appealed and the appellate court reversed the circuit court. Enterprise appealed to the Supreme Court.

The Chamber worked with outside counsel from Chamber member firm Baker & McKenzie on a motion for leave to file an amicus brief in support of Chamber member Enterprise Leasing Company in Enterprise Leasing Company v. City of Chicago. The Supreme Court granted our motion and accepted our amicus brief.

Oral arguments were held before the Illinois Supreme Court on September 20. The court ruled in favor of Enterprise and Hertz on January 20. The Chamber is gratified that the Illinois Supreme Court adopted the reasoning of the Chamber’s amicus brief that the City violated the Home Rule article of the Illinois constitution. Keith Staats, executive director of the Chamber’s Tax Institute lead the way in constructing the amicus brief.

Todd Maisch, President & CEO
Illinois Chamber of Commerce
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