

UNITED STATES COURTS FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI



Arthur B. Federman Retirement Ceremony

By: Robert J. Kressel
United States Bankruptcy Judge
District of Minnesota

On Friday, July 28, I attended a celebration of Bankruptcy Judge Art Federman's retirement. It was held in the ceremonial courtroom in Kansas City. It took the form of a court proceeding with Cynthia Norton presiding, flanked by Art and Dennis Dow. Virtually every federal judge from the Western District of Missouri, Judge Duane Benton of the Eighth Circuit and about 16 current and retired bankruptcy judges from the Eighth Circuit, Kansas and, yes, the Southern District of California were

in the audience. Art's wife, Diane, his two daughters and sons-in-law, his four grandkids, his mom and sister were all there. Members of the bar packed the courtroom and an overflow in the Jury Room.

Cynthia opened the proceeding with remarks about appearing before Art and then becoming his colleague. There were four speakers: Brian Fenimore, Art's former law clerk and his chosen successor, described several admirable traits for each letter in Art's name. Pete Bowie described their time together on the Codes of Conduct Committee and the high esteem judges have for Art, from

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Newsletter Contributors:

Chief District Judge D. Greg Kays, Chief Bankruptcy Judge Cynthia Norton, Bankruptcy Judge Robert Kressel, Jill Morris, J. L. Lehr, Diana Diaz, Robin Jones, Tania Lock, Susan Wexter, Cecelia Parle, and Steve Burch

the Chief Justice on down. I spoke next describing Art as being "nice," which is about the highest praise there is from a Minnesotan, a "gentleman," reading excerpts from Cardinal Newman's 1842 definition of a gentleman, and lastly a "mensch," making him a mensch on the bench. Lastly, Dennis Dow spoke in very personal terms of his relationship with Art as lawyer, colleague and friend.

As is customary, Art got the last word. He thanked all the appropriate people, but used the bulk of his time to exhort the lawyers present to protect the reputation of our courts and defend it against unfounded attacks on the integrity and impartiality of judges.

There was a reception afterwards, with a live band, no less. In the atrium outside the room where the reception took place was a display about naturalizing citizens. Featured prominently was a large panel about Art's parents, both Holocaust survivors and naturalized American citizens. As I read about them, I got a good idea why Art is a person of substance.

Art and Diane have been friends of mine for a long time. They share a wedding anniversary with Chris and I and we have celebrated together a number of times. We have served on the BAP together for many years. I



know I will not see him as often as I am used to, but I know we will continue our friendship.

Be well, Art.



New Judges Sworn In

The Western District welcomes its newest Magistrate Judge. Willie J. Epps, Jr. (right), sworn in by Magistrate Judge Matt Whitworth, began serving as a Magistrate Judge on July 17, 2017 in the Central Division at the Bond Court House in Jefferson City.

Before joining the bench, the Judge served as an Associate General Counsel and Head of Litigation at Edward Jones in St. Louis. He has also served as general counsel, pro bono for the Missouri state NAACP and teaching faculty for Harvard Law School's Trial Advocacy Workshop.

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We also welcome our newest Bankruptcy Judge Brian T. Fenimore (below) who was sworn in August 31, 2017 by Chief Bankruptcy Judge Cynthia Norton.

Judge Fenimore joins us from Lathrop and Gage where he was partner and also co-chaired the firm's Banking and Creditor's Rights Litigation Practice. From 1997 to 2000, he served on the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee to the Bankruptcy Court in the Western District. In addition, he was awarded the Best of the Bar Award five times and voted Lawyer of the Year in 2017.





