



U.S. District Court Eastern District of Missouri

On July 24th and 25th, the Eastern District of Missouri welcomed three new judges. In small ceremonies, each judge took the oath from Chief Judge Stephen R. Clark and started his career with the Federal Judiciary. The bench and staff of EDMO are excited to add to the judicial team in our district court.



The Honorable Cristian M. Stevens was a judge on the Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District. Prior to this, Judge Stevens was the First Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division, Missouri Attorney General's Office and an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of Missouri. He also clerked for the Honorable Pasco M. Bowman II, Chief Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit and was in private practice. Judge Stevens earned his juris doctorate from the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law where he was editor-in-chief of the *Missouri Law Review*.



The Honorable Zachary M. Bluestone has dedicated his career to public service through legal roles in all three branches of the federal government and with the state of Missouri. He was the Appellate Chief and violent crimes prosecutor for the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Eastern District of Missouri and a former Deputy Solicitor General with the Missouri Attorney General's Office. He clerked for the Honorable Raymond W. Gruender, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. Judge Bluestone earned his juris doctorate from Harvard Law School.



The Honorable Joshua M. Divine was the Solicitor General with the Missouri Attorney General's Office, overseeing the appellate and special litigation divisions. Prior to this, Judge Divine was Chief Counsel to U.S. Senator Josh Hawley, managing matters related to the Judiciary Committee. He clerked for U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Clarence Thomas and for the Honorable William H. Pryor, Jr., U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Judge Divine earned his juris doctorate from Yale Law School.

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 Eastern District of Missouri and Eighth Circuit Host National Civic Education Conference

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit and the Eastern District of Missouri hosted the Katzmann Conference on Civics Education and the Federal Courts. More than 140 judges, court executives, and educators attended the conference, including:

- federal judges and court staff from each circuit,
- representatives from ten national civics education organizations that are members of the Civics Renewal Network, including the Leonore Annenberg Institute for Civics at the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Public Policy Center, and
- fifteen high school teachers of history, government, and civics selected by the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation.

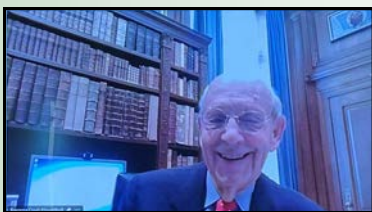
The conference began with a plenary session. The Honorable Steven M. Colloton, Chief Judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit *{at left}* and Chief U.S. District Judge Stephen R. Clark *{at right}* welcomed the attendees. John G. Roberts, Jr., Chief Justice of the United States, welcomed the conference participants, stating "You are bringing together critical interested parties inside and outside the judiciary to advance a vital mission: Educating all Americans on the essential role of the judicial branch upholding the rule of law."



Katzmann Conference, *continued*



Other introductory speakers were {*pictured at left*} Senior U.S. District Judge Rodney W. Sippel, chair of the Judicial Conference of the United States' Committee on the Judicial Branch, Judge Robert J. Conrad, Jr., Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, and John S. Cooke, Director of the Federal Judicial Center.



U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Stephen G. Breyer (retired) {*at left*} kicked off the program in an interview conducted by Senior U.S. District Judge Catherine D. Perry. {*inset at right*} Dr. R. Lance Holbert, Director—Leonore Annenberg Institute for Civics, reviewed current research on the public's understanding of the judicial branch.



Participants attended breakout sessions of their choice. Twelve breakout sessions were offered. Topics included cooperative partnerships, learning centers and exhibits & displays, lifelong learning, and supporting teachers.

The Honorable Robert A. Katzmann Civics Impact Award was presented during lunch. The award recognizes court-conducted educational outreach programming that is innovative and impactful in the spirit of Judge Katzmann's reputation for seeking "justice for all." The 2025 award was given to Civil Discourse and Difficult Decisions, a national program hosted by federal courts around the country.



