

January 2021 Issue

Reviewing July—December 2020 & Looking Ahead at Events to Come in January—June 2021



U.S. District Court— Eastern District of Missouri

David Noce

Greg Linhares

Nannette Baker

Richard Webber

Ronnie White

2020: THE YEAR OF COVID

Doing the Business of the Court in the Midst of a Pandemic

2020 was dominated by one word: COVID. The Court continued to adjust its standing Orders on procedures, case processes, and technological approaches to keep operations moving as best as it could in the second half of 2020. Trials were conducted in both St. Louis and Cape Girardeau in late summer and fall. A resurgence of the virus' community spread began to affect the community so the Court pulled back on its in-person public operations. Although measures such as mandatory masking, social distancing, revised seating throughout the courthouse, and additional cleaning measures and supplies everywhere were able to stop spread within the building, the spread within the community at large was such that continuing jury trials and front counter operations became unsustainable.

As of December 15, 2020, and continuing through March 14, 2021, the Court has continued all jury trials and has used videoconferencing and teleconferencing in all proceedings, including felony pleas and sentencing where the defendant has waived the right to be in-person. No

criminal cases are in-person unless there is a specific reason for in-person appearance approved by the judge in the case. In-person civil cases and in-person ADR are suspended. On March 14 the Court plans to re-open its trial proceedings and other in-person proceedings. Current indications are that the Court is on track to do so. When the Court does open, precautions such as masking, social distancing, and notification of the Court by any entrant who develops COVID symptoms, will continue to remain in place. For those who don't want to enter the courthouse but need to access the services of the Court; drop boxes for paper filings, remote filing & payment options, telephone & e-mail contact information during business and non-business hours, and web address information has been made available. The most up-to-date information on the Court's COVID response can always be found on the Court's COVID information center [HERE](#).

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THE HONORABLE MATTHEW T. SCHELP

United States District Judge

Matthew T. Schelp was sworn in as a U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri on August 6, 2020.

Judge Schelp received his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Missouri—Columbia. He began his legal career with the U.S. Navy’s Judge Advocate General’s Corps, during which he received two Navy Commendation Medals.

Since completing active service in the Navy; Judge Schelp has been in private practice (both Thomson Coburn and Husch Blackwell), an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri—focusing on fraud and criminal health care cases where he received a special achievement award, and a founding partner in the boutique litigation firm Jensen, Bartlett and Schelp. His private practice focused on internal investigations, tax, whistleblower defense, white collar defense, securities enforcement, business litigation, and the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

- excerpted from EIGHTH CIRCUIT LIBRARY NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2020 | NO. 9



U.S. Senator Roy Blunt attended Schelp’s swearing-in on Zoom



THE HONORABLE STEPHEN R. WELBY

United States Magistrate Judge

Stephen R. Welby was sworn in as a U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri on August 3, 2020.

Judge Welby received his undergraduate degree with honors from St. Mary’s University in San Antonio, Texas and his law degree from Washington University (WU). At WU, he was a member of the Washington University Law Review and the Orders of the Coif and Barristers.

Since beginning his legal career at Thompson Coburn; Judge Welby has been an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the St. Louis Criminal Division, a criminal defense attorney in private practice, and the Federal Defender for the Southern District of Illinois. He has also served on the Criminal Justice Act panel of lawyers for the Eastern District of Missouri and the Southern District of Illinois.

Judge Welby has been a guest lecturer in ethics at Washington University School of Law and at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

- excerpted from EIGHTH CIRCUIT LIBRARY NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2020 | NO. 8



DAILY WORKING OF THE COURT

THE BUSINESS OF THE COURT

\$11.9 Million Returned to Victims & Creditors

Even in the face of the pandemic the Court continued to meet its obligation to enforce financial judgments and return funds to victims and creditors. The Eastern District returned \$11.9 million in restitution, civil garnishments, fines & refunds to victims and creditors.

The Court's Caseload

Criminal. In 2020, 979 cases with 1,156 defendants were filed in the Eastern District. This is third consecutive year with more than 1,000 defendants. The district's large criminal caseload results from two violent crime reduction initiatives—the U.S. Attorney's Project Safe Neighborhood and the Department of Justice's Operation Legend. Operation Legend prompted then Attorney General William P. Barr to visit the Eastern District. More than one-half (56%) of defendants were charged with a weapons offense as their most serious count.

