



# U.S. District Court Eastern District of Missouri

The Eastern District of Missouri’s Court en banc saw many changes during the first half of 2023. Four valued colleagues retired from the bench and three experienced U.S. District Judges took senior status, leaving the Court with three vacant district judgeships. Fortunately, the Court added two highly qualified U.S. Magistrate Judges.

Personnel changes were not confined to the Court en banc, with recent turnover of all three Court Executive positions.

After a lengthy and difficult period, on **May 11, 2023** the Eastern District ended emergency case operations authorized by the CARES Act due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, remote audio-broadcasts in civil cases will be allowed until September 21, 2023.

Ending the pandemic-era restrictions was beneficial for the Court and those who come before it, as the Eastern District’s criminal defendant caseload continues to be one of the largest in the federal



judiciary. Once again, we had the most defendants charged with a firearm/explosive offense of any district in the nation, an occurrence reflected in the demanding supervision caseloads of the Pretrial Services and Probation offices.

The Court continues to responsibly modernize its local rules, case management practices, Information Technology infrastructure, and workplace environment.

As part of the Court’s proactive efforts to meet the needs of its users and in partnership with the Federal Practice Commission, a **Town Hall Series** was held for members of the bar. Attendees were asked to share their views on the Court’s practices and collaborate with others on improvements to the Court’s civil and criminal practices. The open forum, which the judges did not attend, was meant to solicit input on those things important to the bar members.

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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 Honorable Rodney W. Sippel



U.S. District Judge Rodney W. Sippel took Senior status in January 2023. He was nominated by President Bill Clinton and confirmed by Senate in November 1997. He served as the Chief U.S. District Judge of the Eastern District from January 2016—December 2022.

Judge Sippel has been very active in the administration of, and civil education about, the federal judiciary. Since 2015 he has been the Chair of the Judicial Conference of the United States’ Committee on the Judicial Branch—which is charged with addressing problems affecting the judiciary as an institution and affecting the status of federal judicial officers.

He earned his juris doctorate from Washington University School of Law in St. Louis and a Bachelor of Science from the University of Tulsa.

### The Honorable Audrey G. Fleissig



U.S. District Judge Audrey G. Fleissig took Senior status in April 2023. She was nominated by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the Senate in June 2010. Prior to her confirmation, she was a U.S. Magistrate Judge in the Eastern District from 2001 to 2010. She served as the Chair of the Judicial Conference of the United States’ Committee on Court Administration and Case Management.

Judge Fleissig has had a long and varied career. She worked in private practice for over 10 years, becoming a partner in a St. Louis law firm. Afterwards, she was an assistant United States attorney for approximately 10 years before becoming a federal judge – serving as the U.S. Attorney in 2000-2001.

She earned her juris doctorate from Washington University School of Law in St. Louis and a Bachelor of Arts from Carleton College.

### The Honorable John A. Ross



The Honorable John A. Ross took Senior status in June 2023. He was nominated by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the Senate in September 2011.

In addition to serving on the federal bench, Judge Ross was a Circuit Judge in Missouri’s 21st Judicial Circuit for 11 years, becoming the circuit’s presiding judge in 2009. He served on the St. Louis County Council (the legislative body of St. Louis County) for 10 years. Before that, Judge Ross worked in the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office – including as the chief attorney and special assistant prosecuting attorney. He also was briefly assigned to the Missouri Attorney General’s Office as a special assistant attorney.

He earned his juris doctorate from Emory University School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts also from Emory University.

## The Honorable Rodney H. Holmes Appointed to the Bench in February 2023



Chief U.S. District Judge S.R. Clark &  
U.S. Magistrate Judge R.H. Holmes

The Honorable Rodney H. Holmes was sworn in to an 8-year term as a U.S Magistrate Judge by Chief U.S. District Judge Stephen R. Clark on February 6, 2023.