In the afternoon, the final plenary session featured a panel discussion with James Madison fellows, who are nationally recognized teachers of history, government and civics, entitled "How to align outreach programming with the needs of teachers and students." The conference concluded with a presentation of reports summarizing each of the twelve breakout sessions.

In 2023 the Judicial Conference of the United States approved a request from its Judicial Branch Committee to convene the Katzmann Conference on Civics Education and the Federal Courts in St. Louis. The St. Louis planning committee was chaired by Judge Rodney W. Sippel and coordinated by Eighth Circuit Director of Civics Education Rachel Marshall. The 2030 Katzmann Conference will be hosted by the Ninth Circuit.

Journey to Justice



(l-r) Front Row: The Honorable John A. Ross, Patricia L. Cohen, Stephen R. Clark, Abbie Crites-Leoni, and Sarah E. Pitlyk; Back Row: The Honorable Joseph S. Dueker, Rodney H. Holmes, Noelle C. Collins, Shirley A. Padmore Mensah, and Matthew T. Schelp

The Old Courthouse was recently renovated—including new ‘Journey to Justice’ exhibits, enhanced accessibility, and structural updates. Renovations, which took more than three years, were accomplished with the support of Gateway Arch Park Foundation’s philanthropic donors and the National Park Service.

The Gateway Park Foundation invited Eastern District of Missouri judges to attend the ‘Reception and Exhibit Preview’ at the Old Courthouse prior to the official reopening ceremony and community festival.

Magistrate Judge Workshop

In April, the Federal Judicial Center (FJC) held its ‘National Workshop for U.S. Magistrate Judges’ in downtown St. Louis. The FJC is the research and education agency of the federal judiciary. The FJC’s Magistrate Judge Education Advisory Committee, chaired by U.S. Magistrate Judge Noelle C. Collins, aided in planning the workshop, ensuring the inclusion of topics important to magistrate judges in the fulfillment of their duties and management of their dockets. Chief U.S. District Judge Stephen R. Clark and U.S. Magistrate Judge Noelle C. Collins opened the workshop and welcomed attendees.

The three-day workshop began with a presentation on the legacy of Dred Scott and his landmark case. Subsequent sessions addressed artificial intelligence, class actions, Qui Tam litigation, sovereign citizens, large case management, and problem-solving courts.



U.S. Magistrate Judge Collins welcomes workshop attendees

- photo courtesy of Andrew Dowless, Education Division—FJC

Senior U.S. District Judge

Audrey G. Fleissig



John G. Roberts, Jr., Chief Justice of the United States, appointed Senior U.S. District Judge Audrey G. Fleissig to a three-year term on the Federal Judicial Center’s Committee on District Judge Education. This committee provides guidance to FJC staff on curriculum development, educational programs, and publications.

Criminal Prosecutions & Restitution

Prosecution. For the calendar year ending December 31, 2024, 770 criminal cases were brought against 1,004 defendants in the Eastern District of Missouri. EDMO had the 12th largest criminal defendant caseload of 94 districts in the nation. More than one-third of criminal defendant filings in the Eastern District had a firearms offense as the most serious charge, compared to one-seventh nationally. The Eastern District also had proportionately more property offense filings, due to a marked increase (~50%) in fraud charges during the year. Immigration offenses, which were almost two-fifths of defendant filings nationally, were minimal in the Eastern District.

The Eastern District closed 1,058 criminal defendants' cases during the calendar year, ~5% more than filed—resulting in a small but continuing reduction in the Court's pending criminal defendant caseload.

Restitution. A 1996 case with 20 defendants and 4,100+ victims is the Court's largest restitution case. Letters have been mailed to ~300 victims or their heirs, with 89 people receiving ~\$130,000. The Court is proud that it has helped these victims get the compensation they deserve.

