

# Courthouse Connection

Newsletter of the U.S. Courts, Western Missouri

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## Featured Article

### Technology and the Court



With a new courthouse in Jefferson City comes new technology. Most of the equipment from the old courthouse was outdated and incompatible with the wiring systems at the new location. So the Court is pleased to share information about the exciting systems that have been installed to benefit attorneys, jurors and staff at the Bond Courthouse.

Entering the lobby of the courthouse, visitors are greeted by two 42-inch monitors in the lobby displaying the daily docket from CM/ECF along with weather and current news. An announcements page also directs visitors to other activities scheduled in the building such as CLE programs or other meetings and events. Hopefully, the monitors will assist attorneys and members of the public to readily confirm the location and time of hearings and events when they arrive.

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Feb. 1—Inn of Court CLE Luncheon

Feb. 8—FCAS Bench & Bar Dialogue

Mar. 7—Inn of Court CLE Luncheon

Mar. 15—Pretrial Orientation

Apr. 4—Inn of Court CLE Luncheon

Apr. 19—FCAS Bench & Bar Dialogue

Jun. 1—Koger Bankruptcy Symposium

Jun. 28—Federal Practitioners' Summer Social, KCMBA

Jun. 29—D. Brook Bartlett Lectures

Aug. 8-10—8<sup>th</sup> Circuit Judicial Conference

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## Technology and the Court



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Once in the new courtrooms, methods of evidence presentation and viewing have been drastically improved. A key change is the addition of monitors in the jury box. Every two jurors will share a monitor which is adjustable for convenient positioning to allow jurors close inspection of documents or video. In the alternative, if a trial attorney prefers to direct juror attention to a big screen, there is a 100-inch projection screen available for use which lowers from the ceiling behind the bench. And in either case, both the attorney and the witness may annotate pictures or documents using touch-screen monitors. When counsel or the witness draws electronically on an exhibit, the courtroom deputy can then print the exhibit as annotated for later use. And annotations by different individuals appear in different colors so as to distinguish who is drawing where.

Evidence may also be presented from a variety of locations in the courtroom, including the evidence cart, attorney tables, the courtroom deputy's station and the witness stand. The evidence cart provides the most options for connectivity. There are analog connections with audio such as VGA, composite, s-video and digital connections such as HDMI and DVI. There is also a Blu-Ray player, which plays CDs, DVDs and Blu-Ray discs, as well as an SD card slot for viewing pictures from a digital camera.

With all of these options, attorneys may connect their own laptops directly at the lectern or counsel table. Or they may bring a jump drive to use in the computer inside the lectern or to plug directly into the new, slim document cameras.

The Bond Courthouse is also one of the first, if not the first U.S. courthouse, to have an all-digital audio-visual (AV) system. What does that mean? All of the video is high-definition (HD). On the audio front, digital audio is less susceptible to noise and distortion, and therefore, the new system produces CD-quality audio for better recording. Recordings are saved to the Court's network for better archiving and safe storage, and recordings can then be sent electronically via e-mail to transcriptionists. Even though an all-digital AV system is in place, the ability to display evidence from non-digital sources such as a VCR or camcorder remains available. Additionally, there are both handheld and headset wireless microphones with an encrypted system (for unintended signal reception outside the courtroom) to ensure confidentiality.



An enhanced interpreter system is another new tool for the Jefferson City courtrooms. The defense counsel table and witness stand have a connection for an interpreter headset that can be used for language interpretation for non-English-speaking defendants. The defendant wears a headset that the interpreter translates into, so only the defendant hears the translation. Then the interpreter translates back to the court when the defendant replies. These same wireless headsets are also available for hearing impaired persons when set to a different channel.

Each of the four courtrooms also feature phone conferencing integrated into the overall system so that “on the record” calls may be recorded. Video conferencing is integrated into the courtrooms with the option to show three different camera views. The cameras are set up to show the judge, the witness and the lectern. In addition to the three cameras, the system has the ability to show evidence from any source over the video conference. And each judge’s chambers is wired for audio so staff members can monitor events in the courtroom.



