

## The Judicial Learning Center as a Court Literacy Delivery Model

**Description:** [The Judicial Learning Center](#), a dedicated space for students, teachers, and interested adults, is a focal point of the Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse in St. Louis. With input from judges and staff, as well as from local legal, educational, and museum experts, a professional exhibit company designed the exhibition space and installed the displays.

**Geographic Jurisdiction:** Eastern District of Missouri, with a focus on St. Louis City and the surrounding counties. The Center's website ties in with the content and has a world-wide audience.

### Governance

In addition to the physical space, The Judicial Learning Center is also an independent not-for-profit with the mission of promoting public understanding of the function and value of the judicial branch of government, especially at the federal level. The creation and installation of the exhibits was funded by the not-for-profit. There is no recognition or acknowledgement of funding in the physical space, and no officer of the court participated in any fund-raising activities.

The organization offers funding for school through a transportation grant program. Teachers apply for reimbursement of bus transportation costs to visit the Eagleton Courthouse. The organization occasionally funds traveling exhibitions, speaker fees, or parking passes for teachers, all in support of educating the public about the Judicial Branch.

### Objective

To promote public understanding of the function and value of the judicial branch of government, particularly the federal court system, through an interactive learning center and courthouse programs, and the Center's [website](#).

### Top Priority

The top priority is to provide experiential learning opportunities about the federal courts that aren't available elsewhere.

### Target Audiences

- Tour groups at the Eagleton Courthouse
- Teachers and students in the Eastern District of Missouri and throughout the U.S. and beyond
- Other visitors and interested parties (new citizens, jurors, attorneys, litigants and their families, etc.)
- Lifelong learners, including senior citizens
- Internet users seeking reliable resources about the federal court system

### About the Space and the Displays

The space includes a jury box, bench, and interactive panels as well as colorful and contemporary displays. All of these elements come together to make an engaging learning experience answering the following questions:

- What is the rule of law and why do we need independent judges?
- What is the difference between state and federal court?
- What happens in court?
- What is the Eighth Circuit?

**For further information, contact [Rachel E. Marshall](#)**

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### References:

<http://www.moed.uscourts.gov/judicial-learning-center>  
<http://judiciallearningcenter.org/>  
<https://youtu.be/WmvOclqNrx0>