



U.S. District Court— Eastern District of Missouri

INNOVATION & CONTINUITY

Doing Today's Work for a Just Tomorrow

On March 15, 2021 the Eastern District of Missouri resumed jury trials and in-person court proceedings, a year after the Court's initial March 30, 2020 Order suspended in-person proceedings due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

With limited jury trials and in-person proceedings, the Court continues in cooperation with its courthouse partners including the U.S. Marshals Service, the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Federal Public Defender Office, and its own Pretrial and Probation Services offices, to manage hybrid in-person and remote proceedings.

During this period of restricted courthouse access, litigants and other interested parties joined court proceedings via Zoom video conference. In September 2020, the Eastern District also began live audio-streaming a limited number of court proceedings on YouTube as part of the Judicial Conference of the United States (JCUS) **District Court Audio Streaming Pilot**. Alternative Dispute Resolution mediations have also been held remotely {see page 5}, as were the **Access to Justice** pro bono review sessions for pro se litigants coordinated by the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis in cooperation with the Court.

The Court en Banc and its committees have met virtually throughout the pandemic continuing to conduct court business. There have been significant revisions to **Local Rule 13.05 Pleadings and Documents Filed Under Seal** guiding the handling of highly sensitive documents and protecting party confidentiality.

While working mostly remotely, the Eastern District has closed 2,669 civil cases and 1,142 criminal defendants in the fifteen months since the start of the pandemic through June 30 of this year. In performing the necessary work to process these and other cases:

- More than 33,000 motions in civil and criminal cases and 5,700 civil pleadings were filed with the Court.
- More than 900 civil and 9,500 criminal hearings were held, most of them remotely, including:
 - 1,800 initial appearances
 - 1,400 arraignments
 - 2,000 detention & bond hearings
 - 1,000 plea agreement hearings
 - 780 sentencing hearings
- Judges issued over 28,500 orders.

Since jury trials resumed on March 15, 2021, the Court has held 16 trials through June. COVID-related processes resulted in a much higher workload for jury staff. Socially distancing jurors during check-in, voir dire, and subsequent trials has required time-consuming logistics. The Court continues to participate in JCUS' Court Administration and Case Management Committee's **Juror Utilization Project**.

In spite of the challenges of the pandemic, the Court has continued to meet the challenge of providing access to justice providing parties with their day in court.

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

Serving the Citizenry of the United States by

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

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THE HONORABLE SHIRLEY A. PADMORE MENSAH

Chief Magistrate Judge



U.S. Magistrate Judge Padmore Mensah was sworn in for a 5-year term as Chief Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri on Jan-4, 2021.

Judge Padmore Mensah has been a magistrate judge since 2012. She has held several leadership roles in the Eastern District and the Federal Judiciary—including co-presiding over the SAIL diversion program and serving on the Judicial Conference of the United States’ Defender Services Committee. Chief U.S. District Judge Rodney W.



Judge Padmore Mensah addresses SAIL diversion program graduates

Sippel praised her exceptional service, stating “Judge Shirley Mensah is an outstanding judge on our Court. She has earned the respect of her colleagues and the lawyers in the Eastern District of Missouri. Judge Mensah’s dedication to the fair administration of justice and the Rule of Law will be a guiding light as she assumes the responsibilities of Chief United States Magistrate Judge.” She graduated from Washington University School of Law and worked at the firm now known as Husch Blackwell before joining the Eastern District. - *excepted from Clerk’s Office press release on Jan-01-2021*

Judge Padmore Mensah was appointed to the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis’ Executive Committee and served on BAMSL’s search committee for its new Executive Director—Susan McCourt Baltz.

THE HONORABLE

Audrey G. Fleissig



Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. extended Judge Fleissig’s term as chair of the Judicial Conference of the

United States’ Committee on Court Administration and Case Management for an additional year. The committee reviews matters affecting case management; the operation of appellate, district and bankruptcy clerks’ offices; jury administration; and other court operational matters.

THE HONORABLE

E. Richard Webber



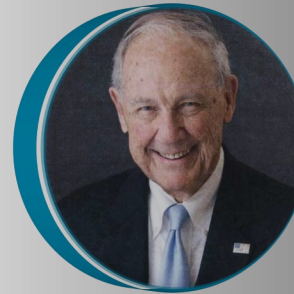
Judge Webber received the BAMSL’s President’s Award for service as Presidential

Liaison to the Executive Committee and Board of Governors during the 2020-21 Bar year .

Sarah Bardol, Judge Webber’s term law clerk, received BAMSL’s Ronda F. Williams Community Awareness Award and Young Lawyer’s Division Award of Merit.

THE HONORABLE

Stephen N. Limbaugh, Sr.



Judge Stephen N. Limbaugh, Sr. (retired) received the Southeast Missourian’s 2021

Spirit of America Award for “...seven decades of service to upholding the rule of law.” Judge Limbaugh, Sr. Judge Limbaugh, Sr. earned his law degree at the University of Missouri– Columbia. He was appointed to the federal bench in 1983 by President Ronald Reagan.

SUPERVISION TO AID REENTRY COURT

Building a Healthy Bridge to the Community

STAR COURT

On March 18, 2021, the Court celebrated the first two graduates of the **Supervision to Aid Reentry (STAR) Court** in Cape Girardeau. STAR Court participants are under the highest level of supervision as they are at the greatest risk of being revoked. The STAR Court Team works to assist participants in building a healthy bridge to the community by encouraging them to change old ways of thinking, cultivate a positive social network, and develop the skills needed to maintain satisfying employment.

with like the judge said, the vehicle, the home, school, paying for CDL school. It's – you'll never get this chance again that they indicated to you to get what you need as an individual. And I'm standing up here as a living witness that there was some bumps and bruises. We bumped some heads sometimes, but I made it, and I just want to tell each, and every one of you, the team, thank you.

Mr. Blackmon was most touched by the fact STAR Court requires the judge and other team members to play totally different roles in the courtroom. He commented, "I liked the 360. . .the approach of saying, 'hey, I am willing to show you that we are different people from different backgrounds, but I am human too, just like you. Let me help.' Unbelievable!"

The pair of graduates have moved on to Part II of STAR Court which offers them the opportunity to act as leaders to the other participants. Part II requires that they attend STAR Court on a quarterly basis. They have each given oral presentations about a leader who inspires them. Blackmon spoke about Jackie Robinson and Marks reported on Desmond Tutu.



U.S. Magistrate Judge Abbie Crites-Leoni presents graduation certificates to Mr. Marks (l) & Blackmon (r)

Roderick Marks and Derrick Blackmon entered the program in June of 2019. They both embraced the challenges presented by Part I of STAR Court and worked diligently to balance all aspects of their lives. The graduation ceremony was delayed a few months so that the celebration could be in person.

Mr. Marks shared that while in prison he decided he wanted to live a different life when he returned home. He encouraged the other STAR Court participants to embrace the program objectives:

. . .it'd been so long doing the wrong thing, doing the right thing sometimes you feel nervous, scared, but it's worth it. I wouldn't change anything and I would tell each one of you, man, take advantage of what you have here. You have a whole team at your disposal, resources. They helped me



Group photo from left to right: Asst. Federal Public Defender Mike Skrien, Probation Officer (PO) Tremell Jones, Reentry Center Manager Shane Dunlap, PO Tara Beussink, Roderick Marks, Derrick Blackmon, Judge Crites-Leoni, Treatment Counselors Stephanie Gilmore and Anna Majors, and Supervisory PO Kenny Lawrence. Not pictured are team members Janet Childers (State Vocational Rehabilitation representative) and Tim Willis, AUSA.

