



Harpool Awarded Law Enforcement Commendation and Medal

District Judge Doug Harpool was awarded the Law Enforcement Commendation and Medal by the Missouri Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) during their annual State of Missouri Convention on April 24, 2021.

The Law Enforcement Commendation and Medal is one of SAR's top awards and is awarded yearly to one individual in the State of Missouri. The award is presented to those who have served with distinction and devotion in the field of law enforcement and is intended to recognize exceptional service or accomplishment in the field. Eligibility extends to the entire range of individuals who make and

[Continued on Page 2](#)



Inside This Edition

[HARPOOL AWARDED COMMENDATION AND MEDAL](#)

[GAIATAN RECEIVES 2021 ICON AWARD](#)

[NEW MAGISTRATE JUDGES](#)

[NEW MAP DIRECTOR](#)

[DIVERSITY IN EDUCATION AND CHAMBERS](#)

[ADAPTABILITY IN ATTORNEY EDUCATION](#)



[DISTRICT COURT NEWS](#)

[BANKRUPTCY COURT NEWS](#)

[NORTON HONORED WITH NCBJ AWARD](#)

[MAP UPDATES](#)

[WDMO PROMOTIONS](#)

[8TH CIRCUIT CONFERENCE](#)

Harpool Awarded Law Enforcement Commendation and Medal (Continued)

enforce the law, including peace officers, attorneys, judges, prosecutors, and legislators. Recipients are recognized for having performed an exceptional act or service. Though it is considered an annual award, it is not always awarded due to the level of service expected of the recipients.

According to SAR President J. Howard Fisk, who made the initial nomination, Judge Harpool was honored with this prestigious accolade due to his excellent and storied career in legislation and in the law. His dedication to the law has made him an exemplary member of the bar of Southwest Missouri and the State of Missouri due to his performance on the bench, previous work in legislation, and his extraordinary dedication to the court's naturalization ceremonies.

Deeply and humbly honored to receive the award, the Judge stated that democracy is still an experimental form of government, and we must keep working to make it better by improving and changing laws. He mentioned how too many of us forget how special it is to live in a country of laws and that's what makes our country so special.

Viewing Naturalization Ceremonies as a special opportunity and one of his favorite parts of being a United States Judge, Harpool said, "it is always special to see the glow in the eyes of the new citizens and to see how excited they are because many of them lived in a society not based on laws, and they see the opportunity the United States presents." Every ceremony reminds him of the opportunity he has, and it concerns him that so many of us take for granted the wonderful privileges we have. He hopes we never lose sight of our need to bring in new citizens and open our borders legally as the laws require. Mentioning that new citizens are extremely dedicated individuals who have worked hard to comply with the law, Harpool supports the need to continue to welcome new citizens' talents and excitement.

Showing his appreciation for SAR, the Judge stated that he is especially happy with his relationship with the organization and greatly appreciates how they help celebrate our new citizens and truly try to make each Naturalization Ceremony a celebration: "It is as exciting for me and our country to have them here as it is for them to get to be here because they revitalize us and remind us of what an incredible privilege it is to live in this country. So long as I am in this position, I'll fight to see that our laws are respected, and implemented fairly. The more that we respect the way we implement the law, the more likely we can assure that the citizens will be able to respect our courts."

2021 Icon Awards Awarded to Judge Gaitan

The annual **ICON Awards** from **Missouri Lawyers Media** celebrates and honors career achievements by recognizing lawyers for their exceptional and lengthy contributions and service to the profession and to the community. [Read the full article](#) about this year's recipient, our very own **Senior District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr.**



“My intellectual curiosity is never without a place to land in this profession,”

“I could never retire when I have a job that offers me so much opportunity to make a difference.”

MissouriLawyers
EXPERTLY FOCUSED. WIDELY ACCLAIMED. **MEDIA**



New Magistrate Judges: Morris & Gaddy



Jill Morris graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia with her undergraduate and law degrees. While at MU, she held numerous leadership positions, studied abroad in Grenoble, France, and interned with the United States Army Judge

Advocate General's Corps. Magistrate Judge Morris then clerked for District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey during her first year on the bench.

Prior to taking the bench herself, Magistrate Judge Morris was a trial attorney and a partner at two prominent law firms and served as only the second director of the Court's mediation program. Magistrate Judge Morris regularly conducts continuing education programs and trainings, focusing on ADR and employment law. In addition to her passion for dispute resolution, she enjoys spending time with family, traveling, hiking, and reading.



