



U.S. District Court Eastern District of Missouri

Welcome On September 29th, the Eastern District of Missouri welcomed a new judge. The Honorable Maria A. Lanahan took the oath from Chief Judge Stephen R. Clark and started her career with the Federal Judiciary. The bench and staff of EDMO are excited to add to the judicial team in our district court.



Maria A. Lanahan was the Principal Deputy Solicitor General with the Missouri Attorney General’s Office. In this capacity, she handled appeals and high-stakes litigation, arguing cases before the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals and the Missouri Supreme Court. Judge Lanahan clerked for the Honorable Raymond W. Gruender, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. She was previously a business litigation associate at Thompson Coburn LLP. Judge Lanahan earned her juris doctorate from the University of Chicago Law School.

In Review In August, cyber-attacks prompted the federal judiciary and the Eastern District to further secure its case management system, culminating in an October 27th order by the Court outlining new procedures for the storage and management of restricted or sealed documents.

During the government shutdown that began October 1st, the Federal Judiciary had sufficient funds to operate normally through October 17th. After this time, the Court performed only “excepted” functions until the continuing resolution was approved on November 12th. The Court thanks its dedicated employees who continued to perform the duties essential to the constitutional and statutory mission of the judiciary.

In October, the Eastern District solicited public comment on proposed local rules that became effective December 15th. The Federal Practice Committee and the Subcommittee on Patent Rules were integral in developing and reviewing the proposed changes. Local rule changes include submission of the updated MOED Form 1 in criminal cases, creation of a Model Civil Protective Order for use by attorneys, a new ADR neutral certification requirement, and modification to attorney admission registration numbers. The rules that govern patent cases also underwent significant revision.

On November 19th, all active and senior district judges signed an order establishing uniform procedures for sentencing hearings in the Eastern District. The order provides consistent procedures in sentencing. The order also allots time for preparation of the presentence report, disclosure of this report to parties, and filing of presentence submissions by the parties.

In December, the Eighth Circuit updated the Model Jury Instructions Builder (JIB) with changes through July. The Eastern District recommends accessing jury instructions through the JIB rather than printed copies, as the former is updated annually.

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

Serving the Citizenry of the United States by

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

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Judges Provide Learning in the Community



Chief U.S. District Judge Stephen R. Clark spoke:

- on a civil law panel at the Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference with Chief U.S. District Judges Kristine G. Baker (Arkansas Eastern), Patrick J. Schiltz (Minnesota), and Roberto Lange (South Dakota), and
- at the St. Louis County Bar Association’s Judicial Appreciation Luncheon and State of The Bench and Bar continuing legal education offering.

U.S. District Judge Sarah E. Pitlyk:

- Lectured University of Missouri School of Law students on legal writing and Saint Louis University School of Law students on sentencing.
- Judged moot court finals at Washington University School of Law and spoke to students about judicial clerkships.

U.S. District Judge Cristian M. Stevens spoke at the Missouri Attorney General’s Office Seminar at the University of Missouri School of Law.

U.S. District Judges Cristian M. Stevens and Zachary M. Bluestone spoke at the Summer Tax Summit 2025, Views from the Bench: U.S. District Judges Discuss Best Practices in Tax/White Collar Crime Cases.

U.S. District Judges Cristian M. Stevens, Zachary M. Bluestone, Joshua M. Divine, and Maria L. Lanahan attended and spoke at the New U.S. District Judges Reception hosted by the St. Louis Chapter of the Federal Bar.

Senior U.S. District Judge Rodney W. Sippel spoke with Advanced Placement U.S. Government classes at Kirkwood High School.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Abbie Crites-Leoni was a:

- “Starting five” panelist for “Sip and Soar: An Evening with Women Who Lead” sponsored by Southeast Missouri State University Women’s Basketball Coach Briley Palmer who selected five visionary leaders from the Cape Girardeau community to share their stories of perseverance, passion, and success. *{at right}*
- Panelist at a Missouri Organization of Defense Lawyers’ event.



U.S. Magistrate Judge Rodney H. Holmes was the keynote speaker for the Metro East Youth Leadership Weekend at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, hosted by the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute.

