



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR
RECOGNIZED BY MISSOURI BAR FOR TRIAL ADVOCACY

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that today the Missouri Bar Foundation recognized First Assistant Prosecutor Phil Fuhrman with the Lon O. Hocker Award for Trial Advocacy. Prosecutor Patterson said, “this honor is very well deserved, Phil is an outstanding prosecutor and trial lawyer dedicated to the pursuit of justice. Phil has tried forty-five jury trials and as the leader of the Major Crimes Unit Phil handles many of the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office’s most challenging and serious cases.”

Previous Greene County Prosecutor’s Office Lon O. Hocker Awardees include former 1st Assistant Prosecutor Nathan Chapman (2020), former Chief Assistant Stephanie Wan (2019), and former First Assistant Russell Dempsey (2013).

Each year, this award is given to three young lawyer members of The Missouri Bar, who are under the age of 40 on September 30 of the year the award is to be presented, from the three areas of St. Louis, Kansas City, and all other remaining counties. The recipients are lawyers who exemplify the qualities of a trial lawyer, including professionalism and high ethical conduct. The recipients are chosen based on their demonstrated balance between zealotness and honor, strength and courtesy, and confidence and respect. They must possess a quick wit in the courtroom that is supported by meticulous preparation in the pursuit of truth.

The award is named for Lon O. Hocker, who practiced in St. Louis for more than 50 years. Born in November of 1873, he became one of the leading trial lawyers in Missouri. In a letter to the Foundation, his wife Mary wrote that Mr. Hocker believed trial

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lawyers can and should fearlessly uphold justice by searching for truth and fighting for fairness for all. “He left no stone unturned in preparing his cases, and when he stood before the bar he spoke from conviction,” Mary wrote of her husband’s notable work.

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