

# Courthouse Connection

Newsletter of the U.S. Courts, Western Missouri

Volume 3, Issue 3

September 2011

## Featured Article

### Jefferson City Courthouse Opens



Senators Bond and Blunt join District Judge Laughrey. Senator Bond is accompanied by his wife, Linda (left). Carrie James and Laura Bax stand nearby.  
(Photo courtesy of Kelley McCall of the News Tribune.)

### Dedication Ceremony

On Sept. 27, 2011, the Western District celebrated the dedication of the Christopher S. Bond Courthouse and completion of construction ahead of schedule and under budget. Senators Bond and Blunt along with Western District judges cut the ribbon and welcomed visitors to the new facility. During the dedication ceremony, community leaders joined the judges to honor Senator Bond for his efforts to bring a new courthouse to mid-Missouri. In his welcoming remarks, Chief District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan Jr. recalled how the project progressed from ideas to drawings to models and finally to a new building. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey thanked former Congressman Ike Skelton for his assistance as well as the many General Services Administration project members, JE Dunn Construction and court leaders such as Paige Wymore-Wynn, Brad Luecke and Laura Bax.

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# Jefferson City Courthouse Opens

## Dedication Ceremony



Senators Bond and Blunt along with Western District judges cut the ribbon.

*"The dedication was a celebration of many years of hard work and an opportunity for the whole community, including the Bar, to honor our benefactor Senator Christopher S. Bond.*

*We outgrew our old facility more than 20 years ago so the biggest benefit of the new courthouse is space and security. Attorneys now have a place to meet with their witnesses in private, and jurors don't have to stand in the hall—there is a special area just for them.*

*I hope attorneys will come test drive the new technology that we have available for them. I have noticed a more effective use of technology by attorneys since the equipment is easier to use and the displays are easier to see. The jurors are raving about the monitors mounted in the jury box."*

—District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey

On Sept. 27, 2011, the Western District celebrated the dedication of the Christopher S. Bond Courthouse and completion of construction ahead of schedule and under budget. Senators Bond and Blunt along with Western District judges cut the ribbon and welcomed visitors to the new facility. During the dedication ceremony, community leaders joined the judges to honor Senator Bond for his efforts to bring a new courthouse to mid-Missouri. In his welcoming remarks, Chief District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan Jr. recalled how the project progressed from ideas to drawings to models and finally to a new building. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey thanked former Congressman Ike Skelton for his assistance as well as the many General Services Administration project members, JE Dunn Construction and court leaders such as Paige Wymore-Wynn, Brad Luecke and Laura Bax.

The courthouse sits on a bluff overlooking the Missouri River with a view of the Missouri Capitol building and is adjacent to the former Missouri State Penitentiary. Designed to stand for at least 100 years, the courthouse features limestone panels laminated to pre-cast concrete on the exterior with terrazzo floors and granite and marble in the interior. The building includes numerous sustainability features that produce a 28 percent increase in energy efficiency and reduction of water usage by 40 percent. The building's two-story atrium has a green roof that uses plants and soil for insulation and to control rainwater. For trial attorneys, the new courtrooms include state-of-the-art audio visual equipment, but the layout also creates an intimate setting where counsel is close to both witnesses and jurors.



The court seal is displayed prominently on the floor as visitors enter the building with the inscription "Let Justice Flow Like a River," and Judge Laughrey noted how it serves as a daily reminder to lawyers, judges, litigants and jurors visiting the new building. As the judicial liaison for the project along with Senior District Judge Dean Whipple, Laughrey kidded about the cramped quarters of the post office building and applauded how the new facility and its plentiful parking will better serve the public as well as employees. She thanked all taxpayers for making the building possible and the many laborers who contributed to the effort.





**Eighth Circuit judges and  
Western District judges pledge their allegiance.**



**Senior District Judge Scott O. Wright  
and former law clerk Marsha Fischer**

## Attorney Preview

On Sept. 8, 2011, the Court hosted a bar reception to give Central Division attorneys a preview of the new courthouse and courtroom technology. Attendees enjoyed food from local catering company G2 Gallery and the fine musical talents of a quartet from the Jefferson City High School orchestra.

After a welcome from District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey, guests were invited on guided tours of the building, visiting the U.S. Attorney's Office, judges' chambers, the Clerk's Office, the Probation and Pretrial Services Office and the courthouse terraces overlooking a view of the Missouri River. A short demonstration of the courtroom audio-visual and evidence display equipment was also provided.