- contribution by the Honorable Abbie Crites-Leoni

STAR COURT

FILINGS WITH THE COURT

During the Height of the COVID-19 Pandemic

CIVIL CASELOAD



MDL 2993

Crop Input Antitrust

The U.S. Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation assigned this MDL alleging group boycott, price fixing and unjust enrichment to U.S. District Judge Sarah E. Pitlyk.

Slightly more than 2,200 civil cases were filed in the Eastern District during April 1, 2020—March 31, 2021; a one-year time period beginning shortly after the federal ‘Proclamation on Declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreaks’ issued on March 1, 2020. Torts, prisoner petitions, civil rights, contracts, and social security appeals continued to be the most common civil actions.

Civil Case Category	3 Years Prior	Year Ending Mar-31
Torts	37%	18%
Prisoner Petitions	18%	26%
Civil Rights	11%	11%
Contracts	8%	11%
Social Security Appeal	8%	15%
Other Statutes	8%	10%
Labor	5%	6%
Real Property	2%	1%
Int. Property Rights	1%	2%
Forfeiture / Penalty	>1%	>1%

CRIMINAL CASELOAD

Criminal cases were brought against 1,163 defendants in the Eastern District during April 1, 2020– March 31, 2021; continuing a multi-year trend of well over 1,000 new defendants per year. Almost three-fifths of defendants were charged with a weapons offense as the most serious charge. In comparison, nationally less than one-fifth of defendants (or 17%) were charged with a weapons offense. **Hundreds more weapons charges were filed in the Eastern District (670) than in districts with much larger urban centers—such as Southern & Eastern New York (192 & 127), Central California (173), Northern Illinois (285), Southern Texas (282), and Eastern Pennsylvania (80).**

Drug offenses continued to be the next most common criminal charges brought against defendants in the Eastern District, with approximately 30% and 15% more defendants charged than the average district in the Eighth Circuit and nationally, respectively.

Criminal Offense Category	3 Years Prior	Year Ending Mar-31
Firearms & Explosives	49%	58%
Drug	22%	22%
Property	13%	9%
Sex	5%	6%
Violent	4%	3%
Immigration	3%	>1%
Regulatory	2%	>1%
Justice System	1%	>1%
General	1%	>1%
Traffic	>1%	-

Alternative Dispute Resolution Participants Rate Remote Mediation Favorably

On March 18, 2020 the Court suspended all requirements for in-person Alternative Dispute Resolution, allowing remote mediation. Since that date, 335 Compliance Reports, submitted to the Court by the neutral generally after mediation has been completed, have been filed. Also since that date, 48 mediation participants who have completed the Court’s online ‘Alternative Dispute Resolution Participant Survey’ indicated their mediation was held virtually. The Court’s survey collects data about satisfaction with mediation & the mediator, outcome of mediation, and open-ended comments. Respondents’ overall satisfaction with mediation and the mediator did not differ appreciably between those whose mediation was held in-person prior to March 2020 and those whose mediation was held virtually after that date. Approximately 80% and 90% of both sets of

respondents were satisfied with mediation and the mediator, respectively. However, about 60% of respondents whose mediation was virtual indicated their case did not reach resolution during the session, compared to about 40% for those with in-person mediation. The Court will monitor this potential discrepancy moving forward.

Respondents were generally positive of virtual mediation and satisfied with the technology. Many stated virtual mediation was effective, efficient & convenient; saved time & money; and was as good as or better than in-person. Virtual mediation was identified as advantageous in promoting decision-making and keeping apart antagonistic/abusive parties. However, a small proportion was critical of virtual mediation, indicating the mediator’s rapport and the possibility to build relationships are lost.