Civil. More than 2,200 cases were filed in the Eastern District in 2020. The Court closed more than 2,400 cases, resulting in an almost 10% reduction in pending cases. Caseload composition fluctuates yearly. In 2020, there were relatively more social security disability appeals, prisoner petitions & consumer credit filings and fewer civil rights & prisoner habeas corpus filings.

Working Safely, Working Remotely

Since the president issued the 'Proclamation on Declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreaks' on March 1, the Court held more than 900 virtual plea, sentencing, supervision revocation, and temporary restraining order hearings through the end of 2020. The newly adopted procedure of a combined plea & sentencing hearing has improved efficiency and shortened time to disposition for many defendants—several of whom were sentenced to time served, so preventing longer incarcerations and reducing COVID risks in jails.

FIRST IN NATION

Piloting Livestreaming on YouTube

The Eastern District was one of 13 federal district courts to pilot livestreaming audio on YouTube of some proceedings in civil cases of public interest, and Senior U.S. District Judge Perry's status conference in U.S. v. City of Ferguson was the **first live hearing broadcast** in the pilot program. The Judicial Conference authorized the 2-year pilot program to identify issues courts may have in streaming and evaluate its feasibility as part of the ongoing consideration of the Judiciary's broadcasting policy.



Magistrate Judges Docket

For the fiscal year ending September 2020, magistrate judges conducted approximately 6,000 felony preliminary proceedings and 5,500 criminal pretrial matters. They also disposed of almost 600 civil cases, receiving full consent in almost 60% of assigned cases.

Juror Satisfaction Survey

Jurors in the Eastern District complete an exit questionnaire at the conclusion of their service. After service, more than nine-tenths of jurors reported a favorable experience. As in previous years, four-fifths or more reported high levels of satisfaction with the various components of services such as eJuror, orientation, and accommodations. Additionally, many praised the Court for its precautions for COVID-19. However, almost two-fifths reported some hardship as the result of jury service—usually the need to rearrange work schedule and lost income.

*This experience was a joy
- juror comment*

*Happy to do my civil duty
- juror comment*

THE BUSINESS OF THE COURT

U.S. District Judge Limbaugh, Jr. takes Senior Status



The Honorable Stephen N. Limbaugh, Jr. assumed senior status August 1, 2020. He was appointed by President George W. Bush and took office August 1, 2008.

Judge Limbaugh, Jr.'s family has a long history of public service. His grandfather, Rush H. Limbaugh, Sr. served in the Missouri Legislature, was President of The Missouri Bar and actively practiced law in Cape Girardeau for about 75 years until his death at age 104. The U.S. Courthouse for the Southeastern Division of the Eastern District of Missouri, was named for him. His father, Stephen N. Limbaugh, Sr. practiced law in the Limbaugh Law Firm in Cape Girardeau for 32 years, like his father became President of the Missouri Bar, and in 1983 was appointed United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri. Judge Limbaugh, Sr. retired in 2008 when his son was considered for the district judgeship, but recently rejoined the Limbaugh Law Firm.

Judge Limbaugh, Jr. graduated from Southern Methodist University School of Law. Prior to serving on the federal bench; he practiced in the family law firm in Cape Girardeau, was elected Prosecuting Attorney of Cape Girardeau County, was appointed Circuit Judge of the 32nd Judicial Circuit of Missouri— subsequently winning two elections, and in 1992 was appointed by Governor John Ashcroft to the Supreme Court of Missouri— serving 16 years, including a term as chief justice. In 1998 he earned an LLM in Judicial Process from University of Virginia School of Law.

Judge Limbaugh, Jr. presided over the federal court system's first Veterans Court (for criminal offenders honorably discharged from the military). He served on the Eighth Circuit Jury Instruction Committee, Federal Trial Judges Conference executive committee, the ABA's Missouri Death Penalty Assessment Team, and the advisory board of the St. Louis Lawyers' Chapter of The Federalist Society.

