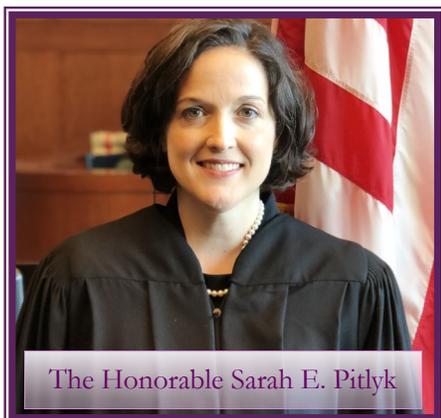




U.S. District Court— Eastern District of Missouri

Sarah E. Pitlyk Appointed to the Eastern District



The Honorable Sarah E. Pitlyk

Sarah E. Pitlyk was sworn in as a U.S. District Judge by Chief Judge Rodney W. Sippel on December 6, 2019. Judge Pitlyk received her law degree from

Yale. She graduated summa cum laude from Boston College and earned her master’s degrees from Georgetown University and the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium (where she studied as a Fulbright Scholar) in Philosophy and Applied Bio-medical Ethics, respectively. Immediately prior to joining the Court, Judge Pitlyk was Special Counsel for the Thomas More Society. She also practiced at Clark & Sauer, LLC, in St. Louis and Covington & Burling in Washington, DC. From 2010 to 2011, she clerked for the Honorable Brett M. Kavanaugh when he was a Circuit Judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia Circuit.

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

Upcoming CLE Offerings in the Eastern District

4/8	Pro Bono Services Training & Recognition
4/17	Southeastern Division Bench & Bar
5/14	Criminal Justice Act Seminar
6/27	Northern Division Bench & Bar



THE HONORABLE
STEPHEN N. LIMBAUGH, SR.

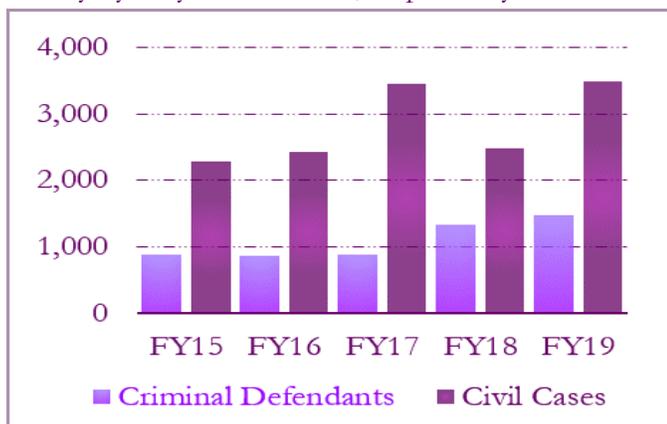
received the Robert Walston Chubb Award for exceptional commitment & contributions to Legal Services (of Eastern Missouri)

Inside this issue:

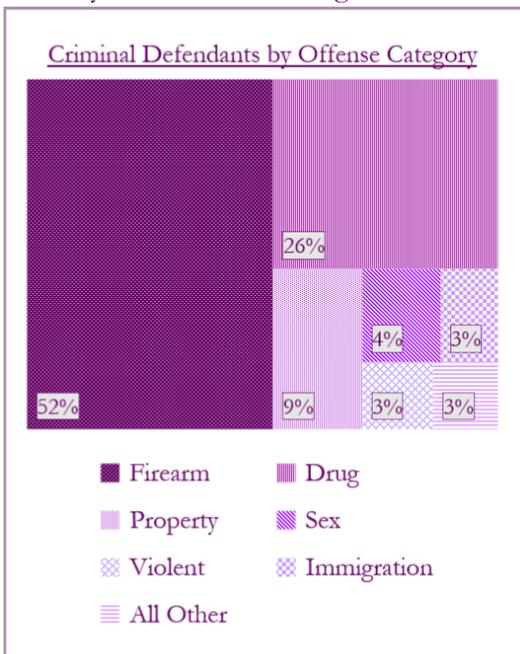
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Criminal and Civil Filings Continue Dramatic Increase

The Eastern District of Missouri’s criminal and civil caseloads continued to increase dramatically. In fiscal year 2019 (October 2018—September 2019), 1,199 criminal cases with 1,475 criminal defendants were filed in the Eastern District. The number of criminal defendants increased 11% from 2018 and 69% from 2015. By comparison, criminal defendants filings increased nationally by only 6% and 16%, respectively.