Prior to his appointment to the Eastern District of Missouri’s bench, Judge Holmes began his legal career at the Federal Public Defender’s Office (FPDO) for the Eastern District of Missouri. After five years with the FPDO he joined the U.S. Attorney’s Office. He next worked at the Cochran Firm before starting his own practice. Judge Holmes returned to the U.S. Attorney’s Office in 2015, where he served as Chief of the Violent Crime Unit and the Project Safe Neighborhood Coordinator.

Judge Holmes earned his juris doctorate from St. Louis University School of Law and his bachelor’s also from St. Louis University.

## The Honorable Joseph S. Dueker Appointed to the Bench in May 2023



U.S. Magistrate Judge J.S. Dueker &  
Chief U.S. District Judge S.R. Clark

The Honorable Joseph S. Dueker was sworn in to an 8-year term as a U.S Magistrate Judge by Chief U.S. District Judge Stephen R. Clark on May 1, 2023.

Prior to his appointment to the Eastern District of Missouri’s bench, Judge Dueker served for over 12 years as a judge in St. Louis County Circuit Court, where he presided over civil, criminal, and domestic matters. Before appointment to the bench, Judge Dueker served in the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office for more than 17 years. He was assigned to the office’s Sexual Assault team for more than 10 years and later served as Associate Chief Trial Attorney.

Judge Dueker earned his juris doctorate in 1992 from Saint Louis University School of Law, and he earned his Bachelor of Arts, cum laude, in economics and history in 1989 from the University of Richmond.

MAGISTRATE JUDGE RODNEY H. HOLMES

MAGISTRATE JUDGE JOSEPH S. DUEKER

### The Honorable Mary Ann Lubbe Medler Passes Away



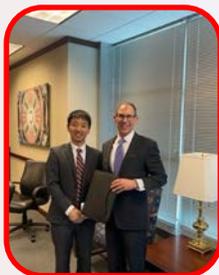
Retired U.S. Magistrate Judge Mary Ann Medler died in May 2023. She was appointed to the Eastern District of Missouri's bench in 1993, retiring in 2012. At the time of her retirement, she served as the district's Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge.

Before joining the federal bench, Judge Medler was a prosecutor in the City of St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office. She also worked in civil litigation at Thompson Coburn and Union Pacific Railroad.

Judge Medler earned her juris doctorate from St. Louis University School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts from Manhattenville College.

### Notable Visitors

Chief U.S. District Judge Stephen R. Clark meets with Japanese Judge Tetsuya Machida, who was a visiting scholar at Washington University School of Law.



Judges of the Eastern District pose with U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland during his visit to the T.F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse.



From left: S.R. Welby, J.M. Bodenhausen, N.C. Collins, P.L. Cohen, R.H. Holmes, M.B. Garland, S.R. Clark, H.E. Autrey, E.R. Webber, S.A. Padmore Mensah, and D.D. Noce

### Make-A-Wish Come True

U.S. Magistrate Judge John M. Bodenhausen issued an arrest warrant to Junior Special Agent Drew Patchin and his younger brother for the apprehension of the thief who stole the St. Louis Blues' Stanley Cup. *{below}*



Make-A-Wish partnered with the FBI's St. Louis field office to give cancer-patient Drew Patchin a memorable day as a Junior Special Agent. Wearing full gear, Drew and FBI agents captured the thief and returned the trophy.

### Juror Appreciation Day

The Eastern District of Missouri celebrated Juror Appreciation Day on May 24. Chief U.S. District Judge Stephen R. Clark and U.S. Magistrate Judge John M. Bodenhausen *{at right}* spoke to jurors who had been summoned for a civil trial on the importance of trial by a jury of one's peers in American jurisprudence and conveyed to the jurors the Court's appreciation for their service.



Each year, ~90% of surveyed jurors favorably rate jury service in the Eastern District, even though ~40% report one or more hardships due to service.

