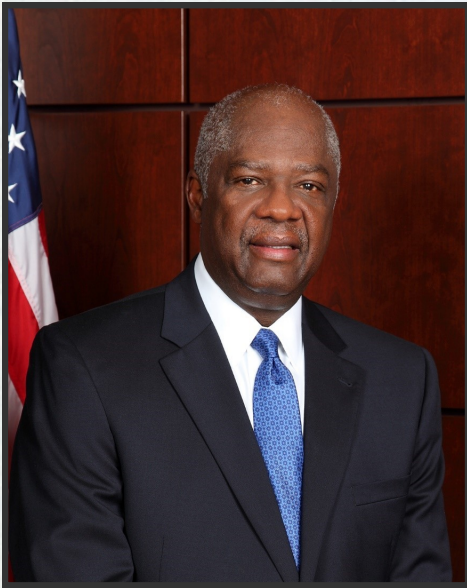




U.S. District Court Eastern District of Missouri



RETIREMENT OF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE RONNIE L. WHITE

United States District Judge Ronnie L. White will retire from the federal bench on July 31, 2024. He has held this position since his nomination by President Barack Obama in January of 2014 and confirmation by the U.S. Senate in July of that year.

Judge White earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Louis University and graduated from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law. His legal career

includes an internship with Jackson County Prosecutor’s Office, trial attorney for the Public Defenders’ Office in the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County, and private practice. He served three terms in the Missouri House of Representatives as Chairman of both the House Judiciary and Ethics Committee and the Civil and Criminal Justice Committee. Judge White was appointed City Counselor for the City of St. Louis in 1993 and began his judicial career with his appointment as Judge of the Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District, in 1994 followed by appointment to the Supreme Court of Missouri in 1995, where he served as that Court’s first African American Chief Justice (2003-2005).

On behalf of all federal agencies of this District, we wish Judge White the best as he embarks on new paths. Upon retirement, Judge White will become a mediator with JAMS, St. Louis Mediation, Arbitration and ADR Services.

The Eastern District of Missouri is a team of dedicated public-service professionals who carry out the Court’s mission of delivering justice every day. For Fiscal Year 2023, the Eastern District of Missouri continued to have one of the largest incoming criminal caseloads in the federal judiciary. As a result, the Court also had among the largest pretrial and post-conviction supervision caseloads. While not as comparatively large, our incoming civil caseload exceeded the national median.

The Court adhered to its mission of serving the citizenry of the United States by reducing its pending caseload, providing continuing legal education to the local bar, engaging in community outreach and education, graduating treatment court participants, and taking part in innovative national initiatives.

Our Mission: To serve the public, bench, and bar in an effective, fair, and impartial manner.

Serving the Citizenry of the United States by

- > Providing justice
- > Educating attorneys
- > Informing the public
- > Supervising & rehabilitating offenders
- > Using resources wisely

Inside this issue:

Judge News & Notes	1-2
Connelly v. United States - A Synopsis	3
MOED & National Caseload Statistics	4
Mediation in MOED	5
Jury Service in MOED	5
My Hometown Civic Education Initiative	6
Education & Community Outreach	6-8
Naturalizations	9
Pretrial Services Office	10
Supervision Statistics	11
Probation Office	12-13
District News & Notes	14-15

The Honorable Henry E. Autrey



U.S. District Judge Henry E. Autrey continues to serve on the Judicial Conference of the United States' Committee on Codes of Conduct. This

committee provides advice, training, and other information on the application of the Code of Conduct for United States Judges and other judicial branch codes of conduct and Titles III and VI of the Ethics Reform Act of 1989.

The Honorable Audrey G. Fleissig



Senior U.S. District Judge Audrey G. Fleissig was named one of 25 **2024 ICON Award** winners by the Missouri Lawyers Media. This award is "given to members of the Missouri legal community aged 60 and older in recognition of their exemplary careers and longstanding commitment to the profession" and who have held "a senior position with significant decision-making authority."

Judge Fleissig worked in private practice for over 10 years—becoming a partner. She was then an Assistant United States Attorney for about 10 years—serving as the U.S. Attorney from 2000-2001. Afterwards, she became a U.S. Magistrate Judge before being appointed a U.S. District Judge. She earned her juris doctorate from Washington University School of Law in St. Louis.

Senior U.S. District Judge Rodney W. Sippel continues to serve as Chair of the Judicial Conference of the United States' Committee on the Judicial Branch. At the committee's June meeting, Associate Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, a former committee member, guided members of the Committee on a tour of the Aaron v. Cooper exhibit at the Supreme Court.



Picture taken at the Supreme Court on 6/11/24.