More than one-half (52%) of criminal defendants filed in fiscal year 2019 were charged with a firearm/explosive offense as the most serious count, while drug (26%) and property (9%) offenses accounted for one-third. The Eastern District closed 1,327 defendants’ criminal cases in fiscal year 2019. More than 90% of defendants pled or were found guilty, and 88% of these were sentenced to a term of imprisonment—similar to national proportions.

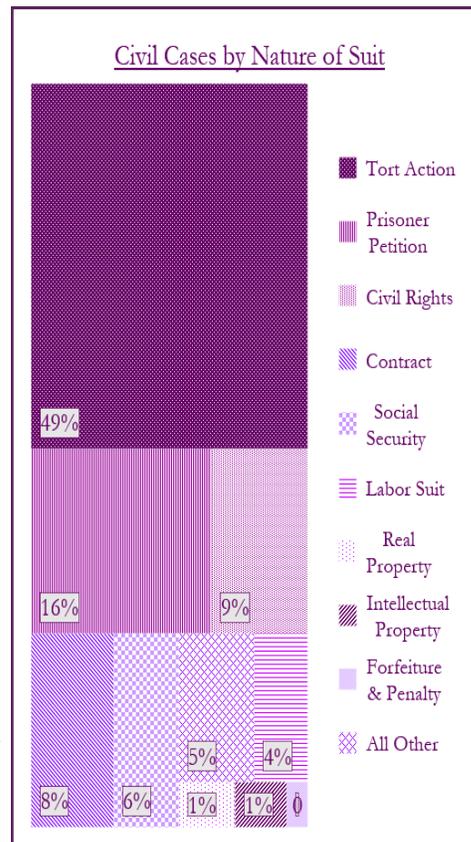


Almost 3,500 civil cases were filed in the Eastern District in fiscal year 2019. Civil filings increased by approximately 41% from fiscal year 2018 and 53% from fiscal year 2015. By comparison, national civil filings only increased by 5% and 7%, respectively.

The Eastern District closed more than 3,400 civil cases during the fiscal year, and as of September 30, 2019 only ~3% of the pending civil caseload was older than 3 years—markedly lower than for all district courts (~16%). Tort action (49%) was the most common type of case filed; followed by prisoner petitions (16%), civil rights claims (9%), and contract disputes (8%). Almost one-fifth of civil filings had one or more self-represented litigant.

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\$12.1 Million Returned to Victims

The Eastern District collected \$8.6 million in restitution, civil garnishments, fines & refunds and payed out \$12.1 million to victims and creditors.

The Eastern District Rates 1st Nationally in Effective Use of Jurors

For the 12 month period ending June 30, 2019—the most recent period data are available; measured by the national standard ‘Not Selected, Serving or Challenged’ rate, the Court effectively utilized jurors (16.3) during this time, bettering the national average (38.1) and ranking 1st among large courts (i.e., 6+ active Article III judges). The Eastern District held 33 jury trials during this time.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Serving the Public by using Resources Wisely

Increase in Case Filings Result in Creation of 8th Magistrate Judge Position



U.S. Magistrate Judges of the Eastern District of Missouri

Due to the large increase in criminal and civil caseloads, the Eastern District was awarded an eighth magistrate judge position. The Ad-

ministrative Office of the U.S. Courts found the Eastern District was a model court in its utilization of magistrate judges. Consent to a magistrate judge is promoted by the direct assignment of civil cases and the Court’s “one case, one judge” policy (i.e., magistrate judges become the presiding judge for all matters in their own cases). In felony criminal cases, the magistrate judges handle all preliminary felony proceedings and are assigned felony cases for full pretrial management. The magistrate judges participate in court governance, attending Court

en Banc meetings, serving on committees, presiding over treatment courts.

On 3-Dec-2019, the Court established a Merit Selection Panel, chaired by Bridget Hoy—Lewis Rice, LLC, for the appointment of a new magistrate judge.

In October 2019, U.S. Magistrate Judge Frederick R. Buckles was recalled to assist with the caseload.



The Honorable Frederick R. Buckles

Eastern District and Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis Partner in Legal Advice Clinic for Indigent and Self-Represented Litigants

The Eastern District of Missouri continues several initiatives to assist indigent and self-represented litigants in civil cases.

Since 2013, the Eastern District has reimbursed attorneys appointed to represent litigants \$155,000 in fees and \$160,000 in expenses. In addition, the Court will reimburse attorneys for their service as limited scope counsel during mediation.

The Eastern District and the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis (BAMSL) have begun a partnership to assist self-represented litigants. In space provided by the

Court, volunteer attorneys review the self-represented litigants’ claim with them and assist litigants in completing the Court’s filing forms.

