

Save the Date

April 21, 2017

Historical Society: James Muehlberger
Whittaker Courthouse
Simulcast to Springfield and Jefferson City
12:00pm—1:30pm

May 11, 2017

Bankruptcy Bar Spring Social
Event Space at Nara
5:00pm—7:00pm

May 12, 2017

10th Annual Koger Symposium
Whittaker Courthouse
Simulcast to Springfield and Jefferson City
9:00am—12:00pm

June 22, 2017

Federal Practitioners' Summer Social
Location TBD
5:00pm—7:00pm

June 23, 2017

17th Annual D. Brook Bartlett Lectures
Whittaker Courthouse
Simulcast to Springfield and Jefferson City
AM and PM Sessions

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Courthouse Connection

A Biannual Newsletter for the United States Courts
for the Western District of Missouri

Volume 8, Issue 1

April 2017

Sachs Receives "Difference Maker" Award



Senior District Judge Howard F. Sachs makes his acceptance speech (left). (Top photo) District Judges Brian Wimes (top left) and Stephen Bough (top right) celebrate the occasion with Judge Sachs along with (from bottom left) District Judge Beth Phillips, Judge Sachs' Chief of Staff Karen Graves, Bankruptcy Judge Arthur Federman and Kansas City Operations Manager Robin Jones.

Senior District Judge Howard F. Sachs received the "Difference Maker" award on December 1, 2016 from the Urban League for his role as a "Civil Rights trailblazer". The Urban League noted that Judge Sachs was being recognized for a lifetime of service to his community; for his thoughtful approach applying the law to advance and protect civil rights; and his steady and persistent dedication to the ideals of fairness and equality for all Americans. This recognition included his role in the Swope Parkway Swimming Pool case, his leadership in 1955 to integrate the all-white, all-male Kansas City Bar Association, and his efforts in 1956 in getting Kansas City to ban discrimination in hotels and restaurants.

In 1957, when a group of white civic leaders forced out the sitting Urban League Executive Director, Judge Sachs helped smooth the transition to new leadership by stepping in as board chair.

Once Kansas City adopted a Fair Housing ordinance in 1968, a referendum effort to repeal the provision immediately ensued. Then, when Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated and riots broke out in the city, Sachs and Spencer Fane colleague Bob Lyons convinced Mayor Ilus Davis to invoke an obscure emergency clause to keep the question off the ballot.

The Difference Maker Award is the highest honor annually bestowed by the Urban League of Greater Kansas City. Past recipients include Donald and the late Adele Hall, retired Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond and U.S. Congressman Emanuel Cleaver.

Congratulations to our friend and colleague on this well deserved recognition!

UPGRADE YOUR PACER ACCOUNT

As federal courts prepare to implement the next generation of the Case Management/Electronic Case Filing system (NextGen CM/ECF), you may have noticed changes in the PACER website (www.pacer.gov). These changes include the opportunity to upgrade your PACER account, which provides enhanced security for all users and easier access for those who file in federal courts. While the Western District of Missouri has not yet set a specific date for implementing NextGen CM/ECF, you can begin to prepare now by upgrading your PACER account.

NOTE: CJA attorneys are instructed NOT to upgrade their PACER account at this time.

What has changed?

1. **Username:** You will choose the username (8 or more characters) for your upgraded PACER account. For security reasons, shared PACER accounts will no longer be permitted (see Firm Billing).
2. **Security:** Accounts now require more complex passwords and a more secure password reset process.
3. **Firm Billing:** Groups can pay for multiple PACER accounts in one bill. Firms will no longer be able to share a single PACER account. Each user must create an individual account and the office manager can use a PACER Administrative Account to manage billing for the individual accounts.

Why have these changes been made?

The implementation of NextGen CM/ECF and the need for upgraded PACER accounts came about for two reasons:

1. Users requested the ability to have one login for all access (PACER and e-filing). This will be implemented when the WDMO moves to NextGen CM/ECF.
2. Security improvements were necessary to keep PACER in line with industry standards.

How do I upgrade my account?

Instructions for upgrading your PACER account or creating an individual account can be found on the PACER website through [PDF instructions](#) and by [video](#).

Instructions on how to set up Firm Billing, also called a PACER Administrative Account, are also on the PACER website through [PDF instructions](#) and by [video](#).



New Audio Visual System in the Courtroom

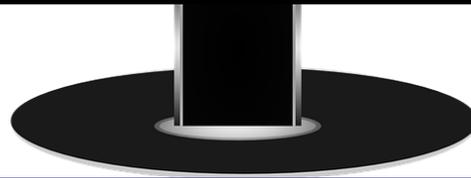


Beginning April 24, the courts will utilize new Nomad LT Audio Visual Systems in several courtrooms. Nomad is the industry leader in courtroom AV solutions.

