



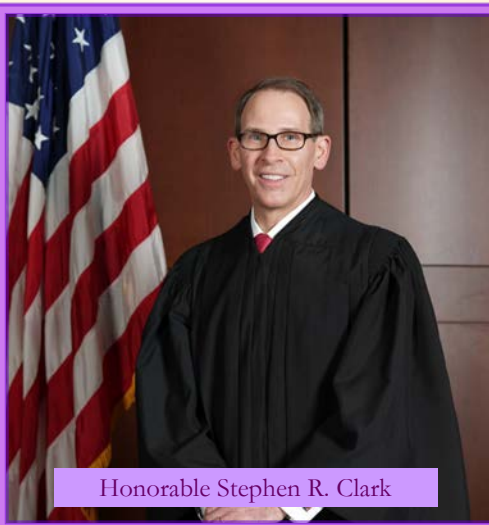
# U.S. District Court Eastern District of Missouri

## CHANGING LEADERSHIP

*in the United States District Court*



Honorable Rodney W. Sippel



Honorable Stephen R. Clark

On December 16, 2022, the Honorable Stephen R. Clark **succeeded** the Honorable Rodney W. Sippel in a 7-year term as the Chief U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri. The Chief Judge is the chief executive of the District Court and its constituent units—the Clerk’s, Probation, and Pretrial Services offices. The Chief Judge is also responsible for coordinating local Court activities with the Judicial Conference of the United States (JCUS), Eighth Circuit, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, and local offices of other federal agencies.

U.S. District Judge Stephen R. Clark stated, “I’m grateful for the leadership that Judge Sippel has provided our Court ... {his} wise mentorship has well prepared me to take on the responsibilities of Chief Judge, and I look forward to serv-

ing the bench, the bar, and the public along with our Court’s talented team of professionals.” Before taking office as District Judge, he worked in complex business, commercial, and constitutional litigation. He earned his juris doctorate from St. Louis University and his BS from the University of Notre Dame.

As Chief Judge, U.S. District Judge Rodney W. Sippel’s strong leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic led the Court and its stakeholders through a rapid transition to a mobile environment. He also held an important national leadership role as Chair of JCUS’s Judicial Branch Committee—dealing with issues affecting the judiciary as an institution and the status of federal judicial officers. Judge Sippel earned his juris doctorate from Washington University.

**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

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## The Honorable Jean C. Hamilton Retires from the Bench in December 2022



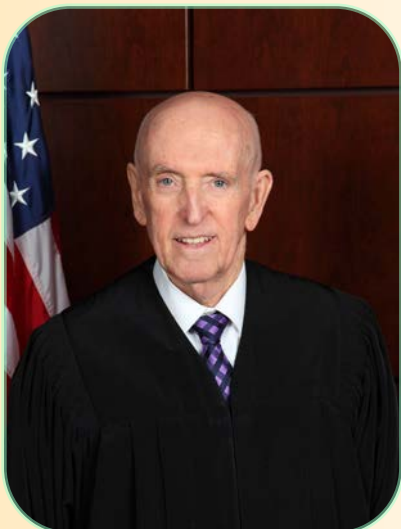
The Honorable Jean C. Hamilton was appointed to the Eastern District of Missouri’s bench in 1990, serving as Chief U.S. District Judge from 1995 to 2002 and taking senior status in 2013. Judge Hamilton was the first woman ever to serve as a District Judge in the Eastern District, and served as Chief Judge during the Court’s transition into the Thomas F. Eagleton Courthouse. She brought a familiarity of the judiciary with her, having been a judge in the Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District and also a circuit judge in Missouri’s 22nd Judicial Circuit. She served on the Judicial Conference of the United States’ committees on bankruptcy rules and administration of the magistrate judges system, and on an Eighth Circuit task force on gender fairness. Judge Hamilton maintained affiliations with numerous national judicial and legal organizations.

Judge Hamilton earned a juris doctorate from Washington University and a Master of Laws from Yale. She taught at both Washington and St. Louis Universities’ Schools of Law.

Judge Hamilton won numerous awards during her distinguished career. Most recently she received the Women’s Justice Award—Woman of the Year, St. Louis Wellesley Award, and BAMSL’s Distinguished Lawyer Award.

