

Take a video tour of the Bell Room and learn more at [www.mow.uscourts.gov](http://www.mow.uscourts.gov).

## The Bell Room Historical Gallery

Charles E. Whittaker Courthouse  
400 East Ninth Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106



The Bell Room Historical Gallery is **open to the public free of charge**, or you may schedule a group tour by contacting Sherry Cleveland at (816) 512-5016 or

[Sherry\\_Cleveland@mow.uscourts.gov](mailto:Sherry_Cleveland@mow.uscourts.gov).

## The Exhibit

Located on the second floor of the Charles E. Whittaker Courthouse, the Bell Room Historical Gallery tells the story of the federal court in Western Missouri - the cases, the judges, the people whose lives were shaped by the decisions made here.

## Features

The gallery includes:

- ◆ The court's landmark cases from the **Green-lease kidnapping** to the **Hyatt disaster** to the trials of **Tom Pendergast** and **Nick Civella**.
- ◆ A timeline tracing the types of cases heard by the court since its creation in 1822.
- ◆ **Interactive audio-visual units** where visitors can take quizzes and watch videos about the court.
- ◆ Information about what it's like to **serve on a jury** or **how to file bankruptcy**.

## Did You Know?

During the Civil War, future federal judge John Philips led a Union cavalry regiment in the **Battle of Westport**.

**Walt Disney** filed for bankruptcy here before he moved to Hollywood to animate his famous mouse.

As a young attorney, future Supreme Court Justice **Thurgood Marshall** represented the Kansas City plaintiffs suing to integrate the **Swope Park swimming pool**.

Free agency in **Major League Baseball** exists today because of a case heard in this court.

Country superstars **Minnie Pearl**, **Roy Acuff** and **Porter Wagoner** all testified in a Western District case involving **The Grand Ole Opry** trademark.

The federal crimes of **pharmacist Robert Courtney** may have affected more than 4,200 cancer patients.

More than **1,500 people** become **United States citizens** every year in Western District courthouses.