**District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey speaks to the bar.**

**Representative Chris Kelly,  
Chief District Judge  
Fernando J. Gaitan Jr.,  
Missouri Supreme Court  
Justice Mary R. Russell  
and former Missouri  
Supreme Court Chief  
Justice Ann Covington**





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## Business as Usual

Even prior to the official dedication, the new Jefferson City courthouse was up and running—opening its doors for business on Monday, Aug. 22, 2011. Courthouse employees worked diligently to ensure there was no disruption in service to the public during the quick transition, and District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey and Magistrate Judge Matt Whitworth both held court the opening week. Judge Laughrey presided over the first jury trial on Sept. 6, 2011.

The project began in March 1999, following a Congressional request to correct security and space issues in the existing court facility and to consolidate federal agencies into one building. Groundbreaking was held on Oct. 24, 2008, and construction took just under three years to complete.



**Central Division Clerk's Office Team:**  
Tania Lock, Jackie Price, Jeri Russel, Laura Bax and Carrie James



**Magistrate Judge Matt Whitworth on the bench**  
for his first hearing in the new courthouse.

### **Please make note of our new address in the Central Division:**

United States District Court  
Christopher S. Bond United States Courthouse  
80 Lafayette Street  
Jefferson City, Mo. 65101

Phone: 573-636-4015



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## Inn of Court Program Expands

With the commitment and support from the Clerk's Office, the Federal Court Advocates Section of KCMBA and the tireless leadership of U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert E. Larsen and 16<sup>th</sup> Circuit Judge W. Brent Powell, the Inn of Court program continues to thrive. The



**Judge Larsen kicks off this year's luncheon series.**

program has expanded to absorb more participants or "barristers," and the participants' performances during live mock trial settings are videotaped to assist in recognizing and building skills.

Judge Larsen points out that Western Missouri's program is "unlike any in the country with a focus on advocacy and education." The educational program presents a problem and then provides an opportunity for participants to become trained on how to prepare a case for trial, with training sessions in front of experienced litigators.

Judge Larsen detailed the functional experience gained by participants in the area of advocacy:

- Proper conduct during trial
- Approaches to consider when presented with ethical concerns
- Dealing with opponents
- Recognizing when advocacy or cooperation is appropriate

Another exciting addition to the program this year is the availability of scholarships for those with financial need. Judge Larsen commented that the scholarship program broadens the ownership of the Inn with six scholarships offered by the court, a scholarship funded by the Association of Women Lawyers, and two offered by the KCMBA Diversity Section.

Inn of Court runs from September through April each year and focuses on equipping new lawyers with trial skills. The annual program is comprised of three components: (1) a CLE luncheon series; (2) preparatory sessions; and (3) performance sessions. The CLE luncheons are held monthly at the Whittaker Courthouse and focus on practical skills such as depositions, pretrial motion practice, jury instructions and ethics. U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert E. Larson leads the training sessions and covers the six major components of a trial:

- Voir Dire
- Lay Witness Direct & Cross Examination
- Opening Statements
- Evidentiary Foundations
- Direct & Cross Examination
- Expert Witnesses (using actual FBI agent witnesses)
- Closing Arguments

Judge Larsen appreciates the continued underlying tone of "lawyers and judges helping newer lawyers" and also that the Inn "creates an inventory or pool of lawyers available to courts to handle pro se civil litigants."

To learn more about the program, view more information at <http://www.mow.uscourts.gov/outreach/ioc/info.pdf> or contact Rebecca Suroff at [rebecca\\_suroff@mow.uscourts.gov](mailto:rebecca_suroff@mow.uscourts.gov).

To view the 2011-2012 program agenda, visit [http://www.mow.uscourts.gov/outreach/ioc/2011\\_2012/printable\\_schedule.pdf](http://www.mow.uscourts.gov/outreach/ioc/2011_2012/printable_schedule.pdf).



**Participants attend the September Inn of Court CLE Luncheon.**



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## WDMO Opinions on Court's Website—Search Enhanced

WDMO opinions have been available free of charge on the court's website since 2000. Recently, the court added new functionality to improve search capability. You can now search opinions by:

- Full-text query,
- Case party,
- Individual judge, multiple judges, or all judges,
- Case caption,
- Case number, or
- Date range.