W. Brian Gaddy is a graduate of MU and UMKC School of Law. Before taking the bench, Magistrate Judge Gaddy practiced law for 26 years with an emphasis in complex criminal litigation, primarily in federal courts. He also gained

invaluable trial and litigation experience representing indigent defendants in federal court under the Criminal Justice Act.

Magistrate Judge Gaddy has held numerous leadership positions in various community and legal organizations and served as an adjunct professor for the UMKC School of Law. He has been and continues to be a frequent author and lecturer for CLE programs. In his spare time, Magistrate Judge Gaddy enjoys spending time with his family, fishing, and watching sports.

New MAP Director Laurel Stevenson

Laurel Stevenson spent more than two decades as a litigator in private practice before joining the Court. During the last twelve years of private practice in which she tried numerous jury and bench trials, Laurel served as a facilitator for the Missouri Bar's Complaint Resolution Program and Fee Dispute Program in addition to serving as a private practice mediator and arbitrator. In 2017, she received the Litigation Practitioner Women's Justice Award from Missouri Lawyers Weekly. In 2019, she received her Certified Litigation Management Professional (CLMP) from Loyola University Chicago School of Law. She has been on the faculty for Trial Practice in Missouri and Texas. Laurel has conducted numerous presentations for judges and attorneys regarding ethics, dispute resolution, and claim evaluation.



Diversity in Chambers

NBC News featured Term Law Clerk for The Hon. Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., James Gilmore, along with other law clerks of color in a feature discussion regarding a recent analysis showing that judicial clerkships were made up of 77 percent white graduates and 23 percent graduates of color, and how there are efforts underway to diversify these prestigious and well sought after positions within the judiciary.

The article highlights current and former law clerks of color and the struggles they faced and continue to face in building an advanced career in law. Read the full story [here!](#)



Diversity in Education

Magistrate Judges Brian Gaddy and Lajuana Counts spoke to Advanced Placement Government students at East High School (EHS) in Kansas City.

As one of the most diverse schools in the KC area with over 40 languages and countries being represented, EHS encourages students to express their cultures in and outside of the classroom and places primary focus on increasing student learning through a 21st century lens.

Magistrate Judges Gaddy and Counts were thrilled to share their individual journeys to become a judge with such a diverse and enlightened group of young adults demonstrating just how far your career can take you no matter who or what you are.

Adaptability in Attorney Education



Practitioners in the WDMO are shining examples of adaptability. Attorney education opportunities sponsored by the court are now virtual and attendance is off the charts. Yes, we miss the person-to-person interaction (and of course, the BBQ lunches), but we have adjusted to fit our current climate!

We just wrapped up the last of the two annual hallmark programs for 2021 – The Bartlett Lectures and the Koger Bankruptcy Symposium. The 2020 & 2021 Bartlett Lectures demonstrated that Dean Erwin Chemerinsky is fabulous whether standing in front of you or from his office on the Berkeley campus. In addition, the 2020 Bankruptcy Town Hall and the 2021 Koger Bankruptcy Symposium afforded an opportunity to those who live outside the Kansas City area the ability to attend these events at ease, without the 3 hour drive. The Symposium, that was just held on August 20, also incorporated 10 virtual break-out discussion sessions. This interactive component brought a new twist for both participants and hosts.

Those in the Western District of Missouri have shown that adaptability is not only necessary in today's world, but it is opening up new opportunities in attorney education. Find educational materials for recent and past events on the web at: [Educational Outreach | Western District of Missouri](#).

District Court News

WDMO Opinions on GovInfo

Opinions rendered in the Western District of Missouri - both [District](#) and [Bankruptcy](#) opinions - can now be found on [GovInfo](#). The United States Courts Opinions (USCOURTS) collection is a collaborative effort between the U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO) and the Administrative Office of the United States Courts (AOUSC) to provide public access to opinions from selected United States appellate, district, and bankruptcy courts. The USCOURTS collection is consistent with the E-Government Act's requirement for the substance of all written opinions, issued after April 16, 2005, to be made available in a text searchable format.



The attorney annual dues collection period will change in 2022!
The last day to pay attorney annual dues will be
February 15, 2022.

Coming Soon to the Southern Division

Similar to the Western Division's Bell Room and the Central Division's Heritage Hall, we are excited to announce that we are developing a historical exhibit for the Southern Division. The exhibit will be featured on the 2nd and 3rd floors of the courthouse and will be open to the public later this fall.