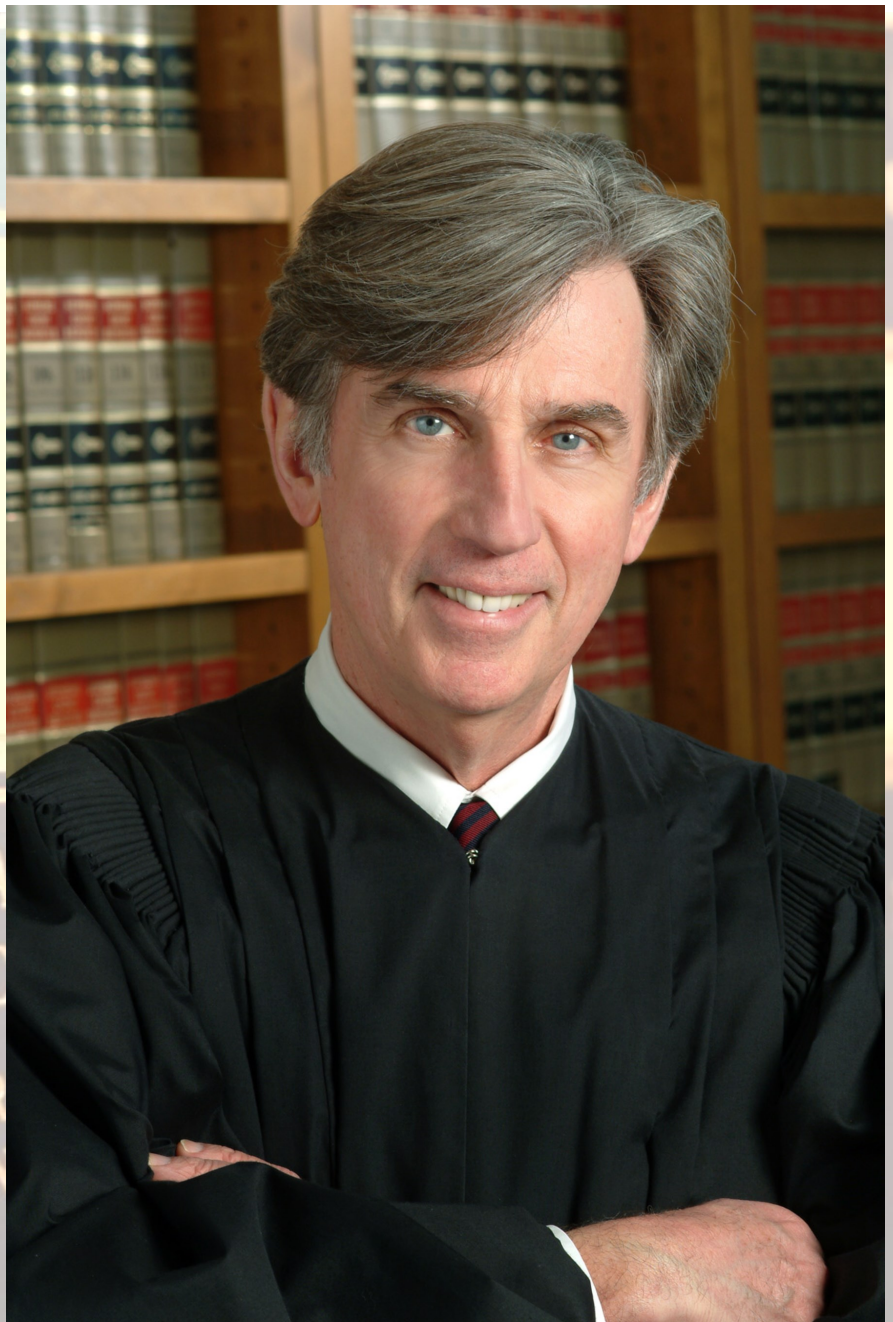
# Larsen Honored

By: D. Greg Kays  
Chief United States District Judge  
Western District of Missouri

The Missouri Bar Foundation recently honored our colleague, Magistrate Judge Robert Larsen, with the Spurgeon Smithson Award. He was recognized at The Missouri Bar Foundation & Public Service Awards Luncheon held during The Missouri Bar Annual Meeting at the Westin Hotel here in Kansas City on Wednesday, September 13.