### Quick Search

Quick search only searches for a judge, case number, terms in the caption, or keywords in the document's summary. But it is the fastest way to find opinions by a certain judge. You can also use the date range option.

Here's how:

1. Choose **Missouri Western** or select **All Courts**.
2. Select a judge to narrow your search. Otherwise, all judges for the chosen court(s) will be searched.
3. Enter the case number, if known.
4. Enter the full caption or as much as you know
5. Enter a date range. To search all dates, check the box "**Disregard Date**".

### Full-text Search

The full-text option searches the entire text of any and all documents on file.

Here's how:

1. Enter keywords or a phrase in the **Search For** field. You may use "and", "or", "+" or double quotes around your search terms.
2. Choose **Western Missouri**, multiple courts, or select **All Courts**.
3. Choose to show results by relevance or by date.
4. If you are not sure of spelling, check the box entitled "**I wasn't quite sure how to spell something...**"
5. To search for a topic or terms similar to your keyword(s), check the box entitled "**Expand my results...**" For example, if you entered the word "cat," the search will look for words like "feline."

You will see this new feature referred to as CourtWEB: Online federal court opinions information system. To use the new opinions search feature, click the **Opinions** menu option from our website. If you have questions on using CourtWEB, contact the District Court Clerk's Office at 816-512-5000 or the Bankruptcy Court Clerk's Office at 816-512-1818.

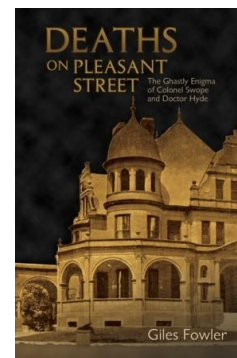
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## Historical Society's Fall Author Series

The Historical Society for the Western District of Missouri has announced its fall 2011 luncheon author series. Each author will speak at 12 noon on the following Fridays in Conference/Training Rooms A & B on the second floor of the federal courthouse located at 400 E. 9th Street in Kansas City. A voluntary \$5 donation will help defray the cost of the luncheon. The programs will end by 1:15 p.m. and copies of all books will be available for purchase.

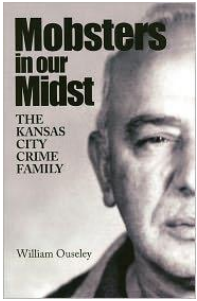
*Friday, Oct. 28, 2011      Giles Fowler, "Deaths on Pleasant Street"*

Prior to the Greenlease kidnapping in 1953, the most chronicled and memorable criminal trials in Kansas City's illustrious and notorious history involved the triple homicide of members of the prominent Swope family of Independence, Mo. The cases attracted the two great trial lawyers of the day: Frank Walsh and James A. Reed. The case also featured the introduction of some groundbreaking forensic evidence. The drama of the events that unfolded at the Swope Mansion and then in the courts are compellingly retold by Giles Fowler. Giles is a graduate of the Columbia University School of Journalism and worked as a reporter, critic, feature writer and editor of the Kansas City Star for 23 years.



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Friday, Nov. 18, 2011 William Ouseley, "Mobsters in Our Midst"



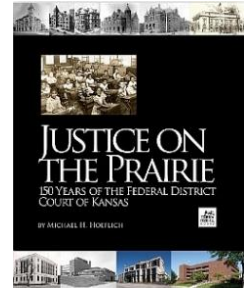
Former FBI agent William Ouseley has written the definitive story of the fall of the longest reigning underworld boss, Nick Civella. The book focuses on Civella's rise, his 1970 indictment for gambling offenses related to the Chiefs appearance in Super Bowl IV and the Spero brothers' war with him that led to bombings and murders of individuals associated with the River Market area in the late 1970's and early 1980's. Ouseley's account contains some controversial views of the role of certain District Court judges during the period.

Ouseley spent 25 years in the FBI, 20 of them working out of the Kansas City office, where he was the chief investigator of organized crime figures in the area.

Friday, Dec. 2, 2011 Mike Hoeflich, "Justice on the Prairie:  
150 Years of the Federal District Court of Kansas"

To commemorate the sesquicentennial of the federal District Court of Kansas, Mike Hoeflich was commissioned to write its history. He will speak on the subject of "Writing Court History."

