

PRESS RELEASE

ROBERT J. BLACKWELL IS THE 2004 RECIPIENT OF THE MICHAEL R. ROSER EXCELLENCE IN BANKRUPTCY AWARD

Robert J. Blackwell, the principal of Blackwell & Associates, P.C. in O'Fallon, Missouri, has been awarded the 2004 Michael R. Roser Excellence in Bankruptcy Award. Mr. Blackwell serves as the Chairman of the Commercial Law Committee of the Missouri Bar. In the past year, he led the successful effort to make the first significant changes to Missouri law in twenty-two years in the area of exemptions for individuals filing bankruptcy. Mr. Blackwell has more than thirty years experience in the law, including business and bankruptcy law, representing individuals and businesses in Chapter 7, Chapter 11 and Chapter 13 bankruptcies, as well as commercial transactions and real estate matters. Mr. Blackwell has served on the panel of Chapter 7 trustees for the Eastern District of Missouri since 1979. He is a member of the Board of the O'Fallon Chamber of Commerce, serving as the Chairman of the Education Committee and is the President of the St. Charles County Bar Association.

Each year since 1994, the Commercial Law Committee of the Missouri Bar gives the Roser Award honoring an attorney who manifests the highest standards of excellence in bankruptcy practice, who contributes distinctively to the development and appreciation of bankruptcy law and who has made an outstanding contribution in the field of bankruptcy administration or practice. The award honors the recipient but also honors the memory of a respected colleague, Mike Roser, a former partner with Lathrop & Gage, L.C.

Nominations are received each year from attorneys throughout the state. Previous recipients of the award are: Paul E. Berman, David A. Lander, Joel Pelofsky, Timothy J. Mullin, Honorable Jerry A. Venters, Paul H. Berens, Mark A. Shaiken, Francis X. Buckley, Jr., Cynthia F. Grimes, and Mendel Small.

The Award will be presented to Mr. Blackwell at the Missouri Bar Annual Meeting on Wednesday, September 29, 2004 at 5:30 P.M. in the Pershing Lindell Room at the Renaissance Grand Hotel in St. Louis. In addition, Mr. Blackwell will be honored in a special presentation at the Annual Midwest Bankruptcy Institute on October 1, 2004 in Kansas City.