It really seems above and beyond to have tracked my dad's heirs and sent all 9 of us restitution checks from the scam he got roped into. Thank you so much. Last night my husband and I had dinner out, on mom and dad, thankful for a tiny inheritance that came almost a decade after his death. Amazing. I never ever hear stories of people getting caught for this kind of fraud. And NEVER hear of those swindled getting their money back. You are my hero today.—Restitution recipient

Civil Actions

For the calendar year ending December 31, 2024, 2,044 civil cases were filed in the Eastern District of Missouri, ranking 41st of 94 in the nation. The Eastern District's and nation's distributions of civil filings by Nature of Suit category were very similar. Compared nationally, the Eastern District had a larger proportion of prisoner petitions, and a lower proportion of immigration cases. More than one-third (37%) of case filings in the Eastern District had at least one self-represented litigant.

The Eastern District closed 2,140 civil cases during the year, ~1% more than were filed—resulting in a small decrease in the Court's pending civil caseload. Of the two multidistrict litigation consolidations active in the past year; MDL No. 2993 - IN RE: Crop Inputs Antitrust Litigation was closed, while MDL No. 2820 - IN RE: Dicamba Herbicides Litigation remains pending.

Calendar Year 2024	Nation	MOED	
		#	%
Criminal Defendant Filings, by Offense Category			
Violent	4%	29	3%
Property	9%	215	21%
Drug	23%	253	25%
Firearms & Explosives	13%	376	37%
Sex	5%	85	8%
Justice System	1%	13	1%
Immigration	39%	14	1%
General	2%	6	>1%
Regulatory	2%	12	1%
Traffic	3%	0	0%

Calendar Year 2024	Nation	MOED	
		#	%
Civil Filings, by Nature of Suit Category			
Contract	11%	277	14%
Real Property	2%	17	1%
Torts	21%	380	19%
Civil Rights	17%	395	19%
Prisoner Petitions	19%	515	25%
Forfeiture/Penalty	.3%	4	.2%
Labor	5%	93	5%
Immigration	5%	17	1%
Bankruptcy	.5%	3	.1%
Intellectual Property	6%	32	2%
Social Security	5%	138	7%
Federal Tax Suits	.2%	4	.2%
Other Statutes	9%	169	8%

23rd Annual Criminal Justice Act Seminar

More than 160 attorneys attended the 23rd Annual Criminal Justice Act Seminar, co-sponsored with the Federal Public Defender Offices of the Eastern District of Missouri and the Southern District of Illinois. This seminar is a perennial favorite, but this year's attendees were especially enthusiastic, describing it as informative and helpful. The highly rated sessions included discussion of the U.S. Supreme Court's most recent term, sentencing guideline amendments, circuit criminal law updates, implicit bias in public defending, and artificial intelligence.

Implicit Bias presentation was the best, very engaging. Helpful questions asked of judges. Review & update was good as always. Good to hear about AI as it will be a big deal unfortunately. SRC presentation was good to learn about, appreciated the framing of good & bad. Always good to learn new ways to help our clients.—Seminar participant

Instructive and informative, always eye opening - even after 29 yrs.—Seminar participant

For the first time this year, a "CJA Attorney of the Year Award" was given in recognition of exceptional service as appointed counsel and for embodying the spirit of CJA service to the indigent accused.

CJA Panel Member Talmage E. Newton, IV {pictured at right} received the award due to his extraordinary service in protecting the constitutional rights of his clients. Mr. Newton was nominated by judges of the Court. Congratulations, Mr. Newton!



Divisional Bench & Bar Seminars—Opportunities for Sharing

The 2025 Southeastern and Northern Divisions' Bench & Bar seminars were well received. Attendance was consistent with prior years, with 45 attorneys attending in Cape Girardeau and 32 in Hannibal.

In the Southeastern Division, the seminar featured a conversation with Missouri's Chief Disciplinary Counsel, a discussion on artificial intelligence in federal litigation, and a review of the



Southeastern Division: *l-r* Clerk of Court Graves, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Walsh, U.S. Magistrate Judges Bodenhausen & Crites-Leoni, Chief U.S. District Judge Clark, Senior U.S. District Judge Limbaugh, Jr.