Chief U.S. District Judge S.R. Clark addresses jurors



## Criminal Justice Act Seminar

The **21st Annual Criminal Justice Act Seminar** was held in-person at the Eagleton Courthouse in May. The Federal Public Defender Offices of the Eastern District of Missouri and Southern District of Illinois co-sponsored the event. One hundred and fifty-seven (157) attorneys attended, slightly more than the 2018-2022 5-average (146). The day-long seminar delved into the Eastern Districts Pretrial Services Office protocols (which was requested by attendees at previous seminars) and various aspects of sentencing—among other topics. The seminar’s eight sessions included:

- U.S. Supreme Court term in review;
- 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit criminal law updates;
- Using data-driven sentencing memos to get lower sentences;
- After sentencing—a guide to the Bureau of Prisons (BOP); and
- Implicit bias in the legal community.

As always, session presenters were from a variety of legal and criminal justice professions. Attendees described them as good, knowledgeable, and experienced speakers.

Overall, almost nine-tenths of the seminar’s session ratings were ‘very’ or ‘somewhat’

*Data-Drive Sentencing Memos - excellent. best session. Overall, this was an excellent CLE. Thank you for planning & organizing.*

useful. The data-driven sentencing memos session received the most favorable ratings, while the guide to the BOP after sentencing session and its presenter received the most numerous, positive comments. BOP presentations continue to be among the most highly rated and desired future topics.

*The BOP portion was extremely helpful.*

## Divisional Bench & Bar Seminars

The divisional Bench & Bar Seminars were held at the Rush Hudson Limbaugh, Sr. U.S. Courthouse in Cape Girardeau and the U.S. Federal Building and Courthouse in Hannibal. Combined, more than 100 attorneys attended the two seminars, a marked increase in attendance compared to last year.

Sessions included a review of the U.S. Supreme Court’s last term, professionalism & ethics, artificial intelligence in the legal profession, and a judges’ roundtable.

Session presenters were U.S. district, magistrate & bankruptcy judges; attorneys in private practice—including some on the Eastern District’s

Federal Practice Committee; and professors of law & academicians.

The overall seminars and their sessions received overwhelmingly favorable ratings, with participants praising the mix of presenters, the atmosphere of collegiality, and the willingness of the Court to host CLEs in these two localities.

*Very well done. The AI was very timely - the whole program was great as always.*

*I appreciated the mix of practical, forward-looking, substantive, and community/ collegiality-building material. I also liked the mix of academic and practitioner backgrounds.*

# Inter-District Judicial Retreat Held in Hermann, Missouri

Being a judge was ranked among the top five jobs requiring the most stress tolerance, defined as the ability to accept criticism and deal calmly and effectively with high-stress situations, according to a 2022 study of 873 professions by the Occupational Information Network, part of the U.S. Department of Labor. Knowing this, an observation by Dr. Lucas Shallua, a veterinarian, academician, and entrepreneur is relevant. He noted that “Eagles remind us of the power of solitude and reflection, as they retreat to high places to rest and renew their strength.”

A dozen magistrate judges in Missouri enjoyed an “East Meets West Retreat” in Hermann, Missouri, June 13-15, 2023. Hermann, a historic city on the Missouri River, is touted as one of the most beautiful small towns in America. The central location allowed convenient travel from Kansas City, Springfield, Jefferson City, St. Louis, and Cape Girardeau.



Hermann, Missouri

The purpose was for the judges to distance themselves from their everyday responsibilities to give them a new perspective on their work. They shared reflections about topics such as a significant trial experience, innovative courtroom procedures, entertaining courtroom moments, and noteworthy decisions. This self-disclosure resulted in meaningful conversation. Management of intense court dockets and the never-ending supply of cases requiring decisions makes this sort of self-examination a challenging task.

Additionally, a recently retired judge who served as a state, appellate, and federal court judge, offered her perspective on “The Art of Judging.” The program was designed to showcase the individual experiences of judges to build deeper relationships and encourage valuable introspection.