ST. LOUIS FEDERAL COURT
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REPRESENTING YOURSELF IN A CIVIL CASE?
MEET WITH AN ATTORNEY TO GET ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR CASE.

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30-MINUTE SESSIONS

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10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
WALK-INS WELCOME
APPOINTMENTS RECOMMENDED

SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT ONLINE
www.bamsl.org/federalcourt

OR BY PHONE
1-855-978-7070

CLINIC LOCATED AT
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
THOMAS F. EAGLETON U.S. COURTHOUSE
111 SOUTH 10TH STREET, 3RD FLOOR
ST. LOUIS, MO 63102

A service of
SAINT LOUIS BAR FOUNDATION and **ASSOCIATION OF METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS**



workspace at the TFE Courthouse

Attorneys interested in volunteering can click [here](#) or contact the Clerk of Court for additional information at: greg_linhares@moed.uscourts.gov or (314) 244-7890.

MAGISTRATE JUDGE UTILIZATION

ACCESS TO JUSTICE / LEGAL ADVICE CLINIC

The Honorable Rodney W. Sippel



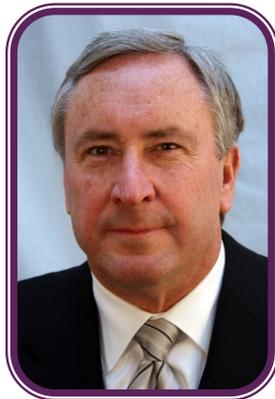
U.S. District Chief Judge Rodney W. Sippel continued to serve as the Chair of the Judicial Conference of the United States Committee on the Judicial Branch. He was appointed to serve on the judiciary’s Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Group. The planning group will review recommended changes to the *Strategic Plan for the Federal Judiciary* and will submit an updated draft to the Judicial Conference. In addition, Judge Sippel continued to serve on the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis’ Executive Committee.



Chief Judge R.W. Sippel, BAMSL Executive Director Z. Linza, Fredbird, and Missouri Supreme Court Judge M.R. Russell at the 2019 Motion for Kids holiday party for children impacted by the criminal justice system

The Honorable S.N. Limbaugh, Jr.

U.S. District Judge Stephen N. Limbaugh, Jr. received the Spurgeon Smithson Award from the Missouri Bar Association. Judge Limbaugh is a past president of The State Historical Society of Missouri and a current member of the Missouri Bicentennial Commission.



The Honorable Audrey G. Fleissig

U.S. District Judge Audrey G. Fleissig, Chair of the Judicial Conference Committee on Court Administration and Case Management, testified before the House Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property and the Internet regarding PACER fees and videotaping of court proceedings. She also was appointed to serve on the judiciary’s Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Group.



The Honorable Catherine D. Perry

Senior U.S. District Judge Catherine D. Perry moderated the ‘MDL Settlements—Common Pitfalls and Helpful Practices’ session at the U.S. Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation’s 2019 Transferee Judges’ Conference. Panelists were a federal judge, law professor and attorneys in private practice. Judge Perry continued to serve on the seven-judge United States Judicial Panel of Multidistrict Litigation.



The Honorable Nannette A. Baker

U.S. Magistrate Judge Nannette A. Baker was named as the Magistrate Judge Observer to the Judicial Conference of the United States by Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. She also received the 2019 Donald G. Hileman Distinguished Alumni Award, University of Tennessee College of Communication and Information.



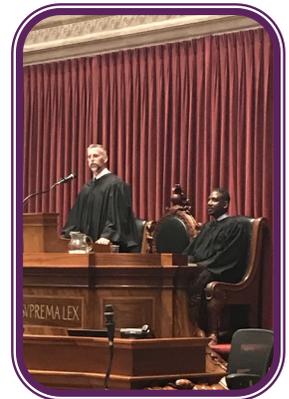
The Honorable Abbie Crites-Leoni

U.S. Magistrate Judge Abbie Crites-Leoni received the 2019 Distinguished Service Award from the Southeast Missouri State University Alumni Association in October. Judge Crites-Leoni began and presides over the SEMO Supervision to Aid Reentry (STAR) Court—a drug reentry court in Cape Girardeau.



The Honorable J.M. Bodenhausen

U.S. Magistrate Judge John M. Bodenhausen presided over the September U.S. District Court Swearing-In Ceremony for new lawyers held in conjunction with the Western District of Missouri in Jefferson City. U.S. Magistrate Judge Willie J. Epps, Jr (at right) represented the Western District.



NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES

Court welcomes more than 2,000 new citizens

St. Louis Cardinals and Blues Participate in New Citizenship Ceremonies

In 2019, 38 ceremonies at the Eagleton Courthouse and a variety of iconic locations—such as The Old Courthouse, Harris Stowe State University, Ladue Horton Watkins High School, and Busch Stadium—welcomed 2,451 new citizens.

St. Louis Blues. At the Independence Day Naturalization Ceremony held at the Old Courthouse in St. Louis; Bobby Plager, an original member of the St. Louis Blues, spoke celebrating both Independence Day and the Blues' Stanley Cup victory. Chief Judge Rodney W. Sippel presided over the ceremony, Scout Troop 685 presented the flags, and the Courthouse Singers provided patriotic music for the 50 new American citizens.

Constitution Day: Ladue & De Smet Jesuit High Schools. A number of naturalization ceremonies were held commemorating Constitution Day. U.S. District Judge Stephen R. Clark presided over a Constitution Day ceremony at Ladue Horton Watkins High School for 25

new citizens. Students, school and school district participated in the ceremony. The Ladue Chorale sang God Bless America and The National Anthem, a student led the Pledge of Allegiance, and the entire student body attended.

U.S. District Judge Henry E. Autrey swore in 49 new citizens at the annual Constitution Day ceremony at the Old Courthouse. Judge Autrey, a member of the first graduating class of De Smet Jesuit High School, welcomed the school's Black Robe Choir, which sang at the ceremony. Local attorney Leny Kagan was guest speaker.

St. Louis Cardinals. As part of the Federal Judiciary's national initiative, the Eastern District of Missouri and the St. Louis Cardinals co-hosted a special naturalization ceremony on September 18, 2019 at Busch Stadium. Senior U.S. District

Judge E. Richard Webber presided over the inaugural installment of what will be an annual event. Clerk of Court Gregory J. Linhares administered the Oath on the field to 20 new American citizens before the game.



- contribution by Rachel E. Marshall

Judicial Learning Center Celebrates 10 Years of Public Education

When our Judicial Learning Center opened in 2009 it was the first of its kind nationwide. In the last ten years since it opened to the public, the Judicial Learning Center has welcomed over 42,000 visitors and inspired other courts to open similar spaces—such as the Justice Anthony M. Kennedy Library and Learning Center in Sacramento, CA and the Justice for All: Courts and Community Learning Center in Manhattan, NY.

The Judicial Learning Center’s Board of Directors has partnered with the Court to support annual programs; like the Law Day student event, summer Teacher Institutes, and the Street Law Teacher Institute. The Board of Directors also

provides thousands of dollars of annual funding for field trip transportation costs and an educational website to ensure all can access the lessons of the learning center.



To celebrate the 10th anniversary, an event was held on the 28th floor of the Eagleton Courthouse. The celebration began with a reception in the atrium where teachers mingled with judges, lawyers, and members of the public to discuss the benefits of bringing students to visit the Judicial Learning Center and the court-

house. Following the reception, a brief program was held in the Eighth Circuit’s En Banc Courtroom. Board President and local attorney Glenn Davis moderated the program. Senior U.S. District Judges Catherine D. Perry and Edward L. Filippine spoke on the history of the Judicial Learning Center project. Additionally, teacher Andrea Seipp and students Mariah May and Ammar Naser (pictured at right) told stories of memorable educational experiences provided through the learning center.



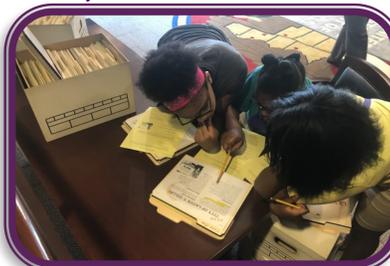
Court Hosts Thousands of Visits in 2019

More than 4,300 visitors participated in 139 educational tours and events, including annual programs such as:

- merit badge workshops for Boy & Girl Scouts and American Heritage Girls
- St. Louis Public Schools Seventh Grade Career Exploration
- first year law students visited from Washington and Saint Louis



American Heritage Girls



Girl Scouts Earn Merit Badge

universities

- monthly seminars for senior adults through OASIS St. Louis



The Court Celebrates Fellowship & Community

The Honorable
E. Richard Webber

This is a special place. As for me, I give thanks every day to be a small part of an assembly of many, who continue to surprise, delight, challenge and care for all of us who have the high honor to be here.”



- Senior U.S. District Judge E. Richard Webber (pictured with U.S. Magistrate Judge John M. Bodenhausen)

Mary Beth Tinker and Cathy Kuhlmeier Join the Court In Celebrating the First Amendment

Free Speech, Free Press, and Free Society were education themes this year.