- excerpted from a Resolution presented by E. Richard Webber, Senior United States District Judge, Eastern District of Missouri

The Honorable Carol E. Jackson Recognized for Lifetime Service

The Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis held its 2020 Law Day Awards Ceremony on the steps of the T.F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse. Retired U.S. District Judge Carol E. Jackson received the Distinguished Lawyer Award for her lifetime service and leadership. She served on BAMSL's Board of Governors as Secretary (2018-2019) and as Vice President (2019-2020), and is the chair of BAMSL's St. Louis Attorneys Against Hunger Committee.



l-r Judge Jackson; Zoe Linza— Executive Director of BAMSL, retired; Chief U.S. District Judge Sippel; Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Surratt-States

Chief U.S. District Judge R.W. Sippel briefs New Federal Legislators on the Judiciary

Chief U.S. District Judge Rodney W. Sippel, Judge Amy J. St. Eve (7th Cir), and U.S. District Judge Charles R. Breyer (CaND) participated in a virtual orientation for newly elected members of the U.S. House of Representatives—providing an overview of the judiciary's role as a separate, co-equal branch of government, outlined the Judicial Conference's structure and responsibilities, and explaining the distinct agencies within the judiciary and the differences between state and federal courts. *{below}* This was the second orientation program in which the judiciary participated, following its initial appearance in 2018.



- contribution by Rachel E. Marshall

EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI JUDGES' SERVICE ON NATIONAL & CIRCUIT COMMITTEES

Rodney W. Sippel



Judicial Conference of the United States (JCUS)
—Chair, Judicial Branch Committee
Eighth Circuit—
Judicial Council
Federal Judges Association—
liaison to JCUS

Henry E. Autrey



Eighth Circuit—
Committee on Model Jury Instructions

Audrey G. Fleissig



Judicial Conference of the United States—Chair,
Committee on Court Administration and Case Management

Catherine D. Perry

Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation— member
Eighth Circuit—
Wellness Committee



Nannette A. Baker

Judicial Conference of the United States—
Magistrate Judge Observer



David D. Noce

Eighth Circuit—
Committee on Model Jury Instructions



S.A. Padmore Mensah



Judicial Conference of the United States—
Committee on Defender Services

Noelle C. Collins



Federal Judicial Center— Magistrate Judge Education Advisory Committee. The six-judge committee hosted the first all-virtual national training for 40 newly-appointed Magistrate Judges in Aug. & Oct.

Abbie Crites-Leoni



Eighth Circuit—
Committee on Model Jury Instructions

In addition to these federal & circuit committees, judges of the Eastern District of Missouri chair or serve on the ADR Advisory, Budget, Court Security, Criminal Justice Act, Facilities, History, IT Council, Local Rules, Operations, Outreach & Civil Education committees and the Judicial Learning Center Board. In addition, the judges oversee the *Pro se* law clerks and court reporters and the Court's non-appropriated funds.

Mentoring Tomorrow's Advocates

In August, Eastern District U.S. District Judges Rodney W. Sippel (Chief), Stephen R. Clark, and Sarah E. Pitlyk led virtual, small group discussions with Washington University School of Law students as part of its Convocation for incoming students. The small group break-outs via Zoom were preceded by the keynote address from Chief Judge Roger L. Gregory of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

Other Highlights

In September attorneys were sworn into the federal bar at a joint ceremony with the Western District of Missouri held on the Capitol Lawn in Jefferson City. Chief Judge Sippel (MOED) and Magistrate Judge Epps, Jr. (MOWD) presided. https://twitter.com/WDMO_DCBK/status/1309567162487640065?s=20

Portraits of retired judges that were in the Jury Assembly Room now hang outside of courtrooms throughout the building. Portraits of current judges, including those on senior status, continue to be displayed on the 3rd floor.

FEDERAL JUSTICE FELLOWSHIP 2020

The inaugural class of our Court's Federal Justice Fellowship included four bright and inquisitive students from Southeast Missouri State University. Two young women and two young men immersed themselves in the workings of the judicial system. They observed numerous court proceedings; read and briefed a dozen of the most significant Supreme Court and Eighth Circuit decisions; and analyzed nearly a dozen of the best legal movies ever produced. The final project required the group to tackle questions aimed at helping communities deal with issues related to racism, poverty, and incidents of police brutality, as well as how the media impacts community perceptions of these subjects.

As reported by the Fellows, the most memorable part of the experience was interacting with and learning from professionals from all of the court affiliated agencies, including: the U.S. Pretrial Services Office, U.S. Probation Office, Federal Public Defender's Office, U.S. Attorney's Office, the Clerk's Office, and the U.S. Marshals. The first year of the program was hosted at the Rush Hudson Limbaugh, Sr., United States Courthouse in Cape Girardeau. The Honorable Abbie Crites-Leoni, United States Magistrate Judge, shepherded the program. Professor Laura Hatcher from Southeast Missouri State University taught the legal writing component.