While with the Eastern District of Missouri, Judge Hamilton remained active in the community; donating her service to the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri, Washington University School of Law, St. Louis Art Museum, and YWCA of Metropolitan St. Louis—among other worthy causes.

## The Honorable E. Richard Webber Retires from the Bench in September 2022



The Honorable E. Richard Webber was appointed to the Eastern District of Missouri’s bench in 1996. Judge Webber took senior status in 2009. Prior to his appointment to the federal bench, he was elected circuit judge of Missouri’s 1st Judicial Circuit, during which time he served on numerous state judicial committees tasked with improving the implementation of justice in Missouri courts—especially matters affecting the family and children.

Judge Webber earned his juris doctorate from the University of Missouri—Columbia. After graduating law school, he established a private civil law practice. Later he was a prosecuting attorney in three counties of northeast Missouri. However, between being a prosecutor and judge, he represented indigent criminal defendants.

Judge Webber has received much recognition during his career—including the Equal Justice Award from Legal Services of Eastern Missouri and the Missouri Bar Spurgeon Smithson Award for Extraordinary Service. Recently, BAMSL renamed its **(Hon. E. Richard Webber) Distinguished Lawyer Award** in his honor.

## The Honorable David D. Noce Retires from the Bench in May 2023



The Honorable David D. Noce became a U.S Magistrate Judge in 1976. He was appointed to six 8-year terms and was the longest serving magistrate judge in the federal judiciary. He served as Chief Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri from 1984 to 1996. Judge Noce made many contributions to the furtherance of justice. He:

- ◊ Presided over the Eastern District’s Project Expanding Addicts’ Recovery Network (EARN) treatment court,
- ◊ Chaired the Eighth Circuit’s Model Civil Jury Instructions Subcommittee for the District Courts,
- ◊ Was a member of the Advisory Committee of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Court’s *Federal Probation* journal,
- ◊ Edited the *Federal Courts Law Review*, and
- ◊ Was an adjunct professor at St. Louis University School of Law, teaching the course Jury Instructions and the Trial Process’.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Noce was the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis’ 2020 William L. Weiss Award recipient. He served as a legal officer in the army after earning his juris doctorate from the University of Missouri-Columbia. U.S. Magistrate Judge Noce will be succeeded by Joseph S. Dueker.

## The Honorable Nannette A. Baker Retires from the Bench in February 2023



The Honorable Nannette A. Baker has had a full career. She was Chief Magistrate Judge from 2016-2021 and served on the Missouri Court of Appeals in the Eastern District of Missouri (the first African American woman to do so) and as a circuit court judge in the City of St. Louis. She:

- ◊ Was elected to membership in the American Law Institute,
- ◊ Presided over the district’s Janis C. Good Mental Health Court and edited the ABA’s Judges’ Journal issue on mental health courts,
- ◊ Chaired the National Conference of Federal Trial Judges of the ABA’s Judicial Division and served on the its Executive Committee.
- ◊ Was the lead editor of the award winning ABA’s Judges’ Journal issue on bail reform and
- ◊ Authored several articles on affirmative action and the hiring and retention of minority attorneys and major area law firms.

She earned her juris doctorate from Saint Louis University. She is very involved in the community as a member of the Archway (MO) Chapter of the Links, Incorporated and sitting on the Board of Trustees of the St. Louis Art Museum and Board of Directors of Provident Behavioral Health. U.S. Magistrate Judge Baker will be succeeded by Rodney H. Holmes.

U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE DAVID D. NOCE

U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE NANNETTE A. BAKER



## Sharing Expertise

- ◆ U.S. District Judge Henry E. Autrey co-presented “Navigating Ethics: Issues for New Judges” at the Federal Judicial Center’s Orientation Seminar for Newly Appointed U.S. Court of Appeals Judges. Judge Autrey continues to serve on the Judicial Conference of the United States’ (JCUS) Committee on Codes of Conduct.
- ◆ U.S. District Judge Audrey G. Fleissig was featured in a video marking the 100th anniversary of the Judicial Conference—the national policymaking body for the federal judiciary. As chair of the Committee on Court Administration and Case Management, she was also featured in a retrospective of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the federal courts. Her term on this committee has ended.
- ◆ U.S. District Judge Rodney W. Sippel attended the Justice and Journalism program in Chicago, co-hosted by JCUS’ Committee on the Judicial Branch and the **Freedom Forum Institute’s** First Amendment Center. Judge Sippel continues to serve as chair of this committee.
- ◆ Senior U.S. District Judge Stephen N. Limbaugh, Jr. is a permanent Trustee and Executive Committee Member of the State Historical Society of Missouri .
- ◆ U.S. Magistrate Judge Noelle C. Collins presented at the FJC’s Orientation Seminar for Newly Appointed/Designated U.S. Magistrate Judges. Judge Collins spoke on criminal proceedings— including pretrial release, competency, and discovery.
- ◆ U.S. Magistrate Judge Shirley A. Padmore Mensah’s term on JCUS’ Committee on Defender Services has ended.