The Nomad LT is an all-in-one audio visual system that centrally stores and seamlessly controls all of the technology attorneys need to present physical and digital evidence in the courtroom. Their lecterns combine audio, video and control technologies in one centralized piece of furniture.

The podiums will be located in the Bankruptcy and Magistrate courtrooms.

Please feel free to contact the IT Service Center for training prior to any court dates at (816) 512-5740.



New District & Bankruptcy CM/ECF Events–Interpleader Funds

Beginning **April 1, 2017**, attorneys must use the following motion events in CM/ECF for registry deposits and disbursements in interpleader cases under 28 U.S.C. Section 1335:

- 1) Motion for Interpleader Deposit (28 U.S.C. Section 1335).**
- 2) Motion for Interpleader Disbursement (28 U.S.C. Section 1335).**

For non-interpleader cases, the standard motion to deposit/invest funds and motion for disbursement of funds should continue to be used.



CM  ECF

New Bankruptcy Judge Confirmed



Brian T. Fenimore

Brian T. Fenimore has been officially confirmed as the successor to Bankruptcy Judge Arthur B. Federman.

Mr. Fenimore is currently a partner at Lathrop and Gage in Kansas City and co-chair of the Banking and Creditors' Rights practice area.

Representing borrowers and lenders in structuring, negotiating, and documenting loan originations and workout, restructure, deed-in-lieu, and voluntary surrender transactions, Mr. Fenimore also represents borrowers and lenders in problem loan matters – including loan enforcement, guarantor liability, workouts, reorganizations and bankruptcies throughout the United States.

Working as co-leader of the firm's Banking and Creditors Rights Litigation practice team, the five-time winner of the Best of the Bar award, Mr. Fenimore focuses his practice on the representation of creditors in commercial bankruptcy cases and lenders in enforcement and workout matters.

Some of Mr. Fenimore's many other accolades include:

- *Lawyer of the Year, by The Best Lawyers in America, 2017*
- Martindale-Hubbell "AV" Rating
- *The Best Lawyers in America, 2003-2017*
- Missouri/Kansas *Super Lawyers, 2005-2016*
- Best Attorneys Network Directory, 2005
- Named "Best of the Bar" by the *Kansas City Business Journal, 2004, 2005, 2011, 2013 and 2014*

Upon Judge Federman's retirement on September 1, 2017, Fenimore will officially be sworn in on September 2.

Bankruptcy Reminders

Amendments to 2016-1(F)

Per the revised local rule regarding post-confirmation fees which took effect December 1, 2016, a new form was provided on the Court's website which incorporated the new fees. These amendments are only effective for services provided on or after **12/01/2017**. Please make sure to use the [proper form](#) when filing your motions.

Declaration Re: Electronic Filing

This local form has been updated and is [now available on the Court's website](#) under Forms. Please start using the new form as soon as possible for any new cases. It should be filed concurrently with the voluntary petition. A mass email to all attorneys will provide the direct link for the form or you can find it on our website under the Forms.

2017 Docket Dates [Click here](#)

Springfield 341 Meeting of Creditors Location

Beginning with the May dates, all 341 meetings will again be held at the Springfield Courthouse in the Jury Assembly Room. This is the same location used prior to the construction.

Bankruptcy Spotlight on Sharon Greene

Please join us in extending best wishes to Sharon Stanley Greene, Courtroom Deputy for Judge Arthur B. Federman, as she retires May 1, 2017. Sharon has been an invaluable member of the Clerk's Office for almost 37 years. During her tenure with the Court, Sharon worked for all of the Bankruptcy Judges, with the exception of Judge Jack C. Jones, since the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1978 established a U.S. Bankruptcy Court in each judicial district.

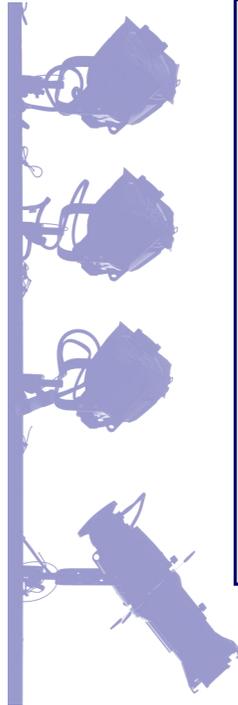
Sharon began her career on November 3, 1980 as a Notice Clerk. Over the years she advanced through several positions, Clerical Assistant Clerk, Chapter 13 Clerk, and Docket Clerk. In January of 1987 she was promoted to Courtroom Deputy to assist with the mega case, Kroh Brothers Development, one of the longest running Chapter 11 cases in Western District of Missouri history. Sharon became Judge Federman's Courtroom Deputy in January of 1990 when he was appointed as a Bankruptcy Judge.