The program had a measurable impact on each of the Fellows. On the first and last days of the program, each Fellow completed a questionnaire assessing their impression of the federal judicial system and government. All four participants' opinions improved significantly over the course of the four-week program (July 20-August 14). For example, the Fellows ranked their opinions as to how well the U.S. government and federal courts function on a scale from 1 to 10. On the first day of the program the students rated the functionality of the government between 2 and 7, while the courts were ranked between 4 and 8. At the end of the program, those ratings increased to between 8 and 9.5 for the government, and between 9 and 10 for the courts.

Dates for the 2021 Federal Justice Fellowship will be announced soon!



All the participants were from Missouri. From left to right: Antonio Barner of St. Louis; Drew Beussink of Cape Girardeau; Katherine Carter of St. Charles, and Raven Cole of Afton.

- contribution by The Honorable Abbie Crites-Leoni

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THOMAS F. EAGLETON U.S. COURTHOUSE

Marked its 20th Anniversary in 2020

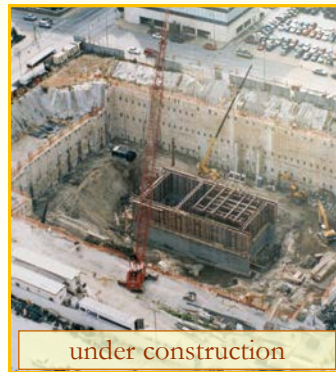
When the U.S. Courthouse and Custom House on Market Street, now the 22nd Circuit Court's Carnahan Courthouse, was no longer able to support the court's needs—Senior U.S. District Judge Edward L. Filippine championed its replacement. While Chief Judge in the early 90s, he began the long journey of building a new courthouse—ultimately the Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse dedicated in September 2000.

Congress approved the building's budget in 1991 and a coordinating committee, including members of each federal court to be housed in the new building, was established. The committee identified project goals; including the desire for the building to look like a courthouse, to instill respect for the law, and to incorporate open spaces, high ceilings & natural light. The local engineering firm HOK designed the building.

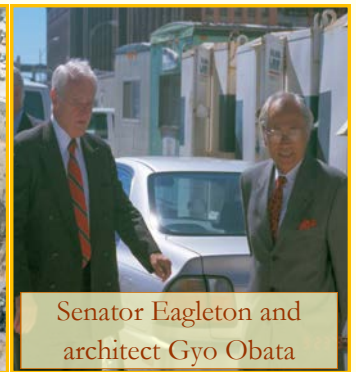
In 1994 Congress officially named the building after retired Senator Eagleton. Later that year, a groundbreaking ceremony was held on land that was a parking lot in the undeveloped southwest corner of downtown. The project took many twists and turns over the next 6 years and cost \$200 million, less than the original budget. T.F. Eagleton Courthouse is one of the largest courthouses in the country and an anchor for further development on the southern edge of downtown. St. Louis. The courthouse remains a source of pride for all who worked on the project, and all who work within. Its

steel dome and large columns make it distinctly a courthouse and uniquely St. Louisan, as the dome matches the curve of the Arch. The combination of stone, steel, wood, and natural light makes the space simultaneously traditional and modern.

The courthouse was constructed to last 100 years, and we hail the first 20 as a success!



under construction



Senator Eagleton and architect Gyo Obata

Thomas F. Eagleton attended Harvard Law School. In 1956 he became the youngest person to be elected Circuit Attorney for St. Louis. In 1960 he was elected Attorney General of Missouri, in 1964 Lieutenant Governor, and in 1968 United States Senator. He served three terms in the Senate—where he was known for his work in the areas of war powers, foreign relations, and environmental law. He returned to St. Louis when he retired from the Senate and stayed active in the community, serving as president of FANS, Inc. which brought the Rams to St. Louis and teaching at Washington and Saint Louis universities. Senator Eagleton died in 2007.

The Court Maintains its Dedication To Naturalizing New Citizens

During the second half of the year, 24 ceremonies were held for 577 new Americans. Ceremonies observed safety measures such as a shortened agenda, reduced personages, increased space, and mandatory masks. While most were held in the Court's Jury Assembly Room, the Court maintained several important traditions.

In recognition of Independence Day, the Court held a socially distanced, outdoor naturalization ceremony at Drive-In St. Louis on July 2. The venue allowed invited guests of the 55 new citizens to attend—seated in or near their cars. Missouri State Supreme Court Chief Justice George W. Draper III spoke. The Courthouse Singers provided music.

U.S. District Judge Henry E. Autrey presided over the annual Constitution Day ceremony. The Black Robe Choir from De Smet Jesuit High School performed via pre-recorded video.



Ceremony at Drive-In St. Louis

Bill of Rights Day

The first 10 amendments to the Constitution were ratified on December 15, 1791. This year was a milestone in making ‘Bill of Rights Day’ the federal court system’s equivalent of Law Day. The national outreach office of the U.S. Courts Administrative Office created an affinity group for court outreach coordinators—tasked with professional development, sharing best practices, and planning initiatives.

A subcommittee comprising staff from the Seventh and Eighth Circuits was formed to regionally promote Bill of Rights Day. A student contest was held in the ten-state region, with the theme – “What Does the Bill of Rights Mean to Me?” Essay, poetry, art, music, or video entries were welcomed in three age categories. More than 500 students submitted entries. Each district court selected a winner from each category to advance to the finals.

A live virtual event was held for the student contestants, their teachers and families, and interested members of the public. Nearly 200 households logged into the event. Magistrate Judge Kate M. Menendez, District of Minnesota, was master of ceremonies; which included a panel discussion on the Bill of Rights in the courtroom, an interactive game, and Q & A session.

The evening concluded with the awards ceremony for the contest winners—which, along with additional details—can be found here.



Virtual Outreach

The Court held virtual educational programs for about 20 classes this fall. Each program was tailored to the teacher’s request. Some groups observed courtroom proceedings through Zoom and chatted with judges and attorneys, while others participated in activities such as trial or sentencing simulations.

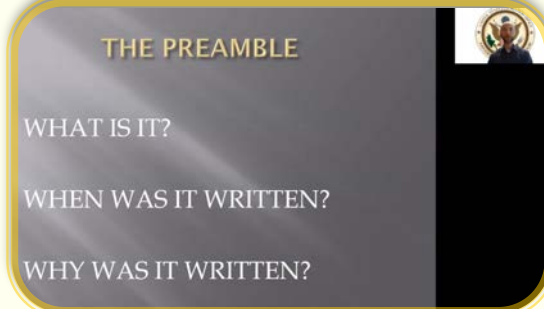
In November, U.S. District Judge John A. Ross, U.S. Probation Officer Grant Sneed, and Assistant Federal Public Defender Brocca Morrison spoke in Rockwood School District’s Partners in Education online program—Careers in Law & the Courts. The speakers discussed the required education and duties of their jobs, shared advice for those considering a career in the court, and answered questions.

The Court and Judicial Learning Center do a fantastic job of offering opportunities for teachers and students. ... it is a great resource for my classroom.
-teacher comment

Helping Today’s Youth Understand the Role of the Judiciary

Scouts BSA. This was the Court’s tenth year offering an event for the Citizenship in the Nation merit badge. However, instead of in-person events in St. Louis and Cape Girardeau, the events were hosted virtually. Scouts participated in one of two programs; either an hour-long program each day on July 20-24, or a full day on July 21. Chief U.S. District Judge Rodney W. Sippel and U.S. Probation Officer Kenny Lawrence gave presentations satisfying some of the badge requirements. Assistant U.S. Attorney Mike Reilly and Ailey Pope from Senator Blunt’s office assisted with a session on the three branches of government.

Girl Scouts. A new Democracy Badge series for Girl Scouts was introduced this year. U.S. Magistrate Judges Shirley A. Padmore Mensah and Noelle C.



Collins participated in the local council’s “Live from Girl Scouts” program series. Judge Mensah spoke to approximately 360 Brownie Girl Scouts via Zoom, while Judge Collins spoke to over 150 Cadette Girl Scouts. Both spoke on a variety of topics related to the judicial branch of government and fielded questions.



Democracy for Cadettes program

BSA Citizenship of the Nation program

- contributions on page by Rachel E. Marshall

18th Annual Criminal Justice Act Panel Attorney Webinar

One hundred and seventy-nine attorneys attended the webinar, an increase of 44% from the previous 3-year's average. Approximately nine-tenths of participants who completed the evaluation rated the webinar sessions as useful—similar to previous years. Participants indicated the webinar's presentations were well done and the information was excellent, comprehensive, and met the attendees needs. As in most previous years, the review of the U.S. Supreme Court term was the most highly rated session. Many participants

Very informative seminar. Nicely done via Zoom as well.—attendee comment

Very comprehensive and met our needs.—attendee comment

specifically indicated they were satisfied with the Zoom/remote format.

POWER ACT WEBINAR The Impact of Domestic Violence on Your Legal Practice

The webinar consisted of a panel of judges and subject matter experts that discussed ethical and effective representation for domestic violence survivors; including how to spot the signs of coercive control, understand common tactics of abuse, and explain how coercive control might show up in one's legal practice. Approximately 130 attorneys attended. Almost all participants who completed the evaluation rated the webinar highly – especially the knowledge of the presenters. Participants praised the overall information and resources provided during the webinar – singling out the judges' & other attorney's experiences, the resource booklet, and learning about domestic violence victims' decision-making as particularly valuable.

This is a CLE that I would recommend all attorneys see.—attendee comment

BAMSL's 2020 Virtual Bench & Bar

U.S. District Judges Sippel and Webber were panelists in the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis' 2020 Virtual Bench & Bar Conference. Chief Judge Sippel moderated a panel discussion on media coverage of the judiciary and legal profession {below}, while Judge Webber participated in a roundtable on ethical considerations for virtual trials and mediations.



- screenshot of virtual panel discussion courtesy of B.AMSL

Educating National Public Opinion Influencers

Chief U.S. District Judge Rodney Sippel chairs the U.S. Judicial Conference's Committee on the Judicial Branch. The committee's jurisdiction statement includes studying and reporting to the Judicial Conference on present and future relationships with Congress, the executive branch, media, bar, and the general public.

In late 2020, committee judges held three remote sessions with college journalism students to educate future reporters about the federal courts. Universities were:

- Winthrop—Chief Judge Sippel & Chief Bankruptcy Judge Jeffrey P. Hopkins (Southern District of Ohio)
- American—Chief Judge Sippel & Chief Magistrate Judge Jennifer L. Thurston (Eastern District of California)
- Ball State—Chief Judge Hopkins and Judge Ann D. Montgomery (District of Minnesota)

- contribution by Rachel E. Marshall

PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICE

PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICE



Leadership. Chief U.S. Pretrial Services Officer Mark M. Reichert leads the Eastern District’s U.S. Pretrial Services Office. He is assisted by supervising U.S. Pretrial Services Officers Susan E. Hendrickson, William L. Irby, and Shannon M. McAllister. Additional staff are nine senior officers, eight officers, three officer assistants, and three administrative personnel. The Pretrial Services Office is in the process of hiring three officers, who will start in January 2021. New officers will receive virtual training through the National Academy at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

Operations. The Pretrial Services Office has operated at full capacity throughout the pandemic, but like most organizations, made modifications to adapt to the current circumstances. For example, the Sentencing Alternatives Improving Lives (SAIL) program has continued as scheduled, but is being conducted virtually via Zoom—like most current court appearances. Two participants graduated from the SAIL program this year, and five new participants were accepted into the program. Most other treatment services have continued as well, including telehealth services. In addition, during the pandemic, Pretrial Officer Molly Gain and Pretrial Officer Assistant Brad Rentfro assisted the Pretrial Services Office in the Northern District of Illinois with pretrial investigations. Way to go and we thank them for their help!

Professional Development. Senior Officer Katie Stephens completed the Federal Judicial Center’s inaugural Federal Court Leadership Development Program, while Senior Officer Lauren Gilkeson was selected to begin this program in January 2021. The challenging application process, against hundreds of other officers, included a video presentation on leadership. Additionally, officers Shae Rucker and Jenny Rukstad graduated from the In-District Leadership Development Program, which Supervising Officer Shannon McAllister serves as a facilitator/mentor for. Senior Officer Tony Byrd presented “Fighting Complacency: How to Maintain Safety and Situational Awareness in the Workplace” at the American Probation and Parole Association’s 2020 conference. Senior Officer Mallory Griep was selected as a trainer/mentor for the Probation and Pretrial Services Office’s sex offender district review team. Molly Gain was promoted to officer, and Jessica Aguilar-Adan was promoted to officer assistant. With the new remote capability, pretrial staff exceeded the required number of annual training hours.

Community Service. Senior Officer Tiffany Corley remotely continued to organize the Motion for Kids holiday gift drive for the T.F. Eagleton U.S. District Courthouse. Pretrial Services Office staff also contributed to holiday gifts for the Family Program of the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Offices and the Project Angel Tree. Officers Tony Byrd, Chaunsey Hunter, and Shae Rucker participated in the Real Men Read! event by reading to students at the Vivian Adams Early Childhood Center in East St. Louis, Il.