Comparing State & Federal Courts Broadening the Citizenry’s Familiarity with the Judiciary

In partnership with the Supreme Court of Missouri’s Civic Education Committee and the Missouri Bar’s Department of Citizenship Education, the Judicial Learning Center collaborated in the creation of educational materials that explore the differences between the federal and state judiciaries. The materials are appropriate for middle and high school students. The materials feature a video titled “A Conversation About the Courts” in which federal and state judges discuss similarities and differences between the federal and state judiciaries in how one becomes a judge, jurisdiction, and caseloads. U.S. District Judge Henry E. Autrey, a former circuit judge in Missouri’s 22nd Judicial Circuit (St. Louis city), spoke on behalf of the Eastern District of Missouri and federal judiciary. Retired Circuit Judge Ted House of the 11th Judicial Circuit (St. Charles County) spoke on behalf of the

Missouri state judiciary. The conversation was moderated by Associate Circuit Judge Joseph L. Goff Jr. of the 24th Judicial Circuit (St. Francois County).

A number of learning tools for teachers and students accompany the video. These include a video transcript, glossary, pre- and post-test evaluation, five suggested student activities, and the Department of Missouri Elementary and Secondary Education’s Learning Standards.

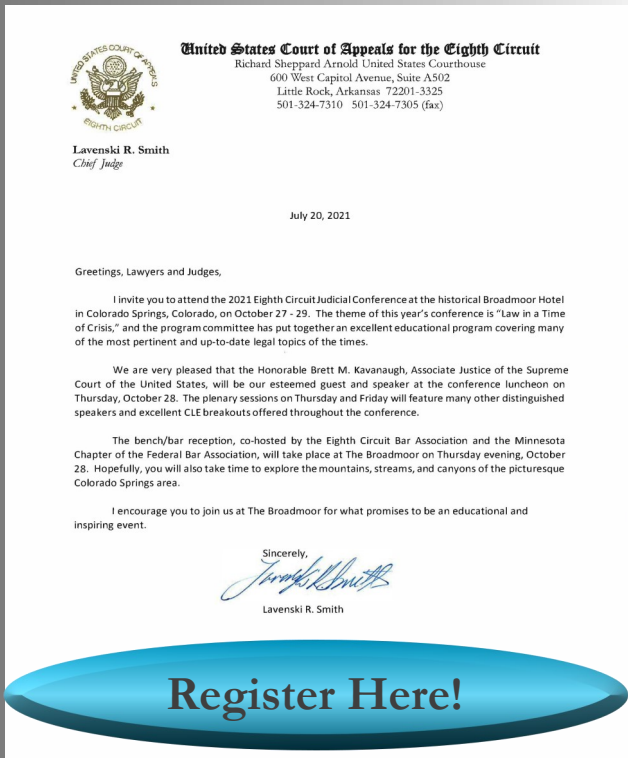
After completing any of the above activities, teachers can schedule a live chat with either a federal or state judge to speak with the class.

During the live chat the judge will lead a follow-up activity and discussion referencing additional scenarios.

Materials can be found here.

- contribution by Rachel E. Marshall

UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION



The day-long **2021 Federal Practice Seminar** will be held on November 10. The seminar is sponsored by the Federal Practice Memorial Trust, in cooperation with the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis.

Don't miss this informative, wide-ranging, and interactive CLE.



The **19th Annual Criminal Justice Act Panel Attorney Seminar** was held by webinar May 20, 2021. The Federal Public Defender Offices of the Eastern District of Missouri and Southern District of Illinois co-sponsored the event. One hundred and fifty-eight (158) attorneys attended the day-long webinar.

the seminar and presenters. All sessions received a majority of 'Very Useful' ratings (see table), with nine-tenths or more of rating each session as useful. Attendees described the seminar and its offerings as timely, informative, motivating & well-rounded and immediately applicable to their practice of law. While the IT logistics received praise, a (growing) number of attendees indicated a readiness to return to in-person seminars.

...real world solutions to real world problems...