Front row: Karen Schreier (D Ct SD) President elect, Federal Judges Assoc.; Deborah Chasanow (D Ct MD); Rodney Sippel (D Ct MO-E) Chair, Judicial Branch Committee; Jeffrey Hopkins (D Ct OH-S); Dana Sabraw (D Ct CA-S) Chief Judge. **Second row:** Robert Conrad (D Ct NC-W) Director, AO; Jennifer Thurston (D Ct CA-E); Ann Montgomery (D Ct MN); Kristi DuBose (D Ct AL-S); Associate Justice Brett Kavanaugh; Thomas Ambro (3rd Circuit); Catherine McEwen (Bkty FL-M); Nancy Joseph (WI-E) Magistrate Judge, Federal Magistrate Judges Assoc.; Joseph Bianco (2nd Circuit); Jim Gritzner (D Ct IA-S); Reed O'Connor (D Ct TX-N).

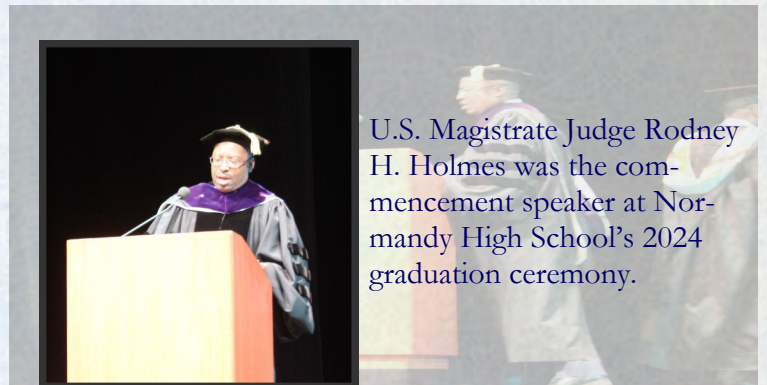
The Honorable Noelle C. Collins

U.S. Magistrate Judge Noelle C. Collins was named Chair of the Federal Judicial Center's Committee on Magistrate Judge Education by Chief Justice Roberts of the United States Supreme Court.

This committee produces in-person orientations and workshops for magistrate judges and videos, web programs, manuals, etc. for thousands of judges and court staff, including judges in other countries.



The Honorable Rodney H. Holmes



U.S. Magistrate Judge Rodney H. Holmes was the commencement speaker at Normandy High School's 2024 graduation ceremony.

Connelly v. United States—A Synopsis

For the October 2023 term, the Supreme Court of the United States agreed to hear only 62 cases, a mere fraction of the 5,000 to 6,000 petitions for certiorari that appellants file each year. Among those cases was *Connelly v. United States*—a case that originated here in the Eastern District of Missouri before Chief Judge Stephen R. Clark. At issue was how to value shares of Crown C. Supply, Inc.—a closely-held family business in the St. Louis area—for purposes of calculating estate tax.

Crown had two shareholders: brothers Michael and Thomas Connelly. To keep the company in the family if one brother passed, the Connelly brothers entered into an agreement requiring Crown to redeem the first deceased brother's shares if the remaining brother chose not to purchase them. Crown then obtained insurance policies on each brother. When Michael passed away, Crown received the life-insurance proceeds and redeemed the shares for \$3 million. Thomas, the executor of Michael's estate, reported to the IRS that Michael's shares were worth \$3 million and accordingly paid around \$300,000 in estate tax. The IRS's audit of the estate, however, determined that Michael's estate had underpaid. Finding that Crown was worth \$6.86 million at the time of Michael's death, the IRS required the estate to pay an additional \$889,914 in taxes. The estate paid, and then Thomas sued the IRS on the estate's behalf, seeking a refund. In the district court, Thomas argued that the IRS must refund the \$889,914 because the redemption agreement determines the value of Crown for estate-tax purposes (and therefore also the value of Michael's shares) and, alternatively, that Crown's fair market value does not include the \$3 million life-insurance proceeds. Both parties moved for summary judgment, and Judge Clark granted summary judgment in favor of the IRS. The Court concluded that the agreement did not govern the valuation of the shares because it failed to meet the requirements of the United States Code, Treasury regulations, and applicable caselaw. It also determined that a proper valuation of Crown must include the insurance proceeds because they were a significant asset of the company. In so holding, the Court departed from the Eleventh Circuit, which had held, in a factually similar case, that the insurance proceeds should not be included in the valuation of the corporation. Thomas appealed, and the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the district court's ruling. The only issue before the Eighth Circuit was "whether Crown's value, and hence the value of Michael's shares, should include the life insurance proceeds used for redemption." Adopting similar reasoning as the district court, the Eighth Circuit held that it should.

The case next went to the United States Supreme Court. Justice Clarence Thomas, writing for a unanimous court, affirmed. "The central question" on appeal was "whether the corporation's obligation to redeem Michael's shares was a liability that decreased the value of those shares." The Supreme Court concluded that it did not: "Because a fair-market redemption has no effect on any shareholder's economic interest, no willing buyer purchasing Michael's shares would have treated Crown's obligation to redeem Michael's shares at fair market value as a factor that reduced the value of those shares." With this, the Supreme Court upheld the district court's original ruling.

