

# U.S. District Court— Eastern District of Missouri

## U.S. District Judge Carol E. Jackson Retires from the Bench

The Honorable Carol E. Jackson retired as a U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri on August 31, 2017, after 31 years on the federal bench. Judge Jackson is a true trailblazer. She became the first African American woman to serve as a Magistrate Judge in the Eastern District of Missouri on

January 2, 1986. In 1992, she became the first African American woman to serve as a District Judge in the Eastern District. Then in 2002, she became the first African American Chief Judge for the District. She served as Chief Judge until 2009.

Judge Jackson graduated with a B.A. in history from Wellesley College in 1973. She planned to be a doctor, but after volunteering for Legal Aid of East Boston, she

decided to become a lawyer. In 1976, she graduated from the University of Michigan Law School.

She worked in private practice in St. Louis at Thompson & Mitchell (now Thompson Coburn) from 1976 to 1983 and then in corporate practice at Mallinckrodt, Inc. from 1983 to 1985, until her appointment to the federal bench.

As Chief Judge, she helped found the Eastern District of Missouri’s drug court program for offenders on supervision in 2008. She presided over that program until 2014.

Judge Jackson served on the Judicial Conference of the United States’ Committee on the Administration of the Magistrate Judges System and on the Federal Judicial Center’s District Judge Education Advisory Committee. She was an adjunct professor at Washington University Law School from 1989 to 1992 and was active in a number of civic organizations, such as the American Red Cross’ Bi-State Chapter, St. Louis Children’s Choirs, St. Louis Art Museum, Missouri Botanical Garden, and the Coro Foundation.

### The Honorable Carol E. Jackson



## Court Seminars: January–June, 2018



*Another great program! ... Extremely useful and well done. ... Great topics - like always.—  
participants' comments*



*This is always one of the most helpful CLEs offered.—  
participant comment*

### ◇ May 3—Southeastern Bench & Bar

Rush Hudson Limbaugh, Sr. U.S. Courthouse, Cape Girardeau

### ◇ May 10—Criminal Justice Act Seminar

Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse, St. Louis

### ◇ June 15—Northern Bench & Bar

U.S. Federal Building and Courthouse, Hannibal

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

**Serving the Citizenry of the United States by**

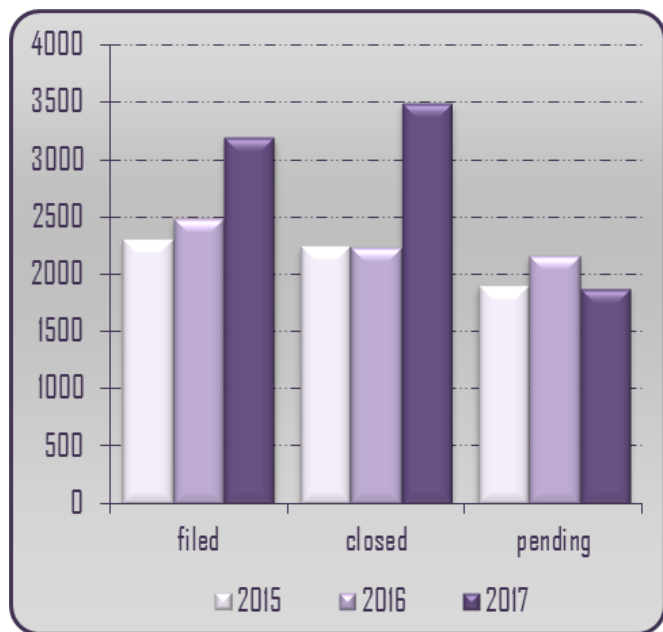
- > Providing justice
- > Educating attorneys
- > Informing the public
- > Supervising & rehabilitating offenders
- > Using resources wisely

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# CIVIL CASE STATISTICS

Filings increase by 29% in 2017, the highest number ever recorded



## Record Number of Filings

Almost 3,200 cases were filed in the Eastern District during Calendar Year 2017—the highest number of non-MDL civil cases filed in recent memory. The number of filings increased by 710 cases, or by 29%, from 2016. A 165% increase (from 2016) in tort filings accounted for the increased caseload. However, civil rights filings also increased (+27%); while prisoner petitions (-27%) and social security appeals (-23%) decreased.

Almost 700 filings involved at least one self-represented litigant—502 prisoners and 192 non-prisoners.

In addition, three multidistrict litigation consolidations were pending in the Eastern District at the end of 2017. *{see table bottom right}*

## Record Number of Dispositions

While almost 3,200 cases were filed in 2017, almost 3,500 civil cases were closed. The Eastern District closed 1,200 more cases in 2017 than in 2016—a 57% increase. Because of the large number of cases closed, the Eastern District’s 2017 year-end pending caseload decreased by almost 300 cases (or 14%) from 2016.