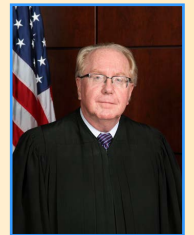
## Notable Happenings

U.S. District Judge Sarah E. Pitlyk posed with Associate Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh at the celebratory dinner for the Judicial Conference’s centennial. *{top left}* U.S. District Judge Rodney W. Sippel and Katherine Hord Simon, Secretariat Officer, also attended. *{bottom left}* U.S. District Judge Audrey G. Fleissig speaks on the importance of the Judicial Conference in a commemorative video. *{bottom right}* Judge Sippel meets with Missouri Senator Roy Blunt. *{top right}* U.S. District Judge Stephen R. Clark swears in St. Charles County elected officials. *{center}*



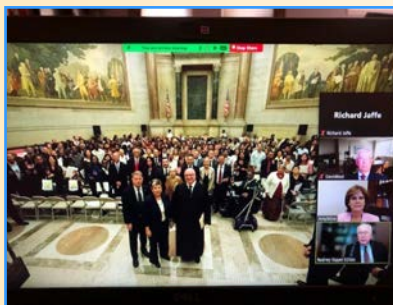
## McGirt v. Oklahoma

In July 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its ruling in McGirt v. Oklahoma. The Court ruled prosecution of crimes by Native Americans on these lands falls into the jurisdiction of the tribal courts and federal judiciary under the Major Crimes Act, rather than Oklahoma’s courts. Oklahoma state courts began reviewing and vacating past criminal cases heard at state courts involving Native Americans and transferred their overview to federal courts.



Because of the large workload that resulted, the Eastern District’s Chief U.S. District Judge Rodney W. Sippel presided over more than 20 re-sentencings in the Northern District of Oklahoma.

### U.S. District Judge Sippel speaks at the New Members of Congress Orientation



### Revised Disclosure of Interest Rule for Non-Governmental Parties

The Court adopted a revised version of **Form-MOED-0001** (Disclosure Statement) in December. Although the corresponding changes in Rule 2.09 do not take effect until March 1, 2023, the Court will begin using the revised form immediately to help the Court review jurisdictional and conflicts issues more effectively. The revised form collects information on litigants' corporate interests and diversity under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a). **The new Form can be found here.**



### Federal Justice Fellowship 2022

The Eastern District's Southeast Division hosted the third annual Federal Justice Fellowship in 2022. Six undergraduate students were selected to spend the summer learning what it means to work in the judicial system. The four-week program included courtroom observations, interaction with staff from all departments and agencies in the courthouse, legal writing instruction and practice, and a final project. In total, over 50 volunteer speakers gave their time to instruct the fellows, including program organizer U.S. Magistrate Judge Abbie Crites-Leoni *{standing at left}*, and legal writing instructor and local attorney, Larry Ferrell. A highlight of the 2022 program was a reunion event with past fellows. Currently, four alumni are attending law school; two are working on master's degrees; one is working as a legal assistant; and one is working as a juvenile officer.

- contribution by Rachel E. Marshall



Front (l-r): Jowairia Khalid, Miracle Bird, Abigail Wilson  
Back (l-r): Grant Slusher, Trevor Andershock, Andrew West

### State of Nebraska, et al v. Joseph R. Biden, Jr., et al



In September 2022, Attorneys General of Nebraska, Missouri, Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, and South Carolina filed a complaint and motion for Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) against the Biden Administration and U.S. Department of Education. The TRO sought to enjoin the defendants from implementing Mass *{student loan}* Debt Cancellation. In October, U.S. District Judge Henry E. Autrey **dismissed** the plaintiffs' complaint for lack of jurisdiction, as they did not establish Article III standing. The plaintiffs appealed Judge Autrey's order to Eight Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals—receiving an emergency injunction pending appeal. The defendants filed a motion to vacate the emergency injunction with the U.S. Supreme Court, where the case is currently pending.