Criminal Prosecutions

For the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023 (FY23), criminal cases were brought against 992 defendants in the Eastern District of Missouri, the 14th largest criminal caseload in the nation. Almost one-half of criminal defendant filings in the Eastern District had a firearms offense as the most serious charge, compared to one-seventh nationally. Charged immigration offenses, which were almost one-third of defendant filings nationally, were practically non-existent in the Eastern District.

The Eastern District terminated 1,032 criminal defendants during FY23, 4% more than were filed—leading to a small reduction in the Court’s pending criminal defendant caseload.

Ninety-four percent of terminated defendants in the Eastern District were convicted, almost all (99.5%) after pleading guilty. More than 6,700 hearings were held in the course of disposing of these defendants’ criminal cases. Over nine-tenths of convicted defendants were sentenced to imprisonment. This is similar to national outcomes, where 91% of terminated defendants were convicted (97.6% plead guilty) and 91% of convicted defendants were imprisoned.

Civil Actions

For the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, 1,843 civil cases were filed in the Eastern District of Missouri, ranking 45th in the nation. Compared to national filings, the Eastern District had larger proportions of prisoner petitions, civil rights complaints, and to a lesser degree social security filings. In contrast, torts were a larger proportion of national filings, likely because of more than 82,000 multidistrict litigation cases filed in other districts in FY23. Almost one-third of FY23 case filings in the Eastern District had a motion for leave to proceed in forma pauperis and/or a self-represented litigant.

The Eastern District terminated 1,820 civil cases during FY23 (almost 290 per authorized district judgeship), 1% less than were filed—leading to a small increase in the Court’s pending civil caseload. The pending caseload includes two multidistrict litigation consolidations: MDL No. 2820 - IN RE: Dicamba Herbicides Litigation and MDL No. 2993 - IN RE: Crop Inputs Antitrust Litigation.

Fiscal Year 2023	Nation	MOED	
		#	%
Criminal Defendant Filings, by Offense			
Violent	4%	32	3%
Property	10%	98	10%
Drug	27%	253	26%
Firearms & Explosives	15%	490	49%
Sex	5%	82	8%
Justice System	1%	14	1%
Immigration	30%	2	.2%
General	2%	7	1%
Regulatory	2%	13	1%
Traffic	4%	1	.1%
Type of Sentence for Convicted Defendants			
Fine Only	1%	4	.4%
Imprisonment	91%	892	92%
Supervision	8%	71	7%

Fiscal Year 2023	Nation	MOED	
		#	%
Civil Filings, by Nature of Suit			
Contract	9%	207	11%
Real Property	1%	14	1%
Torts	39%	301	16%
Civil Rights	12%	370	20%
Prisoner Petitions	15%	441	24%
Forfeiture/Penalty	.2%	7	.4%
Labor	4%	89	5%
Immigration	3%	17	1%
Bankruptcy	.4%	4	.2%
Intellectual Property	4%	36	2%
Social Security	4%	168	9%
Federal Tax Suits	.2%	4	.2%
Other Statutes	7%	185	10%

Mediation in the Eastern District of Missouri

The Eastern District of Missouri has a robust and effective **Alternative Dispute Resolution** (ADR) program. ADR is an informal, non-binding mediation process in which an impartial neutral facilitates negotiation between litigants in a civil action to reach a settlement. Mediation can broaden the range of resolution options by exploring litigants’ concerns that may be independent of the contested legal issue(s). Active, good-faith participation in mediation during the early pretrial period may avoid expensive pretrial preparation.

The mediation process and requirements are specified in the Court’s Local Rules and on its website. Ideally, litigants choose a mediator from the Clerk’s Court-Certified Neutral list, which has over 100 lawyers representing diverse specialties and legal expertise. These individuals are in good standing with the local bar and are experienced neutrals who keep current with advances in mediation.

When ordered by the presiding judge in the case, the Court will provide a pro bono neutral or limited scope counsel to those who cannot afford this cost.

Each year, the Court refers approximately 40-50% of eligible cases to ADR—primarily contract, civil rights, and tort cases. In calendar year 2023, 516 cases were referred to ADR. The annual settlement rate for cases that went to mediation is typically a few percentage points less than 50%.