U.S. District Judge Sarah Pitlyk, Senior U.S. District Judges Audrey Fleissig and John A. Ross, U.S. Magistrate Judges Patricia L. Cohen and Stephen R. Welby, Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Bonnie Clair, and U.S. Bankruptcy Judges Kathy A. Surratt-States and Brian C. Walsh discussed their paths to the bench at Washington University School of Law’s Roadways to the Bench. The event was co-hosted by the Missouri Asian American Bar Association, Mound City Bar Association, Hispanic Bar Association of St. Louis, South Asian Bar Association of North America, and Women Lawyers’ Association of Greater St. Louis.

The Jury Service Experience in the Eastern District of Missouri

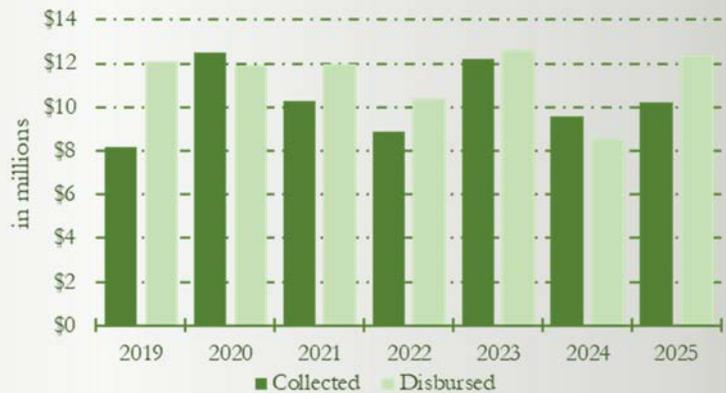
Thirty-three jury trials went to verdict in the Eastern District in 2025. In addition, three cases resolved before trial but after jurors had reported to the Court. The Court contacts jurors through applications approved by Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts and provides information on jury service on our website. In 2025, Jury Unit staff issued summons to appear at the Court to more than 1,400 potential jurors.

The Eastern District remains attentive to our jurors and the invaluable role they provide. Eight-nine percent of jurors who completed the Court’s exit questionnaire rated their jury service experience favorably. Jurors who were chosen to serve on a trial reported a more favorable experience, in accordance with the well-documented positive impact this has on people’s perception of the jury system. Additionally, a favorable view of jury service increased with age of respondent. A large majority of jurors rated the various aspects of jury service (i.e., eJuror, notification, treatment by staff, orientation, physical comforts, etc.) as ‘excellent’ or ‘good’.

Almost one-half of jurors report a hardship due to jury service, with approximately one-quarter reporting two or more. The need to rearrange work schedule and lost income were the most commonly reported hardships. Perhaps not surprisingly, those who reported a hardship were more likely to have asked to be excused or deferred from jury service and also to rate jury service unfavorably.

Collections & Disbursements

In 2025, the Eastern District of Missouri collected \$10.2 million in restitution, civil garnishments & refunds and disbursed \$12.4 million to victims and creditors. Over the last seven years, the Eastern District collected approximately \$72 million and disbursed \$80 million.



POWER Act Webinar for Attorneys in the Eastern & Western Districts of Missouri

Attorneys earned continuing legal education hours learning in a workshop covering topics such as domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking while encouraging them to provide pro bono services to victims. The webinar’s multidisciplinary panel, Circuit Judge Jason Dodson of Missouri’s 21st Judicial Circuit and Kelly Martinez, Legal Director and Nora Mosby, Member Services Specialist from the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, presented on key Missouri laws impacting survivors of domestic violence, effective representation of survivors, how an abusive partner may use the legal system to perpetrate violence, the nature and dynamics of domestic violence, the neurobiology of trauma, and resources to meet the needs of survivors.

One hundred and nineteen attorneys attended the webinar. Attendees were satisfied with the training—indicating that the panelists were knowledgeable, training activities helped develop relevant skills, and after completing the training they would be better able to respond to these clients.

The female maternal perspective is always good to know for the amount of civil/criminal work which I handle in my practice.—Webinar participant

I enjoy this webinar and do my best to attend it every year. It serves as a reminder to me to be on the lookout for DV/ Abuse and the power imbalance that results when one party has been a victim of DV.—Webinar participant

Constitution Day Events—Celebrating the 1787 Signing of the U.S. Constitution

CONSTITUTION DAY EVENTS

Student Event

The annual student event recognizing Constitution Day was held on September 17th. Students from Cape Central High School spent the day at the Eagleton Courthouse in St. Louis. *{below}* They were welcomed by Chief U.S. District Judge Stephen R. Clark, then observed courtroom proceedings and participated in a series of activities about the First Amendment to prepare for a mock trial activity, presided over by U.S. Magistrate Judges Patricia L. Cohen and Stephen R. Welby.



