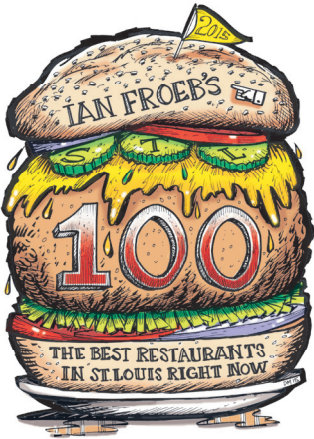




SUNDAY POST-DISPATCH

UP TO
\$217
OF COUPONS
INSIDE

SUNDAY • 03.15.2015 • \$2.50 • FINAL EDITION



The top
100
restaurants
in St. Louis

Our critic picks the 100 greatest places to eat in **Ian Froeb's STL 100**, a special issue of GO! Magazine.

SPECIAL SECTION • K1

Browse restaurants and sort them by cuisine and price range.
STLTODAY.COM/STL100

Consultant linked to ad against Schweich

PAC was a front for political operative managing Hanaway's run for governor



Roe
Firm claims 81 percent victory rate



Hanaway
Denies involvement in political ad

BY VIRGINIA YOUNG
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

JEFFERSON CITY • When bars, bowling alleys and other businesses in St. Joseph, Mo., mobilized to fight a smoking ban on last April's ballot, they formed a political action committee and gave it a wholesome-sounding name: Citizens for Fairness in Missouri.

The businesses argued that the anti-smoking proposal was unfair because it affected their establishments but not the local casino. Still, the ordinance passed. So the committee went dormant, its treasury dwindling to \$2,062 as of Dec. 31.

Then last month, the committee resurfaced. Citizens for Fairness sponsored a radio ad that aired across the state. The ad belittled Missouri Auditor Tom Schweich's appearance,

See ADS • Page A8

Sheltered from scrutiny, the municipal courts are a system run by municipalities and lawyers that enriches municipalities and lawyers.

FAVORS, FINES GREASE WHEELS

WEALTHY? WELL-CONNECTED? NO PROBLEM.



FROM: Judge Wes Dalton



TO: Prosecutor Keith Cheung

Can we make this one go away??? By the way, we're hooked up for golf at Porto Cima at the Conference!!!

CAN'T AFFORD A LAWYER? GET IN LINE.



LAURIE SKRIVAN • lskrivan@post-dispatch.com

People wait this month for the doors to open for the municipal courts at Dellwood City Hall.

MUNICIPAL COURTS WORK IN SECRET, TRY HARD TO KEEP IT THAT WAY

BY JENNIFER S. MANN AND STEPHEN DEERE
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS • Some of the best deals that are made in the region's municipal courts never see the light of day. When prosecutors dismiss a citation it is often done at a whisper, in a side room, or out of court altogether. Then the record is sealed under a state law that is ostensibly to protect the falsely accused but in reality often hides favors.

It's just one example of how the region's municipal courts operate in secret, keeping uneven treatment private and using laws and court rules to justify it.

See SECRECY • Page A12

BY JEREMY KOHLER, JENNIFER S. MANN AND STEPHEN DEERE
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

The email in Keith Cheung's inbox was from a judge asking for a favor. The subject line: "Help!!!"

The sender was Wes Dalton, then an associate circuit court judge in Warren County. It was about a case in Frontenac Municipal Court, where Cheung was prosecuting attorney. The defendant was Dana Baker, 18, one of three teens who had been written summonses for illegal possession of alcohol.

Dalton's email said that the 18-year-old was the daughter of "our connection" to Porto Cima, a private golf club at the Lake of the Ozarks, the resort area where the annual Missouri Bar Association conference is held.

"Her Dad is Wayne Baker (owner of Warrenton Oil and a ----load of other stuff)," Dalton wrote. "Can we make this one go away??? By the way, we're hooked up for golf at Porto Cima at the Conference!!! (is no cost okay???)!!!"

See COURTS • Page A10

Tracking the money and the dismissals in municipal courts. **INSIDE, A11**

TODAY
68°/46°
MOSTLY SUNNY

TOMORROW
76°/45°
PARTLY CLOUDY

WEATHER
A23

Wining and dining

POST-DISPATCH WEATHERBIRD®

A 'winning' player

Cards CF Jon Jay ignores naysayers

SPORTS • C10

Parenting myth-making exposed • **H1**

How long will bull market last? • **E1**

St. Pat's Parade kicks off spring • **B1**

Spelling bee champion repeats • **A3**

EARN Reader Rewards

ACTIVATE
YOUR DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION
VISIT WWW.STLTODAY.COM

CONNECT the LOCAL

2 M

0 09189 27100 3

Vol. 137, No. 73 ©2015

Kinky Boots

WINNER!
BEST MUSICAL
2013 TONY AWARD

FABULOUS FOX THEATRE • MARCH 24 - APRIL 5 • 314-534-1111 or MetroTix.com