Hoeflich writes on legal history, ethics, and comparative law and is a law professor at the University of Kansas.



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## Laughrey Travels Abroad

Last year, U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John G. Roberts appointed District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey to serve on the Judicial Conference Committee on International Judicial Relations. One purpose of this committee is to coordinate the federal judiciary's relationship with foreign judiciaries, agencies and organizations. To that end, Judge Laughrey made two separate trips abroad this past spring to teach the rule of law as practiced in the United States. Even though Judge Laughrey's travels abroad were arranged through her committee membership, no money from the federal judiciary was used. Her trip to Turkey in March was paid for by a Dutch organization, and the State Department financed her June trip to Iraq.

### TURKEY

Judge Laughrey traveled to Turkey to participate in a conference organized by the Center for European Security Studies. She delivered a keynote address at the conference that focused on separation of powers, including an explanation of the relationship between state and federal courts and the American tradition of civilian control of the military. She also addressed the particular importance and difficulty of enforcing the rule of law when national security is implicated.

Judge Laughrey also presented to the Turkish Justice Academy, which is Turkey's training program for future judges and prosecutors. She spoke on transparency and efficiency in the judiciary and gave a hands-on demonstration of CM/ECF. In Turkey, Iraq and much of Europe, a law degree is considered an undergraduate degree, and then students immediately begin their education to become judges after engaging in a competitive process. The education required to become a judge is similar to a post-graduate degree here in the United States and is generally a two-year course of study.



Judge Laughrey presses the "mute" button for Saddam Hussein's microphone in the courtroom where he was tried.

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During her five days in Turkey, Laughrey also met with the Ankara Bar Association and the ambassador, as well as speaking at several law schools in Istanbul and Ankara. She spoke on subjects such as women and the law, women in the judiciary, and the role of federal judges in national security cases in the United States, with particular emphasis on the Guantanamo Bay cases.

## IRAQ

While Judge Laughrey's travels to Iraq were for the same purpose as her trip to Turkey, her experiences in the two countries were quite different. Judge Laughrey remained in Baghdad for the duration of her stay in Iraq and traveled under high security into some dangerous areas in order to reach her audiences.

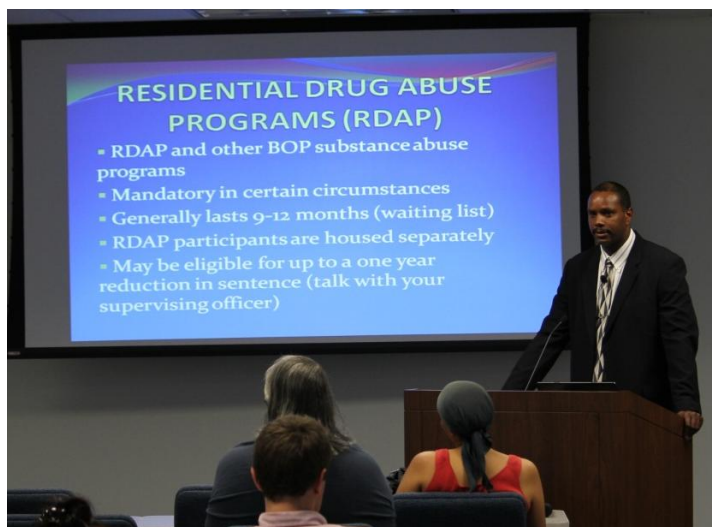
Baghdad consists of the Green Zone and the Red Zone. The Green Zone is a 4.8-square-mile area in central Baghdad, and the U.S. Embassy and other government buildings are located there. Iraqis do not live in the Green Zone unless they are required to because of high security precautions. An example of this would be the judges who tried Saddam Hussein. The Red Zone is the area outside the Green Zone.

During her stay in Iraq, Judge Laughrey was not allowed to leave the embassy grounds on foot, even with an escort. When her duties took her outside the embassy, she was required to be in a convoy of six armored cars with helicopter surveillance overhead. As long as they were within the Green Zone, she could be without personal body armor. Once they entered the Red Zone, she was required to don a helmet and flak jacket.

Judge Laughrey gave one of her presentations at the Baghdad Police College. Her audience consisted of trainers and students, and she spoke on the subjects of domestic violence and trafficking in persons. There were just a handful of female recruits in the class as training females to be police officers in Iraq is considered unusual. It has become necessary because more and more women are becoming suicide bombers.