Naturalization Ceremonies

On September 16th, the St. Louis Cardinals hosted a naturalization ceremony at Busch Stadium. U.S. Circuit Judge L. Steven



Grasz administered the oath to 20 new American citizens before the first pitch. The 2025 ceremony was the seventh held at Busch Stadium since 2019.

On September 19th, the annual Constitution Day ceremony was held at the Old Courthouse in downtown St. Louis. Twenty-nine applicants became U.S. citizens after U.S. District Judge Henry E. Autrey administered the oath to them. U.S. Attorney Tom Albus gave remarks and the De Smet Jesuit High School Black Robe Choir performed.

Bill of Rights Day Celebration

Commemorating the Anniversary of the First Ten Amendments

December 15th is the anniversary of the ratification of the Bill of Rights. The Court celebrated by hosting student events highlighting the important American right of trial by jury.

St. Alban Roe & Clark Elementary Schools. On December 11th and 17th, fourth graders from St. Alban Roe and fifth graders from Clark Elementary (respectively) visited the courthouse to learn about the Bill of Rights and observe a court proceeding. U.S. District Judges Matthew T. Schelp and Maria A.



Lanahan spoke with the two groups. The students then completed a Readers Theater activity in a courtroom, which simulated the *Tinker v. Des Moines* trial and appeal. They also visited the **Judicial Learning Center** where Mary Beth Tinker's black armband is displayed.

New City School. On December 12th, fourth graders from New City School participated in their annual mock trial event at the courthouse. Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge Shirley A. Padmore Mensah presided over the case of "littering in the first degree." Students filled the roles of attorneys, witnesses, and jurors, and were coached by attorney (parent) volunteers.



BILL OF RIGHTS DAY CELEBRATION

Federal Justice Fellowship—Final Presentations

Undergrads Exploring Legal Careers

Through the Federal Justice Fellowship, this year the Court and the Southeastern Division invested in the development of eight bright, motivated, and hard-working future lawyers. Below is a summary of who they are, and the Supreme Court case each Fellow presented at this year’s final program.

Olivia Langston is a rising Senior at Mizou and Cape Girardeau native, studying English and Political Science. She presented *Katz v. United States*, a case that redefined the scope of Fourth Amendment protection against unreasonable searches and seizures more than 50 years ago.

Jesse Russell is also a rising Senior. He’ll graduate from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, studying Political Science, Pre-Law, and Black Studies. Jesse hails from the small town of America, Il. He shared his impressions of *Brandenburg v. Ohio*, an important First Amendment case from 1969 that established the test for restricting speech which is still used today.

Lydia Pobst is a Senior at Southeast Missouri State University, studying Communications. She has minors in Business Law and Business Administration. She grew up in Jackson, Mo. She discussed *Santosky v. Kramer*, a case decided in 1982 that considered the standard of proof required to terminate parental rights.

Jenna Brock selected a case involving music and a doctrine in copyright law. She is a musician (accomplished saxophonist) studying Business Administration and Music. She’s a rising Junior at Southeast Missouri State University who grew up in Cedar Hills, Mo. Jenna shared her impressions of *Campbell v. Acuff-Rose Music, Inc.*, decided in 1994.

Katherine Moon enlightened attendees with *United States v. Booker*, a Supreme Court decision that significantly impacted federal sentencing. Katherine attends Indiana University at Bloomington where she studies Criminal Justice, Entrepreneurship and Small Business, and Spanish. She was born and raised in Cape Girardeau. Like Jenna, Katherine is a rising Junior.

Charlotte Bartels examined how *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* impacted the interpretation of First Amendment political speech rights and in turn campaign finance and political spending. Charlotte is from St. Charles, Mo. She attends Washington University in St. Louis where she studies Psychological and Brain Sciences, Political Science, and English. Charlotte is going into her Junior year.

Quintin Hunter, a native of Sikeston, Mo, selected a local criminal case that travelled all the way to the Supreme Court, *Missouri v. McNeely*. It was decided in 2013 and addresses application of the Fourth Amendment to a very specific type of search. Quin is a rising Senior at Ole Miss in Oxford, Mississippi. He has a major in Political Science and minor in Psychology.