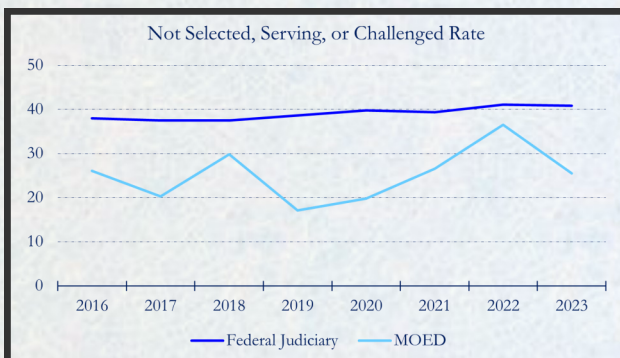
From a post-mediation survey, 97% of respondents indicated they would use mediation again, and approximately 90% were satisfied with the mediator and would recommend him/her to others. Respondents also favorably rated remote mediation.

Jury Service in the Eastern District of Missouri

The Judicial Conference of the United States has approved a juror utilization goal, known as the ‘Not Selected, Serving, or Challenged’ (NSSC) Rate, of 30% or less for district courts. A lower NSSC rate means the court is utilizing jurors effectively by reducing the number of individuals who do not serve in either voir dire or a trial when summoned to appear. Historically,

the Eastern District of Missouri’s NSSC Rate has been better than this national benchmark *{see graph}*, except for Fiscal Year 2022 when summoning jurors was complicated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Eastern District’s NSSC Rate is typically one of the lowest in the federal judiciary. For instance, the Eastern District’s FY 2023 rate was the 18th best in the nation.

Our efficient use of jurors is reflected in their satisfaction with jury service. In 2023, nine-tenths of sampled jurors reported being satisfied with their service, and approximately four-fifths or more rated various aspects of jury service (i.e., eJuror, Appear Speech, orientation, treatment by staff, etc.) as ‘excellent’ or ‘good’; even though almost one-half reported hardship(s) due to service—usually work scheduling and lost income.



The U.S. Supreme Court and My Hometown Celebrating the Students of Our Inaugural Program

During the fall 2023 semester, 22 St. Louis area high school students from 12 high schools in Missouri and Illinois participated in the multiday, after-school **The Supreme Court and My Hometown** enrichment program. This program was presented by the Supreme Court Historical Society and hosted by the Eighth Circuit and the Eastern District of Missouri.



The students' capstone project involved their design of a poster exhibition about the case they studied, *Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier* (1988). In March 2024, the student-created posters were installed in the Judicial Learning Center on the 1st floor of the T.F. Eagleton

U.S. Courthouse, after which an opening reception was held. The My Hometown students and their families and teachers were invited to attend. Local attorneys who served as mentors during the fall program, judges, and court staff also attended.

Chief U.S. District Judge Stephen R. Clark, Eastern District of Missouri {*pictured left*}, and Jim Duff, Executive Director of the Supreme Court Historical Society {*pictured right*}



gave brief remarks to a standing-room-only crowd. The Court has been chosen to host a second session of the My Hometown program in Fall 2024.

- photos courtesy of Molly Rach, Eighth Circuit Library

2024 Law Day—Voices of Democracy



Law Day was established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1958 and officially designated by Congress in 1961. Law Day celebrates law and the legal process in achieving justice and protecting liberty. This year's theme was **"Voices of Democracy"** in recognition that the people rule in a democracy.

Each year, the Court celebrates Law Day by hosting a themed event for students. This year, Belleville East High School's honors civic classes participated. Before the day of the event, the **Judicial Learning Center** sponsored an essay contest, with students writing essays related to the 2024 theme—"Voices of Democracy." Chief U.S. District Judge Stephen R. Clark welcomed the students upon their arrival at the courthouse. After learning the winners of the essay contest, the students observed a sentencing hearing for a felon

in possession of a firearm. U.S. District Judge Sarah E. Pitlyk, who presided over the sentencing hearing, spoke with the students afterwards. The program culminated with a moot court activity, during which the students filled the roles of justices, petitioners, and respondents. U.S. Magistrate Judge Joseph S. Dueker {*below, 2nd from left*}, Eastern District of Missouri law clerks, Eighth Circuit staff attorneys, and attorneys from the Federal Public Defender and U.S. Attorney's offices helped the students prepare.

In a post-program evaluation, all responding students indicated they would recommend this program.



Street Law Teacher Workshop: The First Amendment and Social Media



The U.S. District Courts of the Eastern and Western Districts of Missouri partnered with The Missouri Bar to host the annual Street Law Teacher Workshop in February. This high-quality, professional development offering lets high school teachers interact with judges, attorneys, law professors, and skilled presenters to learn effective strategies for teaching about the courts and the law. The Eastern District and The Missouri Bar have co-hosted this workshop in St. Louis each spring since 2015.

However, this year’s workshop was special because it was the first time the Western District of Missouri joined the collaboration, hosting the program at its Christopher S. Bond U.S. Courthouse in Jefferson

City. This year was also special because we returned to an in-person, two-day format, instead of the online one-day programs in 2021-23.