Bankruptcy Court News



Norton Honored with NCBJ Award

Each year the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges (NCBJ) recognizes members of the bankruptcy bench, bar and academia who have made significant contributions to education. There are only two selections made each year, and one of the recipients of the NCBJ's 2021 Excellence in Education Award is our own Judge Cynthia A. Norton!

Her enthusiasm for teaching and mentoring young judges and lawyers, her work on behalf of the Federal Judiciary Center, and her service to the NCBJ is why she was selected as this year's award recipient.

Congratulations!

Attorneys, check out the updated attorney tab on the [Bankruptcy Page](#) on our external site for all the links you need in one place!

MAP Updates from the Director

It has been an honor to serve as the Director of the Mediation and Assessment Program (“MAP”) for more than a year. In 2020, Jill A. Morris became a United States Magistrate Judge after serving as the Director for more than seven years. Navigating a new position in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic was made easier with significant support from the judges and their staff, Operations, IT and MAP staff members JoAnna Hickman and Melissa Nolte. Melissa was recently promoted to Relief CRD. Though I am sorry to lose her, she will continue to be an asset to the Court.

As attorneys were still transitioning to remote ADR when I started, efficacy questions remained, including ensuring confidential communications in settings which blurred the lines between work and home. Several shared stories from their basements, kitchen tables, and even closets and barns. The transition to remote ADR was replete with bandwidth issues; barking dogs; mischievous cats; children enjoying the game of opening and closing doors, much to their parent’s dismay; clothing mishaps; an occasional chatty parrot; and a rambunctious cow. By November 2020, most had adjusted to ADR via Zoom or WebEx, and some embraced in person participation with appropriate safety protocols.

In February of 2021, MAP held its first webinar with more than 200 attendees. I had the pleasure of presenting with The Honorable Jill A. Morris and Joseph K. Eischens. Amy L. Coopman and Vickie Harris provided an insightful presentation regarding implicit bias. Building on the webinar, Jay Daugherty Mediation & Arbitration hosted an informative roundtable in April 2021 regarding the future of ADR, including further ways to foster diversity, equity and inclusion.

The Prisoner Litigation Mediation Pilot Program was implemented in June 2021 and is overseen by The Honorable Stephen R. Bough. The Program involves a collaboration between the MAP Office and Prisoner Pro Se Office following significant work by The Honorable Jill A. Morris and Pro Se Law Clerk and Staff Attorney Greg Doty on the Program’s necessary components.

Our bankruptcy and magistrate judges and outside neutrals continue their excellent contributions to MAP, regularly facilitating communications through mediation or other ADR to ensure MAP’s purpose is achieved.

Thanks to feedback from The Honorable Jill A. Morris, Magistrate Judge, and The Honorable Cynthia A. Norton, Bankruptcy Judge, MAP is commencing “**MAP Quarterly Conversations**” in October 2021 to foster dialogue between neutrals and attorneys.

October 20, 2021 Kansas City	Practicalities and Ethics of Diminished Capacity The Hon. Jill A. Morris and Melinda J. Bentley, Legal Ethics Counsel and Administrator and Counsel to the Advisory Committee of the Supreme Court of Missouri. Moderator: Laurel Stevenson
January 19, 2022 Kansas City	Cultivating and Enhancing Diversity and Inclusion in ADR The Hon. Cynthia A. Norton, Professor Margaret Reuter, Camille L. Roe. Moderator: The Hon. Lajuana M. Counts
April 2022 Springfield	How Not to Conduct a Mediation The Hon. W. Brian Gaddy and Laurel Stevenson
July 19, 2022 Jefferson City	Why Socrates Matters: Reflecting on the Polarizing World of Technology The Hon. Willie J. Epps, Jr. and Laurel Stevenson
October 13, 2022 Kansas City	MAP Advanced ADR Training and 30th Anniversary Celebration

PROMOTIONS

Terri Moore was promoted to Divisional Manager of the Central Division in January 2021, filling the vacancy due to the retirement of Carrie James.

Beginning her career with the judiciary in 2008 at the Northern District of Oklahoma Bankruptcy Court in Tulsa, Terri transferred to the Western District of Missouri in Kansas City in 2010 where she worked as a Case Processing Specialist, Courtroom Deputy and, most recently, Case Processing Team Lead and CM/ECF Specialist.

Prior to her legal career, Terri worked in marketing for 12 years while earning a Business Management degree from Rogers State University in Claremore, Oklahoma and, later, a Paralegal Studies degree. Terri is a huge fan of the Kansas City Chiefs and Oklahoma Sooners! In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, lake time, outdoor exercise, cooking, and true crime TV shows and podcasts.