Lily Ward, another Cape Girardeau native, tackled *Kennedy v. Breerton*, a case that had a significant impact on the understanding of religious freedom in public schools. Lily is a rising Junior at Baylor University studying Political Science, Spanish, and International Studies. She’s headed to Washington, D.C. this Fall to work in the Public Information Office for the Supreme Court of the United States.



2025 Fellows: *l-r seated* Q. Hunter, C. Bartels, J. Brock, L. Ward; *l-r standing* Hon. Abbie Crites-Leoni, O. Langston, J. Russell, L. Pobst, K. Moon



2025 Fellows, Federal Justice Fellowship alumni, and Hon. Abbie Crites-Leoni at reunion luncheon

Summer Enrichment Programs

Opening the Courthouse to the Community

Even though school isn't in session, the summer remains a busy time for visitors. Many community organizations include a federal court field trip as an essential component of their summer programming for youth. In the summer of 2025, the following groups were enriched by their experience at the courthouse:

- Participants of the Discover You pathway of STL Youth Jobs, in collaboration with the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, met with professionals to explore legal, law enforcement, and court support careers. Four groups visited over the summer.
- Two groups of youth from Boys Hope Girls Hope St. Louis toured the courthouse, observed court proceedings, and participated in a conversation with a federal judge.
- Students enrolled in the Summer at SLU Law and Advocacy Summer Program learned first-hand how the court works in preparation for their culminating mock trial experience.
- Undergraduates from the Gephardt Institute for Civic & Community Engagement at Washington University got an in-depth look at SAIL, Eastern District of Missouri's diversion program.
- Scouts from throughout Missouri participated in the annual Merit Badge Skill Centers in Cape Girardeau and St. Louis to



earn the Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badge and get one step closer to achieving Eagle Rank.



Sharing Resources

with Classroom Teachers

The Court provides learning experiences and teaching resources for local educators so that, through them, students and citizens will have an increased understanding of and appreciation for the role of the federal courts within the branches of government.

Exploring Federalism. The annual **Summer Teacher Institute** was held in St. Louis on July 9-10th and via Zoom on August 6th. Teachers from Missouri and Illinois participated in activities, observations, and expert panel discussions to explore the concept of federalism and its relationship to the structure, function, and jurisdiction of both state and federal courts.



Judge Pitlyk and Teacher Participants

I appreciate that the resources given were immediately useable in the classroom.— participant comment

Simulating Jury Service. On December 10th, U.S. Courts staff from St. Louis and Kansas City co-presented at the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Central Social Studies Summit. The interactive session for teachers focused on jury service, including a voir dire simulation activity, and other resources for teaching on the topic.

Back to School

Courthouse field trips remain popular with school groups. Visiting classes meet with legal professionals, observe court proceedings, and participate in interactive activities. Judicial Learning Center exhibits provide a foundation for the overall experience. In 2025, 3,475 people visited as part of 135 program and tours, with 20 groups awarded a transportation grant.

Many educators regard the field trip as a vital part of the curriculum, returning year after year. Schools that carried on the tradition of an annual visit included Belleville West High School, Lindbergh High School,

Maplewood Richmond Heights Middle School, Francis Howell North High School, Clayton High School, Hazelwood West High School *{above}*, Pattonville High School, and Ladue Fifth Grade Center.



Our field trip to the Federal Courthouse is the highlight of my Youth and Law course. The students and I look forward to seeing our judicial system in action every semester. The curriculum comes to life with our discussions with the attorneys and other legal field experts. Witnessing a real court proceeding gets my students talking for days after.—Ben Schamber, Pattonville High School

ADMINISTERING THE OATH TO NEW AMERICANS

During the second half of 2025, 40 ceremonies were held naturalizing more than 2,017 new citizens. For the full year, 67 ceremonies were held for 3,244 new citizens.

Eagleton Courthouse

Naturalization ceremonies occur weekly in the Eagleton Courthouse. Judges administer the oath of allegiance to applicants for citizenship in public ceremonies attended by family, friends, and supporters of the new citizens.



The Gateway Arch

On July 2nd, a ceremony for 39 new citizens was held at the Gateway Arch in recognition of Independence Day. Recalled U.S. Magistrate Judge David D. Noce presided, David Murray of the National Park Service gave remarks, and music was provided by the Courthouse Singers.