The new systems may appear overwhelming at first, but recent users and courthouse staff have found the equipment intuitive to use and far more effective than the set-up at the old facility. Attorneys are welcome to make an appointment to test drive the new equipment either in preparation for an upcoming trial or hearing or just for general preparation for the future. To arrange for a training session, please contact Tony Centobie, IT Specialist, by e-mail at [tony\\_centobie@mow.uscourts.gov](mailto:tony_centobie@mow.uscourts.gov) or by phone at 573-556-7570.

## Federal Practice Committee Hosts CLE for Criminal Practitioners

On Nov. 3, 2011, the Federal Practice Committee hosted a continuing legal education program titled “Federal Criminal Litigation—Judicial & Practitioner Perspectives.” Federal prosecutors, criminal defense attorneys and judges attended and participated in this seminar that was designed to offer in-depth instruction in a variety of substantive criminal law areas.

From the arraignment, initial appearance and detention hearing to an evidentiary hearing and sometimes a change of plea, the criminal defense bar and assistant U.S. attorneys spend most of their time practicing before federal magistrate judges. So the first panel discussion featured U.S. Magistrate Judges Robert E. Larsen, John T. Maughmer and Sarah W. Hays, who spoke on pretrial criminal litigation. This panel was moderated by Lisa G. Nouri, a criminal defense attorney and member of the Federal Practice Committee.

Clockwise from top left: Brian Gaddy, Judge Whipple, Travis Poindexter, Judge Laughrey, Cindy Dodge, and Chief Judge Gaitan



The program's second panel featured U.S. District Judges Fernando J. Gaitan Jr., Nanette K. Laughrey and Dean Whipple. The judges discussed the sentencing process post-*Booker*, *Gall*, *Kimbrough* and *Spears*, highlighting what works or hurts when parties advocate for a more favorable sentence. They shared their views on the impact of pre-sentence investigation reports, sentencing memoranda, defendant statements and new sentencing considerations under the recent case law. Assistant U.S. Attorney Mike Oliver, who represents the Springfield area on the Committee, moderated the panel.

The third panel of the day, "Ethical Issues Arising in Federal Criminal Defense," featured three practitioners who talked openly about the ethical dilemmas faced by criminal defense attorneys who practice in federal court. The panelists discussed client communication, client fees, ABA Criminal Justice Standards for control and direction of the case, direct appeals, 2255 motions and ownership of the government's discovery material. Brian J. Gaddy presented the perspective of an attorney who is privately retained on federal criminal cases. Travis Poindexter, an assistant federal public defender, and Lisa G. Nouri, an attorney appointed to cases under the Criminal Justice Act, offered their viewpoints as well. This panel was moderated by Willie J. Epps Jr., of Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P., chair of the Federal Practice Committee.

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## Historical Society Concludes Successful Fall Luncheon Series

The Historical Society for the Western District of Missouri concluded its fall luncheon series by featuring these award-winning authors. Giles Fowler opened the series on Oct. 28, 2011, speaking on the Swope murder trials of the early 20th Century. On Friday, Nov. 18, 2011, former FBI agent William Ouseley discussed his best-selling book "Mobsters in our Midst," a work describing the rise and fall of Nick Civella and his colleagues. And, on Dec. 2, 2011, Mike Hoeflich, former dean of the University Of Kansas School of Law, spoke on his newly published history of the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas, "Justice on the Prairie." The speakers each addressed a packed house of judges and attorneys, answering questions and staying after the programs to sign copies of their books.