The workshop’s theme was “The First Amendment and Social Media.” Facilitators from **Street Law, Inc.** led the teachers through sessions on fundamental rights, the First Amendment, and classroom strategies of deliberation and inquiry. The workshop culminated with a moot court activity, for which the teachers were coached by practicing judges and attorneys—including Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge Willie J. Epps, Jr. of the Western District of Missouri and Judge Paul C. Wilson of the Supreme Court of Missouri.



U.S. Magistrate Judge Epps leads workshop

Wentzville School District

In February U.S. Magistrate Judge Stephen R. Welby and court educators Jeanne Van Rhein *{at right}* and Rachel Marshall presented at the Wentzville School District’s professional development day. Two sessions were offered for the district’s middle and high school social studies teachers. These were “Teaching About the Federal Courts” and “Using Landmark Cases in the Classroom.” Court staff were invited to present at the Wentzville School District’s professional development day in August.



U.S. Magistrate Judge Stephen R. Welby talking with teachers at professional development

Tours & Groups

The T.F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse remains a popular destination for those seeking to learn more about the federal judiciary. During the first half of 2024, over 2,000 people visited, participating in 65 tours and events. Notable visitors included:

- The National Junior Honor Society from Hancock Place Middle School toured the courthouse.
- Four local homeschool groups toured the courthouse.
- The Florissant Police Department brought the Future Leaders Academy for a courthouse field trip.
- First-year law students from Saint Louis and Washington universities visited the courthouse to meet with federal judges.
- Adults from **OASIS St. Louis** took the “Introduction to the Federal Courts” tour.

- contributions on page by Rachel E. Marshall

U.S. District Court Eastern District of Missouri

Vashon High School Moot Court

Vashon High School’s AP U.S. Government class visited in April for a full-day field trip. The students started the day by observing Eighth Circuit oral arguments. They also observed a proceeding in the Eastern District of Missouri and met attorneys and probation officers. During lunch, several attorneys coached the students in preparation for a moot court activity, which simulated an actual argument made before the Supreme Court in a First Amendment case.



The moot court was held in the Eighth Circuit’s panel courtroom on the 27th floor.

Spring Art Contest

The Judicial Learning Center hosted the 4th annual Student Art Competition—“Juries: Through the Eyes of Students.” Members of the Judicial Learning Center’s Board of Directors selected the winners, awarding prizes and certificates. Each year, the winning entries and a selection of honorable mentions are displayed on the Judicial Learning Center’s website and for one year in the T.F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse’s Jury Assembly Room.



New City School Mock Trial

Fourth graders from New City School visited in January for their annual mock trial event. With the help of attorney coaches, the students prepared for and filled all roles in the case.



Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge Shirley A. Padmore Mensah looks on as a witness is sworn in

Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge Shirley A. Padmore Mensah presided over the mock trial of a student accused of “littering in the first degree.” The fourth graders also explored the Judicial Learning Center.

Scout Groups & Badges

Scouts visit throughout the year. Three local Troops toured the courthouse this spring. Merit badge programs are offered in the summer, with two Girl Scout badge programs held in June.

For the ‘Finding Common Ground Badge’, the Court and Gateway Arch National Park partnered to help Girl Scout Cadettes earn this badge. After several activities at the Gateway Arch, the scouts walked to the courthouse to observe a mediation activity, assisted by Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge Shirley A. Padmore Mensah and several law clerks.

For the ‘Democracy’ and ‘Inside Government’ badges, Girl Scout Juniors spent the day at the courthouse learning about the judicial branch and careers. U.S. District Judge Sarah E. Pitlyk spoke with the scouts. To satisfy the badges’ requirement, they worked with law clerks and probation officers and participated in a moot court activity.

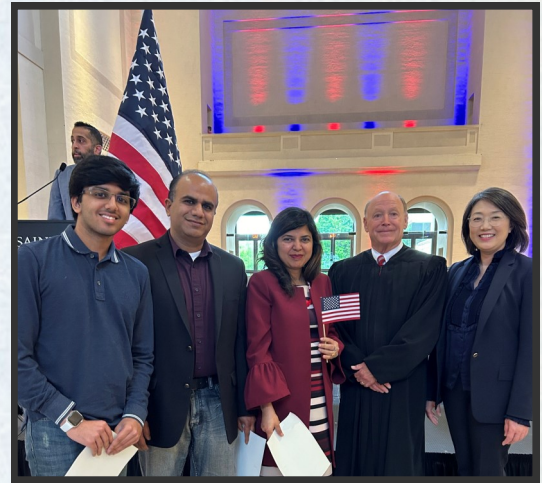


- contributions on page by Rachel E. Marshall

During the first half of 2024, 30 ceremonies were held naturalizing 1,337 new citizens. Ceremonies were held each Friday in the T.F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse, and several special ceremonies were held at off-site locations.

StL Art Museum

The second annual naturalization ceremony at the Saint Louis Art Museum was held on April 26. U.S. District Judge John A. Ross welcomed 50 new American citizens. The keynote address was given by Min Jung Kim {at right}, the Barbara B. Taylor Director of the Saint Louis Art Museum. The Courthouse Singers performed patriotic songs.



Flag Day



The annual June 14 Flag Day naturalization ceremony was held at Gateway Arch National Park. Chief U.S. District Judge Stephen R. Clark administered the oath to 50 petitioners for citizenship. {at left} The keynote address was given by Steve Ehlmann {at right with Judge Clark}, St. Charles County Executive. The Courthouse Singers performed.



World Refugee Day



In recognition of World Refugee Day, a naturalization ceremony was held at the International Institute of St. Louis on June 21. Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge Shirley A. Padmore Mensah presided. Arrey Obenson, International Institute of St. Louis President and CEO, spoke. The Courthouse Singers performed.

PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICE

Diverting Offenders



The Eastern District’s **Sentencing Alternatives Improving Lives (SAIL)** program is a post-plea, pre-sentence diversion program for defendants who would otherwise be incarcerated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons. SAIL consists of intensive supervision combined with various individualized services that address the root causes of a defendant’s criminal conduct. In March, the SAIL program and team graduated three more participants *{pictured above}*, bringing the total number of graduates who have improved their lives by making positive changes to 39. Since its inception in 2015, SAIL has saved the Bureau of Prisons over \$5 million by diverting defendants from incarceration.

Community Service

For Every Child ... A Place to Call Home. In April, the Pretrial Services Office’s Community Service Committee volunteered at a **Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition** fundraiser. This 35-year-old local nonprofit organization is dedicated to helping children who are placed in the foster care system and their foster and adoptive families. Attendees at the **Hope in a Handbag** fundraiser enjoyed drinks, appetizers, and gourmet chocolates while bidding on designer handbags. Volunteers from our office *{at right}* assisted attendees with questions & purchases, showcased merchandise, and helped clean up.



Staff Professional Activities

PACTS 360. Data Quality Analyst Krystal Poehl was selected for a 3-year temporary duty assignment with the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AO) to assist with the rollout of PACTS 360, a national client management system. PACTS 360 is a secure and flexible workflow-based system that offers integrated outcome metrics that ensure pretrial and probation staff can bring about long-term positive change in our clients.

Location Monitoring Emergency Response Team. Supervisory Officer Shannon McAllister and Senior Officer Katie Stephens were named to the AO’s Location Monitoring Emergency Response Team (LMERT). The team provides temporary location monitoring alert coverage as needed to districts or offices that are affected by a significant event—such as a hurricane, earthquake, or fire. When an emergency occurs, LMERT members assigned temporary alert coverage conduct all location monitoring system activities for the affected district or office, while that staff respond to the emergency event.

Staff Participation in Ongoing Local & National Committees, Groups and Trainings.

- Eastern District of Missouri’s Sentencing Alternatives Improving Lives Diversion Court
- U.S. Probation Office and Pretrial Services Office Financial Investigation Team
- Eastern District of Missouri’s Heritage Committee
- Eastern District of Missouri’s In-District Leadership Development Program
- Thomas F. Eagleton Courthouse Wellness Committee
- Thomas F. Eagleton Courthouse Law Day Committee
- National District Review Teams
- American Probation and Parole Association’s National Conference
- BI Annual Training Conference

- contributions on page by Susan Hendrickson

PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICE

Pretrial Supervision

For the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, the Eastern District of Missouri’s Pretrial Services Office activated 1,539 new cases, 7th largest in the nation. More than three-quarters of defendants in these cases were detained and never released on bond. The Pretrial Services Office received 347 defendants for supervision during the fiscal year. Of the 775 defendants in release status for at least a portion of the fiscal year, 47% committed a violation—either a new arrest or a technical violation.

Almost one-half of the Eastern District’s new activations were charged with a firearms-weapons offense as the most serious offense. In contrast, nationally one-third of new activations were for an immigration offense. The impact of immigration offenses is reflected in some characteristics of defendants nationally.

Psychiatric treatment among new activations was almost 30 percentage points higher in the Eastern District than nationally.

NEW ACTIVATIONS	Nation	MOED
Offense Charged		
Firearms-Weapons	14%	49%
Drugs	26%	27%
Sex Offense	4%	8%
Property Offense	11%	8%
Violence	5%	3%
Immigration	34%	>1%
Defendant Characteristics		
White Non-Hispanic	20%	29%
White Hispanic	49%	3%
Black	25%	67%
U.S. Citizen	59%	97%
Single	35%	57%
Male	87%	90%
Psychiatric Treatment	21%	48%

PROBATION OFFICE

Post-Conviction Supervision

For the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, the Eastern District of Missouri’s Probation Office received 1,094 new persons for post-conviction supervision, 11th largest in the nation. During this time, 439 supervisees were revoked, and probation officers conducted 984 presentence investigations. At the end of the fiscal year, 2,188 persons were under supervision, the 12th largest supervision caseload in the nation.