The last objective was to acknowledge the importance of wellness, both physical and mental. The importance of good nutrition, exercise, sleep, gratitude, deep breathing, and making time for family and hobbies was emphasized. The judges departed the retreat with tools to assist them in maintaining a greater sense of judicial wellbeing and a stronger sense of community.



Inaugural Hermann Mo Plein Air Competition

- contribution by Judge Abbie Crites-Leoni

Ceremonies & People

During the first half of 2023, 52 naturalization ceremonies were held for 1,866 new citizens—a 20% increase from the previous 6-months in the number of naturalized citizens. Ceremonies were held in the Saint Louis courthouse weekly, and several special ceremonies were held at off-site locations. {see below} .



**Saint Louis Art Museum—U.S. District Judge Jean C. Hamilton, presiding**



**Hannibal Federal Building, Hannibal, Missouri—U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Brian C. Walsh, presiding**

**International Institute of St. Louis, World Refugee Day—U.S. Magistrate Judge Joseph S. Dueker, presiding**



**Missouri History Museum, Flag Day—Chief U.S. District Judge Stephen R. Clark, presiding**



NATURALIZATIONS

NATURALIZATIONS

Supreme Court Civic Education Initiative

The Court will be among the first in the nation to partner with the U.S. Supreme Court Historical Society on a new civics education initiative. “The Supreme Court and My Hometown” is an after-school enrichment program for high school students in the St. Louis area. Participants will have the unique opportunity to delve into the inner workings of the federal judiciary and the Supreme Court of the United States, through the lens of a landmark case originating in the St. Louis area: Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier (1988). Locally hosted by the Eighth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, the U.S. District Court—Eastern District of Missouri, the Judicial Learning Center in St. Louis, and the Federal Bar Association’s St. Louis Chapter. Applicants have been screened and selected and the program officially launches on July 25 and continues throughout the fall semester.

Senator Eagleton Display

A historical exhibit about Senator Thomas F. Eagleton and the courthouse named in his honor was installed in the Jury Assembly Room after several years of research and design. The exhibit features four sections: Senator Eagleton’s early life and career, his time in the Senate, his post-retirement activities, and the history of the courthouse. An opening reception was held on June 29. Speakers included Chief U.S. District Judge Stephen R. Clark, U.S. District Judges Rodney W. Sippel & Edward L. Filippine (inactive), and Mark Abels (Senator Eagleton’s former press secretary). Robin Carnahan, Administrator of the U.S. General Services Administration and former Missouri Secretary of State, gave the keynote address. Members of the Eagleton family and colleagues and staff from around the country attended the dedication.



From left: U.S. District Judges E.L. Filippine, S.R. Clark, R.W. Sippel

Tours & School Programs

The spring semester was a busy time for tours and school programs. From January-June, nearly 2,300 people participated in over 60 tours and programs. Visitors included school & scout groups, homeschool organizations, and undergraduate & law students.

- In January and February, hundreds of 1L law students from Saint Louis and Washington universities visited the St. Louis courthouse to meet with federal judges.
- In February and March, 7th graders from St. Louis Public Schools and Riverview Gardens School District participated in courthouse career exploration events.
- In February, high school students from Innovation School at Cool Valley toured the St. Louis courthouse. They returned in March to participate in a mock trial with U.S. Magistrate Judge Rodney H. Holmes.
- In June, several youth summer camps toured the Saint Louis courthouse. Groups included the Upward Bound Academy from SIUE, the Cahokia Freedom Schools, Summer at SLU, and Trio Summer Scholars.
- Two adult community groups took architectural tours of the Saint Louis courthouse.
- Several groups from southeast Missouri toured the Rush Hudson Limbaugh, Sr. U.S. Courthouse in Cape Girardeau.