U.S. Supreme Court's most recent term—along with the Judges' Roundtable. The Northern Division seminar featured many of the same subjects, plus an Eighth Circuit update. Participants expressed appreciation for the diversity of topics and quantity of earnable CLEs.



Northern Division: Matthew Braunal addresses attendees concerning artificial intelligence

Another great program. I really liked the Chief Disciplinary Counsel process demonstration. I had no idea how that worked.—Southeastern Division participant

The Supreme Court and My Hometown: Celebrating the Second Cohort of Scholars

In February, a closing reception was held for the 2024 cohort of ‘The Supreme Court and My Hometown-St. Louis’, an afterschool program cohosted by the Supreme Court Historical Society, the Eighth Circuit, and the Eastern District of Missouri. The students’ completed capstone project was unveiled at the event. For the capstone project, students conducted oral history interviews with first-person participants and other legal experts, the goal of which was to enhance the *Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier* exhibit created by the 2023 cohort. The exhibit is located in the Judicial Learning Center in the Eagleton Courthouse, where the 2024 interviews

are accessible by QR code and via touch screen. An online version is also available on the Judicial Learning Center’s [website](#).



The closing reception was attended by the students from the 2023 and 2024 cohorts and their families and teachers. Attorney mentors and representatives of the Courts also attended. Speakers at the event included Chief U.S. District Judge Stephen R. Clark and two attorney mentors.

Law Day

Celebrating the Rule of Law



The Courthouse once again observed **Law Day** this year by hosting a group of local students. Law Day, which is celebrated on May 1, is the national day set aside to celebrate the rule of law. This year’s theme was “Out of Many, One.” Students in the 8th grade at Our Lady of Lourdes in University City participated in several classroom activities before visiting the Courthouse, including writing essays on the 2025 theme. First and second place essay winners earned cash prizes awarded by the Judicial Learning Center, Inc.

Chief U.S. District Judge Stephen R. Clark welcomed the group to the Eagleton Courthouse. The Judicial Learning Center’s Board President, Glenn E. Davis, awarded the essay contest prizes.



{pictured at right} The students completed an activity in the Judicial Learning Center, observed a courtroom proceeding, and participated in a moot court activity coached by U.S. Magistrate Judge Stephen R. Welby. *{pictured at top}*

The United States Supreme Court Historical Society’s Law Day Program Featured the Eastern District of Missouri and the Eighth Circuit

The panelists discussed the Judiciary’s civics education initiatives, particularly the partnership with the Supreme Court Historical Society in its The Supreme Court and My Hometown program. The panelists explored the vision behind this initiative and discussed its real-world impact on communities across the nation. The conversation illustrated how Hometown programming is fostering a deeper understanding of the law and its relevance to local communities.

The U.S. Supreme Court Historical Society celebrated Law Day 2025 with a **video**. The video included Senior U.S. District Judge Rodney W. Sippel, Eastern & Western Districts of Missouri and Eighth Circuit Education Program Coordinator Theresa Lueke. Other panelists included Senior U.S. District Judge Curtis L. Collier, Eastern District of Tennessee; Jim Duff, Executive Director, Supreme Court Historical Society; and Nicole Carlson Maffei, Director of Civics Education, Supreme Court Historical Society.



Connecting with Educators

Imparting Knowledge to Future Generations

Street Law Teacher Workshop. For over ten years, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, Eastern District of Missouri, and Judicial Learning Center have co-hosted with the Missouri Bar Association a two-day professional development workshop for high school teachers. The workshop is led by instructors from **Street Law, Inc.**, promoting effective teaching strategies for civic and law-related education.



In March, thirty teachers from Missouri and Illinois participated in this year's event. The event included courtroom observation and a session on the Fourth Amendment from U.S.

Magistrate Judge John M. Bodenhausen, culminating in a moot court activity in the Eighth Circuit's En Banc Courtroom.

Conferences. Education staff hosted an exhibitor booth at the Missouri Council for Social Studies' annual conference in February and at the National Council for History Education's annual conference in March. Educator conferences offer the opportunity to interact with hundreds of teachers. For those interested, the Court can share resources for teaching about the judicial branch and welcome teachers to the courthouse for future events and field trips.