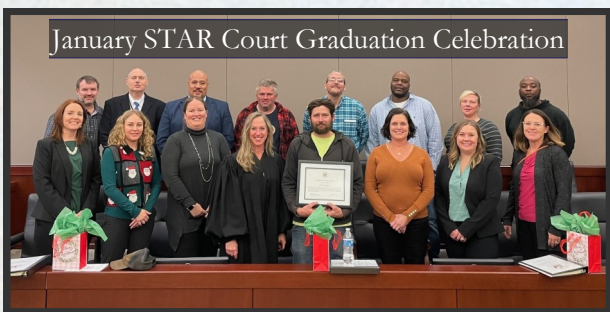
For persons under supervision in the Eastern District at the end of the fiscal year, one-third each had been convicted of a firearms or drug offense. Additionally, almost one-fifth had been convicted of a sex offense. Relative to national data, the Eastern District had comparatively larger proportions of supervisees who had been convicted of a firearms or sex offense, and smaller proportions of those convicted of a drug or immigration offense.

SUPERVISEES	Nation	MOED
Violence	6%	3%
Drugs	42%	32%
Immigration	6%	>1%
Firearms	18%	33%
Sex Offenses	11%	18%
Property	14%	12%
Public Order	2%	>1%
Escape / Obstruction	1%	2%
Other	>1%	>1%

PROBATION OFFICE

Southeast Missouri Supervision to Aid Reentry Court

As of June 6, 2024, the Supervision to Aid Reentry (STAR) Court has been in operation for five years. STAR Court is a problem-solving court designed to assist people on federal supervision who are at the greatest risk of recidivism. The goal is to encourage lifestyle changes that will help the participants live law abiding and productive lives when they return to the community. STAR Court uses a team approach to assist participants with the tough challenges they face when returning from incarceration. The STAR Court team includes U.S. Magistrate Judge Abbie Crites-Leoni, U.S. Probation Officers, an Assistant Federal Public Defender, an Assistant U.S. Attorney, a treatment provider, plus representatives from Vocational Rehabilitation and the Residential Reentry Center.



In April, the STAR Court Team attended a Treatment Court Professional's Conference in Branson, Missouri. The Team also held the first annual STAR Court Brunch {pictured below}, generating \$852 in donations to assist with incentives and urgent needs of STAR Court participants.



- contribution by Tori Caldwell

Janis C. Good Mental Health Court

The Janis C. Good Mental Health Court held a graduation ceremony for Christen Washington in January. Over the course of three and a half years, Ms. Washington successfully completed all aspects of the treatment court program, receiving an early termination of supervision as a result of her accomplishments. At the time of graduation, she had stable housing and worked as a manager at Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Senior U.S. District Judge John A. Ross presided over the graduation ceremony. Senior U.S. District Judge Rodney W. Sippel, who presided over Ms. Washington's criminal proceedings, granted her early termination of supervision.

Eight participants remain in this treatment court.

- contribution by Roxanne Jolly

Family Program Visits Arkansas Correctional Center

The Eastern District's Probation Office arranged a family visit to the Federal Correctional Complex in Forrest City, Arkansas. Thirty-eight family members from the St. Louis area visited 10 inmates.

The two-day event included games, crafting souvenirs, shared meals, and time for family members to reconnect. Jarrett Kendall of the **Father Support Center** and U.S. Probation Officer Demetrius Hatley led discussions centered on parental responsibility, positive role models, and fatherhood. At the visit's end, the fathers read 'affirmation letters' to their children, stating their commitment to them. The visit was filled with memories that will last a lifetime.



- contribution by Rebecca S. Bledsoe

PROBATION OFFICE

Cultivating Future Officers

The Probation Office participated in the inaugural **Federal Career Fair** held at the T.F. Egleton U.S. Courthouse in April. *{at right}* The career fair showcased the participating agencies roles in the functioning of the federal judiciary, career opportunities, the hiring process, and internship opportunities.



Thomas Sullivan & Jo Cooper

We also continued to participate in college career fairs to recruit staff and interns. In March, we were a “career holder” at the Lindenwood Criminal Justice Career Fair, a roundtable event hosted by the Criminal Justice Student Associa-

tion that enabled students to explore career options and potential internships. In April, we attended Lincoln University’s **Safety and Security Career Expo**, hosted by the Security Sciences Institute. *{pictured below}* The Expo featured a panel discussion followed by the career fair with local, state, and federal law enforcement and security agency representatives.