Harris-Stowe

On July 29th, a ceremony for 236 new citizens was held at Harris-Stowe State University. Senior U.S. District Judge John A. Ross presided, Judge Booker T. Shaw {at left} gave remarks, and the Courthouse Singers performed.



Limbaugh Courthouse

On August 20th, a ceremony for 24 new citizens was held at the Rush H. Limbaugh Sr. U.S. Courthouse in Cape Girardeau. Senior U.S. District Judge Stephen N. Limbaugh Jr. presided, Missouri Governor Kehoe {left} and Missouri Treasurer Malek gave remarks, and Trudy Lee performed.



St. Louis City Hall

On September 26th, a ceremony for 27 new citizens was held at St. Louis City Hall. U.S. Magistrate Judge Noelle C. Collins presided. St. Louis Mayor Cara Spencer {back right} and Laura Kaiser of SSM Health gave remarks, and the Courthouse Singers performed.



St. Charles CC

On October 17th, a ceremony for 49 new citizens was held at St. Charles Community College. U.S. Magistrate Judge John M. Bodenhausen presided, college president Dr. Barbara R. Kavalier gave remarks, and the college's chamber choir performed.



SAIL

PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICE

Sentencing Alternatives Improving Lives (SAIL) continued to celebrate success by graduating its 45th participant since SAIL began in 2015. Since its commencement in March 2015, the program has yielded \$6,594,991 million in savings by averting the costs of incarcerating these defendants. There are currently 10 active participants in the program.

Since 2001, the Eastern District’s U.S. Pretrial Services Office has coordinated the Motion for Kids campaign for the Court’s agencies. However, this year the staff of the Eastern District of Missouri Bankruptcy Court asked to partner with the Pretrial Services Office on the Motion for Kids campaign, and we were excited to welcome Bankruptcy Court staff into the endeavor.



Each year Motion for Kids provides an annual holiday party for up to 2,500 St. Louis area children in the foster care system or those whose lives have been severely impacted by the criminal justice system. Children are matched up with sponsors from the St. Louis legal community. Each sponsor is asked to purchase a gift(s) totaling \$30-\$60 chosen from the child’s wish list. Gifts are distributed during a party, to which the children and their families are invited. This year’s party was held at Harris-Stowe State University’s Emerson Performance Center.

2025 was another successful year! Overall, 131 volunteers helped with Friday gift drop off {see above}, Saturday gift organization, and the party on Sunday. Fifty-four organizations participated by sponsoring kids, and 2,203 children were sponsored.

- contribution by Tiffany Corley



The Pretrial Services Office held its first ever professional development retreat in July. The full-day retreat was held at the St. Louis Zoo. Staff were encouraged to dress in theme and decorate their table accordingly. The support staff table—The Jungle Keepers—won for best theme and decorations! In the morning, Federal Judicial Center trainers moderated Real Colors Foundation program. We completed a Real Colors instrument that identified four common personality types. Through individual and group exercises, we explored how the four personality types are similar and different, and we examined ways different personality types can communicate and interact effectively with each other in the workplace.

Staff Retreat



Pretrial Services Office Staff

In the afternoon, the friendly competition of a zoo-wide scavenger hunt—won by The Zoopervision Squad—promoted team building. Afterwards, author and motivational speaker John O’Leary spoke about the little things that can be done to make a difference in the lives of our defendants and in the community we serve. He delivered a powerful action-oriented message that was sure to compel our office to further embrace our mission of promoting positive long-term change in the lives of those we serve.

- contribution by Susan Hendrickson

PROBATION OFFICE

Building Circuit-Wide Leadership Networks

In September, the chiefs and deputies of the Eighth Circuit’s U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services offices met in Des Moines, Iowa for the first of what is hoped to be an annual conference. The multi-day conference was a great opportunity for the Executive Teams from the ten districts in the Eighth Circuit to discuss increasing budget constraints, workload, and evolving responsibilities. Conference themes were clarity, collaboration, innovation, and resilience.

Chief U.S. District Judge Stephanie M. Rose, Southern District of Iowa, opened the conference, welcoming attendees. Retired Chief U.S. Probation Officer Steve Skinner, Western District of Oklahoma, then presented on managing budgets in austere times and leadership alignment. The day concluded with a tour of the Southern District of Iowa’s new courthouse and a group dinner.