Summer Educator Programs. Programming for educators focused on the First Amendment in summer 2019. Speakers included judges, law professors and law clerks and also representatives from the U.S. Attorney's Office and the St. Louis Post Dispatch. Teachers participated in hands-on activities based on landmark cases that they will be able to use as lessons with students. The Institute for Teachers of Advanced Placement, U.S. Government and Politics was held in July; as were the Summer Teacher Institutes in St. Louis and in Cape Girardeau. The Home-school Educator Institute was held in August.

Summer OASIS Programs. The monthly seminar series for senior adults also covered the First Amendment. Law clerks gave in-depth presentations on legal landmark decisions of freedom of speech, press, and religion for adult members of the community in June, July, and August.

Constitution Day Student Event. The annual student event recognizing Constitution Day was held in September. A high school class from New Athens, IL spent the day at the Eagleton Courthouse applying the landmark First Amendment *Tinker v. Des Moines* and *Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier* cases to a realistic, but fictional, scenario. The activity was based on the civil discourse program devel-

oped by the U.S. Courts during which students interact with lawyers and judges as they apply legal precedents to a teen-relevant scenario about a school walk out. U.S. Magistrate Judge Patricia L. Cohen presided. Assistant Federal Public Defender Kayla Williams and Law Clerk Richard Frohlichstein coached the students.

Tinker and Kuhlmeier: First Amendment Event Series. Outreach offerings focusing on the First Amendment culminated in a two-day series of events that commemorated the anniversaries of the *Tinker* (50th) and *Kuhlmeier* (30th) decisions, and reflected on their lasting relevance. The events allowed participants to hear from people involved in First Amendment work—past and present—and to review and discuss the five freedoms of the First Amendment; speech, press, religion, assembly, and petition. Participants were asked to think about why these five rights are cherished and fiercely protected, and to connect their relevance to the lives of Americans today.



Speakers & Students

The event series began the morning of November 6 with a continuing legal education offering titled 'State of the First Amendment' (see page 8). This was followed in the afternoon by a professional development offering for educators titled 'Stories of the First Amendment'. The next day, 60 students from 15 schools attended the 'Heroes of the First Amendment' student summit.

Some of the students were journalists for their schools' papers, and their coverage of the student summit can be read here:

- * Westminster Christian Academy
- * Kirkwood High School
- * Grand Center Arts Academy



Distinguished speakers (*pictured above*) for the event series were:

- Gene Policinski, President and COO, Freedom Forum Institute
- Mary Beth Tinker, plaintiff from *Tinker v. Des Moines*
- Cathy (Kuhlmeier) Frey, plaintiff from *Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier*
- Lynne Jackson, descendent of Dred and Harriet Scott
- Noelle C. Collins, U.S. Magistrate Judge and former journalist
- Robert Patrick, reporter on the federal courts, StL Post Dispatch
- Rodney W. Sippel, Chief U.S. District Judge (*not pictured*)

- contribution by Rachel E. Marshall

Panel Discusses the State of the First Amendment



CLE panelists

After, these individuals were joined in a panel discussion by heroes of the First Amendment—Mary Beth Tinker and

Mr. Policinski & Ms. Tinker

Cathy (Kuhlmeier) Frey. Ms. Tinker's landmark case, *Tinker v. Des Moines*, 1969, was decided 50 years ago this year. Ms. Frey's case, *Hazel-*



wood v. Kuhlmeier, 1988, still resonates today and is part of the inspiration for 2019 being declared the "Year of the Student Journalist" and for the advancement of "New Voices" laws protecting student journalists around the country.



CLE attendees

The Honorable



Rodney W. Sippel

opened the CLE program

Gene Policinski, president and chief operating officer of the Freedom Forum Institute, moderated the CLE offering on the State of the First Amendment. Beginning the program, Mr. Policinski shared findings from the institute's annual survey of the American public; with commentary from U.S. Magistrate Judge and former journalist Noelle C. Collins and local journalist Robert Patrick, reporter on federal courts & law enforcement for the StL Post Dispatch.



Judge Noelle C. Collins

Chief Justice John Roberts, Jr. Speaks to the Nation

Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. cites the Eighth Circuit's Judicial Learning Center as a pioneer in civic education and reminds the nation of, "... the historic role of courthouses as vital and vibrant centers of a civilly engaged community".



2019 Year-End Report on the Federal Judiciary

In the fall of 1787, Alexander Hamilton enlisted James Madison and John Jay to join him in producing what became America's greatest civics lesson—the Federalist Papers. The three authors collectively wrote 85 brilliant essays for publication in New York newspapers over the next year, successfully advocating for ratification of the United States Constitution. Originally addressed "To the People of the State of New York," government newsletters have labeled their works as an enduring exposition on the core principles of our constitutional democracy. Hamilton, Madison, and Jay wrote under the shared pseudonym "Publius," but historians have since discovered authorship of the individual essays. John Jay appears to have shouldered the lightest load of the trio, producing only five of the articles. Perhaps if Jay had

been more productive, America might have rewarded him with a Broadway musical. But his low output did not arise from lack of industry. Historians have deduced that Jay's productivity was in fact hindered by a calamity that arose in the midst of the Federalist project—the Doctors' Riot.

In the winter of 1788, New York newspapers reported accounts that medical students were snatching graves so they could practice surgery on cadavers. In April, the chatter gelled into a rumor that students at New York Hospital were dissecting a subscriber's recently deceased mother. An angry mob stormed the hospital, and the mayor gave some of the medical staff refuge in the city jail. When the mob marched on the jail, John Jay, who lived nearby, grabbed his sword and

The Court Participates in Civic Education Nationwide

Chief Judge Rodney W. Sippel, Chair of the U.S. Judicial Conference's Committee on the Judicial Branch, and Rachel E. Marshall, the Court's Outreach Coordinator, participated in the Justice and Journalism program hosted by the Judicial Branch Committee, Freedom Forum Institute, Third Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in Philadelphia, PA. They also attended the first-ever National Civics Conference for the Federal Courts, hosted by the Second Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals. Each Judicial Circuit sent four judges and staff to participate. The Eighth Circuit also sent Chief Judge Lavenski R. Smith— Eighth Circuit, Chief District Judge John R. Tunheim—Minnesota, and Magistrate Judge Kate M. Menendez— Minnesota. Participants focused on innovative programs federal courts can use to raise civic knowledge.

PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICE

Providing Protection to the Public and Assisting in the Fair Administration of Justice

DISTRICT CASELOAD

The U.S. Pretrial Services Office in the Eastern District of Missouri is led by Chief U.S. Pretrial Services Officer Mark M. Reichert and includes supervising U.S. Pretrial Services Officers Susan E. Hendrickson, William L. Irby, and Shannon M. McAllister; nine senior U.S. pretrial services officers; six U.S. pretrial services officers; four U.S. pretrial officer assistants; one intern; and an administrative staff of four and one-half.

In fiscal year 2019, the Pretrial Services Office opened 1,650 new cases, which is a marked increase of 524 cases compared to fiscal year 2017. This is the ninth highest number of case activations nationwide.* In fiscal year 2017, 1,126 new cases were activated, and in fiscal year 2018, 1,531 new cases were activated. The increase is also reflected in the number of defendants released on bond. In the Eastern District in fiscal year 2017, 368 defendants were released on bond, and in fiscal year 2018, 404 defendants were released on bond. In fiscal year 2019, 438 defendants were released on bond, the majority of which were unsecured bonds.

In fiscal year 2019, of the 2,638 cases that remained open in the

Eastern District, 796 cases (or 30%) were under pretrial supervision. In the released cases, 731 reports were submitted to the Court advising of various violations of the defendants' conditions of release. During this time period, six defendants under pretrial supervision in the Eastern District were arrested for new, unrelated felony offenses allegedly committed while on federal bond. Five defendants were arrested for new, unrelated misdemeanor or lower offenses. The number of new felony arrests of defendants under pretrial supervision ties the Eastern District for the fifteenth highest ranking nationwide; however, four districts with significantly lower release rates experienced even higher numbers of new felony arrests. Additionally, there were only 13 new failures to appear that occurred in the Eastern District during this timeframe, which ranks the Eastern District 14th nationally.

SAIL graduation—September 19, 2019



STAFF ACTIVITIES

Pretrial Services staff participated in/served on numerous committees, groups and trainings:

- Eastern District's Sentencing Alternatives Improving Lives Diverison Court
- National Court Leadership Development Program
- National Pretrial Services Evidenced-Based Practices Working Group
- National Workload Measurement Working Group
- Pretrial Services Chiefs Working Group
- National District Review Teams
- Collaborative Courts Conference
- Chiefs Research Group
- National Training Academy, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center
- National Treatment Services Seminar
- WITSEC National Training
- BI Annual Training Conference
- Federal Probation and Pretrial Officers Association National Conference
- National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies Annual Conference
- Civil Commitments Training
- U.S. Probation Office and Pretrial Services Office Family Program
- Thomas F. Eagleton Courthouse Law Day Committee
- Thomas F. Eagleton Courthouse Wellness Committee
- Financial Investigation Team
- Moral Reconciliation Therapy Group Facilitation

- contribution by Katie Stephens

* There were 1,691 activations in 2019 when 41 transfer-in cases are included.

PROBATION OFFICE

Meeting New Challenges

DISTRICT CASELOAD

The Probation Office completed 1,231 guideline presentence reports in fiscal year 2019, a 28% increase from the previous year. At the end of fiscal year 2019, 1,946 ex-offenders were under supervision, a 3% increase from fiscal year 2018. The Eastern District had the highest supervision caseload in the 8th Circuit and the 16th highest in the country. The most common offenses for which ex-offenders were sentenced or under supervision were firearm, drug, and property crimes. [Table] However, a sizeable portion of ex-offenders under supervision had committed a sex offense.

Offense Category	Presentence Reports	Under Supervision
Firearm	45%	28%
Drug	26%	32%
Property	13%	21%
Immigration	5%	-
Sex	4%	17%
Violent	2%	2%
Other	5%	-

In fiscal year 2019, 9% of individuals under supervision (280 people) had supervision revoked, unchanged from fiscal year 2018. The Eastern District’s revocation rate was lower than 41 of the other federal court districts.

DISTRICT INITIATIVES

Eastern District Drug Lab Serves 54 Districts. The national forensic lab opened by the Eastern District in 2017 now has agreements with 54 other districts to provide forensic lab service—necessitating hiring two additional staff. In addition, the district’s drug lab conducted 55,042 tests—including testing for the districts of Arkansas Eastern, Vermont, Michigan Western, Pennsylvania Western, Oklahoma Northern.

Treatment Services. The Probation Office targeted treatment resources at moderate and high risk offenders, with 54 contracts for drug (~\$996k spent), mental health (~\$479k), and sex offender (~\$524k) treatment service providers.

Re-entry Courts. Four reentry courts continued to produce impressive results:

- Project EARN for drug offenders, led by U.S. Magistrate Judge David Noce
- Project GRIP for gang members, led by U.S. District Judge Henry Autrey
- Veterans Court led by U.S. Magistrate Judge John Bodenhausen
- Janis C. Good Mental Health Court led by U.S. District Judge John Ross and U.S. Magistrate Judges Nannette Baker and Noelle Collins

Second Chance Act. Second Chance Act resources provided skill training in construction, welding, Certified Nurses Aid, forklift,

auto mechanics, CNC Machine Operator, and Commercial Driver License certification—as well as emergency assistance with transportation, housing, and utilities. The Eastern District invested \$474,264 in Second Chance Act funding, more than any other District, keeping the unemployment rate among the lowest in the system.

Community Partnerships. Through the Reach Higher community partnership with Caritas Connection and St. Gerard Majella Catholic Church, 53 laptop computers were donated to ex-offenders and their children to further education and employment activities, and eight computers were donated to Residential Reentry Centers’ employment resource centers. Meanwhile, the Money Smart and Project Home community partnerships continued to assist with improving financial stability and home ownership.



Probation Office management team at the U.S. Courts leadership program—Gettysburg, PA

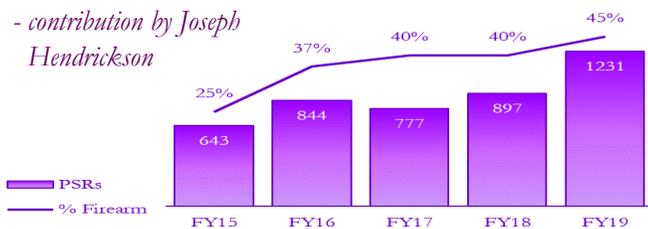
- contribution by Scott Anders

PROBATION OFFICE

Pre-Sentence Investigative Unit Sees Record Growth

The Probation Office's Pre-Sentence Investigative (PSI) Unit experienced unprecedented growth in recent years. The PSI Unit completed 1,231 presentence reports in fiscal year 2019, an increase of 91% from fiscal year 2015 when 643 reports were completed. A large portion of this increase is attributable to the surge in firearm cases that in 2015 made up just 25% of the caseload but now accounts for 45%. Firearm cases often include complex guideline calculation issues and extensive criminal histories. Due to the growth in caseload and also legal changes resulting from the Johnson opinion and First Step Act, the PSI Unit has added officers to meet the expanded workload. During this extremely challenging time, PSI Unit staff has maintained the highest level of professionalism and work-product quality.

