



EIGHTH CIRCUIT PUBLIC OUTREACH NEWSLETTER

2nd Quarter - 2024

From Around the Circuit



United States District Court Judge Karen E. Schreier and student judge during a mock trial outreach event at the Sioux Falls, South Dakota, courthouse. Image courtesy of the District of South Dakota.



United States Magistrate Judge William Kelly presided over a Naturalization ceremony on May 23, 2024, at Camp Dodge, in Johnston, Iowa, involving 11 new citizens who are military personnel. Image courtesy of the Southern District of Iowa.



In April, the Eastern District of Arkansas held a Naturalization ceremony at Dickey-Stephens Park in North Little Rock, Arkansas. United States Magistrate Judge Joe J. Volpe administered the Oath of Allegiance on the field to 24 new citizens. Chief United States District Judge Kristine G. Baker led the new citizens in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance for the first time as American citizens. Images courtesy of Paula Volpe Photography.



Student justices who were coached by United States Magistrate Judge Joseph S. Dueker and Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals Staff Attorneys Matthew Andrade and Meredith Joseph, gather for a group photo during a Law Day moot court event held at the Thomas F. Eagleton Courthouse in St. Louis, Missouri. Image courtesy of the Eastern District of Missouri.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Northern District of Iowa Hosts High School Legal Day
- Eastern District of Arkansas Hosts Multiple Educational Outreach Events
- First Naturalization Ceremony in 12 Years Held in Bismarck
- Vashon High School Students Visit Courthouse
- Mock Trial Held in Sioux Falls Courthouse

...and more!

Northern District of Iowa Hosts High School Legal Day



United States Marshals Judicial Security Inspector Ryan Kelly demonstrates using a shield for students. Image courtesy of Kirkwood Learning Place Connections.



Students get a close up look at United States Marshals gear. Image courtesy of Molly Rach, United States Courts Library-8th Circuit Court of Appeals.

The Northern District of Iowa hosted 37 students from Kirkwood Community College's Workplace Learning Connection on April 25, 2024, at the Cedar Rapids, Iowa, courthouse. In addition to getting to see United States Marshals gear up close and visiting a courtroom, students also met and talked with representatives from various court departments including: United States Marshals Office, United States Attorneys Office, Federal Public Defenders Office, legal assistants, paralegals, jury administrators, courtroom technology technicians, and United States Courts librarians.

Judge Senechal Speaks at Flickertail Girls State

United States Magistrate Judge for the District of North Dakota, Judge Alice Senechal, spoke on women in state government at the graduation ceremony for Flickertail Girls State. Hosted by the North Dakota American Legion Auxiliary, students learned about local government and had the opportunity to take the North Dakota Civics Exam. To see a video of Judge Senechal's remarks, [click here](#).



Eastern District of Arkansas Hosts Multiple Educational Outreach Events

In the second quarter of 2024, the Richard Sheppard Arnold Courthouse in Little Rock, Arkansas, hosted multiple educational outreach programs. Criminal justice students from Cabot High School attended a hearing before United States District Court Judge D.P. Marshall Jr. The event was held in the 1957 era-faithful courtroom and allowed students to engage in question and answer sessions with Judge Marshall Jr., the Clerk of Court, and the Chief Probation Officer. Students learned about careers in the judiciary, as well as the federal court process.

The Classical Conversations Challenge B Homeschool Mock Jury Trial Contest was held in the G. Thomas Eisele Ceremonial Courtroom. Students were able to experience firsthand how a trial works and engage with members of the judiciary in the process. Finally, multiple University of Arkansas-Little Rock Law School Trial Advocacy classes held their final trials before Eastern District of Arkansas judges.



Students who participated in the mock trial contest. Image courtesy of Classical Conversations Challenge B Homeschool Mock Trial Team.

Naturalization Ceremony Held at Des Moines Area Community College



DMACC President Ron Denson, Iowa Secretary of State Paul D. Pate, United States Probation Officer Priscilla Davidson, United States Magistrate Judge Helen C. Adams, and Courtroom Deputy Penny Luthens. Image courtesy of the Southern District of Iowa.

United States Magistrate Judge for the Southern District of Iowa, Judge Helen C. Adams, presided over a naturalization ceremony on Flag Day at the Des Moines Area Community College's Urban Campus in downtown Des Moines, Iowa. The ceremony welcomed 40 new citizens. Southern District of Iowa United States Probation Officer Priscilla Davidson sang the National Anthem at the ceremony.

Naturalization Ceremony Held at Minnesota History Center

On Monday, May 13, 2024, the District Court of Minnesota held a naturalization ceremony in honor of Minnesota Statehood Day. United States Magistrate Judge John F. Docherty, himself a naturalized citizen, welcomed 125 new citizens from 36 countries at the Minnesota History Center. The ceremony took place on the 166th anniversary of Minnesota's statehood. Magistrate Judge Docherty administered the oath and was joined by USCIS Deputy Director Jennifer B. Higgins, who offered congratulatory remarks.



Image courtesy of the District of Minnesota.

