

United States District Court

Eastern District of Missouri
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse
111 South 10th Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63102

Gregory J. Linhares
Clerk of Court

314-244-7900

February 26, 2018

RETIREMENT OF CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER DOUGLAS W. BURRIS

On February 28, 2018, Douglas W. Burris will end his tenure of government service as Chief Probation Officer for the Eastern District of Missouri, a position he has held with distinction and honor since his appointment in 2000.

Under the direction of Mr. Burris, the U.S. Probation Office for this district is renowned for development and implementation of reentry programs that continue to reduce rates of supervised release violations, recidivism, and unemployment. He received multiple national awards during his career, including the National Association of Probation Executives Award for Exceptional Leadership and the Director's Award for Outstanding Leadership. Mr. Burris also received the Director's Award for Extraordinary Actions after leading the Court's response to a sentencing retroactive reduction, a change in federal law that impacted 26,000 federal inmates. He is the only two-time winner of the Director's Award in the history of federal probation. He testified as an expert on recidivism reduction strategies before the U.S. Senate and conducted multiple presentations at the White House. As a guest of the President, he watched the signing of the Second Chance Act, the most comprehensive prisoner reentry legislation ever passed.

Mr. Burris has been profiled in books: *Diamond Quality Leadership: The Six Qualities that Separate the Best Leaders from the Rest* and *Watch Everything: A Judicial Memoir* and in documentaries: *Out of the Box*, *Crossing the Line: Ordinary People Committing Extraordinary Crimes*, and *Blood Brothers: How our Children Become Killers*. His achievements have been featured in national press reports including CNN, the Washington Post, the New York Times, and NPR's *All Things Considered*. He has been the featured speaker at numerous events and law schools across the country.

Mr. Burris received his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Kansas and a Master's Degree from the University of Oklahoma. After a career as an executive in the private sector, he began work as a federal probation officer in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1995 and became Chief Probation Officer in the Eastern District of Missouri in 2000. In addition to his service to the Court, he was an adjunct professor at St. Louis University and a member of the Harvard University Executive Session on Community Corrections, a three-year think tank.

Chief Judge Rodney W. Sippel stated, "It is impossible to list all of the contributions Doug Burris has made to the administration of justice. His tireless efforts have made our community a better place to live. His leadership has made this Probation Office a model for the rest of the country." Reflecting back on the last eighteen years with this District, Mr. Burris stated, "Working for the Judges and others in this District has been the greatest honor of my life. With Scott Anders selected as the incoming Chief U.S. Probation Officer, the District will get even better in the immediate future and continue to be the benchmark for the rest of the system."