- contribution by Joseph Hendrickson



National First Step Act Meeting in St. Louis

U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services staff from across the nation attended a 2-day conference at the Hilton Ball Park Hotel in St. Louis. Chief Judge Rodney W. Sippel opened the conference; which focused on impacts of and implementing the First Step Act. Federal Bureau of Prisons and Administrative Office staff provided policy and planning updates at the national, regional and local levels.



First Step Act Conference Panelists

BARE Awards * Honoring Ex-Offenders



Community Service Award: Pamela Tucker. Ms. Tucker attends Narcotics Anonymous, serving as a co-chair for her group. She volunteers her time by sponsoring others who are suffering from addiction, including encouraging individuals serving time in institutions and treatment facilities.

Second Chance Champion: Timothy Gordon. Mr. Gordon used Second Chance Act funds for housing at Saint Marks before paying his own rent. He now resides with family and is saving for his own residence. He was promoted to store manager at Family Dollar and volunteers at Mission Saint Louis assisting others re-enter society.

Educational Excellence: Derrick Miller. Mr. Miller was persistent in communicating his desire get a CDL. In September 2019, he graduated from MTC's program and subsequently completed the necessary tests to earn his license. He continues to work at a local concrete company while applying for driving positions, he has maintained optimism and eagerly awaits an opportunity to use his new license. Mr. Miller was granted early termination of supervision in October 2019.

Employment Achievement Award: Lamont Brison. Mr. Brison has maintained employment at an automotive shop since the start of his supervision. His employer has attested to his hard work and strong work ethic—noting that he is timely, consistent, professional, and reliable. Mr. Brison exhibits leadership qualities while at work and works above and beyond his job description.

Family Unity Award: Katron Sandford. Mr. Sandford's family visited him numerous times through the Family Visit Program while he was incarcerated in Leavenworth. Upon release, he immediately re-engaged with his family and created a stable environment for them. Mr. Sandford initially struggled as a parent, but has committed to being a better father and putting his family's interests before his own.

- contribution by Lisa White

* Burris Awards for Reentry Excellence given in recognition of outstanding progress towards meeting one's conditions of supervised release.

PROBATION OFFICE

Champ the *Electronic Detection* K9



Probation Officer Alyssa J. Burrow poses with Champ—Federal Probation’s first electronic detection canine. Champ was trained to detect TPPO in devices with memory storage.

Infrastructure Modernized to Meet Today’s Needs

Daily Docket. The Court’s Daily Docket is now online and updates every 15 minutes. The docket is available for today and the next four days; organized by judge; and lists the case and hearing time, type & location.

Senior Judge Chambers. The 26th floor of the Eagleton Courthouse was reconfigured for four senior judge chambers.

Clerk’s Office Update

Service to Community

Eastern District staff contributed to the larger community by supporting charitable organizations and causes—including the Show Me Arts Academy fostering multi-cultural artistic development among under-served youth aged 5-18; Beverly Farm’s I’m An Artist Art Show & Sale hosted at the TFE Courthouse; Backpacks for Fridays administered by the Southeast Missouri Food Bank in 25 schools; the Jefferson County Foster Children’s Holiday Party; and BAMSL’s Motion for Kids.



Eastern District offers Wellness Program to Staff

To promote mindfulness of daily stress that can negatively affect well-being, the Eastern District offers staff a Wellness Program that addresses the eight dimensions of wellness - physical, intellectual, emotional, spiritual, environment, financial, occupational, and social. The Court has made time available during the workday for staff to participate in fitness activities; such as the U.S. Marshals Fallen Heroes’ Run, Wellness Wednesdays, and the inaugural Field Day. Wellness Wednesdays have included a nutritionist, a walk to the Arch, and lunch & learns. Field Day allowed staff to engage with their coworkers in fun team competitions.

To combat suicide among law enforcement officers, the Probation Office received training on the psychology of suicide, why law enforcement is at increased risk, how to complete a suicide risk assessment, and when hospitalization is appropriate. Attendees learned how to create a culture that minimizes stigma and encourages people to ask for help when they need it.

Staff wellness is a national priority. The Probation and Pretrial Services Office in Washington, D.C. has a Wellness Committee. Supervising U.S. Probation Officer Monica Mannino was appointed to this Committee by United States Chief Probation and Pretrial Services Officer, John J. Fitzgerald.

- contribution by Monica Mannino

District Court Information

The Honorable
Rodney W. Sippel,
Chief Judge

Gregory J. Linhares
Clerk of Court

Scott A. Anders
Chief U.S. Probation
Officer

Mark M. Reichert
Chief Pretrial Services
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