Session presenters were from a variety of legal professions—including district and magistrate judges, appellate & district federal public defenders, the Eastern District's CJA Panel, U.S. attorney, private practice, forensic psychology, and other court personnel. Once again, attendees voiced overall satisfaction with

Always the best CLE of the year—certainly the most useful

This annual training always presents info and outlooks that impact my representation of my clients

ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

NOT EVEN A WORLDWIDE PANDEMIC CAN STOP PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE WORLD BECOMING AMERICAN CITIZENS

Instead of large ceremonies; the Eastern District held safe, abbreviated, in-person naturalizations at the TF Eagleton U.S. Court-



house during the pandemic. From Jan-Jun '21, 1,249 new citizens were naturalized in 109 ceremonies.



A special naturalization ceremony was held on Flag Day in the Gateway Arch's refurbished visitor center. U.S. Magistrate Judge Noelle C. Collins presided over the ceremony. Deputy/Acting Superintendent Taronia Armstrong, Gateway Arch National Park, welcomed the attendees. Manchester Elks #2058 B.P.O.E. presented the National Park Service with an American Flag. U.S. Representative Cori Bush, First Congressional District, gave the keynote address. Thirty petitioners, each able to bring one guest, took the Oath of Allegiance; completing their citizenship requirements. After the ceremony the League of Women Voters assisted the new citizens with registering to vote.

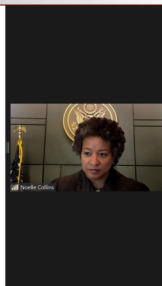


LAW DAY

In 1961 Congress passed a joint resolution designating May 1 as Law Day—a national day celebrating the rule of law. Law Day's 2021 theme was **“Advancing the Rule of Law Now”**. The intent was to remind all Americans that we share the responsibility to promote the rule of law, defend liberty and pursue justice. Three United States government classes from Grand Center Arts Academy participated in the Eastern District's Law Day offering. Students completed a pre-event lesson on the rule of law before taking part in a live, virtual event that concluded with a moderated discussion and Q & A session with Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge Shirley A. Padmore Mensah and U.S. Magistrate Judges Noelle C. Collins & Abbie Crites-Leoni.

How do judges ensure that everyone is treated equally and fairly before the law?

- A. Listen impartially to both sides
- B. Apply the law as written
- C. Keep court proceedings and records open to the public
- D. All of the above



STREET LAW TEACHER INSTITUTE



Street Law, Inc. provides the annual Teacher Institute offering classroom programs that educate young people about law and government.

Street Law, Inc. is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that seeks to advance justice by empowering people with the legal & civic knowledge and skills to bring about positive change in their community.

The Eastern District's 2021 institute was developed in collaboration with the Missouri Bar's Department of Citizenship Education. The day-long online institute focused on the 4th Amendment and culminated in a moot court activity. Teachers from Missouri and Illinois participated.

NATURALIZATION

EDUCATION & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Student Art Competition

The Judicial Learning Center, Inc. held an art competition for students in grades 1-12 from within the Eastern District of Missouri. The theme was “Juries: Through the Eyes of Students.” In addition to the art prompt, optional lesson plans on the jury system were provided for teachers. Winners were selected by an independent panel of lawyers. A display of student art is available for viewing in the Jury Assembly Room on the 1st floor as well as on the Judicial Learning Center’s website here.



Visiting the Court Virtually

Virtual programming replaced on-site events during the pandemic. Educational offerings included interactive lessons on the 4th Amendment and criminal sentencing; observing court proceedings virtually; and chats with judges, lawyers, and probation/pretrial officers. During the ‘20-’21 academic year, 52 virtual programs were held for students and teachers. Learning resources are available through the Judicial Learning Center’s website here.

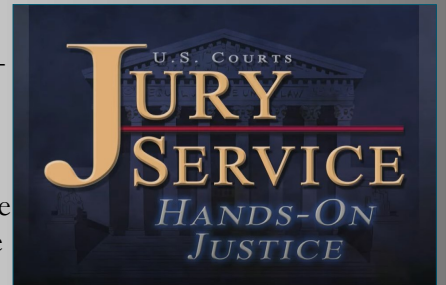
Swearing In New Attorneys

Chief U.S. District Judge Rodney W. Sippel and U.S. Magistrate Judge Willie J. Epps, Jr. (Western District of Missouri) swore in 42 attorneys to the federal bar at a joint ceremony at the Missouri Capitol Rotunda.