### Federal Practice Committee

The Federal Practice Committee helps the Court improve its service to the bar and public. At the request of the Court; the Committee recommends improvements to operating procedures, reviews proposed local rule changes, studies strategic issues referred to it by the Court, assists the Federal Practice Memorial Trust and Court with CLE development, and serves as communication conduit between the bench, bar & public.

The Committee has 13 members selected by the Chief Judge in the manner directed by the Court. The Clerk of Court serves as an additional ex officio member. The Court's intent is that the Committee represents a broad cross-section of this Court's bar. The Committee has one representative from each of the following six organizations—United States Attorney's Office (Tiffany Becker), Federal Public Defender's Office (Brocca Morrison), Criminal Justice Act Panel (William S. Margulis), District Court Pro Bono Panel (Jim Guest), Federal Bar Association (Christina Moore), and Federal Practice Memorial Trust Board (Steven Holtshouser). The Committee has two people who primarily practice civil law (Steven Schwartz, Barbara A. Smith), one representing plaintiffs and the defendants. The Chief Judge may appoint one mediator (John Grimm). The remainder shall be at-large members (Sheena Hamilton, Jennifer E. Hoekel, Michael Murphy—Southeastern Division, Mark Wasinger—Northern Division) from this Court's bar that ensure the Committee's diversity.



# 2022 Court-Certified Neutrals Seminar

COURT-CERTIFIED NEUTRALS

To be a certified neutral with the Eastern District of Missouri, mediators must—among other requirements (see **Local Court Rule 6.03**)—complete four hours of accredited continuing legal education in alternative dispute resolution on or before January 31 of each odd numbered year for the two preceding years. This may include training in:

- ◆ conflict resolution and mediation theory,
- ◆ (co-)mediation skills and techniques,
- ◆ mediator conduct, and
- ◆ mediation simulations or role play activities.

The Eastern District held its biennial Court-Certified Neutrals Seminar in October 2022. Attendees could earn 4.7 CLEs, including 1.7 each for ethics and elimination of bias. The offered CLEs were sufficient to meet the Local Court Rule requirement. Seventy-two mediators attended the seminar.

Seminar presentations included:

- ◆ Recognition of Bias in the Mediation Process,
- ◆ How Personality Impacts the Mediation Process, and
- ◆ Approach the Bench – Judicial Input on Impacts of Mediation

Other sessions were a local court rules update and ‘junto’ (or breakout) sessions. Participants could chose

to attend one of five ‘junto’ sessions. These were:

- ◆ Fundamentals of Civil Rights Cases,
- ◆ Fundamentals of Mediating an Employment Case,
- ◆ What’s Good Faith Got to Do with It?,
- ◆ Working with Difficult Attorneys, and
- ◆ How Personality Impacts the Mediation Process—Follow-Up Session.

Presenters included U.S. District and Magistrate Judges, Eastern District ADR Advisory Committee members, law professors, a Lecturer in Law, and mediators—most of whom are locally active.

Participants overwhelmingly rated the overall program and individual sessions as useful. The inaugural ‘junto’ sessions were generally highly rated and popular with participants. Historically, ethics sessions have been among the most highly rated and popular.

Attendees suggested Early Neutral Evaluation, the pros & cons of court-ordered mediation, how to deal with unprepared attorneys, and business aspects of mediation as topics for future seminars.

*Good program. Good, well-prepared speakers. - attendee comment*

*All of the presenters were well prepared and engaged the audience. - attendee comment*

## Save the Date

**Southeastern Division  
Bench & Bar—April  
27, 2023**

**Criminal Justice Act  
Seminar –May 11, 2023**

**Northern Division  
Bench & Bar—June 9,  
2023**



**September ceremony** at the Missouri state capitol swearing-in attorneys to the federal bars of the Eastern and Western Districts of Missouri.



SERVING THE BAR

# New Citizens, New Beginnings

Forty ceremonies naturalizing 1,554 new citizens were held in the Eastern District from July through December. For the full year, eighty-five ceremonies were held naturalizing 2,361 new citizens.