Case Category	2017 Case Count	
	Filed	Pending
Contracts	211	183
Real Property	26	23
Torts	1,394	253
Civil Rights	285	257
Prisoner Petitions	546	559
Forfeiture/Penalty	22	20
Labor	169	135
Immigration	2	1
Intellectual Property Rights	39	25
Social Security	198	252
Tax Suits	6	5
Bankruptcy	19	7
Other Statutes	281	152

## Multi-district Litigation Consolidations

Pending Begin	Filed	Closed	Pending End
Nuvaring Products Liability			
261	52	227	86
Avida Life Media, Inc., Customer Data Security Breach			
18	1	1	18
Emerson Electric Co. Wet/Dry Vac Marketing & Sales Practices			
8	0	0	8
Blue Buffalo Company, LTD., Marketing & Sales Practices			
13	0	13	0

# CRIMINAL CASE STATISTICS

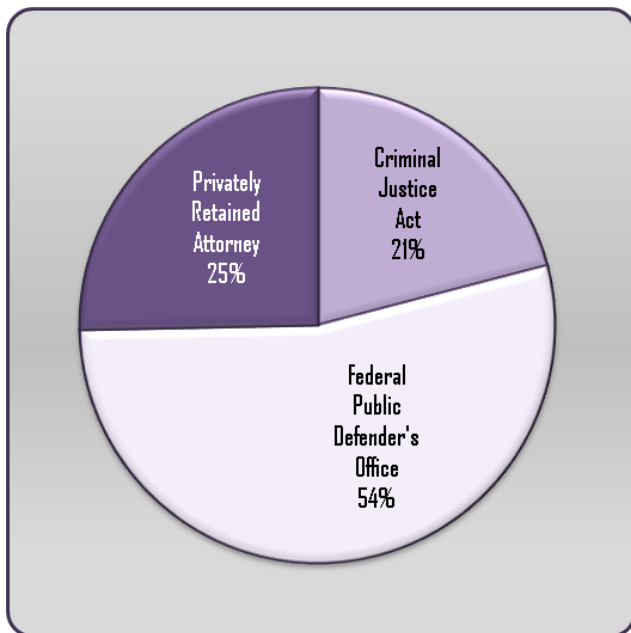
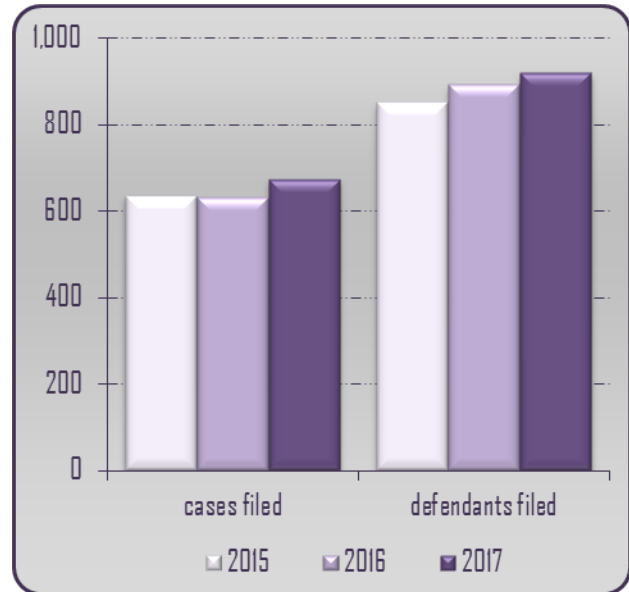
## Number of both criminal filings and defendants increase in 2017

In 2017, 675 criminal cases with 920 defendants were filed in the Eastern District of Missouri. In comparison to 2016, criminal case and defendant filings increased by 7% and 3%, respectively. Almost all criminal filings were for felony offenses.

The most common filings were for illegal possession of a firearm (grouped with 'other miscellaneous' offenses), fraud, controlled substance, and sex offenses. For the third consecutive year, illegal possession of a firearm accounted for approximately 40% of criminal case filings.

In 2017 the Eastern District collected \$4.3 million in restitution, civil garnishments & refunds and payed out \$3.6 million to victims and creditors.

Continuing a trend from previous years, in 2017 the Federal Public Defender's Office represented more than 50% of criminal defendants, while private attorneys appointed under the Criminal Justice Act represented about 20%.



Types of Attorney Representation

Offense Description	2017 Counts	
	Cases	Defendants
Robbery	4	4
Assault	5	4
Larceny & Theft	21	24
Embezzlement	4	4
Fraud	99	182
Auto Theft	13	25
Forgery & Counterfeiting	17	26
Sex offense	55	55
Marijuana drug	6	13
Controlled substance	84	181
Other miscellaneous	343	372
<i>illegal possession of a firearm</i>	<i>225</i>	<i>232</i>
Immigration laws	10	10
Federal Statutes	11	16

# ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

## Mediation process proves effective, participants report satisfaction

The goals of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in the Eastern District of are to: provide a simple & confidential structure for voluntary disposition of civil cases; improve time to disposition of cases; reduce litigation costs; and enable parties to fashion a wider range of remedies. ADR is an informal non-binding process in which an impartial neutral, or mediator, facilitates negotiations to help reach a settlement. Mediation can broaden the range of resolution options, often by exploring litigants' needs and interests in ways that may not have otherwise been considered by the parties. In mediation, parties determine their own resolution & outcome, including the option of agreeing to settlement.