The next day, John Fitzgerald, Chief of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts’ Probation and Pretrial Services Office presented virtually on the pressing matters faced by chiefs and deputies. The afternoon ended with a presentation on leading through change by Courtney Smock, Partner/Change Management Consultant at Slingshot 25, LLC. On the last day, the training concluded with a presentation by Dr. Richard Deming, Medical Director of Mercy Cancer Center and founder of Above+ Beyond Cancer, on pursuing lives of meaning, purpose, passion, and compassion.

Through break-out, discussion, and debrief sessions, the chiefs and deputies created connections and established a path for collaboration among the Eighth Circuit’s districts. Quarterly Teams meetings have been instituted, where office leadership can exchange ideas and discuss ways to better serve our districts.



Collaboration & Communication

In September, U.S. Probation Office staff gathered at the Saint Louis Zoo for a one-day retreat. The purpose of the retreat was to build collaboration and strengthen communication among our staff. Our day began with a leadership video by Juliet Funt on a five-step process designed to make the work pile smaller by cutting and letting go of misguided effort. Following the leadership segment, we broke into small groups and participated in a ‘Zoo-Mazing Race’ and a ‘Scavenger Hunt.’ Both activities built collaborative relationships with a focus on communication, problem solving, and flexibility.



Our day concluded with a fiscal year 2025 budget recap and the outlook for fiscal year 2026. Given our the Probation Office’s limited resources and budget forecast, our intent is to focus on mission critical work while identifying and releasing us from work that is taking up bandwidth and not generating the desired results.

It was a beautiful day filled with a lot of laughter, a little bit of sweat and a renewed sense of “We’re in it together.”

- contributions on page by Kim Bramlett

PROBATION OFFICE

Janis C. Good Mental Health Court Graduation



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.



Mental Health Court Graduates & Team

Asia McNeal, Cornelius Critten, and Lewis Ware graduated from the Janis C. Good Mental Health Court in August. All of these participants overcame many barriers during their term of supervision and exhibited a positive attitude while participating in the program. Additionally, all showed a desire to encourage their peers in the program, mentoring newer participations when appropriate. While on supervision, these participants actively participated in Court sessions and successfully utilized community resources. They maintained an appropriate mental health treatment regimen, utilizing all case management and treatment services provided. The Janis C. Good Mental Health Court team wishes them all the best of luck in their future endeavors.

- contribution by Julie Freeman

Gang Re-Entry Initiative Program Graduation



In 2019, Armon Harris was sentenced to 60 months imprisonment for Felon in Possession of a Firearm and Possession with Intent to Distribute Cocaine Base. After completing his term of imprisonment in 2024, he began his term of supervised release, participating in the Eastern District's Gang Re-Entry Initiative Program (Project GRIP). Mr. Harris actively participated in the intensely supervised program and achieved the program's goals and objectives. He graduated from the program and was terminated early from supervised release. Since his early termination from supervision, Mr. Harris has attended Project GRIP events to support the other participants. He is also looking for ways to engage in outreach in his community to break the cycle of violence that he found himself in at a young age.

- contribution by Jessica Marsac

Family Program—Affirming Families



Since 2008, the Eastern District's U.S. Probation Office's Family Program has addressed the needs of former offenders and their families. Dysfunctional family dynamics can be a contributing factor to recidivism, especially when the former offender was the primary income earner or caregiver. The Family Program seeks to lessen the burden on families by providing some of the family's basic needs and supporting family connections while loved ones are incarcerated.

The Probation Office collaborated with the Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) in Forrest City, Arkansas by hosting a two-day Family Day Event for incarcerated fathers and their families. A bus took family members from St. Louis to Forrest City. Once at the institution, the families played games, shared a meal, and reconnected with each other. In the evening the children swam and ate at the hotel.

The next day, community partners led workshops discussing the responsibilities of parenting from prison and reintegration into the family once released from prison. Children and fathers created time capsules to be opened when the father is released from prison. The families experienced a unique opportunity of connecting with each other while lunching together. At the end of the program, the fathers read affirmation letters to their children stating their commitment to them, framed copies of which were given to the children as keepsakes. The day ended with the bus ride home and memories that will last a lifetime.

This year's Family Day exceeded expectations. We were nearly at capacity, and the families had a meaningful, intimate, and loving interaction. Bureau of Prison staff were welcoming and made the event smooth and easy for everyone. We look forward to Family Day 2026!