Terri Moore
Divisional Manager

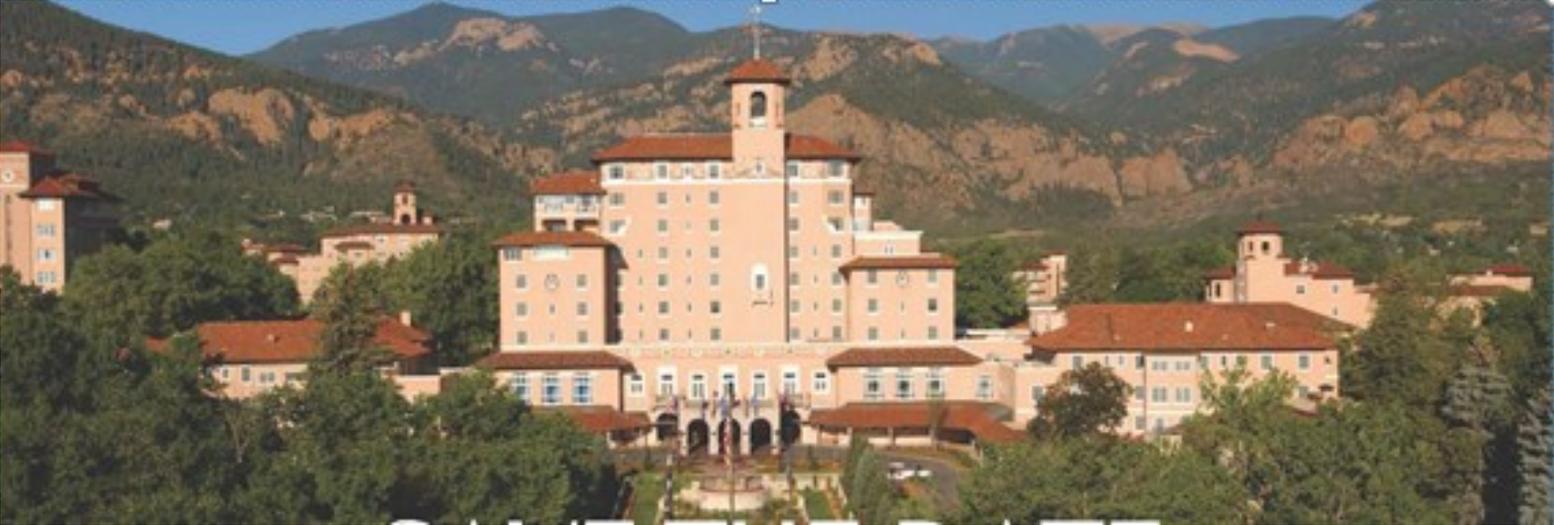
Renea Mitra was promoted on March 1, 2021, as the new Team Lead and CM/ECF Specialist in the District Clerk's Office in Kansas City. Her primary responsibilities include CM/ECF system dictionary maintenance, serving as a District CM/ECF subject matter expert, and assisting in the supervision of the case processing department.

Beginning her career with the Western District on April 1, 1996, she served as Courtroom Deputy to the Honorable Nanette K. Laughrey for 24 years, and also as Courtroom Deputy to the Honorable Ortrie D. Smith and for the Honorable Howard F. Sachs. Prior to coming to the Western District, she worked for the Honorable John Anderson III in the Johnson County District Court in Olathe, Kansas.

Renea has her bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Baker University, Baldwin, Kansas, and in her spare time, enjoys spending time with family, traveling, the outdoors and running. Before the pandemic, she enjoyed working towards her goal of running a marathon in all 50 states!



Renea Matthes Mitra
Team Lead & CM/ECF Specialist



EIGHTH CIRCUIT JUDICIAL CONFERENCE “LAW IN A TIME OF CRISIS”

OCTOBER 27 - 29, 2021
THE BROADMOOR
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

THIS WILL BE A FULL CONFERENCE FOR ALL JUDGES AND MEMBERS OF THE BAR.

WE ANTICIPATE THE ATTENDANCE OF ASSOCIATE JUSTICE
BRETT M. KAVANAUGH OF THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT,
AS OUR ESTEEMED GUEST AND CONFERENCE SPEAKER.

[REGISTER HERE!](#)

For more information, please contact:

Circuit Executive Office

JudConf@ca8.uscourts.gov, (314) 244-2600