In 2017, 413 cases were referred to ADR. The specific natures of suit that were referred most often were employment civil rights, insurance contract, ERISA, and motor vehicle tort.

Of cases referred to ADR that closed in 2017, a mediation conference was held in almost three-fifths. Almost one-half of cases in which a

mediation conference actually occurred reach a settlement.

The Eastern District solicits non-attorney participant feedback through an online survey through SurveyMonkey. 61% of respondents reported their case was resolved, at least in part, in mediation, and 62% reported mediation decreased litigation time. Of those not achieving full resolution, 53% reported mediation increased the likelihood of a future resolution.

In 2017, 82% of respondents were very or fairly satisfied with the mediation process, while an even greater proportion (88%) reported they would use mediation again and/or recommend it to others. 25% of plaintiffs and 11% of defendants were somewhat to very dissatisfied with mediation

91% of respondents were very or fairly satisfied with the mediation; reporting high levels of satisfaction with his/her preparedness, expertise and handling of the mediation process.

# TRIAL STATISTICS

## Trials & Jury Service Exit Assessment

In 2017, the Eastern District started 34 jury trials and 6 bench trials.

Almost three-quarters of civil trials (bench or jury) were for petitions by prisoners, tort, and contract cases.—unlike previous years which saw more civil rights cases going to trial.

Two-thirds of criminal trials were for charges stemming from illegal possession of a firearm (4), distribution/manufacture of a controlled substance or marijuana (4), and sex trafficking/child pornography (3)—similar to previous years except for a decline in trials for fraud.

Trials	Civil	Criminal
Jury	20	14
Bench	5	1

In 2017, 363 individuals who reported for jury service completed a questionnaire regarding their jury service. More than nine-tenths rated the experience as favorable or more favorable than what they expected.

Approximately nine-tenths of respondents rated various aspects of jury service as above average (i.e., excellent or good) - very similar to last year. {See table in next column} In contrast, except for length of service (8%), each aspect of jury service was rated as below average (fair or poor) by less than 5% of respondents.

Over two-fifths of respondents reported one or more hardship resulting from jury service. The most commonly reported hardships were the need to rearrange work schedule (26% or all respondents) and lost income (14%).

% above average responses	
Online eJuror Program	89%
Information on website	88%
Information before report	90%
Automated phone notice	90%
Initial orientation	91%
Treatment by Jury Unit	97%
Treatment in courtroom	97%
Treatment by security	95%
Physical comforts	89%
Parking facilities	83%
Scheduling time at court	82%
Length of service	76%

## Judges of the Eastern District contribute Time and Talent

### U.S. District & Senior District Judges



The Honorable  
Rodney W. Sippel

Chief Judge Rodney W. Sippel serves as the Chair of the Judicial Conference of the United States (JCUS) Committee on the Judicial Branch. He was named to the

Executive Committees of the Federal Judge Association and Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis.



The Honorable  
Stephen N.  
Limbaugh, Jr.

Stephen N. Limbaugh Jr. presides over the Eastern District's Veterans Court. He also serves on the Eighth Circuit's Committee on Model Jury Instructions.



The Honorable  
Catherine D. Perry

Catherine D. Perry serves on the United States Judicial Panel of Multidistrict Litigation. She also continued as the Eastern District's representative to the Eighth Circuit Judicial

Council, serving on the circuit's Defender Services, Rules, Ad Hoc Committee on Death Penalty Cases, and Jury System committees. Judge Perry also serves on the district's Budget and Criminal Justice Act committees.



The Honorable  
Audrey G. Fleissig

Audrey G. Fleissig copresides over the SAIL diversion program. She also serves on the JCUS's Committee on Court Administration and Case Management and is the Federal Judges Association's

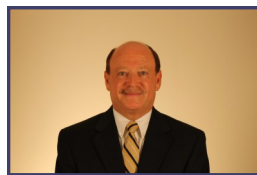
Board of Directors Eighth Circuit representative.



The Honorable  
Henry E. Autrey

Henry E. Autrey presides over Project G.R.I.P., a re-entry court for gang members seeking redirection. He also continued to serve as Chair of the Eastern District's Court Security

Committee and as Court member of the district's IT Advisory Council.



The Honorable  
John A. Ross

John A. Ross presides over the Eastern District's Janis C. Good Mental Health Court, serves on the JCUS's Committee on Defender Services, and is the JCUS representative to the International Judicial Relations

Committee.