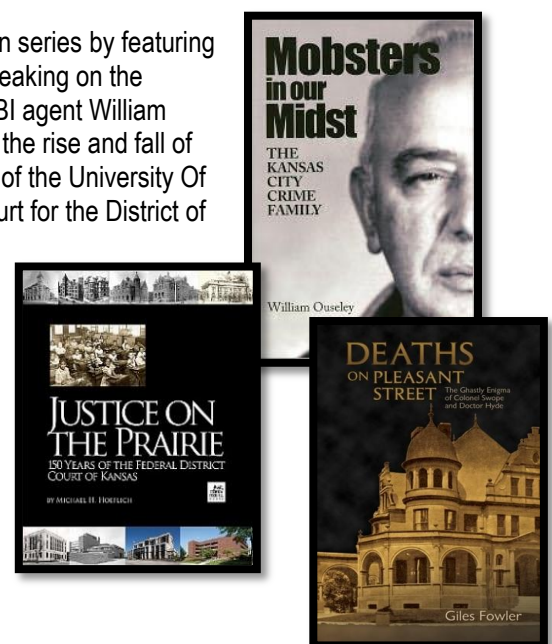
The society will return with new programming in the spring as it continues to grow and expand its offerings. If you wish to participate in the program selection process or simply make suggestions, please feel free to contact any of the officers listed below:

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Elaine D. Koch, [edkoch@bryancave.com](mailto:edkoch@bryancave.com)



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## E-Filing Risks for Litigators



Electronic filing poses a unique set of risks that may create problems in meeting deadlines and/or complying with other court policies, rules and procedures. It is difficult to dispute that ECF has made filing much more convenient. Gone are the days of rushing a pleading to the courthouse at the last minute. However, there are new problems that may still cause counsel to miss a deadline or unwittingly violate privacy rules.

The Defense Research Institute has recently published an article titled "New Risks Every Litigator Should Know" that explores the risks associated with e-filing and offers recommendations for avoiding a missed filing deadline, the disclosure of private client information on the Internet and other possible pitfalls. The article was written by W. Kelly Stewart and Jeffrey L. Mills of Jones Day in Dallas and can be found via the link below.

<http://www.jonesday.com/files/Publication/efd9d946-2272-4493-9bb6-312e53bb8419/Presentation/PublicationAttachment/9398f37a-c4a0-4338-8a4e-35cdf2d69900/FTD-1106-StewartMills.pdf>

## Podcast Series Features Landmark Supreme Court Cases

A new series of audio podcasts is now available for download on the Federal Judiciary's website. The series features landmark U.S. Supreme Court cases that have shaped history and have affected American life. Each decision is discussed by a law professor, and there is an explanation for the case's continued importance. There are currently four cases posted, and a new episode is added every month. The website offers an opportunity to sign up for e-mail notification when new cases are posted. Podcasts are available at <http://www.uscourts.gov/Multimedia/Podcasts/Landmarks.aspx>.



### Tinker v. Des Moines (1969)

At a public high school in Des Moines, Iowa, students planned to wear black armbands to school to protest the Vietnam War, but the principal found out about the protest and told the students they would be suspended if they wore the armbands.



### New Jersey v. T.L.O. (1985)

In a New Jersey high school, a teacher found two girls smoking in the bathroom and took them to the principal's office. One girl, known as T.L.O., denied smoking. The principal demanded to see the girl's purse and found evidence that she was also selling marijuana at school.

## District Court Highlights

### Online Case Opening—Selecting the Correct Venue Code

When opening a new case online, the first choice to make is the office in which the case should be filed. This is the divisional venue. It is important to select the correct divisional venue. Local Rule 3.1 (a) names the divisions in the Western District of Missouri and where cases are heard for those divisions. Local Rule 3.1 (b) mandates how to determine the correct division for your case.

Each division in the Western District of Missouri has its own code and name. Below are those codes and the alternate names (city) by which the divisions are often known.

Code	Division	Alternate Name
2	Central Division	Jefferson City
3	Southern Division	Joplin
4	Western Division	Kansas City
5	St. Joseph Division	St. Joseph
6	Southern Division	Springfield

The divisional boundaries are determined by counties. Below is a chart to help determine the proper division for cases.

