

Jeff Smith 4th Senate District

JEFFERSON CITY

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For Immediate Release: Sept. 30, 2008

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Senator Jeff Smith Receives Legislative Award from Missouri Bar

Jefferson City — Senator Jeff Smith, D-St. Louis, recently received the Missouri Bar's 2008 Legislative Award for his service to the state. The Missouri Bar's annual meeting awards dinner was held on Friday, Sept. 19, in Kansas City.

The Missouri Bar, a statewide organization for Missouri attorneys created by the Supreme Court of Missouri in 1944, develops policies and programs that improve the state's legal profession.

"Senator Jeff Smith's sensitivity to concerns of the Missouri Bar Executive Committee about protecting due process rights in landlord/tenant proceedings, as impacted by <u>Senate Bill 781</u> proposed last session, deserved recognition and was one reason he was chosen by Bar President Charlie Harris to receive a legislative award," said Catherine Barrie, Senior Legislative Council for the Missouri Bar.

<u>Senate Bill 781</u> proposed exempting property owners from liability for losses or damages while removing a tenant's household goods, furnishings, fixtures or any other personal property in order to clear out rental property following a legally-ordered eviction. The measure garnered support in both the Senate and House and will be re-filed for consideration during the next legislative session.

Each year, the Missouri Bar recognizes at its annual meeting individuals who have helped improve the judiciary or the profession of law. Awards are presented to legislators who have played a key role in supporting legislation of interest to the state bar or who have taken the lead in sponsoring bar-drafted legislation within the General Assembly.

"I am honored to receive this award and recognition from the Missouri Bar," Sen. Smith said. "And I will remain dedicated to supporting legislation that advances justice for all in our state."

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