The Spurgeon Smithson Awards were established in 1976 by the bequest of the late Mr. Smithson, an outstanding Kansas City lawyer. The Missouri Bar Foundation presents the awards annually to Missouri judges, teachers of law and/or lawyers deemed "to have rendered outstanding service toward the increase and diffusion of justice."

Judge Larsen specifically was praised for his leadership with the Ross T. Roberts Trial Academy which trains new lawyers on trial advocacy; his teaching at UMKC Law School as an adjunct professor; and his scholarship which includes Navigating the Federal Trial, now in its 11th edition.



## 2017 Recipients



*Spurgeon Smithson Awards*

Also honored this year with Spurgeon Smithson Awards were Bill Bay, a partner in the St. Louis office of Thompson Coburn LLP, and the Hon. Karl DeMarce, associate circuit judge for the Circuit Court of Scotland County in the 1st Judicial Circuit.

Congratulations go to Rob and his family. Please [click here](#) to learn more about the 2017 awardees.





## Heritage Exhibit Now Open

The Heritage Exhibit at the Bond Court House in Jefferson City, an extension of the Bell Room Exhibit at the Whittaker Courthouse, is now open for viewing. The exhibit highlights some of the nearly 200 years of case law that has been decided by the Judges of the Western District of Missouri and inspires viewers by showing how the court's work reflected the difficult issues that grew out of the early years of statehood in Missouri.

A portion of the exhibit tells the fascinating story of how Judge James Peck traveled to Jefferson City by horseback to hear cases and how Judge Robert Wells was instrumental in the settlement of Jefferson City and also responsible for the design of the Missouri State seal. The exhibit also highlights how Judge Arnold Krekel had the responsibility of seeing the state through the end of the U.S. Civil War and the reconstruction years.

Spearheaded by Senior District Judge Nanette Laughrey, this exhibit is sure to educate the public, attorneys and court staff alike. Please spend a few minutes in the exhibit the next time you visit the Bond Court House!





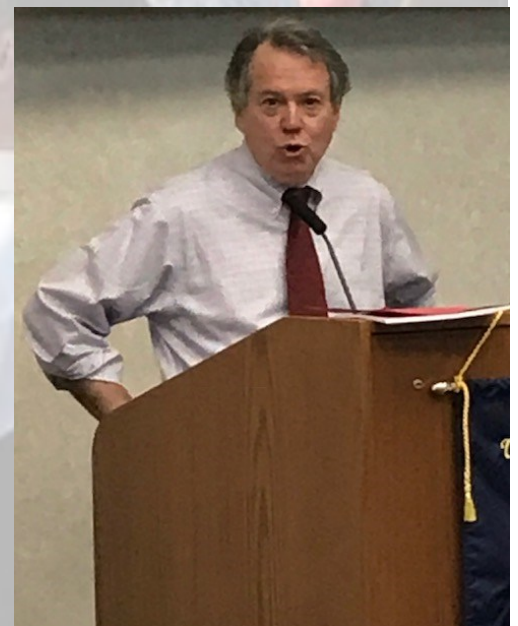
# 10th Annual Koger Symposium & 17th Annual Bartlett Lectures Photo Highlights