The Importance of Jury Service

Chief U.S. District Judge Rodney W. Sippel and Senior District Judge Catherine D. Perry appear in a video produced by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts on the fundamental importance of jury service to an engaged, vibrant and effective democracy. The video is available on the U.S. Courts’ YouTube channel here.



Eastern District Judges & Staff Teach About the Judiciary

SLU & Wash U Students

Annual visits by local 1L students occurred online. Separate virtual panel discussions were held with 180 and 200 law students Saint Louis University and Washington University, respectively. Panelists were Chief U.S. District Judge Rodney W. Sippel, U.S. District Judge Stephen R. Clark, Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge Shirley A. Padmore Mensah, U.S. Magistrate Judge Nannette A. Baker, and Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Kathy A. Surratt-States. Topics discussed at both sessions included legal writing and courtroom presentation.

Fort Zumwalt Teachers

Chief U.S. District Judge Rodney W. Sippel and Supreme Court of Missouri Judge Mary R. Russell led a virtual professional development seminar for Fort Zumwalt School District social studies teachers; covering interpreting the law, judicial independence, federal/state jurisdiction, and judicial selection.



Rockwood’s Career Fair

The Eastern District provided two panel presentations at Rockwood School District’s virtual annual career fair for students interested in a legal career. Panelists included U.S. District Judges John A. Ross & Sarah E. Pitlyk, Assistant Federal Public Defenders Brocca Morrison & Lucy Liggett, and U.S. Probation Officer Abigail Korte. Each panelist discussed their individual career path, necessary preparatory steps, and advice for the students.

PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICE

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Improving Supervision

The Eastern District is implementing the **Staff Training Aimed at Reducing Re-Arrest** (STARR) Program, an evidenced-based program that trains officers to develop more effective relationships with offenders under their supervision. In addition to core correctional practices, officers are trained on Role Clarification; Relationship Skills; Effective Use of Reinforcement; Authority, Disapproval, and Punishment; and Teaching, Applying, and Reviewing the Cognitive Model. General findings show promising programmatic results in a reducing recidivism. The Eastern District's STARR Program team will be led by Senior Officer Lisa Lazier and includes officers Jennifer Rukstad, Shae Rucker, and Jameka Taylor.

Diverting Defendants from Prison

The Eastern District's **Sentencing Alternatives Improving Lives** (SAIL) Program, an intensive diversion program now in its sixth year, continues to be successful diverting defendants from prison. Despite restrictions imposed by the pandemic, two participants graduated from the program in February 2021. Three participants should graduate later this year. Ten defendants are currently in the SAIL Program, and two additional defendants will begin later this year. U.S. District Judge Audrey G. Fleissig and Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge Shirley A. Padmore Mensah preside over the SAIL Program, while officers Anna Gagliarducci and Supervisor Susan Hendrickson oversee the program for the Pretrial Services Office.



Judge Fleissig presides over Remote SAIL Program Graduation

Staff Notes

- Senior Officer Anthony Byrd taught a virtual class at the National Training Academy. Officer Byrd has served as a defensive tactics and safety instructor for 11 years in the Eastern District and six years at the National Academy. He is also an adjunct criminal justice professor at Lindenwood University.
- Senior Officer Lauren Gilkeson was selected to serve on the Federal Judicial Center's national Treatment Services Planning Committee.
- Senior Officer Deena Siler and Officers Bradley Rentfro and Chaunsey Hunter completed temporary duty assignments in the Northern District of Oklahoma. The officers assisted the Probation and Pretrial Services Office in Tulsa with a rapid increase in bond investigations.
- New Officers Toneta Dade and Amanda Polt graduated from the National Training Academy.
- The Pretrial Services Office formed a Community Service Committee, co-chaired by Senior Officers Katie Stephens and Anthony Byrd, to coordinate quarterly community service events.

