

MISSOURI COURTS WORKING FOR YOU

**OUR HEROES
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE
EVERY DAY**

2024 Executive Report

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FRONTLINE HEROES

make a
difference
every hour
of every day,
in communities
across Missouri

FRONTLINE HEROES

LUCIUS makes a difference in *court security*



Lucius, of St. Louis, is one of 23 people performing marshal duties in a Missouri court.

In most circuit courts, deputy sheriffs serving as bailiffs handle security.



Serving as a deputy marshal means I am on the front line of maintaining the security of our courthouse and courtrooms.

Our state courts play an important role in our society. The courts are open to everyone, but “open” also has to mean “safe and secure.”

We screen visitors, keep order in the courtroom, and do all we can to make sure everyone – judges, staff, lawyers, litigants and the public – feels safe inside our court.

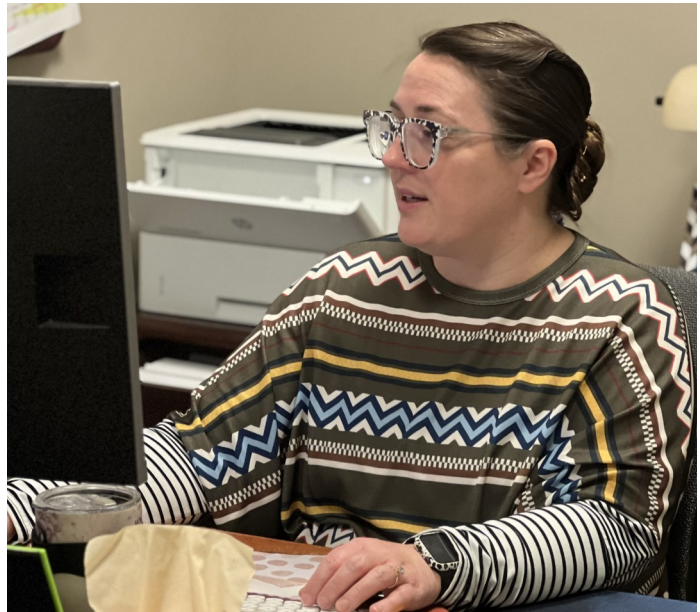
FRONTLINE HEROES

PATSY makes a difference with *jurors*



Jury duty can have a stigma of being a scary experience. I enjoy clearing up misconceptions of how and why the process works, giving people a clear understanding of what to expect. I love seeing the “light bulb” go off when they see the whole picture and the role they play in it.

Each person has a unique journey. On a jury, we need every voice to be heard from all walks of life. We do everything we can to ensure our jurors have all different points of view.



Patsy, working in Independence, is one of a dozen staff across Missouri who specialize in managing juries.

Only eight local courts have dedicated jury staff. In most counties, this role is one of many performed by circuit clerks and their deputies.

FRONTLINE HEROES

TERIANA makes a difference in *preserving the record*



Teriana, working in St. Louis, is one of 143 official court reporters across Missouri



I take down every word during court proceedings, maintaining an accurate record and seeking clarification if something is unclear. I am the “guardian of the record.” I love all the opportunities my job creates; I am constantly learning!

My work makes a difference because it gives people a voice. Not having a verbatim record would affect their ability to file appeals, raise claims of error, and preserve their constitutional rights of due process and equal protection.

FRONTLINE HEROES

MELISSA makes a difference providing *pretrial services*



Pretrial services fill a gap in our criminal justice system. We do this by assessing individuals who have been arrested, looking at many aspects of their lives to determine whether they will show up for court dates, not commit new crimes, and can safely remain in the community while awaiting trial.

But so much more can be accomplished to make a positive impact on those defendants and the community we serve. My real passion is in helping individuals build a better future, seeing them change their lives in positive ways and become a better version of themselves.



Melissa, who leads an established program based in Neosho, is one of 18 pretrial services administrators working across Missouri.

FRONTLINE HEROES

BARB makes a difference in *expunging convictions*



Barb, working in Ozark, is one of 115 circuit clerks across Missouri.

They are assisted by 1,482 deputy circuit clerks statewide.



I consider my whole staff to be front line heroes! Everything they do daily stems from helping others. Every case represents a human who needs to be treated as we would want to be treated if it was our case.

It often has required overtime or retired clerks to help expunge marijuana convictions under the constitutional amendment. But we know it gives people a second chance, allowing them to move forward and be productive community members. We take pride knowing our office has contributed to changing someone's future.

FRONTLINE HEROES

CLAYTON makes a difference through *treatment court services*



I greet new participants, alleviating their concerns or apprehensions, assessing their risk and needs, and helping create a treatment plan. I can help deescalate those with mental health symptoms, talking with them to understand what they are experiencing, and deciding what interventions I can use.

I have seen how change is possible. It is an exciting journey to see someone go from day one to successful completion of the program. Recovery is a lifestyle change impacting a person's family, friends and whole community.