Jefferson City (Central Division)		Joplin (Southwestern Division)	Kansas City (Western Division)	St. Joseph (St. Joseph Division)		Springfield (Southern Division)	
Benton	Osage	Barry	Bates	Andrew	Livingston	Cedar	Pulaski
Boone	Pettis	Barton	Carroll	Atchison	Mercer	Christian	Taney
Callaway		Jasper	Cass	Buchanan	Nodaway	Dade	Texas
Camden		Lawrence	Clay	Caldwell	Platte	Dallas	Webster
Cole		McDonald	Henry	Clinton	Putnam	Douglas	Wright
Cooper		Newton	Jackson	Daviess	Sullivan	Greene	
Hickory		Stone	Johnson	DeKalb	Worth	Howell	
Howard		Vernon	Lafayette	Gentry		Laclede	
Miller			Ray	Grundy		Oregon	
Montineau			St. Clair	Harrison		Ozark	
Morgan			Saline	Holt		Polk	

While the judge may choose an alternate place of trial in his or her discretion, filing must be based on the division as outlined. Selection of the incorrect office may result in a delay and require an administrative transfer of the case to the correct office.

## Local Fees for Attorney Admissions to Increase

WDMO annual attorney dues are due by March 31, 2012. E-mail notices will be sent to attorneys in early January 2012 with instructions on how to pay your annual dues through ECF.

In preparation for payment of dues, please log on to Western Missouri's CM/ECF system to ensure you can access the site. If you have problems logging on or have forgotten your login and password, please e-mail the court at [jcgen@mow.uscourts.gov](mailto:jcgen@mow.uscourts.gov) or call 573-636-4015.

Effective Jan. 1, 2012, changes to Local Rule 83.5 increased fees for attorneys practicing in the Western District of Missouri. The fee changes are provided below.

### New Fees Effective Jan. 1, 2012

<b>Annual Dues for Admitted Attorneys</b>	\$20
<b>Fee for Admission Pro Hac Vice</b>	\$100
<b>Fee for Reinstatement of Previously Admitted Attorney</b>	\$100
<b>Attorney Admissions and Reciprocity (subsequent to the Nov. 1, 2011, national fee change)</b>	\$190

Questions regarding attorney admissions should be directed to Jeri Russel, attorney admissions clerk, at 573-636-4015.

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## Bankruptcy Court Highlights

### New Local Rules Adopted–1009-1 and 2016

#### Local Rule 1009-1 (Signatures)

The following changes include modifications to Local Rules and ECF Administrative Procedures in the Western District of Missouri Bankruptcy Court. The reasons for these changes are as follows:

**1. To ensure that debtors have consented to amendments to bankruptcy documents.**

All schedules, statements or lists not filed with the petition and all amendments to schedules, statements or lists must now contain a debtor verification with an image of the original document signed by the debtor or an image with the debtor's signature captured electronically at the time of document generation. This verification shall be filed as a separate document with the court.

**2. To remove burdensome document retention requirements if certain procedures are used.**

Attorneys **may** file any documents with an image of the original document signed by the debtor or party filer, or an image with the debtor's or party filer's signature captured electronically at the time of document generation subject to the specific local rule requirement to file verifications of amended schedules, statements or lists as separate documents. If the attorney adopts this procedure, the attorney is exempt from the court's two-year document retention requirement. For purposes of the initial petition, schedules and statements, the filing of the Declaration re: Electronic Filing in accordance with local rules satisfies the signature requirement and exempts the filer from the retention requirement.

**3. To permit technology to electronically capture signatures.**

Signatures on filed documents may now be captured electronically and not exist in a "hard copy" state.

This general order shall apply to all affected filings filed on or after Jan. 1, 2012.

To view a copy of the general order, go to [http://www.mow.uscourts.gov/bankruptcy/rules/2011\\_go\\_debtor\\_sign.pdf](http://www.mow.uscourts.gov/bankruptcy/rules/2011_go_debtor_sign.pdf).

#### Local Rule 2016 (Chapter 13 Attorney Fees)

The Western District of Missouri Bankruptcy Court has adopted a new general order amending Local Rule 2016 related to Chapter 13 attorney fees. This general order is effective for all applicable filings filed on or after Dec. 1, 2011.