In observance of **Independence Day**, U.S. District Judge Matthew T. Schelp presided over a ceremony in Kiener Plaza Park, in front of the historic Old Courthouse. *{at right}*



The annual **Constitution Day** ceremony was held at the **Gateway Arch National Park**. U.S. District Judge Henry E. Autrey presided. The Black Robe Choir from De Smet Jesuit High School sang. *{at left}*

U.S. District Judge Sarah E. Pitlyk presided over a ceremony at **Busch Stadium**. The ceremony was hosted by the St. Louis Cardinals. After the ceremony, the new Americans and their families stayed to watch the ball game. *{at right}*



The Court used **Busch Stadium** on a non-game day to host a large ceremony, presided over by U.S. Court of Appeals Eighth Circuit Judge Raymond W. Gruender—naturalizing **288 new citizens**. *{at left}*

## Constitution Day

In recognition of the anniversary of the U.S. Constitution, our annual **Constitution Day** student event was held on September 14. Students from Cape Girardeau’s Central High School spent the day at the T.F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse, where they participated in “Civil Discourse and the Constitution: Candid Conversations” – a national outreach initiative of the U.S. Courts that acquaints students with people in the judiciary and the importance of civility when discussing Constitutional principles. U.S. District Judge Rodney W. Sippel, Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge Shirley A. Padmore Mensah, and the Clerks of Eastern District and Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals talked about Constitutional issues raised by the students, helping the students identify and articulate Constitutional questions of importance to them.



Central High School students



Judge Sippel addresses students

## Bill of Rights Day

The Seventh and Eighth Circuits held a dual celebration of Bill of Rights Day for the third consecutive year. The 10-state region covered by the two circuits, including the Eastern District of Missouri, had a student art and essay contest in the fall. Students in grades 5-12 submitted entries about the importance of the Bill of Rights. Finalists for the grand prize round were chosen from each district. **Grand prize winners** were announced during a live, educational webinar on the Bill of Rights held in December. Webinar attendees got the opportunity to learn about the constitutional and historical importance of the Bill of Rights from a panel of three federal judges—U.S. Circuit Judge Ralph R. Erickson (Eighth Circuit), Chief U.S. District Judge D.P. Marshall, Jr. (Eastern District of Arkansas), and U.S. Magistrate Judge Gilbert C. Sison (Southern District of Illinois).



Educators

The annual **Summer Teacher Institute** was held in St. Louis in July. This year the institute used a hybrid format, welcoming participants both in-person and virtually. The institute covered the 1st Amendment, the role of the appellate court, and how judges are selected. Teachers observed live courtroom proceedings and spoke with federal & state judges and Mary Beth Tinker—petitioner in *Tinker v Des Moines*.



Circuit Clerk Gans speaks to attendees

Student Events



New City students prepare for court



Questioning the witness



Judge Mensah presides at mock trial

**Career Programs for Students.** Several groups visited the T.F. Egleton U.S. Courthouse to learn about legal and law-related careers. For the first time since 2019, students from the St. Louis Public Schools (SLPS) participated in career exploration events—a collaboration with the **SLPS' College and Career Readiness Department**. The department helps students obtain critical workplace skills. Seventh-graders from Gateway and Long middle schools participated.

In October, juniors and seniors participating in **Rockwood School District's Partners in Education (PIE)** program. PIE links students with community volunteers whose expertise or special talents enhance make learning more meaningful and relevant. Students attended a federal courts career program featuring a U.S. District Judge, Assistant U.S. Attorney, Assistant Federal Public Defender, U.S. Probation Officer, Deputy U.S. Marshal, and staff from the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals.

**New City School 4th Grade Mock Trial.** The annual mock trial event for New City School 4th-graders was held in December. *{photos at left}* Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge Shirley A. Padmore Mensah presided over the mock trial in which students role-played as the attorneys, defendant, witness, and jurors. This annual event has taken place for over twenty years.

Merit Badge Skill Center

The Judicial Learning Center's Merit Badge Skill Center offered the annual **Citizenship in the Nation** merit badge opportunity in July. This full-day program begins at the T.F. Egleton U.S. Courthouse and ends at the Gateway Arch National Park. U.S. District Judges Rodney W. Sippel and Sarah E. Pitlyk and U.S. Magistrate Judge Stephen R. Welby instructed the 30 participating Scouts as to the required knowledge to earn the merit badge.