## **SAVE THE DATES**

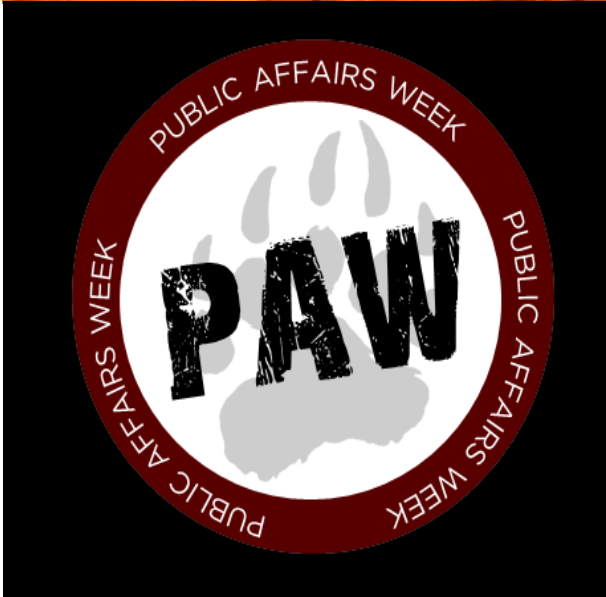
**Koger Symposium  
May 4, 2018**

**Bartlett Lectures  
June 22, 2018**





# Naturalizations at Missouri State



The United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri in Springfield naturalized sixty new citizens on Wednesday, September 13 at the Plaster Student Union Theater on Missouri State University's Springfield campus in conjunction with the University's Public Affairs Week.

This year's applicants represented 28 different countries, including Belize, Ghana, Romania and Venezuela. District Judge M. Douglas Harpool presided over the ceremony. The National Anthem was performed by the Missouri State University Beartones and America the Beautiful was performed by Dr. Paula K. Patterson with the Missouri State University Music Department. Guest speakers included Dr. Dee Siscoe, Vice-President of Student Affairs; Dr. Saibal Mitra, Professor of Physics, Astronomy and Materials Science; Attorney Ginger Gooch, Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association; and local representatives from the offices of Senator Claire McCaskill, Senator Roy Blunt, and Congressman Billy Long.

A number of local organizations were present for the reception hosted by the University: representatives from the League of Women Voters and the Daughters of the American Revolution who assisted with voter registration and members of the Sons of the American Revolution dressed in revolutionary military attire who took a number of photos with guests. Representatives from the Social Security Administration and the U.S. Postal Service were also available to assist with Social Security benefits and passport information. The participation of these groups provided a great opportunity for the new citizens and their families to receive a number of resources.

## Calling Community Organizations

Do you belong to a community organization that likes to help others? If so, perhaps they would be interested in welcoming newly naturalized citizens.

If your organization would like to provide light refreshments for approximately 200 individuals immediately following a Naturalization Ceremony in the Charles Evans Whittaker, U.S. District Courthouse in Kansas City, MO, please contact **Diana Diaz, Education, Communication, Outreach Manager** or call (816) 512-5030, for additional information on how your group can help.



# MAP Celebrates 25 Year Milestone

In the field of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), the Western District of Missouri was a true pioneer in the early 1990s by supporting alternative ways of resolving disputes. In fact, WDMO created one of only five ADR pilot programs among the 94 federal district courts in 1992. Receiving over 1,000 civil case assignments a year, the ADR program remains robust to this day. This year, the Mediation and Assessment Program (MAP, formerly Early Assessment Program, EAP) reaches its 25th year celebrating the thousands of cases that have been mediated, often resulting in expedient and resource-efficient resolutions.

On Friday, October 27, 2017, MAP will host its annual advanced mediator training for those on the Court's outside mediator list. The program will include a presentation from the Director of the Federal Judicial Center, Judge Jeremy D. Fogel who will speak on implicit bias as it relates to mindfulness in mediation. Claudia Bernard, Chief Circuit Mediator for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and Howard Herman, ADR Program Director for the Northern District of California, will provide advanced training to assist mediators when they find both sides equally disagreeable.



This dynamic trio has extensive mediation experience and has trained mediators and judges across the country and around the world. The training is expected to qualify for 3.7 CLE hours, including 2.3 ethics credits.

A celebration and reception honoring those who contributed to the program's inception 25 years ago will follow the presentations.

If you are on the court's outside mediator list or assisted with the program's formation and wish to register for this event, please contact the MAP office at [map@mow.uscourts.gov](mailto:map@mow.uscourts.gov) or register via the link below.

