

MATA announces the establishment of the

## *THOMAS G. STRONG TRIAL ATTORNEY AWARD*

To celebrate the distinguished career of MATA stalwart Thomas G. Strong and to recognize and encourage excellence in trial advocacy and professional integrity among its members, MATA is proud to announce the establishment of the

### *THOMAS G. STRONG TRIAL ATTORNEY AWARD*

#### *ELIGIBILITY*

Any MATA member actively engaged in trial practice.

While there is no set age limitation, emphasis will be given to those trial attorneys who have been members of the Missouri Bar for less than thirty years.

#### *CRITERIA FOR NOMINEES*

The trial lawyer who, in the preceding year and throughout his/her career as a trial lawyer, has exemplified and put into practice the philosophy of the Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys, and has best exemplified the noble abilities and character of Thomas G. Strong.

#### Nominees will be judged according to:

1. Trial advocacy abilities and skills as demonstrated in the courtroom considering the nature and circumstances of the case(s) tried. This criteria is not necessarily result-oriented, that is, best advocacy skills may be demonstrated in handling a difficult case with great skill and passion for the injured individual. Indeed, even a loss in an extremely novel or difficult case may be considered when excellent advocacy for the victim was displayed.
2. Number of cases the nominee has tried during the course of the preceding year and throughout his/her career shall be considered when deciding upon the award. While sheer number of trials alone is not a prerequisite for the award, the attorney who has been in the courtroom as a practicing trial lawyer with some frequency should be given more consideration than someone who has not. The length and complexity of cases handled and tried should also be given consideration.
3. The committee should also give great weight to the reputation enjoyed by the nominee for professionalism, ethics, character, integrity and courage.

#### *SELECTION PROCESS*

A selection committee will be comprised of three members of the MATA Executive Committee, three members of the MATA Board of Governors, and three members of MATA's membership at large. No attorney from The Strong Law Firm shall be eligible for the first three years of the Award; no officer of MATA shall be eligible for the Award the first three years after he/she leaves office; no member of the selection committee or their law firm shall be eligible to receive the award.

Nominations of individuals should be submitted in letter form directed to the Executive Director of MATA. The detailed letter should outline the nominees' qualifications as per the eligibility and criteria set out above. Nominations should be received by the MATA office from August 31, 2006 through February 28, 2007.