Clayton, based in Columbia, is one of 48 state administrators or local coordinators leading treatment courts across Missouri.

FRONTLINE HEROES

WENDY makes a difference in *municipal court*



Wendy, of Jackson, is one of 744 individuals working in a clerk role in stand-alone municipal courts across Missouri



Working in the municipal court is both challenging and rewarding; each day presents new tasks. People often come to me with questions, concerns, and a need for reassurance about their court experience.

Municipal court is the only experience some people have with the legal system, so it's essential that I be both informative about procedures and compassionate about their feelings. My goal is to show the court is not as intimidating as people think, and we care about their well-being and enforce the law for their safety, not just to generate revenue or punish.

FRONTLINE HEROES

JESSICA makes a difference expanding *pretrial services*



I am passionate about helping people change their thinking. I believe any goal is achievable; I do not want people to feel discouraged. Often, it is their mindset that holds them back.

We help connect them to resources they need to stay on track; meet court requirements; and learn communication, values, ethics, and other skills to change their lives. By holding people accountable and helping them avoid trouble, pretrial services can make a positive impact on them, their families and our community.



Jessica, based in Caruthersville, leads one of the sites expanding pretrial services to another 15 counties in Missouri.

FRONTLINE HEROES

DERBY makes a difference bringing *comfort*



Derby, of Springfield, is one of the comfort dogs serving in courts across Missouri.



Derby plays a vital role in providing comfort and support to the youth at the Greene County Juvenile Justice Center. Specially trained to offer emotional support, Derby helps reduce stress and anxiety, promoting a sense of calm in challenging situations.

Whether sitting with a youth during difficult conversations, offering a reassuring presence in therapy sessions, or simply providing companionship, Derby creates a more positive and supportive environment for both youth and staff.

~ Derby's handler, Danielle

FRONTLINE HEROES

GINA

makes a difference

protecting *domestic violence victims*



The public generally knows about courts from only two perspectives: life experience, or what they see on television.

Increasingly, people are representing themselves and need more assistance. One common filing involves petitions for protection orders, which are expedited. I can't provide legal advice, and sometimes the answer I give is not what someone wants to hear. I believe you should treat others with compassion and respect, be honest and professional, and show empathy without partiality.



Gina, working in New London, is one of 115 circuit clerks across Missouri.

She is one of only 16 who also serves as *ex officio* recorder of deeds in the county.

FRONTLINE HEROES after hours

KARLA

makes a difference
protecting children



Karla, who works in St. Joseph, is one of 209 deputy juvenile officers serving alongside 46 chief juvenile officers across Missouri.



I advocate for the needs of kiddos in our care. I do not talk to them only about why they are in care; I also make them feel valuable by asking them questions about their interests and activities.

The goal is always to end the cycle of abuse and neglect within families and work toward a successful ending. Some parents become mentors for other families in similar situations. Other individuals are able to overcome addiction or other adversity. It is in the best interest of the kids to give them opportunities as they grow into successful adults.

FRONTLINE HEROES after hours

BRYAN makes a difference ensuring *technology works*



I have always enjoyed technology, even as a kid. I have mixed that with my passion for helping others. Now I provide IT support for court staff in 23 courthouses and two juvenile detention centers, including equipment, sound systems, and software updates. I may need to work at night to make sure everything is ready for court the next morning.

Helping judges, circuit clerks and court staff be more efficient through technology helps them better focus on their jobs and serve our community.



Bryan, based in Kirksville, is one of five regional support technicians providing IT services to courts across Missouri.

DANIELLE makes a difference with *teens in detention*



Danielle, who works in Springfield, is one of seven juvenile detention superintendents across Missouri.

Their work is supported by 166 additional juvenile detention staff.



Juvenile detention is a 24/7 operation. Our commitment to youth and public safety is a continuous responsibility.

I believe every young person deserves the opportunity for growth, change and a second chance. Many of our youth are not just offenders but also victims of circumstance beyond their control.

When we invest in these young people, we are investing in the future of our community — helping them return to society with better coping mechanisms, stronger support systems and a clearer path forward to making better choices and having a productive life.