The Honorable  
E. Richard Webber

E. Richard Webber co-presides over Pretrial Services' SAIL diversion program.



The Honorable  
Ronnie L. White

Ronnie L. White serves as the chair of the Eastern District's Alternative Dispute Resolution Advisory Committee.

### U.S. Magistrate Judges:

seated (l. to r.) Collins, Noce, Baker, Padmore Mensah; standing (l. to r.) Cohen, Crites-Leoni, Bodenhausen



Chief Magistrate Judge Nannette A. Baker was appointed to the American Bar Association's (ABA) Standing Committee on Publishing Oversight. She was also appointed to co-chair the ABA's *Judges' Journal*/editorial board. Judge Baker co-presides over the Eastern District of Missouri's Janis C. Good Mental Health Court, and she served on the Eastern District's Criminal Justice Act Committee.

Judge David D. Noce was the presiding judge of Project EARN, the Eastern District's Drug Court and was a member of several of the district's committees. He served as Chair of the Eighth Circuit's Model Civil Jury Instructions Subcommittee. Judge Noce was a member of the Advisory Committee of the Administrative Office publication *Federal Probation*.

Judge Shirley A. Padmore Mensah serves as an Ex-Officio Member of the Eighth Circuit Judicial Council's Magistrates Judges Committee and is the only Magistrate Judge in the U.S. serving on the JCUS's Committee on Defender Services.

Judge Noelle C. Collins was appointed to serve on the editorial board of *Federal Lawyer*, the magazine of the Federal Bar Association. She serves on the Court's Criminal Justice Act Committee and the Local Rules Committee and co-presides over the Eastern District's Janis C. Good Mental Health Court and Project G.R.I.P.

Judge Abbie Crites-Leoni serves on the Eastern District's Criminal Justice Act Committee.

Judge John M. Bodenhausen served on the Planning Committee for the 2017 Federal Practice Trust Seminar, where he co-presented on digital forensics. He also serves on the district's Court Security Committee.

The 2017 Federal Practice Seminar, sponsored by the Federal Practice Memorial Trust in cooperation with the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis focused on emerging issues in 21st century federal practice. 284 attorneys attended. Attendees earned 1.5 hours of CLE in Ethics. Attorneys completing the program evaluation uniformly rated the topics and presenters highly.

In the opening morning session, District Judge Catherine D. Perry and Emily Slater (Burford Capital) discussed multi-district litigation and



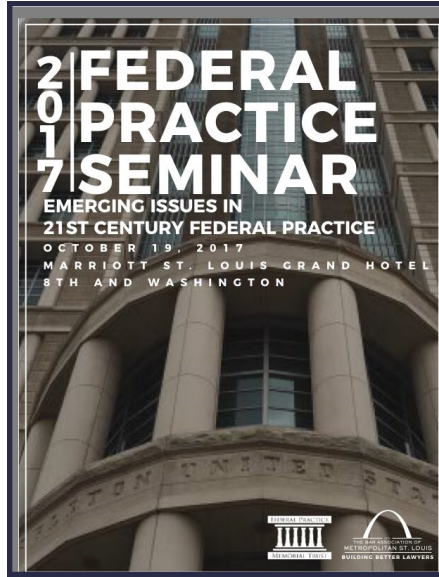
**District Judge Catherine D. Perry & Emily Slater field questions**

issues in litigation finance. Magistrate Judges Abbie-Crites Leoni & John M. Bodenhausen and Diane Dragan (Assistant Federal Public Defender) followed with a presentation on digital forensics. The new

U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District—Jeffrey B. Jensen—spoke about his goals before the morning presentations concluded with a panel session of current (Robert A. Katzmann—2nd Circuit, Lavenski R. Smith—8th Circuit) and former (William B. Traxler—4th Circuit) Court of Appeals Chief Judges moderated by retired Chief Circuit Judge Deanell Reece Tacha.

Former U.S. Ambassador to Ireland—Kevin O'Malley—was the keynote speaker.

The afternoon included two sets of break-out sessions followed by a roundtable with judges of the Eastern District moderated by Bradley A. Winters—Chair of the Federal Practice Committee.



In the first set of breakouts, attendees could choose between an update on intellectual property law (District Judge John A. Ross, Professor Dennis Crouch—University of Missouri School of Law, Molly Edwards—Monsanto, Steve Holtshouser—Husch Blackwell, and Bridget G. Hoy—Lewis Rice) or a two-part discussion on civil litigation with magistrate judges. The latter included a panel discussion regarding litigating civil consent cas-

es (moderated by District Judge Ronnie L. White) and the views of Magistrate Judges Shirley A. Padmore Mensah, Noelle C. Collins and Patricia L. Cohen on civil case management.