Judicial Speakers Bureau

The Eastern District's **Judicial Speakers Bureau** offers free, lively, informative presentations for those interested in learning more about the courts. The following engagements occurred during the first half of the year.

U.S. District Judge Henry E. Autrey spoke with librarians at St. Louis Regional Library Network's annual meeting.

U.S. Magistrate Judges John M. Bodenhausen and Joseph S. Dueker spoke to Webster Groves High School students and teachers.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Stephen R. Welby spoke on civics education to a local Scout troop.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Rodney H. Holmes visited Riverview Gardens High School, speaking



with students and teachers. {at left}



Hon. John M. Bodenhausen



Hon. Joseph S. Dueker

Robes in Schools

When the Federal Judicial Center (FJC) holds a national workshop for U.S. Magistrate Judges, the Federal Magistrate Judges Association offers 'Robes in Schools' in the same city as the FJC's workshop. The mainstay of the 'Robes in Schools' program is for magistrate judges to visit classrooms and explain to students the career path and work of a magistrate judge. When the FJC held its national workshop in St. Louis (page 4), a group of magistrate judges from around the country, including U.S. Magistrate Judge Stephen R. Welby, visited with students at Vashon High School.



- contributions on page by Rachel E. Marshall

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Courthouse Tours

Serving the Public

The Spring semester was a busy one for courthouse field trips. A typical field trip includes visiting the Judicial Learning Center, a courtroom observation, the different roles of the appellate and district courts, and a variety of guest speakers. From January to June, 2,608 people visited as part of 89 tours and programs.

The Court has begun surveying field trip participants. It found: Students. Overall, students were very positive about their experience, giving their experience 4.6 (out of 5) stars. Courtroom observation was the most frequently mentioned favorite part.

I absolutely loved all of it. It was one of the best field trips I've ever been on and I would love to go again.—Student visitor

Teachers. Teachers rated their experience 4.9 (out of 5) stars. Universally, they reported that they plan to return with their students next year and have or will recommend the trip to other teachers.

There is no better learning than experimental learning and getting students into courtrooms and talking to actual judges and probation officers and attorneys will only enhance their overall learning. Every government class and most social studies classes should take this tour. I am grateful and thankful I was able to give my students this learning experience at the Federal Courts!—Teacher visitor

Spring Art Contest

The Judicial Learning Center, Inc.'s fifth annual Student Art Competition – Juries: Through the Eyes of Students – was held in early 2025. Students in grades 1-12 submitted artwork about the American jury system, with winning entries receiving a certificate and cash prize. The winning artworks will be displayed in the Eagleton Courthouse's Jury Assembly Room for one year. The 2025 winners are viewable [here](#).



First Place
A Careful
Deliberation
Brentwood H.S.

Mediation Skills

Resolving Conflict

Middle School—Mediation Activity. In March, 40 students from Rose Johnson Jennings Middle School participated in a mock mediation activity at the Eagleton Courthouse. The students were given a civil conflict scenario. They sought resolution with retired U.S. Magistrate Judge Nannette A. Baker, who referred the case to mediation. The students were then divided into teams, each assisted by an attorney. The teams worked through a mediation with an attorney acting as mediator. The teams successfully resolved their conflict through mediation. The students also visited the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit to learn about the appellate process.



Girl Scouts—Finding Common Ground Badge. Each summer, the Court and National Park Service co-host a badge workshop for Girl Scouts. In this summer's June program, Girls Scouts were able to earn the Finding Common Ground Badge. Participants worked through a variety of ways to settle conflicts. After spending the morning at the Old Courthouse, the Girl Scouts walked to the Eagleton Courthouse for a simulated mediation in the afternoon.



Media Relations

In January, the Eastern District of Missouri and Missouri's 22nd Judicial Circuit Court partnered to host a media relations event. This inaugural event provided information about federal and state courts to members of the local print and broadcast media. Fifteen journalists attended the half-day program, which included panel discussions, courtroom observations, and a wealth of resources on the courts.

