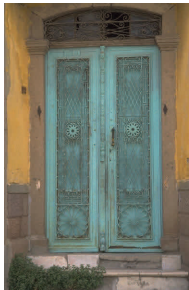


## Mound City Bar Association

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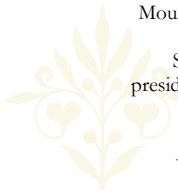
The Mound City Bar Association is one of the oldest black bar associations west of the Mississippi River. Our objectives are to advance the professional interest of our members; to improve the administration of justice; to uphold the honor of the legal profession; to promote the professional development of our members; and to provide services to the community.



[www.moundcitybar.com](http://www.moundcitybar.com)

Mound City Bar Association  
P.O. Box 1543  
St. Louis MO 63188  
[president@moundcitybar.com](mailto:president@moundcitybar.com)

ATTORNEYS  
EMPOWERING  
THE COMMUNITY



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# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS





**YOUR RIGHTS ARE GUARANTEED UNDER THE FIRST AND FOURTH AMENDMENT.**

THE FIRST AMENDMENT OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION PROTECTS THE FREEDOM OF RELIGION & FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION FROM GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE. FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION CONSIST OF THE RIGHTS TO SPEECH, PRESS, AND ASSEMBLY.

THE RIGHT TO ASSEMBLE ALLOWS PEOPLE TO GATHER FOR PEACEFUL AND LAWFUL PURPOSES. THE GOVERNMENT MAY PROHIBIT PEOPLE FROM KNOWINGLY ASSOCIATING IN GROUPS THAT ENGAGE AND PROMOTE ILLEGAL ACTIVITY.

UNDER MISSOURI LAW A PERSON COMMITS A CRIME OF UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLY IF HE KNOWINGLY ASSEMBLES WITH SIX OR MORE PERSONS AND VIOLATES ANY CRIMINAL LAWS OF THE STATE OR UNITED STATES WITH FORCE OR VIOLENCE. (RSMO. §574.040)

THE FIRST AMENDMENT PROTECTS MANY FORMS OF EXPRESSION, INCLUDING PARTICIPATING IN A DEMONSTRATION, SUCH AS A CIVIL PROTEST. IT ALSO PROTECTS "SYMBOLIC SPEECH," SUCH AS WEARING A GRAPHIC T-SHIRT OR CARRYING A SIGN.

## KNOW YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST

**ARE THERE LIMITS ON WHAT I CAN SAY?** *The First amendment doesn't protect statements used to create violence or incite illegal action.* **YES**

**ARE THERE LIMITS ON WHERE I CAN ASSEMBLE?** *Public areas, Private areas with the permission of the owner. If you plan to block a street, you need a permit.* **YES**

**CAN I MAKE A FALSE OR MISLEADING STATEMENT?** *You don't have a right to tell lies that damage or defame the reputation of a person or organization.* **NO**

**MAY I USE OBSCENITY?** *You don't have a right to use language that would be viewed as offensive to the average person.* **NO**

**MAY I STOP OR IMPEDE TRAFFIC?** *You do not have a right to demonstrate or protest in an area that impedes the flow of traffic.* **NO**

**AM I ALLOWED TO MAKE EXCESSIVE NOISE?** *You do not have a right to communicate in a manner that creates excessive noise levels at certain times and at certain places.* **NO**

**DO I ALWAYS NEED A PERMIT TO MARCH?** *If marchers stay on the sidewalk, obey traffic and leave room for pedestrians they do not require a permit.* **NO**

**MAY I PASS OUT LEAFLETS?** *You may approach people with leaflets as long as you don't block doorways.* **YES**

## IF STOPPED BY THE POLICE

**STAY CALM, DON'T RUN, DON'T ARGUE, DON'T RESIST. KEEP YOUR HANDS WHERE THEY CAN BE SEEN.** *Even if you are innocent.*

**ASK IF YOU ARE FREE TO LEAVE. IF YES, CALMLY WALK AWAY. IF YOU ARE UNDER ARREST. You have a right to remain silent.** *You have the right to ask why.*

**DO I HAVE TO IDENTIFY MYSELF?** *In MO, if the Police have a reasonable suspicion to believe you're involved in a crime, you must identify yourself. If you are free to go, you don't have to ID yourself.* **MAYBE** *Ask if you are free to go.*

**DO I HAVE TO CONSENT TO A SEARCH?** *You don't have to consent to a search of yourself or your stuff. Police may pat you down if they suspect you have a weapon. You have a right to refuse further searching.* **NO**

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