When Sharon was asked what she enjoyed most about working in the Clerk's Office and what her retirement plans are she shared the following:

"What I love most about my job: the opportunity to utilize my gift of help. I love helping and assisting people to resolve issues and problems in their lives. It gives me a sense of joy when I am able to assist a Pro Se Debtor who is about to have his/her lights cut off, or worried about losing their car, home, etc. I have also enjoyed the group of co-workers I have been blessed to work with. They have proven to be considerate, compassionate and genuinely kind hearted people."

Sharon plans to relocate to her home town of Fort Smith, Arkansas and enjoy country living and just being near her "Dear Mother". She is also looking forward to spending quality time with her siblings and traveling.

Sharon's retirement is a great loss and she will be extremely missed. After having



Sharon Greene reminisces about all the Judges she has assisted over the years as she visits the Bell Room.

"What I love most about my job: the opportunity to utilize my gift of help."

spent almost 37 years as a dedicated public servant and valued member of the Court Family, we wish her all the best in this new chapter of her life.

Please join us in showing Sharon our tremendous appreciation at her retirement celebration on Friday April 28, 2017 from 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. in the Second Floor Training Room at the Whittaker Courthouse. Share your memories of working with Sharon, and wish her a wonderful retirement!

Naturalization Celebrations



Photos Courtesy of Sporting KC

With his wife and son by his side, Sporting KC forward Dom Dwyer became a naturalized citizen on March 16, 2017, at the Whittaker Courthouse. Dwyer, who ranks second on Sporting Kansas City's all-time goal scoring charts, has lived in the United States since 2009 and has had his permanent resident card since February 2012.

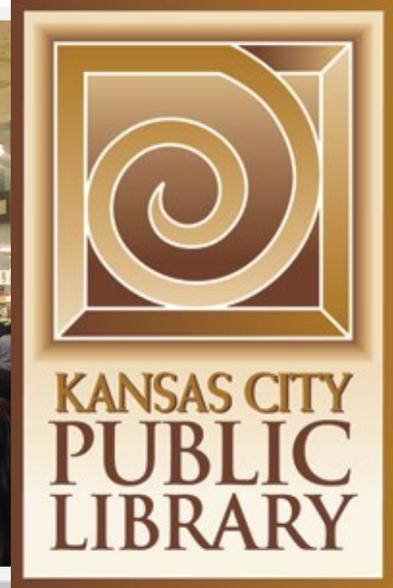


Photo Courtesy of KSHB

For the first time the Kansas City Public Library, who continually supports new citizens as they study for their citizenship exams, hosted a naturalization ceremony where 113 people from 45 nations became Americans.

Attorney General Mock Trial Competition



The Attorney General (AG) Cup Mock Trial Competition was held at the Bond Court House in Jefferson City on October 13 and 14 last year.

The AG Cup first started in 2010. Each of Missouri's four law schools send two teams of competitors who vie for bragging rights and custody of a traveling trophy.

The Attorney General's Office provides the venue, the case problem, and the volunteer judges and witnesses. As Attorney General Koster said in a press release announcing the inaugural year: "This is a tremendous opportunity for law students from across Missouri to hone their courtroom skills and learn how to better prepare themselves for courtroom practice following admission to the Bar."

Central Division Bench & Bar Reception Snapshots



Caption Summary: The reception had such a huge attendance and was well received! Judges Harpool, Bough, Ketchmark, Laughrey, Whitworth Maughmer, Knox and Dow represented the WDMO.

Highlights from the Civil Trial Innovations Conference



Diane Sullivan with Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP lead a discussion on non-verbal ways to effectively advocate during a trial. The American Lawyer named her as Litigator of the year in 2012.

“DIANE SULLIVAN WAS FANTASTIC. IT’S SO RARE THAT A WOMAN IS THE FEATURED SPEAKER AT SUCH A HIGH PROFILE CLE, BUT SHE WAS EVERY BIT THE PART. SHE WAS INCREDIBLE.”

“BEST SEMINAR EVER!”

SHORTEST LINE I HAVE EVER HAD TO STAND IN FOR JOE’S KC BBQ!”