**Eastern District judges participate in the roundtable**

The second set of break-outs offered a choice between a panel on opportunities for pro bono work (District Judge Henry E. Autrey, Senior District Judge E. Richard Webber, Barry A. Short—Lewis Rice, Patricia A. Hageman—Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, and Professor Patricia H. Lee—St. Louis University School of Law) and cybersecurity (District Judge Audrey G. Fleissig and Jeffrey B. Jensen—U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District).

The day-long seminar concluded with a Happy Hour, sponsored by the Federal Bar Association—St. Louis Chapter, Crystal at The Grand




**NEW U.S. ATTORNEY**

Chief Judge Rodney W. Sippel swears in Jeffrey B. Jensen as the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District as Senator Roy D. Blunt looks on.



**U.S. DISTRICT COURT SWEARING IN CEREMONY**

The United States District Courts for the Eastern & Western Districts of Missouri will conduct enrollment ceremonies for admission to the federal bar at the State Capitol in Jefferson City on April 27 and September 21.

## Educational Outreach Overview

Public Education and Community Outreach have long been considered priorities by the U.S. District Court. Each year thousands of people participate in programs offered at the courthouse. Target audiences include teachers, students, scouts, senior citizens & community groups.

The second half of 2017 was a very busy time for education and outreach. The vast majority of annual summer programming took place in July, and the entire month of September was dedicated to celebrating Constitution Day. The Constitution Day event at the courthouse

was a huge success, and several off-site naturalization ceremonies in September took the Constitution Day celebration out to the community. A traveling exhibition on Alexander Hamilton was displayed in October and November, attracting Hamilton fans of all ages.

Courthouse tours continue to grow in popularity. During 2017 touring groups included K-12 school classes; summer camps; Scout Troops; teachers; homeschoolers; walking groups; senior groups; undergraduate, graduate, and law students; and visiting judges, dignitaries, and

scholars from other countries. A typical tour includes a courtroom observation, judge and attorney chats, and the Judicial Learning Center. Returning teachers often claim it is the only field trip they take all year because it is so meaningful and educational for students.

**In 2017, 197 groups, or 6,132 people, participated in tours and programs. This represents an 18% increase over 2016.**

The District Court again partnered with the local chapter of the Federal Bar Association for a student event. Fifth and Sixth grade stu-



**New City School students attend a courthouse event**

dents from Sigel Elementary of St. Louis Public Schools attended participated in a mock trial event with real judges and lawyers. Students played all of the roles in the courtroom and learned first-hand how the process works.



**Senior District Judge E.R. Webber and Scotland County H.S. students**

## The Judicial Learning Center

The Judicial Learning Center is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to promoting public understanding of the federal judicial branch. The Center supports education programming at the federal courthouse. Examples include sponsoring educator events, offering transportation grants, and funding traveling exhibitions.

The Transportation Grant program

awarded more dollars towards busses than in any previous year. In 2017, the Judicial Learning Center reimbursed schools for more than \$10,000 in transportation costs. This amount allowed 1,186 students who might not otherwise have been able to experience a courthouse tour.

The Judicial Learning Center also offers resources to teachers, stu-

dents, and learners of all ages through the educational website [www.JudicialLearningCenter.org](http://www.JudicialLearningCenter.org). For the second consecutive year, the website had over 1 million page views. Also in 2017, lesson plans packets were downloaded more than 8,000 times.

## Community Service in the Eastern District—Clerk’s Office

In September 2017, the Clerk’s Office held a NFL Tailgate Snack Sales with proceeds donated, via the Federal Court Clerks Association, to court personnel adversely affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria.

St. Louis’ Crisis Nursery. In October, office staff donated wish list items to St. Louis’ Crisis Nursery—committed to preventing child abuse and neglect by providing emergency intervention, respite care, and support to families in crisis.

Motion for Kids. Office staff participated in the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis’ Motion for Kids, an annual holiday party benefiting area children who have a parent in prison. Motion for Kids has grown each year since it started and now includes children in foster care.

Beverly Farm Foundation. The Clerk’s Office adopted 20 men and women from Beverly Farm Foundation for the holiday season. Beverly Farm Foundation in Godfrey, Illinois, houses nearly 400 individuals with diagnosed intel-

lectual and/or developmental

disability. This organization provides the physical and emotional security needed to ensure a dignified quality of life for the people in their care.

Volunteers from the Clerk’s Office participated in the Salvation Army Bell Ringing campaign at many locations across metropolitan St. Louis.

Office staff donated money and food to the St. Louis Area Foodbank, provided over 3,000 meals to those in need. Staff also raised funds for Stray Rescue St. Louis.



**Staff helping at Motion for Kids**



**Salvation Army bell ringing**

## Constitution Day—An Award Winning Program Series!

### 2017 Constitution Day Student Event

The Court hosted a rescheduled Constitution Day program on Thursday, October 26, 2017. This marked the seventh time the Courts have worked with The Missouri Bar and HEC-TV to host this award-winning program. The program focused on the upcoming anniversary of the Fair Housing Act of 1968. Panelists included District Judge Ronnie L. White, University of Missouri Law Professor Rigel Oliveri, and President of Beyond Housing St. Louis Chris Krehmeyer.