Pretrial Services Officers at Real Men Read!

background photo SAIL graduation, Sep-19

- contribution by Katie Stephens

PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICE

PROBATION OFFICE

Holiday Toy Give-Away: Brightening Lives This Season

The Probation Office has held the Holiday Toy Drive each year since 2009. Toys are given to children aged 12 and younger. The toy drive began as a collaboration with supervisees and their families (clients) to facilitate long-term positive change in accordance with the Probation Office’s mission. In past drives, court staff donated toys and toys were also received from the Toys for Tots program. Over time, the Probation Office acquired support from private sponsors, faith-based community members, and community organizations which allowed the toy drive to grow in size. In recent years the Holiday Toy Drive has serviced around 150 families and provided over 400 toys yearly.



In this year’s Holiday Toy Drive, more than 300 toys and 87 food baskets were given to families in St. Louis City, St. Louis County, and the surrounding areas of Cape Girardeau. In the St. Louis office, recipients were told the address and time of the Holiday Toy Drive and were instructed to open the car’s trunk so gifts could be placed inside. *{see above}* Staff acting as holiday elves handed out food baskets, toys, coats and blankets to a long line of cars. In the Cape Girardeau office, probation officers went door-to-door in rural areas. *{see left}* Clients were given gifts for children, coats, blankets, turkeys, and baskets of other food—for which they were grateful as it was an unexpected surprise that relieved some of their financial burdens.

We are thankful for the continued support of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, Caritas Connections, Electrical Connections, and Jayden’s Quilts.

- contribution by Brooke Frank

Location Monitoring Program Expands as a result of COVID-19 Precautions

In the past year the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the Probation Office’s Location Monitoring (LM) Program. Active cases increased from 61 in February 2020 to a peak of 187 in October—primarily due to limited jail space, increased use of the Federal Bureau of Prison’s (BOP) Location Monitoring and Elderly Release programs, and the continued need for intensive supervision on high-risk ex-offenders.

At the start of the pandemic, the focus of the LM Program was as an alternative to revocation for in-custody defendants pending revocation of supervised release for non-violent violations. The goal was to limit the number of defendants exposed to virus spread in a jail setting while also providing a sanction and increased supervision as a result of violating conditions of supervision.

As the pandemic continued, referrals to the LM Program increased from the BOP’s Federal Location Monitoring and Elderly Home Confinement programs. Through these programs, low-risk and elderly inmates are eligible for early release to complete their prison sentence on location monitoring under the supervision of the probation office, while BOP retains jurisdictional authority over the releasee. Since March 2020, the Eastern District’s Probation Office has provided supervision and location monitoring for 46 BOP inmates released early under these programs, compared to 15 in 2019 and 5 in 2018

- contribution by Timothy Goebing

PROBATION OFFICE

Socially Distanced Back to School Drive

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Probation Office’s Family Program modified it’s annual Back-to-School Event. The typical event was scaled back, but the Family Program still made it a priority to supply their clients and their clients’ families with backpacks filled with the needed school supplies. Leading up to the event nearly 100 backpacks were filled with school supplies generously donated by Caritas, making the event possible. A socially distanced drive thru was held in August. While things may have looked different, there was still a buzz of excitement among the children who were receiving their new backpacks and school supplies. Armed with fresh notebooks, new backpacks, and freshly sharpened pencils, the kids were prepped for the new school year to begin.



Community Resource Specialist C. Porter hands out backpack at event

- contribution by Emily Rathjen

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

Project Home celebrating another Happy Homeowner!

The new homeowner was convicted of Interstate Transportation in Aid of Racketeering Enterprise in 2010 and sentenced to 60 months of imprisonment followed by 3 years of supervised release. In 2018 she successfully completed her term of supervised release. In 2020 she and her husband closed on a home—a spacious, 5BR/3BA predominately brick home in St. Louis. The couple has 4 children.

- contribution by Lisa M. Berry

Presentence Report Officer of the Year



Senior U.S. Probation Officer Ryan D. Wilke was named the Presentence Officer of the Year 2020. Ryan has been a trainer and mentor to many probation officers and completes investigations in the most complex financial cases. Ryan recently led the development of a comprehensive office policy and procedure manual. He also coordinates the District’s Internal Leadership Development Program.

Congratulations Officer Wilke!