To view a copy of the general order in regular and redline format, go to [http://www.mow.uscourts.gov/bankruptcy/rules/2011\\_go\\_post\\_conf\\_fees.pdf](http://www.mow.uscourts.gov/bankruptcy/rules/2011_go_post_conf_fees.pdf).

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### Amendment to Local Rule 3091-1

#### Local Rule 3091-1 (Disbursement of Insurance Proceeds)

The Bankruptcy Court has adopted a general order amending Local Rule 3091-1 to clarify procedures related to disbursement of insurance proceeds. A copy of the general order can be found on the court's website at [http://www.mow.uscourts.gov/bankruptcy/rules/lr\\_3091-1.pdf](http://www.mow.uscourts.gov/bankruptcy/rules/lr_3091-1.pdf).

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## Federal Bankruptcy Rule Amendment

### 3002.1 (Notice of Change to Mortgage Payment)

These changes provide a process for a Chapter 13 debtor to cure a default and maintain payment on a home mortgage during the plan and applies to claims that are (1) secured by a security interest in the debtor's principal residence and (2) provided for under 1322(b)(5) of the code in the debtor's plan. These changes took effect Dec. 1, 2011.

To view a full copy of the rule, visit [http://www.mow.uscourts.gov/bankruptcy/cm/v42/notice\\_of\\_mortgage\\_payment\\_change\\_lr3002.pdf](http://www.mow.uscourts.gov/bankruptcy/cm/v42/notice_of_mortgage_payment_change_lr3002.pdf)

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## New Features in CM/ECF

The Western District of Missouri Bankruptcy Court upgraded the CM/ECF database to Version 4.2 in late November. Along with the password enhancements mentioned in previous alerts, there are three other new features available: (1) expanded case information when using the "query" feature, (2) improved adversary filing as plaintiff attorneys will now be added to the adversary case automatically, and (3) an option for attorneys to have multiple "filing agents" so that more than one attorney "agent" can be filing at one time.

For more information on these enhancements, visit the court's website at [http://www.mow.uscourts.gov/bankruptcy/cm/v42\\_features.html](http://www.mow.uscourts.gov/bankruptcy/cm/v42_features.html).

### What Is a Filing Agent?

Have you or a member of your staff ever been "bumped out" of CM/ECF because another staff member was logged on with the same account at the same time? A new feature allows attorneys to have multiple staff members logged into CM/ECF at the same time. These staff members are referred to as "filing agents." Filing agents can also represent multiple attorneys within the firm. As the attorney, you can log on to CM/ECF and officially designate authorized filing agents. For detailed information about creating filing agents in your firm, visit the court's website at [http://www.mow.uscourts.gov/bankruptcy/cm/v42/creating\\_a\\_filing\\_agent.pdf](http://www.mow.uscourts.gov/bankruptcy/cm/v42/creating_a_filing_agent.pdf).

## Automated Case Information Phone Number Change

The automated Voice Case Information System (VCIS) moved to an updated system accessed at new telephone number beginning Jan. 4, 2012. The updated VCIS system provides the same information and is more stable, increasing system availability. Searches can be performed by case number, debtor name, and social security number. Searches in the new system are voice activated or the telephone key pad may be used.

Because the VCIS system supports bankruptcy courts throughout the country, first speak "Missouri Western" when accessing the system. Next, select from the search options: case number, case name, and social security number followed by the required information.

The new toll-free number is:  
**866-222-8029**

If you experience any difficulty, please contact us at 816-512-1800.

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## Application of the Privacy Act

The recent CM/ECF upgrade to Version 4.2 included a change that continues to implement the Judicial Conference Privacy Policy. The policy was enacted for all cases filed on or after Dec. 1, 2003 and has been extended to all cases filed prior to that time that have been closed more than a year.