Participants in the live audience included students from Northwest Academy of Law High School, Soldan International Studies High School, Vashon High School, and Jennings Senior High School. Students worked on preparatory lessons in advance and came prepared with questions for the panel. The student questions drove the content of the program, which covered the historic context from the time the Act was written up to modern day and implications for the future. Several landmark cases from the Eastern District of Missouri such as *Shelley v. Kraemer* and *Jones v. Mayer* were prominently featured.



### 2017 Constitution Day

The educational support materials, including a study guide prepared by the Office of Citizenship Education at The Missouri Bar, can be found [here](#).



Chief Judge Rodney W. Sippel, Outreach Coordinator Rachel Marshall, and Clerk of Court Gregory J. Linhares with 2016 Emmy plaque

[HTTP://EDUCATE.TODAY](http://educate.today)

program videos coming to this website in Spring 2018

2016 Event  
Wins an Emmy!

HEC-TV was awarded a **Mid-America Regional Emmy** for the 2016 Constitution Day program sponsored by The Missouri Bar and hosted by the U.S. Courts at the Thomas F. Eagleton Courthouse. For several years, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit have worked with The Missouri Bar and HEC-TV to bring an interactive program to the students of St. Louis and beyond. Each program is broadcast live and includes a studio audience of local high school students. Students around the country participate during the broadcast, and countless others access the archived programs year after year. The Emmy winning 2016 program featured an in depth look at the historic U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Miranda v. Arizona*. Magistrate Judge John M. Bodenhausen served as one of the panelists on the program. The Miranda episode and related educational resources can be found [here](#).

Past programs have included such topics as judicial nominations, judicial interpretation, election law, and right to counsel. A federal judge from the Eastern District of Missouri has served as one of the guest panelists each year.

## Popular Summer Programs for Scouts, Teachers & Home Educators

Boy Scouts. The Court sponsors workshops for the Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badge in St. Louis and Cape Girardeau, with an additional winter break workshop in St. Louis. This badge is a requirement to become an Eagle Scout. After completing pre-requisites, scouts and parents participated in a full day of activities at the courthouse. After completing the day's activities each scout earned a Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badge. One hundred and four scouts earned this badge between the three events.

Girl Scouts. Workshops were sponsored for the Inside Government and Finding Common Ground

Merit Badges. The Inside Government workshop was a full day program, held in St. Louis for 35 Girl Scouts. The Finding Common Ground workshop was co-hosted with the National Park Service. Three groups of Girl Scouts spent the afternoon at the courthouse learning about mediation skills. Fifty-seven girls earned the Finding Common Ground badge during these three programs.

Teachers. Summer Teacher Institutes were held in Cape Girardeau and St. Louis. Fifty-two teachers from Missouri and Illinois attended the programs, which dealt with topics related to the judicial branch as well as Alexander Hamilton. Both insti-

tutes included a courtroom observation, and presenters such as federal judges, attorneys, and master teachers. Several members of the new Teacher Advisory Council to the Judicial Learning Center participated by assisting with logistics and leading some of the sessions.

Homeschool Educators. The second annual Homeschool Educator Institute was held in August. This event was specifically for parent educators and their high-school aged children. Eleven people attended and experiences included the Judicial Learning Center, courtroom observation, and several guest presenters.



## Greeting New Citizens! - Naturalization Ceremonies

Naturalization ceremonies are special for all involved, including the Court. Each ceremony is an event organized by court staff, hosted in a ceremonial courtroom or at a meaningful off-site location.



**new citizens are sworn in**

Each ceremony is unique, combining remarks by the presiding judge, a speech by an honored guest, and musical performances.

During the second half of the year, the District Court hosted 14 ceremonies for 1,469 new citizens. For all of 2017, the total number of new citizens was 2,089 in 28 ceremonies.

Students and Scout Troops play a large role in many ceremonies—assisting by singing, leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, or serving as color guard. Off-site ceremonies are often hosted at schools. Student participation was a key feature of all ceremonies held in September of 2017. As part of a national initiative organized by the U.S. Courts Office of Public Affairs, Constitution Day was celebrated by including students in naturalization ceremonies.

The Constitution Day Naturalization Ceremony on September 8 was hosted by the Saint Louis University School of Law at Chaifetz Arena. Chief Judge Rodney W. Sippel and Magistrate Judge Shirley A. Padmore



[Click on photo to view video of the St. Louis University Naturalization Ceremony](#)

Mensah presided over the ceremony at which 798 new citizens took the oath of citizenship. Guest speakers included the President of Saint Louis University, the Dean of Saint Louis University School of Law, and the Deputy Associate Director of U.S.