Tours & Programs

Fall 2022 brought the full return of in-person tours and field trips. Groups from Missouri and Illinois visited the T.F. Egleton U.S. Courthouse for customized learning experiences about the federal judiciary. During the second half of 2022, 52 tours were given, with a total of 71 for the full year. Transportation grants were awarded to 14 groups in need of funds throughout 2022. Virtual programs continued to be offered by request.



# PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICE

The mission of the U.S. Pretrial Services Office is to assist the court in the fair administration of justice through the investigation and supervision of defendants and pretrial divertees, protect the community, and encourage long-term positive changes in those under supervision.

## New Chief U.S. Pretrial Services Officer

On October 1, 2022, Susan Hendrickson began her new role in the Eastern District of Missouri as the Chief U.S. Pretrial Services Officer, replacing Chief Mark Reichert upon his retirement. Chief Reichert began his 32-year career with the federal court as a pretrial services officer, was later promoted to a supervising pretrial services officer, and became the chief U.S. pretrial services officer in 2014.



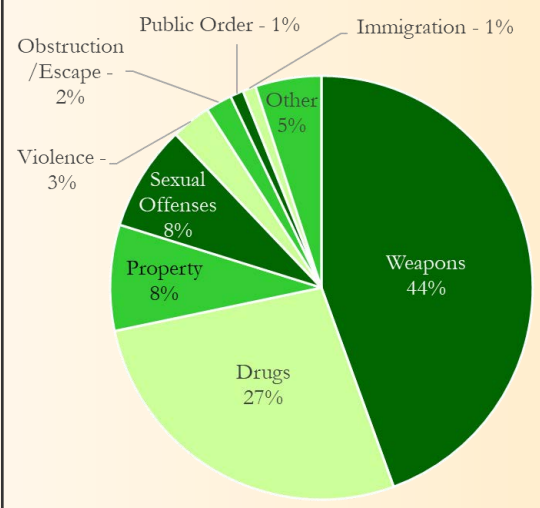
“Chief Hendrickson’s expertise and professionalism have been well-known to the bench, the bar, and the entire District Court community,” said then-Chief District Judge Rodney Sippel.

Chief Hendrickson earned a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from St. Louis University and a Master of Arts in human resource management from Webster University. She began her career as a Missouri state probation and parole officer in 1993 and was hired as a U.S. pretrial services officer in 2001. In 2009, Ms. Hendrickson was promoted to senior pretrial services officer and oversaw the district’s diversion and employment programs until she transitioned into a supervisory role in 2012. In 2012, the U.S. Attorney’s Office also presented Ms. Hendrickson with the Award for Distinguished Service. In 2015, Hendrickson, along with the Honorable E. Richard Webber, Senior U.S. District Judge; the Honorable Audrey G. Fleissig, U.S. District Judge; the U.S. Attorney’s Office; and the Federal Public Defenders Office established the first federal diversion court in the Eastern District of Missouri, the Sentencing Alternatives Improving Lives (SAIL) Program.

## Office Statistics

In Fiscal Year 2022, the Pretrial Services Office investigated 1,425 new cases. Weapons offenses accounted for 44% of new cases. The majority of new cases fell into the following categories: weapons offenses (629), drug offenses (388), property offenses (120), and sex offenses (111). The number of new case activations in the Eastern District of Missouri in fiscal years 2021 and 2022 were the eighth highest numbers nationwide. In fiscal year 2022, 353 defendants were released on bond. At the end of fiscal year 2022, 403 defendants also remained under pretrial supervision.

Of the new investigations in 2022, 19 were pretrial diversion investigations. This number is tied for the third highest number of diversion investigations in the nation during this timeframe. As part of the Eastern District of Missouri’s Pretrial Diversion Program, the Pretrial Services Office also collected \$86,865 in restitution payments in fiscal year 2022. This is a substantial increase from the \$29,969 in restitution payments collected in fiscal year 2021. Restitution is distributed back to victims who sustained financial losses as a result of the divertees’ criminal conduct.



PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICE

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## SAIL

The Eastern District of Missouri’s **Sentencing Alternatives Improving Lives** (SAIL) program began in March 2015 and is a post-plea, pre-sentence program with the objective of diverting defendants who would otherwise be likely to be sentenced to a term of incarceration from serving any time in prison. The program includes a period of intensive supervision combined with various services to address the theorized root causes of an individual’s criminal conduct. For successful participants, it is theorized to prove more effective than incarceration in decreasing the likelihood of recidivism. The program is a partnership between The Court, the Pretrial Services Office, the U.S. Attorney’s Office, and the Federal Public Defender’s Office. SAIL continues to demonstrate success. To date, 52 defendants have participated in the SAIL program, with 30 total program graduates. Since its commencement in March 2015, the program has yielded \$3.2 million in savings by averting the costs of incarcerating these defendants. In calendar year 2022, two participants successfully completed the program. There are currently 13 active participants in the program, and at least four participants are on track to graduate in early 2023.

**LifeWise STL.** In October 2022, the Pretrial Services Office assisted LifeWise STL with their Fall Festival and held a donation drive in November 2022 to collect items for LifeWise STL’s thrift store and Holiday Market event. LifeWise STL is 120-year-old local organization dedicated to providing access to opportunities for and supporting the achievement of economic well-being through an array of community resources.

**Motion for Kids.** Supervising Pretrial Services Officer Tiffany Corley also organized the gift drive for Motion for Kids for the Thomas F. Eagleton Courthouse. Motion For Kids is sponsored and organized by the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis and the St. Louis Bar Foundation. They organize the collection of gifts and an annual holiday party for children who are part of the foster system and/or whose lives have been negatively impacted by the criminal justice system. This year, nearly 2,200 children were sponsored through the Motion for Kids program.



Pretrial Services staff participated in/served on numerous committees, groups, and trainings:

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

## In The Community

## Staff Notes

PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICE



# PROBATION OFFICE

## Funding a Second Chance at Life

The Community Safety Through Recidivism Prevention Act, or the Second Chance Act of 2007, provides funding to establish federal prisoner reentry initiatives that prepare prisoners for release and reintegration into the community—including programs promoting health & nutrition, literacy & education, and employment.

In the Eastern District, the Probation Office has mostly used Second Change funding to assist offenders who have the greatest need in daily life. Offenders have received clothing & shoes, bus passes, and bicycles for transportation to help attain employment. Funding has also been used to pay for emergency housing in hotels or transitional facilities and also rent and utilities. Currently, Home Quest provides transitional housing for male offenders and Hope House for female. Offenders in transitional housing have been able to work towards financial independence and their own residences by obtaining employment and saving money for 1st month's rent and deposit.

Funds also support commercial driver's license (CDL) vocational training. The Probation Office currently contracts with **MTC Truck Driver Training** in Hazelwood and **Southern Missouri Truck Driver School** in Malden. Of 14 placements at MTC Truck Driver Training, eight have completed the 3-4 week program and received their CDLs, and the remaining four are working towards completion. Of note, one trainee received his CDL in June 2022, quickly found a job as an over-the-road truck driver—getting a signing bonus and netting over \$4,000 per month, and is saving to buy what he hopes is the first truck of his own company. Because of his success on supervision, he was granted early termination after a little over one year of a 3-year term of supervised release.

- contribution by Marc Pillow

## Helping Families Succeed



With the generous support of the Orthodox Christian community of St. Louis and Caritas Internationalis—a global network of Catholic relief, development, and social service organizations; the Probation Office's Family Program gave away 50 backpacks filled with school supplies at the start of the 2022 school year.

This year the Family Program has given to offenders and their families more than 50 food baskets that have frozen meat(s) from the office's revamped food pantry. The program is on course to give turkeys and 500 toys to 129 families of offenders. Moreover, we have collected over \$1200 worth of children's coats to give to children at the Family Program's Holiday Party.

- contribution by Clark Porter

## Mentoring the Future

Eastern District staff held a November presentation for students studying criminal justice at Lincoln University in Jefferson City. At the request of a professor, Assistant U.S. Attorney Rodney Holmes (an alumnus of Lincoln University) organized an impromptu presentation that also included staff from the Eastern District's Federal Public Defender, Probation (Jo Cooper, Assistant Deputy Chief Probation Officer—also an alumna), and Pretrial Services offices. Staff spoke about their career experiences in their respective agencies to the Lincoln students. {pictured below}



- contribution by Jo Cooper

# PROBATION OFFICE

## Graduating to a Better Life

STAR Court. Mansfield McMullin graduated STAR Court in November. During his three years in STAR Court, Mr. McMullin positively changed his thinking, behavior, and life—as evidenced by his relationship with his family, physical & mental health, and work life. He became an over-the-road truck driver and purchased his own truck.