Version 4.2 implements that policy by restricting electronic document access to these old cases. The full docket sheet is still available (with a redacted SSN), but when a PACER user (attorney/creditor/other public user) tries to access a document, a message is displayed that states: "This document is restricted and not available for viewing." What this means is that if someone with PACER access needs a copy of a document from that case file, the court will need to provide it. If a case is filed before Dec. 1, 2003, is closed more than a year and is then subsequently reopened, the documents then become available for viewing.

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## 2012 Docket Dates

Visit the court's website to view 2012 docket dates for all divisions. Dates and times are subject to change with the most current information available at [http://www.mow.uscourts.gov/bankruptcy/2012\\_docket\\_dates.pdf](http://www.mow.uscourts.gov/bankruptcy/2012_docket_dates.pdf)



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## Hands-on CM/ECF Training Offered

Training sessions on CM/ECF are offered for attorneys and legal professionals at the courthouse in Kansas City. A session typically lasts approximately two hours. Several filings are made step-by-step and the filing process is covered in detail. Portable Document Format (PDF) is also discussed, and a review of CM/ECF's "report" and "query" features are provided. To arrange for an on-site demonstration or to attend a training session, contact the Bankruptcy Court at 816-512-1800.

### Upcoming Training Dates

Tuesday, Jan. 10  
Tuesday, Feb. 7

Tuesday, March 6  
Tuesday, April 10

Tuesday, May 8  
Tuesday, June 5

To learn more and access training materials, visit: [http://www.mow.uscourts.gov/bankruptcy/ecf\\_training.html](http://www.mow.uscourts.gov/bankruptcy/ecf_training.html).

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## At the Circuit Level

### 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit Panel Hears Arguments

During the week of Nov. 14-18, an 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit panel comprised of Judge Lavenski Smith (AR), Judge Steven Colloton (IA) and Judge Raymond Gruender (MO) sat in Kansas City to hear arguments in a variety of cases appealed from not only the District Courts, but also from a Bankruptcy Appellate Panel, the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Tax Court and the Department of Health and Human Services Departmental Appeals Board.

Issues included drug manufacturing, conspiracy and distribution, sentencing, trademark infringement and civil rights. The judges heard arguments on the following noteworthy cases out of the Western District.



Judges Steven M. Colloton, Lavenski R. Smith and Raymond W. Gruender

The first case, which was covered most visibly in local media, involved a shoe store employee, Jessica Cockram, who had been trained to enter a fictitious telephone number in the cash register when processing a transaction if she was busy. Unbeknownst to Cockram, another employee had entered a racial slur in the database connected to that fictitious phone number. When Cockram printed the receipt, the racial slur appeared on the receipt and the customer complained. The employer terminated Cockram and issued a written statement. Cockram sued the employer alleging defamation and false light invasion of privacy, among other things. The District Court dismissed the invasion of privacy claim, stating Missouri did not recognize such a claim, and granted the employer summary judgment on the defamation claim.

In another Missouri case, police received information that Kody Williams was dealing drugs from an address in Lee's Summit, they verified information contained in the tip, including that the house had been rented by Williams' girlfriend and that Williams had given the address to police and parole officers as his current residence. Officers did a trash-pull from the house and found mail addressed to the girlfriend, materials from the Missouri prison system and two pieces of a plastic bag with cocaine residue. Based on information from the trash-pull and the informant, a search warrant was obtained for the premises. Two weapons were seized (but no drugs), and Williams was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm. After Williams' motion to suppress was denied, he pleaded guilty and was sentenced. Williams argued that the District Court erred in finding the trash-pull valid without an evidentiary hearing.

And, third, a labor union entered into a collective bargaining agreement with a company which then closed. The owner of that company continued doing business under different names. The union sent grievances to each entity. The grievances were ignored by the owner. The Joint Adjustment Board (JAB) heard the grievance and no one from any of the entities appeared. JAB issued an award finding that the original company was the alter ego of a subsequent company, and ordered the owner to submit to an audit. The union filed suit to enforce the arbitration award and the district court entered judgment, enforcing the award against the owner. The owner appealed arguing the district court erred in enforcing the agreement against him when neither grievance was against him; he did not waive challenges to the arbitration; and he was not a party to the underlying collective bargaining agreement.