Our courts
worked to help
Missourians
resolve
1.49 million cases
last year

1.49 MILLION cases



Decided at all levels of
our state court system

***Supreme Court
of Missouri***

535

***Missouri
Court of
Appeals***

2,381

Local Circuit Courts

1,483,333

MOST CASES are resolved locally

699K municipal cases
(traffic, ordinance violations)



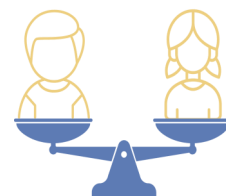
389K criminal cases
(felonies, misdemeanors, local)

337K civil cases
(civil, domestic, small claims)



46K probate cases
(estates, mental health)

13K juvenile cases
(delinquency, abuse/neglect)



But
our courts
are about
**more than just
resolving cases**

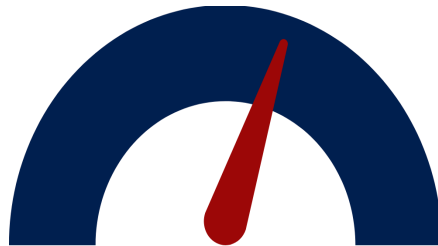
They also
help solve
community
problems

MISSOURI COURTS make a difference



In 2024, treatment courts helped people

2,171 *new participants*



Age at admission

Range > 17 to 75 years

Average > 39 years

Participants
***successfully
graduating***



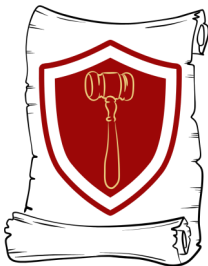
MISSOURI COURTS make a difference



In 2024, courts helped protect communities

Granted guardianships or conservatorships

for 2,795 incapacitated/disabled adults and 3,069 minors



Issued protection orders

for 11,589 adults and 1,435 children

Finalized 5,509 estates



Granted 2,253 adoptions

Our courts
make sure
public **money**
is used
efficiently

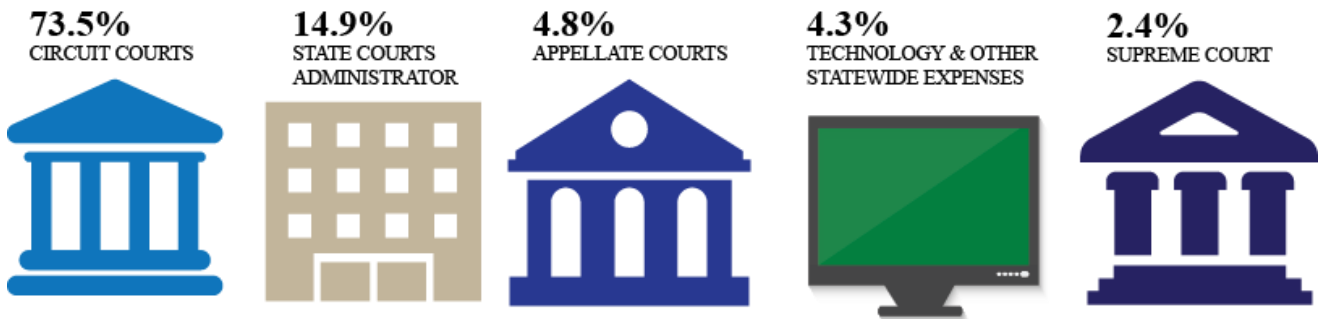
MISSOURI COURTS spend money wisely

\$297.2M

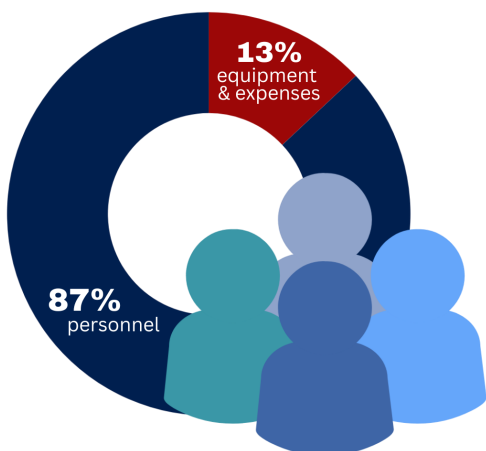


FY2025
budget

Where the money goes:



87% goes to local court heroes!



31% > judges & commissioners

3% > circuit clerks

5% > court reporters

60% > other court employees

COURT TECHNOLOGY helps you



Statewide online resource

Comprehensive and mobile-friendly;
averages 470M+ hits/month

Access to 22.8M+ public case records

Averages 5.4M hits/day



Convenient online payments

Defendants used **Plead & Pay** for 144K+ transactions to pay fines, and people used **Pay By Web** for 112K+ transactions to pay other judgments owed

Easy online case filings



Remote public access

To 12.8M+ public case documents from
your device at work, home or on the go

MISSOURI COURTS

Making a difference *every day*



Mary Russell, originally from Hannibal, is one of seven judges on the Supreme Court of Missouri.

She has served as Missouri's chief justice from July 2013 through June 2015 and again from July 2023 through June 2025.



Most work of our courts does not generate headlines or go viral on social media, but ordinary duties create extraordinary results for citizens across our state.

The hard work is performed in your local courthouses, by nearly 3,600 clerks, bailiffs, court reporters, jury supervisors, juvenile office staff and others, plus more than 400 judges and commissioners.

All of us should have immense gratitude for these frontline heroes and their daily work behind the scenes.

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More information always available at www.courts.mo.gov