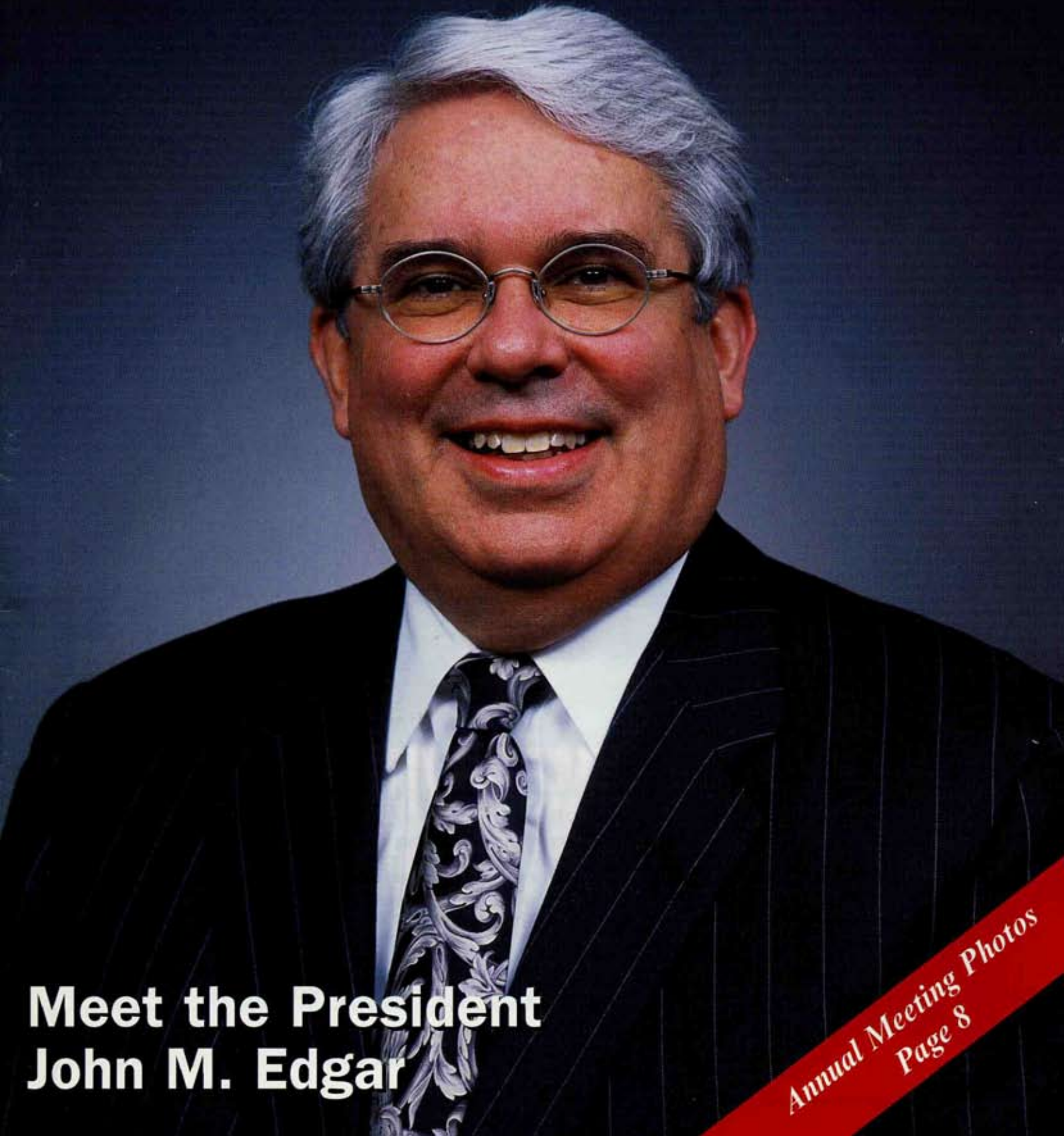


JANUARY 2002

The KC Counselor

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**Meet the President
John M. Edgar**

*Annual Meeting Photos
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meet the
new
president...



John M. Edgar

Building A Better Bar

John M. Edgar has watched the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association grow into one of the largest professional organizations in the area over the last 30 years. Now, newly installed as KCMBA President for 2002, Edgar plans to make the Bar even better.

"My top goal is to enhance the membership of this organization," Edgar said after assuming his new duties at the KCMBA's 117th Annual Meeting on Dec. 7. "We're the third-largest professional organization in Kansas City, and we want to have an even greater impact. "This is a tremendous opportunity to serve as President of the KCMBA. I look forward to working with the membership, with the Board of Directors, and with Rae Jean McCall and her staff.

"It is more than just membership numbers," Edgar continued. "The KCMBA does so many great things in the community. In 2002, we want to continue with programs, such as the Summer Law Internship Program and the Ask-A-Lawyer Telethon.

"We want to continue to expand our membership base, both geographically in outlying counties in Missouri and in Wyandotte and Johnson counties in Kansas, and also in terms of practice diversity.

"The result will be to enhance the stature of the Bar in the community, in the profession and among our members. We hope to convey the benefits of membership to *all* lawyers, and we hope that more members will become more active."

McCall, Executive Director of the KCMBA, says Edgar's experience working with other organizations will serve the KCMBA well.