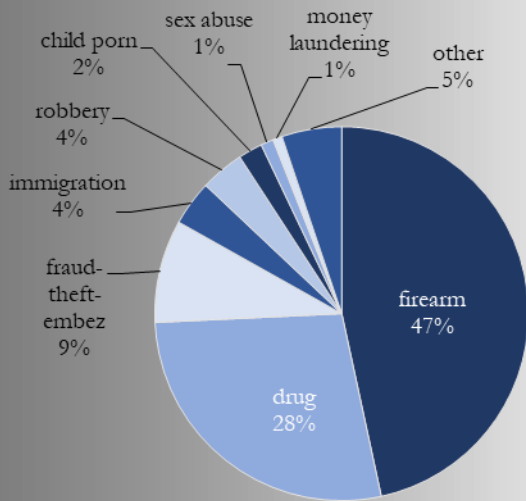


PROBATION OFFICE

Midyear Review

Supervision Caseload. At the end of the Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20); 2,103 offenders were under supervision in the Eastern District, a 14% increase from 2019. Our supervision caseload was the highest in the Eighth Circuit and the 15th highest nationally. The supervision caseload consisted primarily of offenders convicted of a drug (34%), firearms (30%), sex (18%), or property (14%) offense as the most serious charge. During FY20, 237 (or 8% of the individuals under supervision at some time during fiscal year) had their supervision revoked.

The Eastern District completed 925 presentence reports in FY20. Firearms offenses were the most common crime charged, followed by drug offenses.



Forensic Investigation & Testing. The Eastern District’s forensic lab currently services 61 districts adding four more districts in FY20. Forensic lab personnel continue to acquire the tools and training need to meet this expanding demand. All types of cases are referred to the lab, but the majority involve a sex offense. In FY20 more than 70 cases of child exploitation/pornography were investigated.

The Eastern District’s regional drug testing lab conducted 38,462 tests. In addition to our own district, tests were conducted for the Eastern District of Arkansas, District of Vermont, Western District of Michigan,

Western District of Pennsylvania, and Northern District of Oklahoma. The lab closed for staff safety, review of safety protocols, and procurement of additional safety equipment when the pandemic started—but resumed full testing operations after only one month.

Programmatic Services. The Probation Office has many outstanding reentry courts, programs and resources for those under supervision; which proactively support individuals rather than reactively punish them. Our district is committed to fostering long-term, positive change that reduces recidivism.

Treatment resources continue to be targeted to moderate and high risk offenders. The Probation Office maintained 54 contracts with drug, mental health and sex offender treatment providers. During the fiscal year approximately \$775k was spent on drug, \$500k on mental health, and \$475k on sex offender treatment. Services were provided virtually because of the pandemic, transitioning to in-person as allowed by public health considerations.

Second Chance Act funding continues to benefit our supervisees. Almost \$510k was spent in FY20, more than any other district, contributing to our lowest supervisee unemployment rate in the federal system. Funding went to training in construction, drywall, welding, CNC, forklift, and auto mechanics; Commercial Driver License certification; and emergency assistance with transportation, housing and utilities.

Our **Family Program** ran activities benefitting supervisees’ and their families throughout the year. These include a ‘Back to School Drive’ giving much needed school supplies to school age children; the ‘Hygiene & Clothing Closet’ providing food, clothing and hygiene products; and multiple fundraisers for the holiday party, reentry court services, and various other programs.

Project Home assists supervisees interested in buying a home. Program participants, who are screened for eligibility, meet with local agencies that provide financial education, credit counseling, lending, and access to non-commissioned real estate agents. St. Louis University representatives studied the efficacy of Project Home in reducing recidivism, and the findings are expected to be published later this year.