- contribution by Lisa Coldon-White

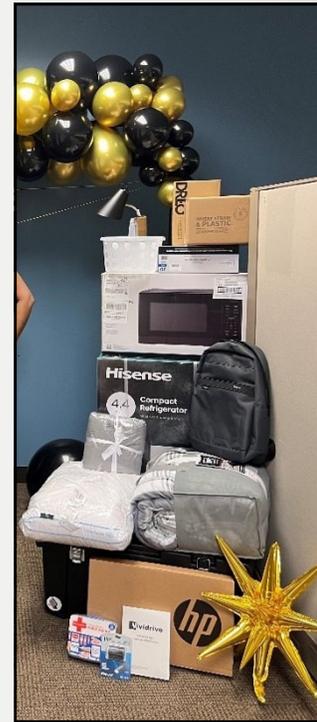
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PROBATION OFFICE

The Family Programs' College Bound Initiative

Since 2016, the Probation Office's College Bound Family Program has helped clients send their children to their first year of college by providing dorm supplies—including a laptop, bedding, min-fridge, microwave, and other essentials. Most of the clients served by the Family Program are from a low income background, and their child is often a first generation college student. This may put the family at a disadvantage in preparing their student for college life. Having the dorm room items listed above helps relieve some of the burden that comes with getting these college-bound students ready for their freshman year. This year, College Bound helped four families.

The parents of the college-bound recipients have complied with all conditions of probation—positively adjusting to the community during their term of supervised release. Each has maintained a stable residence and employment—including as a business owner. Their college-bound children will attend Harris Stowe University, Austin Peay University, Mississippi State University, and Graceland University where they will study nursing and marketing among other subjects.



Back to School Supplies

At the beginning of the 2025 school year, the Eastern District's Family Program gave away 50 backpacks to children referred by probation and pretrial services officers. The parents of these children have limited resources. To assist with the cost the families incur during this time of the year, **Caritas Connections, Inc.** donated the supplies for the backpacks which have been beneficial and appreciated for several years.



Backpacks for the Unhoused

Made possible by the generosity of **Caritas Connections, Inc.**, the Family Program has 30 backpacks with necessities for our unhoused clients. Unhoused clients lack physical housing provided by themselves or by a relative, and who have no immediate possessions. These can be individuals who were just discharged from an institution or those who find themselves in dire circumstance without resources of their own.



- contributions by Lisa Coldon-White

PROBATION OFFICE

Vets—Talk

In August, the U.S. Probation Office’s Sex Offender Unit invited military veterans on supervision to learn about the many services available to them through the Department of Veterans Affairs. VA Representative Matt Miller gave an information-packed presentation and provided handouts to those present that included mental health and substance abuse services, psychiatric services, educational benefits, and housing assistance. Participant feedback was very positive. The partnership with the Probation Office and the Department of Veterans Affairs is ongoing and will enhance our ability to inform our unique population of the services available to them.



- contribution by Jamil Tirbi

Rolling Surveillance Training

In August, Eastern District probation officers Grant Sneed, Shaun Margul, Brittany Swanson, and Valerie Butler attended LCI Services’ **Rolling Surveillance: Training for Law Enforcement** in Baton Rouge, LA. Former Los Angeles police officer Tim Lewis, who has been featured on the TV show *Gangland*, led the training. Rolling Surveillance® is a hands-on, 5-day physical surveillance course that provided realistic scenarios of encounters between law enforcement and persons of interest. The training emphasized planning, discipline, patience, and teamwork; creative surveillance techniques; and proper documentation and decision-making. Counter-surveillance and techniques for dealing with sophisticated and organized crime were also covered.

Attendees learned creative and proper vehicle and foot surveillance techniques, taught in the element of the uncontrolled streets. The training exercise focused on follow-alongs on surface streets and freeways with stationery observation set-ups at apartment complexes, residential neighborhoods, various business settings, business complexes, mall settings, parking structures/lots, and other similar locations. The surveillance exercise lasted until midnight.

The Rolling Surveillance® training was intense and tested every participant’s ability to achieve the critical elements for success. We learned more about surveillance than one would have thought possible in a week, making each Eastern District U.S. Probation Officer a more valuable asset to our agency and community.

