

Athena M. Dickson

Missouri Bar names Athena Dickson as 2025-26 president

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- Athena Dickson sworn in as 2025-26 Missouri Bar president
- Dickson said focus as president will be on education, lawyer well-being
- Other officers include Jennifer Matthew Crompton and Scott Robbins
- Missouri Bar honored judges, attorneys and legislators at meeting

Athena Dickson, a partner at Siro Smith Dickson in Kansas City, was elected 2025-2026 president of The Missouri Bar during the board's Sept. 17 meeting. She was sworn in Sept. 18 at the Bar's Annual Meeting in Branson, with Judge S. Margene Burnett delivering the oath.

Dickson succeeds former Bar President Shelly Dreyer. During her term, Dickson said she plans to focus on public education about the courts, lawyer well-being and promoting bar member benefits.

“I plan to educate across the state during my time as president. And I hope you’ll join me to empower informed citizenship,” Dickson said after her swearing in, per the Bar. “As a unified bar, our strength lies in continued commitment to our charge. Let’s keep showing up for the profession, for each other, and for the citizens we serve.”

Dickson has previously served as chair of the Standing Committee of Well-being in the Profession, as well as co-chair of the Appointments Committee for the Bar. She earned her law degree from the University of Missouri – Kansas City.

Other officers include Jennifer Matthew Crompton as president-elect and Scott Robbins of as vice president. Crompton is chief operating officer at Crompton Pancoast in St. Louis; Robbins is a partner at Kennedy Robbins Yarbro & Henson in Poplar Bluff.

The Bar meeting coincided with the Judicial Conference of Missouri, with Missouri Supreme Court Chief Justice W. Brent Powell presenting awards to honor judges for their service to the state’s judiciary.

Honorees included Judge Anthony Rex Gabbert of the Missouri Court of Appeals, Western District; Judge Jerry Harmison of Greene County; Judge Susan Long of Jackson County; and Commissioner William Gust of St. Louis County. Powell also recognized Stephanie White Thorn, director of special projects for the court, as well as Judge Matthew Hamner of the Southern District Court of Appeals and Judge Mondonna Ghasedi of St. Louis County. William J. Bay, who just finished his first term as president of the American Bar Association, and Sherrill Rosen, a retired family court commissioner in Jackson County, were recipients of the Chief Justice Special Awards.

Powell said the honorees “serve the judiciary with diligence and integrity” and “have made – and continue to make – significant contributions to the Missouri judiciary and the people of this state.”

Dreyer was presented with the Maurice B. Graham Award.

“(Dreyer’s) obvious love for our profession and service to others is readily apparent,” Powell said. “(She) encouraged us to help each other through civility, to build confidence in ourselves and our peers, to promote a healthier legal profession, to strengthen our legal institutions and public trust in them, and to use our unique positions to solve problems and foster unity.”

The Bar gave its Theodore McMillian Judicial Excellence Award to Judges Lisa Van Amburg, Cotton Walker and the late Tracey Mason-White. Nine legislators were also honored for contributions.