"John has had a lot of success helping a number of groups advance their agendas," McCall says. "He sets goals, helps others perceive the value of the objectives and gathers the support he needs to achieve those goals. We just wrapped up a great year with Steve Millin as President, and I'm looking forward to working

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Meet the KCMBA Staff

Debbie Skaggs, Public Service Projects Coordinator

The Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association and the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Foundation sponsor, produce and participate in a wide variety of public service projects each year. Debbie Skaggs, who joined the KCMBA in March 2000, is the staff member who coordinates each of those projects.

They include the annual LEAP Mardi Gras luncheon, the Silent Auction at the Bench-Bar Conference, the Summer Law Internship Program, the Domestic Violence Conference, the annual Blood Drive, National Health Care Decisions Week, the Voice of Justice program and the Fellows of the Nailling Society (just to mention a few).

Debbie, who worked as a legal secretary for 11 years before joining the Bar, offers a unique perspective when asked to name what she enjoys most about working for the Bar: "I still get to deal with all the judges and attorneys, with no dictation involved!" she says.

Debbie and her husband, Jim, have been married for 16 years and have three children, David, Steven and Michael. When she's not coordinating public service projects, Debbie says, she gets her greatest enjoyment spending as much time as possible with her children going to the movies, swimming and bowling. And she loves watching football, especially the Chiefs!





John M. Edgar poses with his sons/colleagues, David W. Edgar (left) and John F. Edgar. All three work for the law firm of Humphrey, Farrington, McClain & Edgar, P.C.

with John to make 2002 even better.”

A civic leader in our community, Edgar is very familiar with associations, boards and their workings.

“I’ve come to know the KCMBA and the profession very well,” he said. “The best practices of other civic groups in

which I have had involvement will guide us in making this Bar even better.”

Edgar has been active in civic activities for a number of years. He is beginning his third year as Chairman of the Economic Development Corpo-

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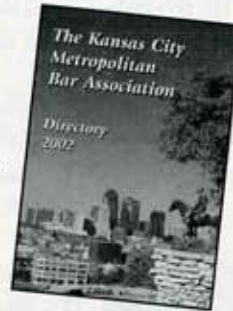
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meet the new president...

Building a Better Bar

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John M. Edgar and family.

ration. He also serves on the boards of directors of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, the Kansas City Area Development Council, and the Heart of America Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

He recently completed service as the founding Co-Chairman of the Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute and as a member of the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City.

"These responsibilities are very rewarding. I enjoy putting something back into the community that has been so good to me and to my family," Edgar responded when asked about demands on his time. "With assistance from my staff and the KCMBA staff, we can achieve a great deal."

Edgar joined the law firm of Humphrey, Farrington, McClain & Edgar, P.C., in March 2001 as a shareholder. The firm is based in Independence and recently opened a second office in Kansas City, Mo., on the Country Club Plaza.

***"I enjoy putting something back
into the community that has been
so good to me and to my family."***

"I had worked with Ken McClain at Stinson Mag from 1982 to 1985. We had a deep professional respect for each other," Edgar said. "It also provided me with an opportunity to work with both of my sons," David Edgar and John F. Edgar.

The younger Edgars were schooled early in the profession of law, Edgar said.

"My wife, Mary, took them to my closing arguments as they were growing up," Edgar says. "Eventually they would

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Meet the New President...

(continued from page 4)

attend entire trials. We all work together on the same cases today."

Some people thought that John F. Edgar's time at the firm might be cut short as a result of his impersonation of his father at the 2001 Bench-Bar Conference, but his father took it all in stride.

"I think that was probably the funniest experience I have had," Edgar recalled, laughing.

Edgar has been a member of the KCMBA since shortly after his graduation from the UMKC School of Law in 1968.

"I've always enjoyed the camaraderie of the Bar, the mentoring done by experienced lawyers, and the networking," said Edgar. "Networking may well be the greatest strength of the Bar. Members have almost unlimited networking opportunities including mentoring, client referrals, employment opportunities and social opportunities.

"Enhancing the Bar may require new programs and new

approaches, but we are willing to adapt to achieve our goals," he said. "The high degree of involvement by members of the Young Lawyers Section may help to guide us in our efforts.

"The YLS is the shining star of our organization," Edgar said. "It has tremendous strength in numbers, in participation and in community service work.

"Our future is in good hands."



John M. Edgar addresses members Dec. 7 at the 117th KCMBA Annual Meeting.

Cum Grano Salis (continued from page 21)

And why is that?

Judge Brown is being held in detention right now.

He's in what?!

Detention.

You put a judge in detention? Why?

It was the gavel, sir. He tried to bring one through security.

A gavel? That's not a weapon!

No? If I recall, sir, when he declared a mistrial against you last year and banged that gavel, it hurt, didn't it? And, in the wrong hands, it could be used to commandeer the courthouse.

This is getting entirely out of hand. Cell phones? Pens? Gavel? What's next? My shoelaces? After all, I could use them to choke the heck out of somebody in the elevator. Why not remove my fingernails? I could scratch somebody's eyes out. Oh, let's not forget the elastic around my boxers. I could go into the men's room and fashion that into a pretty mean slingshot, take a bailiff or two prisoner and hold out until we get better vending machines. Holy cow, Earl, I mean, I can understand the need for security, but not Fascism. You don't happen to have a picture of Generalissimo Franco or Mussolini in your wallet, do you?

I'm afraid I'm going to have to ask you to come with me, sir.

Come with you? Where?

To detention, sir.

For what? What did I do now that's so dangerous?

Trying to overpower security with a sharp tongue and biting sarcasm. And, if you want to make your one phone call, you'll have to use the pay phone.

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