

# T·B·A

## TOPEKA BAR ASSOCIATION

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**Lawyers' Assistance Committee**

If you or someone in your office feels a need to discuss a problem involving alcohol, substance abuse or depression, or with life in general, please call a member of the TBA Lawyers' Assistance Committee. Confidentiality assured.

Jeb Benfer, Chair.....233-2323  
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◆ **TBA BRIEFINGS** ◆

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# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

BY JIM RANKIN



Jim Rankin

This is my final message to the Topeka Bar, at least in the capacity of President. I leave office this month and turn over the presidency to the capable Laura Graham. Serving as the President of the Topeka Bar has been one of the great honors of my life.

Hopefully, some of you have found my monthly columns of interest. My intention was that each column would be entitled "Defining Liberty," but that plan failed. Nevertheless, the title was meant to encourage reflection on the meaning of the term liberty, as it is used in philosophy, constitutional law, and politics. And, more importantly, how the definition of liberty is impacted by events that have become the history of the United States. Perhaps the same may be said for the phrase "rule of law." The important thing is that our history, since the English colonization of America, has been framed by the ideal of liberty and the rule of law.

Those ideals and the words of our Constitution will inform the Justices of our Supreme Court, both national and state, regardless of who is elected President this November and regardless of who sits on the bench. Therefore, even though the rough and tumble of our democracy is hard to watch, Americans can continue to expect their government,

reasonably responsive to the will of majorities, except in cases protected by the Bill of Rights, will, borrowing Abraham Lincoln's phrase of November 19, 1863, "long endure."

With great affection for all of you, I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Topeka Bar Association President.

*Correction from previous column: Dick Posner is not retired from the Seventh Circuit.*

## April 2016 Docket

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Date	Event	Description	Location	Time
1	TRIAL ADVOCACY CLE	7 hour CLE, including 1 hour of Ethics	Topeka Tower - 3rd Floor (Forum Room)	9 A.M.
4	BENCH & BAR COMMITTEE MEETING	Committee works for the improvement of the legal and judicial systems through cooperation with the judiciary.	Shawnee County Courthouse - 4th Floor Conference Room	12:00 PM
5	BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING	Monthly Board meeting	Topeka Public Library - Perkins Room	12:00 PM
12	YLD MONTHLY LUNCHEON	RSVP to Sarah Morse <a href="mailto:smorse@gseplaw.com">smorse@gseplaw.com</a>	Kansas Bar Association	12:00 PM
14	FAMILY LAW COMMITTEE MEETING	Committee works to address family practice issues that impact practicing lawyers, their clients, the judiciary, and the public.	Kansas Bar Association	12:00 PM
21	TBA ANNUAL MEETING	<a href="http://topekabar.com/events/events-pay-online/annual-meeting-detail">Click here for more information - http://topekabar.com/events/events-pay-online/annual-meeting-detail</a>	Sixth Avenue Ballroom - 117 SW 6th Avenue	5:30 PM

## We've Got a New Look!

In an effort to stay current and make online reading easier, we've updated the appearance of the TBA Briefings. Be sure to take advantage of the new live link features which will allow you to easily get to where you need to go. We appreciate your patience as we work out the kinks in our new format and, as always, we welcome your feedback. Email us at [TopekaBar@sbcglobal.net](mailto:TopekaBar@sbcglobal.net) or [smorse@gseplaw.com](mailto:smorse@gseplaw.com)