- contribution by Probation Office staff

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PROBATION OFFICE

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Second Chance Virtual Job Fair for Justice-Involved Jobseekers

The Eastern District’s U.S. Probation Office partnered with Saint Louis University’s Transformative Workforce Academy to put on the third virtual **Second Chance Job Fair** since the start of the pandemic. Employers were encouraged to look beyond a jobseeker’s criminal record, while jobseekers learned to plainly state their skills, education &

experience, and personal qualities.

Sixty-five employers watched pre-recorded video pitches from 100 jobseekers and were then connected with those that they wished to interview. Each jobseeker left with an average of 9 employers interested in follow-up. As of June 2020, 63 of those jobseekers are employed.

- contribution by Lisa Cohn, Program Manager, Transformative Workforce Academy St. Louis University

Diversifying Education & Outreach in Law Enforcement

In December 2020 Governor Mike Parson signed documentation establishing the Lincoln University’s Law Enforcement Training Academy, the first in the nation at a historically black college or university. Probation Office staff who graduated from Lincoln University Visited there, meeting with students in the Criminal Justice Department about a career in federal probation.



- contribution by Jo Cooper

Project EARN

Expanding Addicts’ Recovery Network

Project EARN held a hybrid graduation for two participants in April. The project team, graduates, and two member of each graduate’s family attended in-person. All other attendees observed via Zoom. Both graduates took about 18 months to complete the reentry program, each overcoming several obstacles to recovery. The graduates encouraged those still in the program to stay motivated, stating the value of the reentry program in maintaining sobriety.

U.S. Magistrate Judge David Noce opened the ceremony, congratulating the graduates and their family members. The graduates probation officers recounted their achievements and presented them with a certificate and a gift bag. Senior U.S. District Judge Catherine D. Perry, who sentenced one of the graduates, attended virtually and congratulated the graduates.



- contribution by Roxanne Jolly

PROBATION OFFICE

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District Court
Information

Due to the pandemic, the Federal Bureau of Prisons suspended all reentry services and placed prisoners on lock down. However, some prisoners were released to minimize the spread of COVID-19 inside facilities. Many of these releases were not as prepared as those released pre-pandemic. To address this problem, wardens of USP Marion and FCI Greenville allowed reentry services in their facilities. The Eastern District conducted a 5-week cognitive group to assist prisoners, while limiting exposure to COVID-19.

Preparing Prisoners for Release

The 5-week group sessions used the 'Courage to Change' model, and participating prisoners completed the 'Responsible Thinking' cognitive program. Program emphasis was not confined solely to thinking skills; also teaching the prisoners a prosocial approach to changing people, places and things, and practical steps to doing so.

In the coming weeks, reentry programming will use a more in-depth cognitive model based on Moral Reconation Therapy called 'Thinking for Good'.

- contribution by Clark Porter

The Honorable
Rodney W. Sippel,
Chief Judge

Gregory J. Linhares
Clerk of Court

Mark M. Reichert
Chief Pretrial Services
Officer and Acting
Chief Probation
Officer

USMS 8th Circuit Court Security Officer of the Year

Court Security Officer Darin Redden *{pictured at right with family}* was named Court Security Officer of the Year for his role in de-escalating a confrontation with an individual who was at the T.F. Eagleton Courthouse for a case involving her deceased son. Onlookers to the confrontation praised CSO Redden's professional actions and demeanor to his supervisor(s).



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

UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE 5th Annual Fallen Heroes Run, 2021



The United States Marshals Service (USMS) **Fallen Heroes Honor Run** began in the Eastern District of Missouri 5 years ago. The run memorializes marshals who have died in the line of duty and has become a popular nationwide event. This year's run in the Eastern District honored Deputy U.S. Marshals John Perry and Josie Wells, as well as SDUSM Ryan K. Marten who died last year. A donations was made to The Backstoppers, Inc. in the names of the three deputies. The Backstoppers, Inc. provides assistance to spouses and dependent children of police officers, firefighters, and paramedics & EMTs who died in the line of duty.

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