During the first half of 2025, 27 ceremonies were held naturalizing more than 1,200 new citizens. Most ceremonies were held in the Eagleton Courthouse, but several took place at iconic locations throughout the St. Louis metropolitan area.



St. Louis Art Museum

Senior U.S. District Judge Catherine D. Perry presided over a ceremony naturalizing 39 applicants. Min Jung Kim, Art Museum Director, gave the keynote address.



Hannibal Federal Building



U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Kathy Surratt-States presided over a ceremony naturalizing applicants from 10 countries.



Old Courthouse

Chief U.S. District Judge Stephen R. Clark presided. Lynne M. Madison Jackson, descendant of Dred and Harriet Scott, gave the keynote address.



Lindenwood University



U.S. District Judge Matthew T. Schelp presided over a ceremony, hosted by Missouri Boys State and Missouri Girls State, naturalizing applicants from 28 countries. Dr. John Porter, Lindenwood President, gave the keynote address.



Missouri History Museum



U.S. Magistrate Judge Joseph S. Dueker presided. Dr. Jody Sowell, Historical Society President gave the keynote address. Applicants from 28 countries became American citizens.

Energizer Park



U.S. Magistrate Judge Joseph S. Dueker presided over a ceremony naturalizing applicants from 18 countries in a ceremony hosted by St. Louis City SC.



- contributions on page by Rachel E. Marshall

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PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICE

Sentencing Alternatives Improving Lives (SAIL) celebrated its 10-year anniversary in March, 2025. To date, 69 defendants have participated in SAIL, with 44 total program graduates, the latest in May. *{pictured}* Since its commencement in March 2015, the program has saved \$6,594,991 million by averting the costs of incarcerating these defendants. In fiscal year 2024, five participants successfully completed the program. There are 13 active participants in the program.



High Schools. The Saint Louis University **Upward Bound** program (SLU-UB) is a college preparatory academy that provides high school students the opportunity to acquire the academic skills and personal motivation necessary to finish high school, and to enter and earn a degree from a college or university. SLU-UB requires enrolled students to participate in a six-week residential Summer Academy that begins in mid-June. The Summer Academy includes exploration of various career fields. June 9 thru 13, 2025, students explored criminal justice careers. *{pictured below}* The week culminated with a visit to the Eagleton U.S. Courthouse. The Eastern District's U.S. Pretrial Services Office participated in a brown bag lunch session with the students where federal law enforcement careers in the judiciary were discussed.



Colleges & Universities. The Pretrial Services Office in the Eastern District of Missouri has taken the initiative to increase outreach at local colleges and universities to educate students on the importance of the pretrial office in the federal court process. There is often a lack of knowledge regarding the U.S. Pretrial Services Agency, so supervisors and officers have attended college career fairs and even been invited to speak at classes. This has helped generate a lot of interest in the pretrial office for students considering future careers with the judiciary.



- contributions on page by Susan Hendrickson

Pretrial Supervision

PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICE

For the calendar year ending December 31, 2024, the Eastern District of Missouri's Pretrial Services Office activated 1,103 new cases, 9th highest of 94 districts in the nation. Almost two-thirds of defendants in these cases were detained and never released. The Pretrial Services Office received 336 defendants for supervision during the fiscal year. Of the 804 defendants in release status for at least a portion of the fiscal year, 46% committed a violation—either a new arrest or a technical violation.

More than one-third of the Eastern District's new activations were charged with a firearms-weapons offense as the most serious charge. In contrast, nationally two-fifths of new activations were for an immigration offense. The impact of immigration offenses is reflected in some defendant characteristics, such as race/ethnicity, citizenship, and length of residency.

Psychiatric treatment among new activations was almost 25 percentage points higher in the Eastern District than nationally.

