



TINKER AT THE SCHOOL HOUSE GATE

Forty Years After *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District*
with special guests John Tinker and Dan Johnston

Tuesday, November 10, 2009
E.E. "Tom" Thompson Courtroom
UMKC School of Law
500 East 52nd Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64110-2499

Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District involved five students who were suspended for breaking a school policy that forbade the wearing of black armbands in protest of the Vietnam War. School officials feared the armbands would cause a disruption. Other students had ridiculed and warned the protestors to stop their protest, and an older football player warned other students to leave the protestors alone. Still, no violence ensued as a result of the armbands.

The plaintiffs argued that the wearing of armbands was the equivalent of speech and was protected by the First and Fourteenth Amendments, and that banning the black armbands was capricious, arbitrary and unreasonable because it singled out one form of expression rather than prohibiting the wearing of all controversial items.

The Supreme Court ruled in favor of the students, 7-2. In the landmark decision, the Court articulated the bedrock principle underlying student's rights: Neither students nor teachers "*shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate*"

- 12:30 p.m. Registration
- 1-1:50 p.m. ***Tinker over the Years: How the Courts Have Treated Tinker***
Prof. Allen Rostron, UMKC School of Law
- 1:50-2:40 p.m. **Mean Speech: Addressing Hate Speech, Cyberbullying, Harassment, and Other Forms of Hurtful Expression in Schools**
Steven M. Brown, PhD, Professor of Educational Leadership and School Law,
Northeastern Illinois University
Prof. Daniel B. Weddle, UMKC School of Law
- 2:40-2:55 p.m. Break
- 2:55-3:45 p.m. **Keeping the Gate Open: Representing Plaintiffs in School Speech Cases**
Doug Bonney, American Civil Liberties Union
- 3:45-4:35 p.m. **Getting It Right: Practical Tips for Handling Speech Issues in the School Setting**
Curtis Tideman, Lathrop & Gage, LLP
- 4:35-6 p.m. Dinner break (on your own)
- 6-7 p.m. **The Real Story: An Evening with the Plaintiff, John Tinker, and His Attorney, Dan Johnston**
- 7-7:30 p.m. Reception

Continuing education credit available. For more info, visit www.law.umkc.edu/cle/law.htm

REGISTRATION FORM:

- Lawyers CLE credit fee \$95 (5.0 hours Missouri; Kansas pending)**
- Educators.** *Free, but registration required (contact kirbyv@umkc.edu). CEUs are available for a nominal fee.*

Fill in the following form and mail with check payable to **University of Missouri** to the UMKC School of Law Continuing Legal Education Office, 5100 Rockhill Road, Kansas City, MO 64110-2499.

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ registrations for the *Tinker at the School House Gate* Symposium, Tuesday, November 10, 2009, at UMKC School of Law, Kansas City, Missouri 64110.

Name _____

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Fax Credit Card registrations to (816) 235-5414: VISA MC Discover

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Register on-line at <http://www.law.umkc.edu/cle/law.htm>.

Directions and parking instructions, visit the following web site <http://www.law.umkc.edu/map.htm>.

For more information, contact UMKC Law School continuing legal education at (816) 235-1648 or visit our web site at <http://www.law.umkc.edu/cle/law.htm>.