Judge Laughrey also addressed students and faculty at the Baghdad College of Law, as well as the Judicial Training Institute where lawyers study to become judges. She covered the history of the U.S. Supreme Court, and there was also a discussion of the Guantanamo Bay cases as an example of why it is important to have an independent judiciary.

Before leaving Iraq, Judge Laughrey presided over moot court with the JAG Corps at Victory Air Base. She was then given a tour and got to see the location where Saddam Hussein was arraigned. Ironically, the places where Saddam Hussein was arraigned and tried were located in two of his former palaces. Judge Laughrey says it was a privilege to travel and to learn information about Turkey and Iraq. "It gives me a much more nuanced understanding of our challenges there."



James Henry with the Bureau of Prisons

## Criminal Law Update: Pretrial Orientation Scheduled

A panel of experts – including representatives from the Bureau of Prisons, the Probation and Pretrial Services Office, and ex-offenders – will be providing information about the federal court process from arrest to prison and/or supervision. All individuals awaiting sentencing and their families are invited to attend.

**Date:** Nov. 3, 2011  
**Time:** 3 – 5 p.m.  
**Location:** Robert J. Dole U.S. Courthouse, Kansas City, KS

For more information, contact Van Hecke at [van\\_hecke@mow.uscourts.gov](mailto:van_hecke@mow.uscourts.gov) or 816-512-1300.



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## Fee Changes

### National Fees Scheduled to Increase

On Nov. 1, 2011, new fees will take effect for both Bankruptcy Court and District Court to include an increase in the Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 bankruptcy filing fees and District Court's miscellaneous filing fee. These changes are based on recommendations by the Judicial Conference. Please note that attorney admissions fees will also increase.

Here are some of the most important changes. See the links below for updated fee schedules showing all fees.

	Current Fee	New Fee Effective Nov. 1, 2011
<b>Bankruptcy Chapter 7 Filing Fee</b>	\$299	\$306
<b>Bankruptcy Chapter 13 Filing Fee</b>	\$274	\$281
<b>District Court Miscellaneous Filing Fee</b>	\$39	\$46
<b>Attorney Admissions Fee</b>	\$157	\$183
<b>Certificate of Good Standing</b>	\$15	\$18

Based on these changes, Western Missouri's updated fee schedules can be viewed at the following links:

- Bankruptcy Court's Updated Fee Schedule: [http://www.mow.uscourts.gov/bankruptcy/rules/bk\\_fees\\_2011.pdf](http://www.mow.uscourts.gov/bankruptcy/rules/bk_fees_2011.pdf)
- District Court's Updated Fee Schedule: [http://www.mow.uscourts.gov/district/rules/dc\\_fees\\_2011.pdf](http://www.mow.uscourts.gov/district/rules/dc_fees_2011.pdf)

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### Local Fees Scheduled to Increase

Changes have been proposed to Local Rule 83.5 which will increase fees for attorneys practicing in the Western District of Missouri. The proposed changes will be posted for comment in November. The fee changes as proposed are:

Annual dues for admitted attorneys	\$20
Fee for admission Pro Hac Vice	\$100
Fee for reinstatement of previously admitted attorney	\$100

Pending comments generated by the 30 day review period, these fee increases will go into effect Jan. 1, 2012.

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## District Court Highlights

### Notice of Amendment to Local Rule 37.1

So you have a case pending in the District of Kansas but need to file a motion to compel/enforce a third-party subpoena in the Western District, which is where the third party is located. Under current Local Rule 37.1, no written discovery motion shall be filed until a telephone conference with the judge and opposing counsel has been held. However, there is no Western District judge assigned to the matter, as the main case is in Kansas and there is not a case in Missouri yet.