Northwest R-1 High School



7th Grade Event

## 2023 Law Day—Civics, Civility, and Collaboration

In May, 70 honors civics students from Belleville West High School participated in our annual Law Day student event. This year’s theme was “Civics, Civility, and Collaboration: Cornerstones of Democracy.” U.S. District Judge Rodney W. Sippel welcomed the students to the Court. Assistant Federal Public Defender Scott Krischke and Assistant U.S. Attorney Dane Rennie then led a discussion about civility. After, the students prepared for and participated

in a moot court activity based on a recent U.S. Supreme Court case. U.S. District Judges Ronnie L. White, Sarah E. Pitlyk and John A. Ross presided over the hearings, which were held in the Eighth Circuit’s appellate courtrooms.



### Helping Teachers Develop Professionally

#### Street Law Teacher Institute

The annual offering is co-hosted with the Missouri Bar. In March, 25 teachers from Missouri and Illinois participated via Zoom in a full-day program on “Federal Courts and the Equal Protection Clause.” Chief U.S. District Judge Stephen R. Clark welcomed the teachers. Allen Rostron (William R. Jacques Constitutional Law Scholar and Professor of Law, UMKC) led a session on the 14th Amendment. Stephanie O’Banion (Chief Deputy Clerk of Court, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit) instructed the teachers on precedent and stare decisis. Moot court coaches were Judge G.W. Lynch (Missouri Court of Appeals, Southern District—retired); Judge J.L. Goff, Jr. (Armstrong Teasdale—Partner & former Associate Circuit Judge for Missouri’s 24th Judicial Circuit), and K. Schute (Assistant United States Attorney, Eastern District of Missouri).

#### Hazelwood School District

In March, the Court partnered with the U.S. Supreme Court Historical Society on a program about the landmark Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier case. Social studies teachers in the Hazelwood School District learned about the path the case took through the federal courts. They also received activities and resources to use in the classroom. Presenters included Nicole Maffei—Director of Civics Education for the Historical Society and local attorneys Jessie Steffan, Mary Kate Mullen, and Eli Sullivan. Plaintiff Cathy Kuhlmeier joined via Zoom.

### Girl Scout Badge Workshop

In collaboration with the National Park Service, a “Finding Common Ground” Girl Scout badge workshop was held in May. The event began at the Gateway Arch and concluded at the T.F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse with a simulated mediation for a cookie conflict. The mediation conducted by Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge Mensah, with assistance from law clerks Sarah Koppenaal & Megan Phillips and Assistant U.S. Attorney Abbey Fritz.



### Student Art Competition

The Judicial Learning Center hosted the 3rd annual **Student Art Competition**—“Juries: Through the Eyes of Students.” Members of the Judicial Learning Center’s Board of Directors selected the winners, awarding prizes and certificates. Each year the winning entries and a selection of honorable mentions are displayed on the Judicial Learning Center’s website and in the T.F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse’s Jury Assembly Room.



# PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICE

## Working with the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts

Location Monitoring Emergency Response Team. Supervisory U.S. Pretrial Services Officer Shannon McAllister and Senior U.S. Pretrial Services Officer Katie Stephens were appointed to the Location Monitoring Emergency Response Team (LMERT) in February 2023. LMERT is one of the AO’s Judiciary Emergency Response Teams. These teams assemble key staff to assist court units threatened or affected by significant disruptive events—such as a hurricane, earthquake or fire. Deployed LMERT team members are assigned to the court unit in need for the duration of the emergency, conducting necessary location monitoring system activities.

National Information Standards Working Group. Data Quality Analyst Krystal Poehl was appointed to a 2-year term on the NISWG. The working group provides guidance and policy recommendations to improve data standards throughout the Probation and Pretrial Services system. The goal is to align data with National Judiciary standards. The working group is also a resource for data decisions made for the PACTS 360 initiative. It will continue to work on national training documents and online training.