Citizenship and Immigration Services. Students of the Saint Louis University Law School Choir provided the music.

On September 18, the annual ceremony honoring Constitution Day was held at the Old Courthouse at the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial.



[Click on photo to view video of the Old Courthouse Naturalization Ceremony](#)

District Judge Henry E. Autrey presided over the ceremony at which 22 people became citizens of the United States. After a welcome from the National Park Service, Lynne M. Jackson, descendant of Dred and Harriet Scott and President and Founder of the Dred Scott Heritage Foundation, served as the special guest speaker. The DeSmet Jesuit High School Black Robe Choir sang a medley of patriotic songs and the national anthem.



The September 21 ceremony was hosted by the students of Brentwood High School in the school's auditorium. District Judge Catherine D. Perry presided over the ceremony at which 54 people were naturalized. Students set up the ceremony and acted as greeters and chaperones for the new citizens and their families.

Students led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and provided music through songs and instruments. Students hosted a reception for the newest citizens and their families following the ceremony.



[Click on photo to view video of Brigid Buckley singing at the Brentwood H.S. Naturalization Ceremony](#)

### New Citizen



Ilker Ibrahim Tunay

[click photo to hear him reflect on naturalization & citizenship](#)

*Participating in a naturalization ceremony is one of the more meaningful things that my fourth grade does each year. In advance of the day, we study about immigration from Ellis Island to present-day, and the students come to understand what a sought-out privilege it is for many to become citizens of the United States. Participating in the ceremony brings the stories we have read even closer to home and creates a curiosity in the students about their own ancestors' countries of origin. In addition, the students feel accomplished when they have helped to make the day more beautiful (by singing) for the new citizens. Providence Classical Christian Academy thanks you for this opportunity!—Tori Egger, Teacher*

## National Initiatives in Civic Education

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri is active in civic education activities beyond the geographic boundaries of the District. Chief Judge Rodney W. Sippel is chair of the United States Judicial Conference Committee on the Judicial Branch. The Judicial Branch Committee jurisdiction includes studying and reporting to the Judicial Conference on the present and future relationships with Congress, the executive branch, media, bar and the general public.



**U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg & Eastern District's Chief Judge Rodney W. Sippel at the 2017 Judicial-Congressional Dialogue**

hosted naturalization ceremonies at schools and

The Judicial Branch Committee, with the guidance of National Outreach Manager Rebecca Fanning, kicked off the 2017 national initiative for Constitution Day and Citizenship Day. During September, courts around the country

other notable off-site locations in recognition of the anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution on September 17.

For the past 18 years, the Judicial Branch Committee has partnered with the Newseum Institute's First Amendment Center on Justice and Journalism programs. These programs bring together judges and journalists to improve communication and mutual understanding. The first program was held in Washington, D.C. in 1999 and brought together 30 federal judges and more than a dozen journalists to discuss ways to improve news coverage of the judicial process. Since that time, 20 additional programs have been conducted in Washington and across the country. The most recent program, in November 2017, was held in New Orleans, Louisiana, at the John Minor Wisdom U.S. Courthouse. Appellate, district, and magistrate judges from Louisiana and surrounding states met with media representatives from throughout the region.

Another installment of the Judicial-Congressional Dialogue Series took place in December 2017. The series, with the goal of improving relationships with Members of Congress, is a combined activity of the Judicial Branch Committee and the Pew

Charitable Trusts. On December 5, 2017, the seventh Judicial-Congressional Dialogue event was held at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. Federal judges from the Judicial Branch Committee and members of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees attended a special performance of selections from *Scalia/Ginsberg*, a comedic opera by Derrick Wang. Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg and Mr. Wang were in attendance, and both gave remarks. Mrs. Maureen Scalia was also in attendance. Senator Chuck Grassley, the chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and other members of Congress were in attendance.

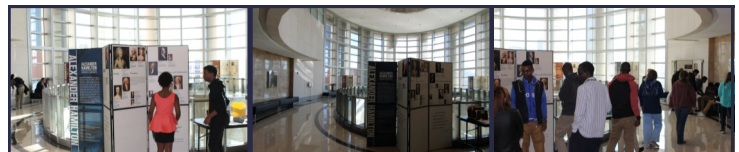


**2017 Judicial-Congressional Dialogue (l. to r.) Hon. Marilyn L. Huff, U.S. District Judge, Southern District of California & current President of the Federal Judges Association; Hon. Ruth Bader Ginsburg; Carol Messito, Assistant General Counsel, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts; Rachel Marshall, Public Education & Community Outreach Administrator**

*My class thoroughly enjoyed visiting the Thomas F. Eagleton Courthouse. We were especially fascinated with the Hamilton Exhibit and the unique primary sources that it used to teach about the various facets of Alexander Hamilton's life. The opportunity was especially unique given that we viewed the exhibit while overlooking the city of St. Louis from a building within the court system that Hamilton once described as the "least dangerous" branch of government.*