## **Mediators Register Now!**

**Mediation and Assessment Program's  
25th Anniversary CLE  
Friday, October 27, 2017**



# **New District Courtroom Deputy Assignments**

## **Gary Fenner, Senior District Judge**

Lisa Mitchell, Courtroom Deputy  
Lisa\_Mitchell@mow.uscourts.gov  
816-512-5660

## **Matt Whitworth, Magistrate Judge**

Jan Martin, Courtroom Deputy  
Jan\_Martin@mow.uscourts.gov  
816-512-5060

## **Willie J. Epps, Jr., Magistrate Judge**

Jackie Price, Courtroom Deputy  
Jackie\_Price@mow.uscourts.gov  
573-556-7561

## **Tracey Richard, Relief Courtroom Deputy**

Tracey\_Richard@mow.uscourts.gov  
816-512-5073



# **New Bankruptcy Courtroom Deputy Assignments**

## **Cynthia A. Norton, Chief Bankruptcy Judge**

Beth Graham, Courtroom Deputy  
Beth\_Graham@mow.uscourts.gov  
816-512-1852

Christy Wilkinson, Relief Courtroom Deputy  
Christy\_Wilkinson@mow.uscourts.gov  
816-512-1849

## **Dennis R. Dow, Bankruptcy Judge**

Kim McClanahan, Courtroom Deputy  
Kim\_McClanahan@mow.uscourts.gov  
816-512-1894

Christy Wilkinson, Relief Courtroom Deputy  
Christy\_Wilkinson@mow.uscourts.gov  
816-512-1849

## **Brian T. Fenimore, Bankruptcy Judge**

Dawn Meador, Courtroom Deputy  
Dawn\_R\_Meador@mow.uscourts.gov  
816-512-1924

Debbie Harden, Relief Courtroom Deputy  
Debbie\_Harden@mow.uscourts.gov  
816-512-1835

## **Kansas City Chapter 13 Cases, All Bankruptcy Judges**

Kristina Richardson, Courtroom Deputy  
KC13Orders@mow.uscourts.gov  
816-512-1816

Debbie Harden, Relief Courtroom Deputy  
KC13Orders@mow.uscourts.gov  
816-512-1835





### Bankruptcy Local Rule Changes and Comment Period

The United States Court for the Western District of Missouri is soliciting comments on proposed revisions to the Local Rules 3083-1 and 3084-1 and the Model Chapter 13 Plan.

Please access the **Notice of Proposed Revisions** [here](#). Comments may be made through the Survey link found at the bottom of the Notice. **The public comment period ends October 21st, 2017.**

### Document Size Increase in CM/ECF

The file size limitation for bankruptcy CM/ECF has been increased to **50 MB** per document!

## Proposed Criminal Justice Act Plan Published for Comment

The Court is now seeking comments on the proposed Criminal Justice Act Plan.

Please access the plan [here](#). The comment period will close on **October 11, 2017.**

Comments may be directed to  
**Laura Bax.**

## Bankruptcy Nuts and Bolts

The United States Trustee's office sponsored a "Nuts and Bolts of Consumer Bankruptcy Practice" seminar in Springfield and Jefferson City this month. The seminars included 7.2 hours of Missouri CLE credit and a court sponsored lunch. Chief Bankruptcy Judge Cynthia Norton and Bankruptcy Judges Dennis Dow and Brian Fenimore spoke at the seminars as well.

While the seminars were targeted to newer consumer bankruptcy practitioners and their staff, attorneys with more experience and their staff were also welcome to attend. In addition, the U.S. Trustee contacted local law schools to invite law students to attend so they can learn about the practice of consumer bankruptcy law. Each seminar featured a debtor's attorney, the Chapter 13 trustee or his staff, local Chapter 7 trustees, an attorney from the U.S. Trustee's office, Bankruptcy Court clerk's staff and a Bankruptcy Judge.

The final seminar will be held in Kansas City at the Whittaker Courthouse on Friday, September 29.

If you have any questions about these seminars, please contact Barb Marquez or Kate Strauss at the U.S. Trustee's office at (816) 512-1940.