NEW ACTIVATIONS	Nation	MOED
Offense Charged		
Firearms-Weapons	12%	37%
Drugs	23%	28%
Property Offense	10%	19%
Sex Offense	4%	9%
Violence	4%	3%
Immigration	40%	~1%
Defendant Characteristics		
White Non-Hispanic	18%	33%
White Hispanic	54%	5%
Black	22%	59%
U.S. Citizen	53%	93%
Single	33%	49%
Male	87%	87%
Psychiatric Treatment	19%	43%

PROBATION OFFICE

For the calendar year ending December 31, 2024, the Eastern District of Missouri's Probation Office received 1,240 new persons for post-conviction supervision, 9th highest in the nation. During this time, 465 supervisees were revoked, and probation officers conducted 1,030 presentence investigations. At the end of the fiscal year, 2,277 persons were under supervision, the 11th highest supervision caseload in the nation of 94 districts.

For persons under supervision in the Eastern District at the end of the calendar year, about 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
Offense of Conviction		
Violence	6%	3%
Drugs	41%	31%
Immigration	6%	>1%
Firearms	18%	34%
Sex Offenses	11%	18%
Property	14%	12%
Public Order	2%	>1%
Escape / Obstruction	1%	1%
Other	>1%	>1%

Post-Conviction Supervision

PROBATION OFFICE

The Janis C. Good Mental Health Court is a reentry program for individuals who have severe and persistent mental illness and/or co-occurring disorders. Following evidence-based practices; relative to the risk, need, responsivity model—the target population has a moderate to high risk for recidivism. Additionally, mental illness has been identified as a responsivity factor which may impede the likelihood of success on traditional supervision. Participants must be amenable to receive an intensive level of supervision, which emphasizes managing the symptoms of an individual’s diagnosis.

This mental health court was created to mitigate the unique barriers and challenges individuals in this population may face when reintegrating back into the community, establishing adequate resources and support in their community, and sustaining long-term stability.

In April, Joseph Zarky graduated from the Janis C. Good Mental Health Court after having been an exemplary participant for almost two years. In 2023, he was sentenced to five years of probation for two counts of ‘Possession of a Firearm After Being Previously Committed to a Mental Institution’ and shortly thereafter began participating in the mental health court. Mr. Zarky overcame many barriers during his term of supervision. He actively participated in Court sessions and exhibited a positive attitude while participating in the reentry program. He maintained employment, sobriety, and full compliance with supervision requirements—successfully enlisting community resources. Mr. Zarky maintained an appropriate mental health treatment regimen, utilizing all case management and treatment services provided by **Places for People** in the St. Louis area. While participating in the Janis C. Good Mental Health Court program, he also attended and excelled in college courses at St. Louis Community College. Mr. Zarky plans to obtain his commercial driver’s license this summer.

- contribution by Julie Freeman



(l-r) Judge John A. Ross, Mr. Joseph Zarky, U.S. Magistrate Judge Rodney H. Holmes, U.S. Probation Officer Julie Freeman

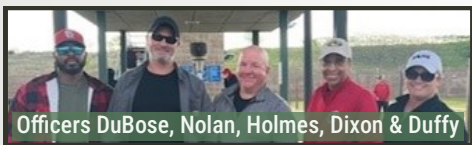
After attending a reentry simulation conducted at the Federal Judicial Center’s Court Unit Executives Leadership Training in 2024, Probation Office leadership decided to bring an interactive reentry simulation to front-line staff in the Eastern District of Missouri. In April 2025, a planning committee of Pretrial Services and Probation Office staff and their counterparts from the Southern District of Illinois visited Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) Marion, Illinois to participate in a reentry simulation hosted by the inmates and prison staff. The simulation consisted of an educational exercise that modeled the process of reintegrating back into society after incarceration. Some pretrial and probation office staff excelled and some struggled, but all left with an understanding of the barriers our population faces post-release. After participating in the simulation, the Eastern District’s joint planning committee intends to host a reentry simulation for our officers, support staff, and possibly judges this summer.