Pretrial Services Working Group. Supervisory U.S. Pretrial Services Officer Deena Siler served on the Pretrial Services Working Group from 2018 to 2022. Through the Probation and Pretrial Services Office, the working group advises the Administrative Office in the development and implementation of policy and procedures in the area of pretrial services, especially those that reduce unnecessary pretrial detention and advance evidence-based supervision strategies .

## Staff Professional Activities & Contributions

Pretrial Services Office staff served on—and participated—in numerous local and national committees, groups, and trainings. This includes:

- Eastern District of Missouri’s Sentencing Alternatives Improving Lives Diversion Court
- Eastern District of Missouri’s 21st Annual Criminal Justice Act Seminar (presenter)
- U.S. Probation Office and Pretrial Services Office Financial Investigation Team
- U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of Missouri’s Heritage Committee
- U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of Missouri’s In-District Leadership Development Program
- Thomas F. Eagleton Courthouse Wellness Committee
- Thomas F. Eagleton Courthouse Law Day Committee
- National District Review Teams
- American Probation and Parole Association’s National Conference
- BI Annual Training Conference

## Community Service

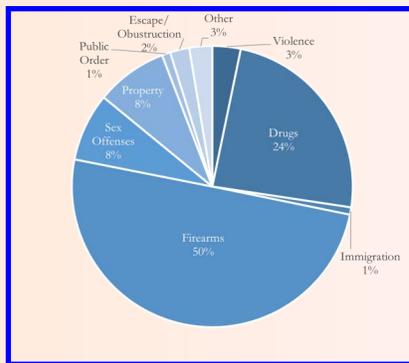
St. Louis Earth Day 365 Festival. Pretrial Services Office staff volunteered at the Earth Day event at the Muny Grounds in Forest Park. Pretrial Services Officers and their families passed out programmatic materials—such as maps, stickers and event information—to people entering the Earth Day celebration. Volunteers worked two hours shifts.

*- contributions on page by Susan Hendrickson*

# PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICE

## Pretrial Supervision

For the 12-month period ending March 31, 2023, the Eastern District of Missouri's Pretrial Services Office activated 1,443 new cases, the 7th highest in the nation. Approximately 50% and 25% of new activations were charged with at least one firearms and drug offense (respectively) as the most serious offense. The number of new activations is similar to the previous 12-month period, when the Pretrial Services Office activated 1,424 new cases,



also the 7th highest in the nation.

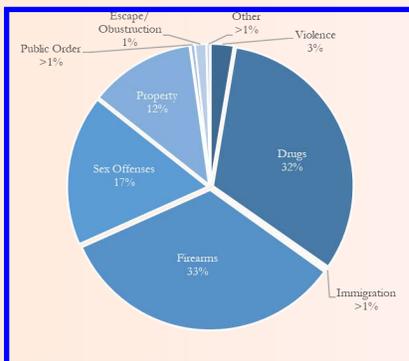
The recent activations were primarily male (91%), with a high school diploma/equivalency or less (78%), African American (67%), at their current address for one year or less (67%), single (55%), and 35 years of age or less (47%).

For those activations for which a Pretrial Services Office recommendation was made; 78% were for detention, above the national value for all districts (66%). Ultimately, 1,047 were detained and 329 released on bond – primarily unsecured. For those defendants who were released, common conditions for release were supervision (91% of releasees), substance abuse testing – often with treatment (63%), mental health treatment (35%), and home confinement (27%).

# PROBATION OFFICE

## Post-Conviction Supervision

For the 12-month period ending March 31, 2023, the Eastern District's Probation Office received 1,161 new persons for post-conviction supervision and revoked 446. As of March 31, 2,244 persons remained on supervision, a 3% increase from the year before. The Eastern District had the 13th highest post-conviction supervision caseload in the nation. Approximately 90% of supervisees were received from institutions – such as the



Federal Bureau of Prisons, and 10% were received through conditional release and probation. Probation officers conducted 1,020 presentence investigations, the 12th most in the nation.