- contribution by Valerie Butler

CISM Training

The Eastern District’s U.S. Probation Office hosted a Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) training through the **International Critical Incident Stress Foundation, Inc.**, an internationally-recognized authority for CISM standards. Staff from the Eastern District of Missouri and Northern District of Iowa attended the multi-day training. The training was conducted by Joe LaFratta, a retired Assistant Deputy Chief U.S. Probation Officer and current director of New England’s Probation and Pretrial Services Office Regional CISM Team. Training participants developed evidence-based skills through classroom instruction and role play. Individual and group crisis intervention role plays addressed Critical Incident Debriefing and Critical Incident Stress Debriefing—incorporating exercises in strategic planning, informational groups, peer support, and post-incident debriefing. Certification ensured high-quality practices that strengthen readiness to respond effectively and compassionately during critical incidents.

The Eighth Circuit’s Probation and Pretrial Services Offices’ chiefs and deputies have agreed to support a regional CISM team. Chief Probation Officers Kim Bramlett (Eastern Missouri) and Jill Bushaw (Northern Iowa) are co-leading development of this CISM team.

- contribution by Monica Mannino

Understanding of, Appreciation for

2025 CLERK'S OFFICE CONFERENCE



The Eastern District of Missouri's Clerk's Office held an all-staff conference at Pere Marquette Lodge and Conference Center outside of Grafton, IL. The goal of the conference was to provide a learning and collaborative opportunity for our staff. The day consisted of professional development, business operations, and personal betterment activities.



The day began with a welcome and discussion of the 'Roles and Responsibilities of the Court' by retired Judge Joseph L. Goff, Jr. a Partner at Armstrong Teasdale LLP. {at left} Judge Goff referenced his firsthand experience as an Associate Circuit Judge in Missouri's 24th Judicial Circuit and also as the appointing authority for that circuit's ~50-employee Juvenile Office. Following this, Matthew Braunel, a Partner at Thompson Coburn LLP and Chair of its AI Task Force, Innovation Committee, reviewed the potential use of artificial intelligence in the legal profession—"Your New Partner (or Frenemy)?"

Mr. Brandon Howard, and Education Specialist at the Federal Judicial Center, led two breakout sessions on visioning—"Setting the Table for Vision" and "Framing Our Vision". During the first breakout session, Mr. Howard described the intent of a vision statement and defined its key characteristics. In the second, staff collaborating in small groups drafted vision statements for our Clerk's Office.

Sample Draft Vision Statement: Continuously provide the highest level of service with integrity, collaborating with other agencies and communities, while maintaining public trust.
—T. Roskowski, B. Porter, M. Gains, K. Watson, K. Zenon, and K. Davis



The conference included offerings designed to help staff manage their health and well-being. Margaret Gladden from the Judiciary's Employee Assistance Program spoke on resources and benefits available to staff—such as counseling, financial wellbeing, legal service, etc.; and how to access these. The CG Squad followed with 'Build Your Becoming,' motivation strategies and activities to have a stronger, leaner, healthier lifestyle. The CG Squad, a family owned business specializing in women's health, was founded by Coach Courtney Gerding {at left} and Katie Carr. Tom Krause, a motivational speaker and contributor to Chicken Soup for the Soul book series, spoke eloquently about how through attentiveness and kindness you can make a huge difference in the lives of others.

Away from the routine of the office, the Clerk's Office practiced collaboration and problem-solving, learned more about our and each other's work, increased rapport, and improved morale. Our collective goal in 2025 was to gain a greater understanding of the work each person does to contribute to the mission of the Court and through that understanding we would have a greater appreciation for each person on the Clerk's Office team.

2025 CLERK'S OFFICE CONFERENCE

District Court
Information

During **Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month**, the U.S. Probation Office honored those affected by suicide and reaffirmed its ongoing commitment to mental health advocacy and support. The colors and symbols on the shirts worn by the staff on the walk represented remembrance for those lost to suicide, support for those who face mental health challenges, and a reminder of strength and continuation in moments of deep struggle. Together, these symbols reflect hope, healing, and a shared dedication to prevention. This annual commemoration reflects the Probation Office's commitment to raising awareness, promoting open and compassionate dialogue, and fostering a supportive work environment. By standing together, we not only remember those we have lost but also reinforce our dedication to well-being, stigma reduction, and ensuring that no one faces their struggles alone. If you or someone you know is experiencing suicidal thoughts or a mental health crisis, please call 988 to connect with the **Suicide & Crisis Lifeline** for immediate support.

- contribution by Monica Mannino

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

- ◆ **Back to School Drive Fundraiser:** donations for purchasing school supplies for students
- ◆ **Stanton Health and Rehab Center:** care packages for nursing home residents



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

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



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