- contribution by Tori Caldwell

PROBATION OFFICE

PMO Is Now

In April, Probation Office staff participated in the Gunsite Academy's **Instructor Development—Pistol Mounted Optics (PMO)** course. Participating instructors learned to teach optics within the 'Modern Technique'. The course covered transitioning from an iron (gun) sight, legal and human factors with PMO, and acquiring the "red dot"—among a host of other skills. The four day course was held in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. During the first three days instructors familiarized themselves with technical specifications, shooting positions & techniques, and diagnostics of a shooting. On the last day, instructors applied what they had learned by teaching PMO to officers from the local district.



Officers DuBose, Nolan, Holmes, Dixon & Duffy

- contribution by Maria Duffy

Where Pets Become Family



Officers Heidecker & Sample

Southeast Missouri Pets is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of pets—saving the life of every adoptable pet. The staff who volunteered learned about the organization's community service opportunities

and toured the facility. Seeing the many different breeds of adoptable cats and dogs, and their distinct personalities, was very impactful. Staff bathed and played with numerous dogs, including five adorable puppies. Happily, one of these dogs, named Raisin, found a forever home. This wonderful experience highlighted the need for puppy time. Staff were invited back for future volunteer opportunities.



- contribution by Alma Salas

Empowering Women

In March, the Probation Office hosted **Keyway Center for Diversion & Reentry**, the mission of which is to help women in the criminal justice system successfully transition to family and community. Keyway presented 'Domestic Violence Awareness and Response', covering forms and signs of domestic violence, national and community statistics, and local resources for domestic violence survivors. The training taught a trauma-informed approach when encountering survivors and perpetrators of domestic violence. Keyway's training gave our staff a better understanding of the impact vicarious trauma can have on us, and the steps we can take to ensure our resilience.



Maggie Burke, Keyway Center

- contribution by Allison Carter

Helping Students Further Careers

Assistant Deputy Chief Probation Officer Jo Cooper spoke to Lincoln University students about her career as a federal probation officer and the possibility of an internship with the Eastern District of Missouri. She was invited to speak at Lincoln University by Joseph Steenberg, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice. While there, she met two former students from her visit last year who are now Probation & Parole Officers for the state of Missouri. *{pictured}* Both said her presentation a year ago informed their career choices as they worked to become federal probation officers. As an alum of Lincoln University, Ms. Cooper was pleased to contribute to students who were pursuing a career in criminal justice.



- contribution by Jo Cooper

SUPREME COURT FELLOW Eastern District of Missouri career law clerk Melissa C. Cosgrove has been named one of only four Supreme Court Fellows for 2025-2026. Fellows gain practical experience in judicial administration, policy development, and education and also develop an academic research agenda that results in a publishable-quality work of scholarship. She will be assigned to the Federal Judicial Center, the education and research agency for the federal courts. Ms. Cosgrove currently clerks for U.S. Magistrate Judge Stephen R. Welby and in the past clerked for Chief U.S. District Judge Stephen R. Clark and retired U.S. District Judge E. Richard Webber. Prior to clerking, she was an Assistant Attorney General in the Missouri Attorney General's Office. Ms. Cosgrove earned her juris doctorate from the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law. She graduated magna cum laude, was a member of the Order of the Coif, and served as an Associate Editor of the *Missouri Law Review*.



District Court Information

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

COMMUNITY SERVICE Over the past six months the Clerk's Office Outreach Committee spearheaded many charitable causes, including:

- ♦ **Stray Rescue of Saint Louis:** a shelter that rescues animals that would otherwise be euthanized and offers them a second chance for a loving home
- ♦ **Men's Jeans & Khakis Clothing Drive:** a drive on behalf of the Probation Office's Clothes Closet—collecting jeans, khakis, slacks, and Dockers pants
- ♦ **Help Support Tornado Victims:** items donated to **Love the Lou**—enriching lives and environments in north St. Louis
- ♦ **American Red Cross:** Give Blood, Help Save Lives—blood drives hosted in the Eagleton Courthouse

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