*Contribution by Walter Dansby*



(l-r) The Hon. Crites-Leoni, M. McMullin & W. Dansby

Project EARN. In October, three participants graduated Project EARN—operating primarily via Zoom, with two earning early termination of supervision. All three overcame addiction to begin leading a life of recovery. At the ceremony, the graduates shared their accomplishments while in Project EARN and their goals for future.

A fourth participant completed supervision before he was eligible to graduate Project EARN. He was a severe alcoholic when he entered the program, but was celebrating 210 days of sobriety at termination of supervision.

*- contribution by Roxanne Jolly*

## Financial Investigation Team

The Probation Office’s Financial Investigation Team provides financial training, resources, and assistance to officers to improve the presentence investigation and supervision of financial cases. In July members of the team visited the Economy Museum at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

*- contribution by Joseph Hendrickson*



Team Members

## Building the Federal Judiciary’s Human Infrastructure

The Probation Office’s Employment Team resumed hosting its biannual ‘Offender Workforce Development Specialist Training’. The training is for staff from U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services offices from across the federal judiciary, teaching them how to support the enhancement of offender vocational and career development skills. Participants in the biannual training develop the capacity and skills that are needed to implement in their district those employment services and career development strategies that enhance offenders’ ability to obtain employment. Additionally, participants learn to assist offenders with employment retention and career advancement.

The goal of the training is for participating districts to develop an ‘employment team-like’ project that

assists offenders with successfully transitioning back into the community and becoming self-sufficient. This year’s projects include a resource fair for offenders released to supervision, an employment & training resource page on Facebook, and a comprehensive employment program for Native American ex-offenders in Montana.



Lead Trainer Quincy Fountain (r) and attendees

*- contribution by Quincy Fountain*



**District Court Information**

# Clerk's Office

2022 Spirit of Justice Award Winners

The Eastern District of Missouri's Clerks of Court Gregory J. Linhares (U.S. District Court) and Dana McWay (U.S. Bankruptcy Court) were chosen as the **2022 Spirit of Justice Award** winners for their work in implementing the Federal Court Legal Advice Clinic and Bankruptcy Pro Se Assistance Program Clinic. Both clinics were implemented in partnership with the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis.



The Honorable  
Stephen R. Clark  
Chief Judge

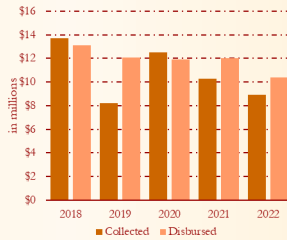
Gregory J. Linhares  
Clerk of Court

Kim Bramlett  
Chief Probation  
Officer

Susan Hendrickson  
Chief Pretrial Services  
Officer

2022 Finances

The Eastern District collected \$8.9 million in restitution, civil garnishments & refunds and paid out \$10.4 million to victims and creditors.



**Eastern District Court Locations**

Community Service

The Clerk's Office Outreach Committee spearheaded many charitable causes over the past six months. Office staff donated:

- ◆ 428 pounds of non-perishable food valued at \$749 for **Operation Food Search**—a hunger relief organization that provides free food, nutrition education and innovative programs proven to reduce food insecurity
- ◆ backpacks, crayons, markers, highlighters, pencil boxes, folders, notebooks, rulers and more for **Kidsmart**—which empowers children in need to succeed in school by providing free essential tools for learning.
- ◆ Holiday Wish List gifts for youth in need for **Covenant House**—a relief agency for young people experiencing homelessness and trafficking.
- ◆ coats, boots, hats, gloves, scarves and clothing for the **International Institute of St. Louis**—an organization that provides economic and cultural integration services to immigrants and refugees; including English classes, employment, orientation, and citizenship preparation .

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 St  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703  
573-331-8800

Hannibal Federal Bldg  
801 Broadway  
Hannibal, MO 63401

*"I cannot adequately express the gratitude that the students and staff of the International Institute's After School Program would like to extend ... for the generosity you all have shown. Thank you for ... the treasures that the kiddos so greatly needed. We distributed ... warm clothes to every student who needed them and had enough left over to share with their siblings and have on hand for the adults who attend other programs at the Institute..." - International Institute representative*