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## Court News & Notes

### Central Division Hosts Second Annual CLE

On Friday, Oct. 21, 2011, the Second Annual Central Division CLE was held at the new Christopher S. Bond U.S. Courthouse in Jefferson City. This year's event was a great success and attendance more than doubled from last year's event.

U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey kicked off the event by welcoming the approximately 70 attendees to the new courthouse and introducing the first speaker.

University of Missouri Law Professor Rodney Uphoff gave a presentation titled "A Taking the Deal or Going to Trial," on the ethical considerations that criminal defense attorneys face when representing and advising defendants. Interestingly, Professor Uphoff shared some of his experiences during his representation of Terry Nichols. Nichols was accused of conspiring with Timothy McVeigh in the 1995 bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City.

Chief Magistrate Judge Robert E. Larsen then gave a presentation titled "Don't Know Much About Federal Practice?" Judge Larsen provided lawyers with tips on practicing in federal court and discussed various issues relating to the Federal Rules of Evidence. The attendees found Judge Larsen both entertaining and informative, and he received high ratings for his presentation. Following Judge Larsen's presentation, the attendees enjoyed a barbecue lunch.

The final speakers were Larry Miller and Troy Stabenow. Miller is the supervising assistant U.S. attorney in the Jefferson City office. Stabenow is the supervising attorney in the Jefferson City Federal Public Defender office. Miller and Stabenow gave an informative tag-team presentation on detention issues in federal court.

Following the presentation by Miller and Stabenow, U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey and Magistrate Judge Matt Whitworth held a Q&A session with the lawyers. Based upon the high marks and comments provided in the evaluations, the event was well-received by the attendees, and the Central Division plans to continue with this annual program and build on its success.



U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert E. Larsen



U.S. Magistrate Judge Matt Whitworth



### Judge Laughrey Receives Award

In recognition of her dedication to improving the administration of justice in the metropolitan area, U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey received the 2011 Joseph E. Stevens Aspire to Excellence Award presented by the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association. The award was formally presented on Friday, Dec. 9, 2011, at the KCMBA annual meeting.

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## Upcoming FCAS Bench & Bar Dialogue



**Wednesday, February 8, 2011**

12:00 noon – 1:30 pm

Join us for lunch and a roundtable discussion between KC MBA Federal Court Advocates Section members and Western District Judges. The discussion topic will be the practical impact of *Twombly* and *Iqbal* on pleadings and on the rates of motions to dismiss and dismissals. The discussion will also address case law evaluating whether to *Twombly* and *Iqbal* apply to Answers and Affirmative Defenses.

1.5 hours of Missouri and Kansas CLE pending

Being invited to these Bench & Bar Dialogues is one of the benefits exclusively for FCAS members. For more information about joining FCAS or this upcoming event, please contact Kim Elrod at 816-474-4322. Membership dues are only \$25 for non-KC MBA members and \$15 for KC MBA members.

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## Federal Court Advocates Bench & Bar Dialogue Recap

Changes to Federal Rule of Evidence 502 regarding privilege and production created the perfect topic for the October 2011 FCAS Bench & Bar Dialogue. Dan Blegen facilitated the event by providing the attorneys and judges at each table with a topic for discussion. After lunch and substantive conversation, a member from each table shared the highlights of their discussion. Both attorneys and judges gained valuable information and insight on pertinent topics from this forum.



Chief Judge Gaitan visits with attendees.



Robert Thompson and Judge Greg Kays



## Counts Named Award Winner

Lajuana Counts of the U.S. Attorney's Office and an FCAS executive committee member was named the Bill French Alumni Service Award winner from UMKC for 2012. The award recognizes alumni who have demonstrated outstanding loyalty, commitment and service. Congratulations to Ms. Counts for her receipt of this prestigious award.

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