This dilemma prompted the Federal Practice Committee to request the Court consider revising Local Rule 37.1 to provide guidance in this context. And the Court has approved the addition of a new sub-section (b) to 37.1 as follows:

- (a) Except when authorized by an order of the Court, the Court will not entertain any discovery motions, until the following requirements have been satisfied:

1. Counsel for the moving party has in good faith conferred or attempted to confer by telephone or in person with opposing counsel concerning the matter prior to the filing of the motion. Merely writing a demand letter is not sufficient. Counsel for the moving party shall certify compliance with this rule in any discovery motion. See Rule 26(c), Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and *Crown Center Redevelopment Corp. v. Westinghouse Elec.*, 82 F.R.D. 108 (W.D. Mo. 1979); and
  2. If the issues remain unresolved after the attorneys have conferred in person or by telephone, counsel shall arrange with the Court for an immediate telephone conference with the judge and opposing counsel. No written discovery motion shall be filed until this telephone conference has been held.
- (b) Sub-section (a) shall not apply to an initial motion requesting this Court compel or deny discovery pursuant to a subpoena issued under the authority of the Western District if the primary case is pending in another District. Once such a motion has been filed and a miscellaneous case initiated within the Western District, counsel shall then follow the requirements in sub-section (a) to resolve the discovery dispute.

This rule change will be posted for comment in early November. Pending comments, the amendment will be effective Jan. 1, 2012. Also at the suggestion of the Federal Practice Committee, the Clerk's office has revised the process for initiating a miscellaneous case with a motion. See the next section on Filing Miscellaneous Cases for additional direction on this topic.

## Filing Miscellaneous Cases

In conjunction with the revisions to Local Rule 37.1, it was suggested that the court look at how miscellaneous cases are filed in CM/ECF because the process did not adequately address cases in which a motion was the initiating document. On Aug. 31, 2011, the court adopted a new procedure for opening miscellaneous cases.

### To file a miscellaneous case

1. From the **Complaints and Other Initiating Documents** category, select **Miscellaneous Case Initiating Document**. A list of miscellaneous actions will be presented.
2. Select the appropriate choice for the type of miscellaneous case.

Example: If the miscellaneous case involves a motion (such as a motion to enforce subpoena), select **Motion** from the miscellaneous action list. If indicating the miscellaneous action is a motion, you will be presented with the following message:

**“You have selected to file a motion to initiate a miscellaneous case. Upon completion of this event, you must file your motion using the applicable motion event. If there is no applicable motion event, please file your document using the Motion for Order event. “**

You will not be prompted to upload a document, but should continue with the filing, pay the filing fee and receive the Notice of Electronic Filing.

3. Immediately after docketing the **Miscellaneous Case Initiating Document** event, you must file the motion separately using the appropriate motion event. If there is not an appropriate motion event, file the motion using the **Motion for Order** event. You will then be prompted to attach a document to this event. When the filing is complete and the Notice of Electronic Filing is displayed, you will be able to file suggestions in support and link the document to the applicable motion.

**Complaints and Other Initiating Documents**  
[2:09-mc-09001-NKL Atkinson v. Baker](#)

Select Type of Miscellaneous Action from List

☐ Application to Enter Premises  
☐ Federal Lien Against Property Filed by Government Agency  
☐ Letters Rogatory  
☐ Notification of Appointment of Receiver  
☒ Motion  
☐ Registration of Foreign Judgment

If you have questions when filing a miscellaneous case, please contact the Clerk's Office at 816-512-5000.



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## Free PACER Training Available



Are you interested in learning how to access federal court records online, or do you want to sharpen the record-searching skills you already have?

The judiciary has launched a new PACER training site where current and future users can learn how to use PACER. Registration is not required, and there is no charge for accessing this training area. Please use the link below to get started.

Access the free PACER training site at <https://dcecf.psc.uscourts.gov>.

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## Bankruptcy Highlights

### Bossi Receives Award

Mark V. Bossi has been chosen to receive the 2011 Michael R. Roser Excellence in Bankruptcy Award from the Missouri Bar. The Commercial Law Committee of the Missouri Bar presents the Roser Award to an attorney who manifests the highest standards of excellence in bankruptcy practice and who has made an outstanding contribution in the field of bankruptcy practice or administration. The award is named in honor of the late Michael R. Roser, a prominent Kansas City bankruptcy lawyer.

Bossi practices law with the firm Thompson Coburn LLP in St. Louis, where he has been practicing since 1987. He was lead counsel in the complex Chapter 11 case involving President Casinos Inc., where his creative lawyering and persistence led to confirmation of a plan that paid all creditors in full and preserved some value for shareholders. And Bossi has been active in his community. He is a longtime member of the board of directors for Lighthouse for the Blind, where he has served as chairman of the board. He also sits on the board of directors for the Lutheran Family and Children Services of Missouri.