Most persons on supervision were convicted of a firearms (33%), drug (32%), or sex (17%) offense. The Eastern District supervised the most persons convicted of a firearms offense (750) of any district in the nation, the next highest being Texas Western with 615. The Probation Office also supervised the third largest number of sex offenders (389).

# PROBATION OFFICE

## Helping Kids & Families

The Probation Office collaborated with FCC Forrest City in Arkansas to host a two-day Family Day Event. Thirty-three family members from the St. Louis and Cape Girardeau areas and 10 inmates took part. On the first day the children played games, ate and re-connected with their fathers. Later that night the children went swimming and had a meal at the hotel. The second day included workshops on parental responsibility, positive role models, and fatherhood. The children and fathers made bracelets for each other. In closing the fathers read affirmation letters to their children stating their commitment to them. Everyone had a good time and now better understands how important family bonds are. Research shows that family support decreases recidivism.



- contribution by Lisa Coldon

## Presentence

### Investigation Unit

The Presentence Investigation Unit completed 1,005 Guideline Presentence Reports in Fiscal Year 2022, a slight decrease from the previous fiscal year (1,046). For the 1,005 defendants convicted and sentenced, 46% (or 465) of presentence investigation reports were on defendants with a firearm offense as the most serious charge. Reports for defendants convicted of a drug (27%, 269), financial (10%, 102), or sex (8%, 82) offense were the next most common.

- contribution by Joseph Hendrickson

## Southeast Missouri Supervision to Aid Reentry Court

Graduation. STAR Court celebrated another graduation in January 2023. The ex-offender was sentenced to a 3-year term of supervised release. However, because the ex-offender successfully completed STAR Court, his term of supervised release was terminated approximately 7 months early. He was employed as a manager at Kasten Masonry in Jackson at the time of graduation.



From left: Probation Officer D. Macke, Mr. Masonry, U.S. Magistrate Judge A. Crites-Leoni

Current Participants. STAR Court currently has five active participants. Three participants are in Phase 1, one each in Phases 2 & 4. The Phase 4 participant is on track to graduate Part I, at which time he will begin Part II—which is the 1-year maintenance phase before completing supervised release.

- contribution by Tara Beussink

## Janis C. Good Mental Health Court

Graduation. The Janis C. Good Mental Health Court convened in January 2023 for a graduation ceremony honoring T.F. U.S. District Judge John A. Ross and U.S. Magistrate Judges Nannette A. Baker (retired) and Noelle C. Collins presided. The graduate successfully completed all aspects of the treatment court program, receiving an early termination of supervision as a result of her accomplishments.

National Presentation. In January 2023, U.S. Probation Officers Julie Freeman, Thomas Nolan, and Jennifer Parker presented 'Improving Re-entry Court Outcomes through Research and Evaluation' at the national American Probation and Parole Association Winter Institute. The presentation provided overview of the general re-entry court model, a recap of the Probation Office's strategy to evaluate the Janis C. Good Mental Health Court, outcomes to date, and recommendations for moving forward.

contribution by Jennifer Parker

# PROBATION OFFICE

## Core Correctional Practices

The Probation Office started the Core Correctional Practices (CCP) team to further, by internal training and modeling, the consistent and effective use of core correctional skills and interventions. The CCP Team has held short, frequent micro-learning sessions training district staff on some of the more universal core correctional practices. This includes a district-wide initiative focusing on ‘Active Listening’ as a relationship building skill. In small groups, this skill has benefited many staff in both personal and professional areas of their lives.

The CCP Team created a training segment for new officers that includes live observation of CCP Team members interacting with their supervisees. A debriefing is held after each contact to discuss how core correctional practices were used. The newly created training and its emphasis on core correctional practices aligns with the Probation Office’s commitment to best practices that address the needs of those on supervision, while also enhancing officer teamwork.