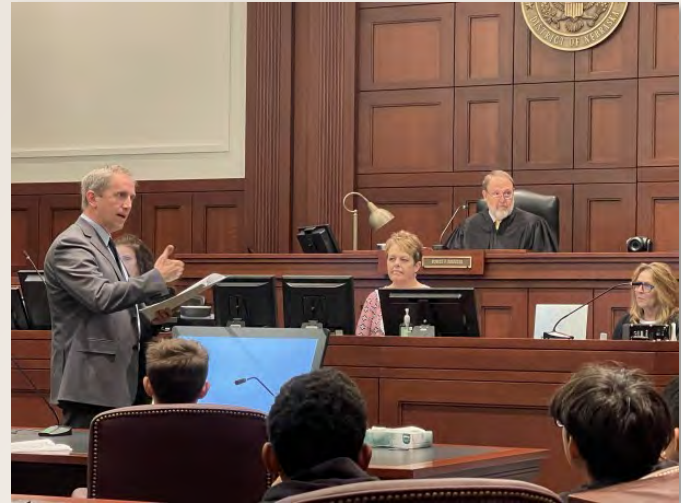
Vashon High School Students Visit Courthouse

On April 10, 2024, the AP United States Government class from Vashon High School visited for a full day field trip. The students started the day at the courthouse in St. Louis, Missouri, by observing Eighth Circuit oral arguments and then observed a proceeding for the Eastern District of Missouri. During lunch, the students spent time with several attorney coaches to prepare for a courtroom activity. The day concluded with the students participating in a moot court held in an Eighth Circuit courtroom where they were able to re-enact an actual Supreme Court argument of a First Amendment case.



Student justices coached by Lynn Reid, Law Clerk to United States District Court Judge Ronnie L. White.
Image courtesy of the Eastern District of Missouri.

2024 Law Day Mock Trial Held at Omaha Courthouse



Defense Attorney Joe Bradley in this year's mock trial.
Image courtesy of Dave Sommers, Omaha Bar Association.

On Wednesday, May 8, 2024, 27 fifth-grade students from Jackson Elementary had the opportunity to sit in the jury box and render a verdict in the case of *Goldilocks v. The Three Bears*. The civil case was related to damages allegedly caused by the negligent or even reckless actions of Goldilocks. The annual event, held in Chief United States District Judge Robert F. Rossiter Jr.'s courtroom in Omaha, Nebraska, brought together local attorneys and actors from The Rose Theatre. Unfortunately, the trial ended in a hung jury. Afterwards, students were treated to a tour of the courthouse and a visit with Chief Judge Rossiter Jr.

"I enjoy student visits and am proud to show off our court. It's important that we are ambassadors for the court system."

Chief Judge Robert F. Rossiter Jr.

First Naturalization Ceremony in 12 Years Held in Bismarck

For the first time in 12 years, the United States Courthouse in Bismarck, North Dakota, welcomed new American citizens. In two ceremonies held on Flag Day, 40 new citizens from 22 countries were sworn in by United States Magistrate Judge Clare R. Hochhalter.



Image courtesy of Tom Stromme, Bismarck Tribune.

International Guests Visit Minneapolis Courthouse

On Friday, April 19, 2024, Senior United States District Court Judge Paul A. Magnuson and United States District Court Judge Eric C. Tostrud met with judges and civil servants from around the world as part of a State Department program, Transparency and Accountability in Government: A Multi-Region Project, that looks to enhance the rule of law globally. The visitors, who came from Albania, Armenia, Ecuador, Hong Kong, Malawi, Moldova, Namibia, North Macedonia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uzbekistan, learned about the federal judiciary, ethics and the judicial code of conduct, and best practices for judicial independence.



International judges and civil servants from the State Department program. Image courtesy of the District of Minnesota.

Law Day Event Held in Eastern District of Missouri



Students working on moot court activity. Image courtesy of Eastern District of Missouri.

On May 2, 2024, the honors civics class from Belleville East High School spent the day at the Thomas F. Eagleton Courthouse in St. Louis, Missouri. After being welcomed by Chief United States District Judge Stephen R. Clark, they learned the winners of the essay contest, sponsored by the Judicial Learning Center. The students then had the opportunity to observe a district court hearing and speak with United States District Judge Sarah Pitlyk. The program culminated in a moot court activity where the students were coached by United States Magistrate Judge Joseph S. Dueker, Eastern District of Missouri law clerks, Eighth Circuit staff attorneys, and attorneys from the Federal Public Defender Office and the United States Attorneys Office.

Mock Trial Held at Sioux Falls Courthouse



Students participating in mock trial experience at the Sioux Falls courthouse. Images courtesy of the District of South Dakota

United States District Court Judge Karen E. Schreier and law clerk Marcus Miller led approximately 40 students in a simulated, hands-on mock trial experience at the Sioux Falls, South Dakota, courthouse. The event, held on June 26, 2024, was based upon a case problem Marcus Miller wrote about a high school student allegedly distributing prescription drugs at a party. With the assistance of attorneys and legal interns from the United States Attorneys Office and interns from Judge Schreier's chambers, the students spent roughly two hours drafting their respective parts and preparing to try the case.

The students took on various roles in a court proceeding and performed opening statements, direct and cross examinations, and closing arguments in front of Judge Schreier. The mock trial was part of a larger summer camp offered by the United States Attorneys Office giving students exposure to the criminal justice system and the federal courts.

"This is an event that would have been very helpful to have had when I was in high school and trying to figure out what I wanted to do. I know that these students will be better off because of this opportunity."

Summer Intern to Judge Schreier, Kahden Mooney