Mark V. Bossi

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## Changes to the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure

Last April, the Supreme Court approved amendments to the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure. The rules will take effect on Dec. 1, 2011, unless Congress enacts legislation to the contrary. The Western District of Missouri Bankruptcy Court has already posted proposed Local Rule amendments to conform to the changes in Federal Rule 3001 and new Federal Rule 3002.1. Watch for a general order adopting these changes.

The amendments also require the use of new bankruptcy forms. Changes are pending to the proof of claim form, with three new attachments (Attachment A, Supplement 1 and Supplement 2) being added to the proof of claim form. This will take effect on Dec. 1, 2011. For details on these forms and to obtain copies, go to:

<http://www.uscourts.gov/FormsAndFees/Forms/BankruptcyForms/BankruptcyFormsPendingChanges.aspx>

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## Changes in Noticing Procedures

Due to funding and budgetary issues and pursuant to direction from the Administrative Office in Washington, D.C., U.S. Bankruptcy Courts around the country will be implementing various changes in noticing procedures in upcoming months.

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The first of these changes is that proof of claim forms will no longer be sent out in paper form by our court. Previously, these forms have been attached to first meeting of creditor notices for Chapters 11, 12 and 13, and to Chapter 7 bar date notices. However, effective this week, these notices will include a reference to the federal forms website where creditors and attorneys can obtain a copy of a claim form or complete a fillable PDF claim form.

The court will be looking at other ways to reduce noticing costs while continuing to meet legal requirements and preserving the most important informational notices. With these goals in mind, the court hopes to reduce costs in ways that will be the least disruptive to bankruptcy practice and that will enable us to preserve essential programs from budget cutbacks.

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## Notice of Amendment to Local Rules

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court posted an amendment to its Local Rules. This amendment would change to court's signature and document retention rules and administrative procedures to achieve the following goals:

1. Ensure debtors have consented to amendments to bankruptcy documents.
2. Remove burdensome document retention requirements if certain procedures are used.
3. Permit technology to electronically capture signatures.

To view the proposed amendments, visit

[http://www.mow.uscourts.gov/bankruptcy/announce/2011\\_debtor\\_sig\\_changes\\_exp\\_notes.pdf](http://www.mow.uscourts.gov/bankruptcy/announce/2011_debtor_sig_changes_exp_notes.pdf)

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## Court News & Notes

### 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit Judicial Conference

This summer, Kansas City will play host to the 2012 8th Circuit Judicial Conference, Aug. 8-10, 2012. U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito is a featured guest, along with outstanding speakers from across the country. Many local attorneys are hard at work planning an exciting and informative event. The Marriott Downtown is the headquarters hotel. Please mark your calendars to attend.

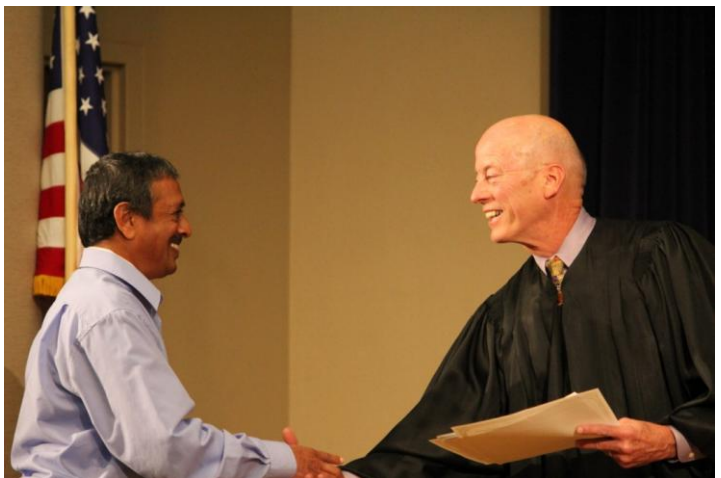
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### Truman Library Hosts Naturalization Ceremony

In celebration of Constitution Day 2011, the court held a naturalization ceremony at the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum in Independence. Bankruptcy Judge Jerry W. Venters presided over the ceremony, welcoming 50 applicants from 27 countries as they took the Oath of Allegiance and became citizens. Members of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution acted as color guard.



New citizens are administered the oath of allegiance.



Bankruptcy Judge Jerry W. Venters welcomes a new citizen.



## About Courthouse Connection

### Court Executive

Ann Thompson

### Managing Editor

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