Thomas Gallaher, Teacher, New Athens IL High School

*Ritenour High School's Justice League (a name we created after visiting the Federal Courthouse) enjoyed the Hamilton Exhibit because they stated they could identify with him as an immigrant and as a poor person early in life. They were impressed that he was so young and doing so much with his life.* - Lisa Hampton, Teacher, Ritenour High School



## ALEXANDER HAMILTON

### The Man Who Made Modern America Traveling Exhibit

The U.S. District Court and the Judicial Learning Center hosted a traveling exhibition from October 16-November 9. During that time, an opening reception, teacher workshop, and OASIS seminar were held related to the exhibit. Twenty-four school groups visited the courthouse for a tour, most of whom came specifically to see the Hamilton exhibit. Tour groups were able to complete a gallery activity and participate in a wrap up discussion, and teachers took home additional resources for the classroom. Community members visited the building to see the exhibit as well.

## U.S. Probation Office—facilitating treatment

Ex-offenders participate in and complete a variety of re-entry programs in the Eastern District

**Two ex-offenders graduated from Project EARN.** One graduate began supervised release in June 2014, but struggled with compliance issues—including alcohol addiction and a criminal life style. However, after entering Project EARN, he quickly learned that to succeed he needed to avoid the people, places, and things that triggered his criminal behavior in the past. He now has a business with his new life partner and has a more stable relationship with his children and family.

Another Project EARN graduate suffered from the loss, due to violence, of many loved ones since beginning

supervised release—including his mother, godmother, adult son, and stepson. These losses motivated him to make significant changes in his life. He worked tirelessly while in Project EARN—attending his sessions & medication-assisted treatment appointments, maintaining employment, and making good life choices for his recovery and future.

**Three ex-offenders graduated from the Janis C. Good Mental Health Court.** The first ex-offender graduated in July. She held 2—and sometimes 3—jobs, participated in mental health counseling, and paid restitution. After graduation she received early termination from supervised release.

Two ex-offenders graduated in De-

ember. One experienced ups & downs, but ultimately made huge strides, receiving an early termination of supervision. He works as a cook and has the opportunity for managerial/chef training through his employer. He's reconnected with family and now has a stable relationship with them, for which he credits the mental health court.

The second December graduate turned down early termination of supervision in favor of continued support—including transportation, counseling and medication. She began studying for her GED. Also, she was accepted into the Independence Center program and works at the front desk there.

**Two ex-offenders graduated from the Veterans Court.**



**District Judge John A. Ross addresses mental health court graduation attendees as Magistrate Judges Nannette A. Baker & Noelle C. Collins look on**

## U.S. Probation Office—furthering education

College Bound Program	5 students received touch-screen laptops, dorm supplies and gift cards/cash
Ranken Tech—automotive	8 participants completed the training program in September
Southern Missouri Truck Driving School—CDL	12 participants completed certified driver's license training
BKA Medical Training—certified nurse assistant	2 participants completed the training program in December
St. Louis Carpenters' Union—construction & welding	6 participants completed the training program in October
Metropolitan Training Alliance—forklift & job devel.	7 participants completed the training program in October
U.S. Probation Office computer donation program	36 computers were awarded to ex-offenders on supervision in the second half of 2017

## IN MEMORIAM—RAYMOND JAMES BEHM

Jim Behm died on August 16, 2017. He earned degrees from St. Louis University and the University of Denver and spent his entire professional career in the field of corrections. He served in the United States District Court for 26 years and retired in 2000 as Chief of Federal Probation and Parole from the Eastern District of Missouri.

## Clerk's Office Update

The Clerk's Office pursued numerous infrastructure projects over the last six months that improve The Court's service to the community. These include:

- Updating courtroom video systems to display high definition video. The transition from analog to digital video offers a clearer broadcast of exhibits, while also handling the most modern display outputs.
- Implementing the Judiciary Integrated Financial Management System (JIFMS)—a federally administered centralized architecture that eliminates costly interfaces, improves data security & controls, and allows for electronic fund transfers.
- Preparing for implementation of NextGen—an upgrade to CM/ECF, the judiciary's electronic case management system. NextGen will feature shared data with other Judiciary electronic system, more streamlined processes, greater consistency in user experience, and greater efficiency by using new tools and technology.
- Renovating the 26th floor of the T.F. Eagleton Courthouse to provide chambers for four Senior District Court Judges, their judicial assistants and law clerks. Construction is expected to begin in the Spring and to be completed by early Fall 2018.

### District Court Information

The Honorable  
Rodney W. Sippel,  
Chief Judge

Gregory J. Linhares  
Clerk of Court



### 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



## 2017 Total Solar Eclipse

**In the path of totality! - court staff in Cape Girardeau view the eclipse on August 21.**