- contribution by Jo Cooper

Working towards Wellness

The Probation Office has made a concerted effort to promote staff wellness, contracting with Great Oaks Counseling to provide wellness training and check-ins. The purpose behind these annual check-ins is to create a preventative endeavor, one that will work to enhance the well-being of our staff and their families. Wellness check-ins are an opportunity for staff to have an individual meeting with a mental health provider to establish rapport and destigmatize accessing mental health services. The intent is to create an opportunity for staff to feel safe and encouraged when seeking supportive services. Great Oaks Counseling has provided two trainings for our staff to develop familiarity and rapport. The focus of their trainings has been to introduce wellness domains (physical, spiritual, emotional, recreational, social, financial, and relational), education and prevention, and coping skills. The trainings and check-ins are designed to build a trusting relationship between mental health providers and law enforcement which will hopefully serve as a natural conduit for treatment should the need arise.

- contribution by Kim Bramlett

Peer-to-Peer Mentoring

In March Tiffany Kang, U.S. Probation Officer Administrator for the Northern District of Illinois, presented “Who am I” to an office all-staff meeting. Ms. Kang’s presentation highlighted the unique qualities of all judicial branch employees. During the presentation, she explained the Assistance, Inclusion, Diversity and Equity (AIDE) program. This peer mentorship program provides a safe space for staff to discuss their unique experiences and be affirmed in their identities. By counteracting isolation and exclusion in the workplace, AIDE seeks to positively impact recruitment and retention of talented individuals.

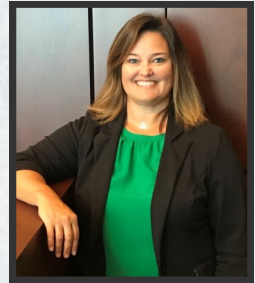


Kim Bramlett, Tiffany Kang & Lisa White (l-r)

- contribution by Lisa White

Court Initiatives

Court Reporter Sharing. In 2023, the Judicial Conference of the United States’ Court Administration and Case Management Committee approved the Shared and Remote Court Reporting Project. This project provides court reporter coverage to requestor courts when calendared proceedings exceed local staff availability. Assistance is for fully remote or hybrid proceedings. In May, Official Court Reporter Reagan Fiorino {pictured at right} from the Eastern District volunteered and transcribed a bench trial held in the District of Hawaii.



Administrative Orders. The Court made its public **Administrative Orders** easier to access by creating a more visible, centered link on our website’s home page. Access to non-public Administrative Orders will also be enhanced.

Community Service

The Clerk’s Office Outreach Committee spearheaded many charitable causes over the past six months. These included donations to the:

- ◆ **St. Louis Area Foodbank:** Building a stronger bi-state region by nourishing people, empowering communities & transforming systems
- ◆ **St. Louis Area Diaper Bank:** Building Healthy Communities by Ending Diaper Need and Period Poverty
- ◆ **American Red Cross:** Give Blood, Help Save Lives—blood drive hosted in the T.F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse
- ◆ **Fathers & Families Support Center:** Dedicated to improving the lives of children and families by encouraging committed and responsible parents—breaking the cycle of poverty, child neglect, child abuse, and welfare dependence.

- contribution by Shannon White

2024 Fallen Heroes Run

The United States Marshals Service **Fallen Heroes Honor Run**, which began in the Eastern District of Missouri eight years ago, memorializes marshals who lost their lives in the line of duty. The run is approximately 2.25 miles from the T.F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse to the Arch grounds and back, led by Deputy U.S. Marshals carrying the American Flag. The Clerk’s Office hosted a “pot-luck” breakfast for this year’s runners {pictured below} afterwards, with office staff bringing breakfast items to share.



District Court Information

Stair Devils

Before work Thursday mornings, the Stair Devils work out by climbing the stairs of the entire height of the T.F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse—approximately a 500 feet, 20-minute climb. The Stair Devils was started by U.S. Magistrate Judge John M. Bodenhausen.



The Honorable Stephen R. Clark Chief Judge

Nathan M. Graves Clerk of Court

Susan E. Hendrickson Chief U.S. Pretrial Services Officer

Kim Bramlett Chief U.S. Probation Officer

Softball Challenge

The 2024 Dean Hoag Softball Challenge was held at Forest Park in June. The Court’s team consisted of players from Chambers and from the Clerk’s, Pretrial Services and Probation offices. {pictured above} U.S. Magistrate Judge Rodney H. Holmes coordinates the annual event and leads the Court’s team.



Eastern District Court Locations

Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse 111 South 10th Street St. Louis, MO 63102 314-244-7900

Rush Hudson Limbaugh, Sr. U.S. Courthouse 555 Independence Street Cape Girardeau, MO 63703 573-331-8800

Hannibal Federal Building 801 Broadway Hannibal, MO 63401

U.S. Attorney Golf Tourney

The U.S. Attorney’s Office Annual Golf Tournament was held in late June in Forest Park. Team members from the District Court are pictured below.

