



EIGHTH CIRCUIT PUBLIC OUTREACH NEWSLETTER

4th Quarter - 2025

Eastern District of Arkansas Naturalization Ceremony with Student Participation

On December 10, 2025, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Richard Taylor presided over the final Naturalization Ceremony of the year in the Richard Sheppard Arnold Courthouse. Students from Marvell Academy in Helena, Arkansas, took part in the ceremony by leading the new citizens in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the students were given a tour of the courtroom in the Annex by U.S. Magistrate Judge Patricia Harris, Deputies from the United States Marshals Service, and the Clerk of Court.



Images courtesy of the Eastern District of Arkansas.

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Annual Moot Court Championship Held in Nebraska

More than 30 teams participated in the 2025 annual Moot Court Competition held at Creighton University in Nebraska. Moot Court gives second-year law students an opportunity to gauge their court presentation talents, as well as research skills.

The second-year law students argued their case before three Nebraska judges, including U.S. Magistrate Judge Ryan Carson of the District of Nebraska. Following the oral arguments, the judges praised each participant on their presentation.



Images used with permission from Tim Trudell - *The Omaha Daily Record*.

University of Iowa College of Law Civil Discourse Class



In October 2025, U.S. Magistrate Judge Helen Adams taught a civil discourse class at the University of Iowa College of Law.

Image courtesy of the Southern District of Iowa.

Naturalization Ceremony Held in Eastern District of Missouri

In October 2025, the Eastern District of Missouri held a naturalization ceremony for 29 new American citizens at St. Charles Community College. U.S. Magistrate Judge John Bodenhausen presided.



Image courtesy of the Eastern District of Missouri.

Naturalization Ceremony Held in Southern District of Iowa

The Southern District of Iowa held a naturalization ceremony in October of 2025 at Living History Farms, with Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge Stephen Jackson presiding. There were 41 new U.S. citizens welcomed during the ceremony.



Image courtesy of the Southern District of Iowa.

Street Law Class Visits Sioux Falls Courthouse

In November 2025, Chief U.S. District Judge Roberto Lange hosted the Brandon Valley High School Street Law class. The students observed a sentencing hearing. Afterward, students participated in a question-and-answer session with Chief Judge Lange, attorneys, and court staff.



Image courtesy of the District of South Dakota.

School Groups Visit the Justice and Democracy Centers of Minnesota

The Justice & Democracy Centers of Minnesota, located inside the Warren E. Burger Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in St. Paul, welcomed students for field trips that included observing court proceedings, meeting judges, touring the courthouse, activities on the Constitution, and meeting with justice partner agencies, such as the U.S. Marshals Service.



Images courtesy of the District of Minnesota.



United Tribes Technical College Visits Bismarck Courthouse



Image courtesy of the District of North Dakota.

In November 2025, a group of students from the United Tribes Technical College visited the William L. Guy U.S. Courthouse. They attended a change of plea hearing and U.S. District Judge Daniel Traynor visited with the students.

Over 3,000 Visit the U.S. Courthouse and Judicial Learning Center in St. Louis

During 2025, the Thomas F. Eagleton Courthouse and its Judicial Learning Center saw 3,475 visitors as part of 135 tours and programs.



Image courtesy of the Eighth Circuit/Eastern District of Missouri.

Bill of Rights Day Girl Scout Badge Workshop in Minnesota

In December 2025, the Court celebrated Bill of Rights Day by hosting its third annual Girl Scouts Democracy Badge Workshop at the Warren E. Burger Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in St. Paul. The half-day workshop for Junior, Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts was put on in partnership with Girl Scouts of River Valley and included meet & greets with U.S. District Judge Eric Tostrud, U.S. District Judge John Tunheim, and U.S. Magistrate Judge Elizabeth Cowan Wright; a visit to the Justice & Democracy Centers of Minnesota; activities on the Bill of Rights in modern terms and fundamental human rights; and a chance to meet Jack, the U.S. Marshals Service's Explosive Detection Canine.



Students Celebrate Bill of Rights at the Courthouse



For Bill of Rights Day in December, the Eighth Circuit and the Eastern District of Missouri welcomed three local elementary schools to the Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse for courtroom simulation activities. Clark Elementary and St. Alban Roe students participated in a readers theater about *Tinker v. Des Moines*. New City School participated in a mock trial about littering.



Images courtesy of the District of Minnesota.

Images courtesy of the Eighth Circuit/Eastern District of Missouri.