“Mr. Love is a very dynamic public speaker and it is easy to see why he has been successful in civil jury trials.”



Scott Love (far right), one of the nation’s premier plaintiffs lawyers, discussed tips and techniques on how to improve performance and examinations in trial, including what to do before you walk into the courtroom, suggestions about effective examination approaches, and maintaining a proper tempo in your examination.



The two co-chairs of the event, Kent Emison (middle) and Rob Adams (left), have some of the most impressive wins in Missouri and across the nation. Chief Judge Tom Marten from the District of Kansas (right) has presided over major trials and teaches Trial Advocacy at Harvard Law School. These three experienced panel members brought a wealth of knowledge about what it takes to win when the stakes are high.

“EXCELLENT AND VARIED OPINIONS FROM AN IMPRESSIVE PANEL.”
- DISTRICT JUDGE BETH PHILLIPS-

Civil Trial Innovations Conference

Tuesday, April 4, 2017
Whittaker Courthouse



Bankruptcy Spring Social

Thursday, May 11, 2017

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Event Space at Nara

1617 Main St.

KCMO 64108



Frank W. Koger Bankruptcy Symposium

Friday, May 12, 2017

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Kansas City Courthouse

Simulcast to Jefferson City and Springfield Courthouses

Open to All Active Members of the
WDMO Bar
Reservations Required

Federal Practitioners' Summer Social

Thursday, June 22, 2017

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Location to be determined

17th Annual D. Brook Bartlett Lectures

Friday, June 23, 2017 (NOT THE LAST FRIDAY IN JUNE)

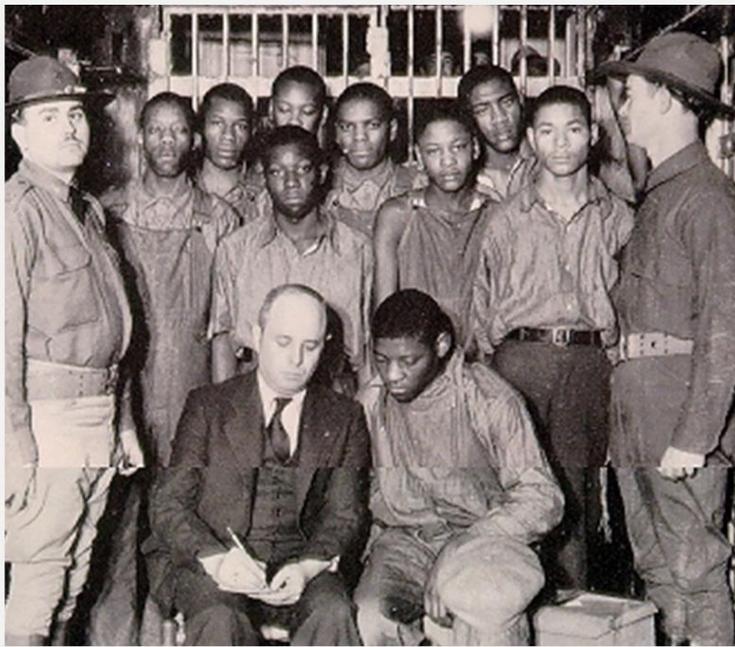
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Or

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Kansas City Courthouse

Simulcast to Jefferson City and Springfield Courthouses



The Scottsboro Boys were nine African American teenagers accused in Alabama of raping two White American women on a train in 1931. The landmark set of legal cases from this incident dealt with racism and the right to a fair trial. The cases included a lynch mob before the suspects had been indicted, all-white juries, rushed trials, and disruptive mobs. It is frequently cited as an example of a miscarriage of justice in the United States legal system.

The Tragedy of Scottsboro:

A Miscarriage of Justice

The Historical Society for the Western District of Missouri, The Howard F. Sachs Chapter Presents:

Professor Doug Linder

Friday, April 21, 2017

12:00pm—1:30pm

Whittaker Courthouse; 4th Floor

Lunch Provided—\$10 Donation Requested



Professor Linder is the Elmer Pierson Peer Professor of Law at UMKC. He teaches Constitutional Law, The Jury: Practice and Perspectives, Seminar in Famous Trials, The Quest for a Satisfying Career in Law, and First Amendment Law. He has also taught courses in Administrative Law, Communications Law, Environmental Law, Natural Resources Law, and Preservation Law.

Join us as he shares the story of the Scottsboro Boys trial and its effect on the justice system.



[Click Here](#) to RSVP!



**Courthouse
Connection
Newsletter**



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