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### 'Move Over' or Else...

Recent enforcement of Missouri's 'move over' law has caught some drivers by surprise. In 2002, a bill aimed at protecting emergency service workers passed, however, many Missouri motorists are still unaware of its existence.

In summary, the law provides that upon approaching a stationary emergency vehicle displaying red or blue lights, the driver of every motor vehicle shall:

(1) Proceed with caution and yield the right-of-way, if possible with due regard to safety and traffic conditions, *by making a lane change* into a lane not adjacent to that of the stationary vehicle, if on a roadway with at least two lanes proceeding in the same direction;

(2) *Proceed with due caution and reduce the speed of the vehicle*, maintaining a safe speed for road conditions, if changing lanes would be unsafe or impossible.

According to the Missouri Highway Patrol, seven members have been killed and several others seriously injured because motorists struck them during traffic stops or while they were investigating traffic crashes. Being aware of and following this law will not only help protect emergency workers but also protect you from annoying traffic citations.



### HEARD IT AT THE COURTHOUSE

While Governor Blunt touted tort reform in 2005 as a way of reducing lawsuits in Missouri, instead, the opposite occurred. Instead of fewer lawsuits, a rash of cases were filed last August, burdening Circuit Clerk's offices and overwhelming dockets around the state.



A Texas man thought he didn't need a lawyer in the defense of a traffic ticket he received in Franklin County-- so he decided to represent himself. The Assistant Prosecuting Attorney took the case to trial and won. The jury recommended and the Judge sentenced the man to six months in jail. This case serves as a reminder to why individuals need legal counsel and should not attempt to go to court alone.



### Recent High School Grads & the Law

They may act like they know all the answers, but young adults have a lot to learn about being independent. That's why the Young Lawyers Section of the Missouri Bar created *Stepping Out*, a 29-page booklet aimed at young people who are learning about being independent.

*Stepping Out* explains rights and responsibilities in an easy-to-read question and answer format. Any 17- or 18-year-old, as well as their parents, will find the booklet's information practical and worth reading. It covers civic duties, such as voting and serving on a jury, as well as drinking laws and Missouri's 'abuse and lose' penalties.

For young adults working full or part-time in their first jobs, the section on employment offers valuable insight about their employers' rights. It's better to read *Stepping Out* and learn you can be fired for no reason, than to have the illusion that you have a right to work for a certain employer. Understanding the law can turn attitudes around.

*Stepping Out* isn't a stern lecture about what will happen if you break the law but rather a non-judgmental guidebook to help young adults who are developing their own judgments understand the consequences of their decisions.

Free copies of *Stepping Out* can be ordered through the Missouri Bar at (573) 635-4128 or [brochures@mobar.org](mailto:brochures@mobar.org). The booklet can also be downloaded from the bar's website at [www.mobar.org](http://www.mobar.org). School teachers, youth leaders or church leaders are welcome to order enough for their classes.

In Franklin County, plans for a new courthouse move forward. Presiding Circuit Judge Gael Wood continues to meet with architects over design and budget issues. Franklin County is long overdue for a new judicial center which will remain downtown in the City of Union.



The Missouri Bar recently started an ad campaign educating Missourians' about the courts and laws, in response to special interest groups that attacked Judges during recent elections on isolated decisions often taken out of context. TV and radio ads are addressing Missouri's fair and impartial public defender system and non-partisan court plan.

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