- contribution by Farrab Kearby & Toni Smith

Components & Skills of Core Correctional Practices		
Relationship	Behavior	Structure
active listening, role clarification, giving feedback	effective reinforcement, disapproval, authority & punishment	cognitive restructuring, problem solving, meeting structure, structured skill building

## Protecting Children



From left: U.S. Attorney Sayler A. Fleming, Probation Officer Amanda Shinkle, and AUSA Jillian Anderson

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jillian Anderson presented U.S. Probation Officer Amanda Shinkle with a Distinguished Service Award for her supervision of a sex offender on active supervised release for possession of child pornography. During a home visit, Office Shinkle determined the offender had purchased a cellular phone on which he had received a voluminous amount of child pornography. This discovery led to the offender being indicted for a new possession of child pornography offense. - contribution by Jennifer Rukstad



## Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Diversity is having a seat at the table; inclusion is having a voice and belonging is having that voice be heard.

U.S. Probation Officers Jo Cooper and Lisa White completed a week long Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training in May 2023. Training topics and discussions were tough, but needed. They learned practical skills and exercises that will be helpful to the Eastern District’s Probation Office as it addresses these important areas. They hope to also work with and assist other local DEI facilitators.

“Companies that embrace diversity and inclusion in all aspects of their business statically outperform their peers.” Josh Bersin

- contribution by Jo Cooper

## A PO’s Best Friend

U.S. Probation Officer Shaun Margul and Coal, a Labrador retriever, took part in the annual Ryan Griffin Memorial Golf Tournament fundraiser to procure K-9s for area police departments.



District Court Caseload

Civil. For the 12-month period ending March 31, 2023, almost 1,700 civil cases were filed in the Eastern District of Missouri. During this same time period, the Court disposed of almost 200 more cases than were filed, for a ~12% decrease in the Court's pending civil caseload. The most common types of civil filings were prisoner petitions, civil right claims, and tort actions.

Criminal. A criminal case was opened against 979 defendants, the 14th largest incoming case-load in the federal judiciary. During this same time period, the Court disposed the case of more than 100 defendants than were filed, for a ~8% decrease in the Court's pending criminal defendant caseload. More than one-half (53%) of defendants were charged with at least one firearms & explosives offense as the most serious offense, the largest number in the federal judiciary and 174 more than the next jurisdiction (Texas Southern, 348).

G.J. Linhares

Mr. Linhares resigned as Clerk of Court to lead the Administrative Office's development of case management software that will replace CM-ECF. The Court thanks Greg for his dedication and exemplary service over the last nine years.



Offender eFiling Project

The Eastern District of Missouri, in partnership with the Missouri Department of Corrections, has undertaken the 'Offender eFiling Project' to increase processing efficiency by facilitating the electronic filing of civil litigation documents by convicted criminal offenders, almost all of whom petition the court as self-represented, or pro se, litigants. The project consists of installing dedicated printers and scanners in eight state correctional centers. Offenders incarcerated in these centers will be able to use the equipment to electronically file new civil cases and documents in existing civil cases. The Clerk's Office has installed this equipment in four correctional centers. Equipment will be installed in the remaining correctional centers later this summer.

Building Court Community



The U.S. District Court team made up of members of Chambers and the Clerk's, Probation & Pretrial Services office competed in the 6th Annual Softball tournament at Boeing Aviation Fields in Forest Park. Other teams included USAO-EDMO, USAO-SDIL, St. Louis Co. Prosecutor's Office, and MOAG. The tournament builds comradery among the court agencies in Missouri and Illinois. U.S. Magistrate Judge Rodney H. Holmes was team leader and organizer of the annual tournament.



Clerk's Office staff compete in the U.S. Attorney's Office-EDMO golf tournament at the Norman K. Probstin Golf Course in Forest Park.

District Court Information

The Honorable  
Stephen R. Clark  
Chief Judge

Vacant  
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 St  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703  
573-331-8800

Hannibal Federal Bldg  
801 Broadway  
Hannibal, MO 63401