

Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse

Self-Guided Tour

The Thomas F. Eagleton Courthouse, named for former U.S. Senator and St. Louis native Thomas F. Eagleton, is located at 111 South 10th Street in downtown St. Louis. The building is open to the public weekdays, from 7:00 am – 6:00 pm, excluding federal holidays. Everyone entering the building must present valid photo identification and pass through a security screening. Plan for a minimum of 1 hour to complete this guide.

Tour Instructions:

After entering through security, make your first right and go down the hallway to the **Judicial Learning Center**. The center will be on your right. Use the exhibits to answer the following questions:

Find the blue panels on the back side of the wire room divider, facing the windows. Find and read the blue panel called *"Shared Responsibilities: State and Federal Courts,"* and the white panels called *"State and Federal Courts,"* and *"Limited Jurisdiction."*

You are in a federal courthouse right now. Name 3 types of cases which would be decided here.

1.) _____ 2.) _____ 3.) _____

Name 1 type of case which would be heard in state court instead of federal court.

1.) _____

Now find and read the green panels in the farthest corner of the room, to your left if you are facing the windows. Find the panels called *"The Federal Court System," "District Courts," Court of Appeals,"* and *"The Supreme Court."*

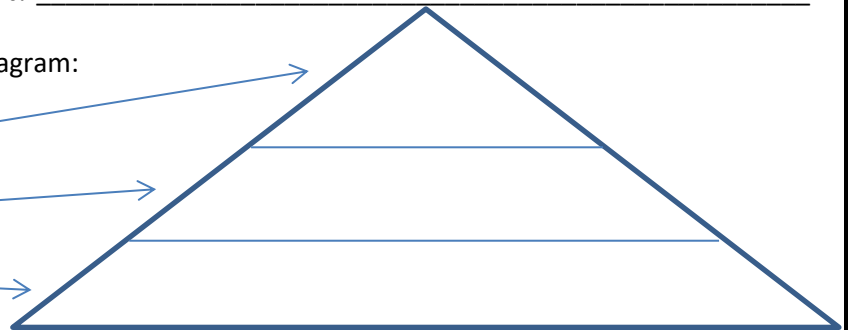
- a. Which level of federal court is the trial court? _____
- b. What do bankruptcy courts do? _____
- c. Which level of federal court will hear your case if you ask that your trial be reviewed? _____
- d. Which is the highest level of federal court? _____

Use the information from a.-d. above to fill in this diagram:

Highest level. Reviews only some cases. _____

Reviews cases from the trial courts. _____

Federal trial courts. _____



Once you have these questions answered, you're ready to leave the learning center and move on to your next destination. You may return to the learning center later if time allows.

Make a left when you leave the learning center and return to where you entered the building. You will see some **signs and touch screens** on the wall to your right as you approach the security area. Use them to answer the following questions.

What is the name of the trial court in this building? *U.S. District Court* _____ *District of* _____

Name the bankruptcy court in this building? *U.S. Bankruptcy Court* _____ *District of* _____

What is the name of the appellate court in this building? *U.S. Court of Appeals* _____ *Circuit* _____

Will you find the *U.S. Supreme Court* in this building? _____ If not, where would you find it? _____

Continue using the signs and touch screens to locate the destinations. Please note that the floor number will be before the period. The numbers after the period are the room number and can be disregarded. See Jury Assembly Room example below.

U.S. District Court – On what floor is the Jury Assembly Room? **Example: 1.300 = 1st Floor**

On what floor is the District Court Clerks' Office? _____

U.S. Bankruptcy Court – On what floor is the Bankruptcy Court Clerk's Office? _____

U.S. Court of Appeals – On what floor is the Court of Appeals Clerk's Office? _____

Now that you know where the clerk's office for each court is located, use the elevators to visit the **U.S. District Court Clerk's Office**. This office is open to the public. People may use this office to file a law suit, pay fines, or find information. *Use the touch screen to browse the daily docket (daily court schedule). List one or more of the types of cases you see here:* _____

Next visit the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court Clerk's Office**. This office is also open to the public. Go all the way into the clerk's office. *When you enter the office you will see green, blue, and yellow brochures in a table display. Use them to name at least one type of Bankruptcy filing = Chapter* _____.

Take the elevators to the 22nd floor to visit the **8th Circuit Library**, also open to the public. *Look around a bit. Who do you think uses this library?:* _____

Follow the signs on the 22nd floor to the "High Rise Elevators." Take these elevators to the **U.S. Court of Appeals Clerk's Office**. This office is also open to the public. *In the hallway just outside the elevators, you will see 7 state seals hanging on the wall. These are the 7 states that belong in the 8th Circuit. Name them here:* _____

Use the High Rise Elevators to visit the 27th Floor. This floor has several courtrooms on it, and also includes historic exhibits. Take a moment to look over the exhibits and answer the following questions:

- When was Justice Harry A. Blackmun a Judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit? _____
- When was Justice Harry A. Blackmun a Justice for the United States Supreme Court? _____
- When was Theodore McMillian a Judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit? _____
- Where did Judge McMillian go to high school? _____

Use the High Rise Elevators to visit the 28th Floor – the top public floor of the building. *Enjoy the view, then write the name of the single courtroom that is found on this floor:* _____

You have now completed your introductory building tour. You may choose to complete one or more optional activities:

Observe in a District Courtroom. Return to the 3rd floor to look again at the "daily docket." If there is a hearing taking place, go to that courtroom to observe. Federal courts are open to the public. You must turn off your cell phone before entering the courtroom. Food and beverage are prohibited.

Observe a Naturalization Ceremony. These ceremonies take place on many Fridays at 10:00 am, and will either be held on the 3rd floor or the 28th floor. Ask at the security desk to see if there is a ceremony on the day of your visit. At this ceremony, new American citizens will take their oath of allegiance to the United States, after they've worked for several years to gain eligibility. A federal Judge presides over these ceremonies.

Visit the District Court Jury Assembly Room. Return to the 1st floor. Follow the signs to the Jury Assembly Room. Serving as a juror is one of your most important duties of an American citizen. You may not see a lot of people in the room when you visit because they may be in courtrooms or deliberating behind the scenes. While in the jury assembly room, you can enjoy the exhibit of artifacts that were uncovered when the land for this building was excavated as well as an exhibit about U.S. Senator Thomas F. Eagleton, for whom this building is named.

Additional Activities in the Judicial Learning Center. See the next few pages for additional activities.

Additional Activities for the Judicial Learning Center

If you'd like to spend more time exploring the Judicial Learning Center exhibits, feel free to print and use the activity page below.

There are additional activity sheets for a wide range of grade levels available on the counter in the Judicial Learning Center.

THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY

Find the interactive displays on the back side of the wall that contains the video screen. Find and read the brown panel called "*THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT*." Use it to complete this chart.

Name the 3 branches of government →	L	E	J
What does this branch do?			
How does this branch <i>CHECK</i> the powers of the other two branches?	How does it check E ?	How does it check L ?	How does it check L ?
	How does it check J ?	How does it check J ?	How does it check E ?
How can citizens be involved in this branch?			

Turn to the wall behind you and find the panel called "*Upholding the Constitution: Judicial Review*." Explain how **Judicial Review** is a CHECK on the Legislative and Executive branches:

Now find the panel called "*For the People: Protecting Judicial Independence*." Explain **how** and **why** the Federal Judicial Branch is separate and independent from the other 2 branches: