Judicial Diversity in Missouri

During the past eight years, the number of women who have applied to become a judge in the MO Nonpartisan Court Plan increased, which has produced a modest increase in the number of women who are now Judges. Governor Nixon’s final appointee is Ellen Wyatt Dunne, who joined the St. Louis County Associate Circuit Bench on December 15, 2016. Her addition resulted in 16 women judges, 17 men and one vacancy. This appointment brings the ratio of women judges there to 47%! By comparison, the 31 member Judiciary in the 22nd Circuit (St. Louis City) Includes only 8 females (26%) of the group.

Looking across the state to Jackson County’s 16th Circuit, which includes Kansas City, there are 30 Judges, comprised of 19 men and 11 women. This diversity has been a long-standing tradition and contrasts with the two adjacent counties with smaller courts: Clay and Platte. Both of those jurisdictions had only male members until Governor Nixon’s more recent appointments. This year, the first woman was appointed to the Associate Circuit bench in the 6th Circuit (Platte County) which includes a total of 5 judges. In neighboring Clay County, the 8 member Bench includes 5 men and 3 women, the first of whom was appointed in 2008!

The newest county to join the nonpartisan plan is Greene County (31st Circuit) which includes the city of Springfield. In 2008 the voters approved moving from electing judges as part of partisan elections. The current judges retained their seats, but new positions were added and in 2015 the first woman was appointed as an Associate Circuit Judge. In 2016, a second woman was appointed to join her. Currently the group also has 9 men, resulting in their comprising 82% of the members.

Is it important to have diversity on the Bench? While racial minority and women judges broke barriers in the later part of the 20th century, they are still a real statistical minority. However, the three women who serve on the 7 member MO Supreme Court represent a larger percentage of that total than do the three women members of the nine member U.S. Supreme Court.

In the November, 2016 elections, the Nonpartisan Court Plan demonstrated its effectiveness at correction, when one of the Judges in St. Louis County was given a “Do Not Retain” recommendation by evaluators. The voters paid attention to this race, which was listed at the end of a long ballot. The majority voted in agreement with official view and that judge will be out of office as of January 1, 2017.
Women in Elected & Appointed Public Office 2017

*In 2015 1,786 (24.2%) of the 7,383 state legislators in the United States were women. Since 1971, the number of women serving in state legislatures has more than quintupled.*

**Women in the U.S. Senate:**
Women hold 20 (20%) of the 100 seats in the U.S. Senate

**Women in the U.S. House of Representatives:**
Women hold 85 (19.5%) of the 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives
(Source: http://cawp.rutgers.edu/fast_facts/levels_of_office/documents/elective.pdf)

**Women on the Supreme Court:**
3 (33%) of the 9 justices on the U.S. Supreme Court are women

**Women Cabinet Members:**
4 of 15 (27%) Cabinet members appointed by President Obama were women

**Women Governors:**
Women serve as Governor in 6 (12%) of the 50 United States

**Women in State Legislatures:**
In 2016 1,805 (24.4%) of the 7,383 state legislators in the United States were women. Since 1971, the number of women serving in state legislatures has more than quintupled.
(Source: Center for American Women and Politics, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey)

In Missouri:
50% of 2 U.S. Senators from MO is a woman:
Sen. Claire McCaskill (D)

25% of U.S. Representatives from MO are women:
Rep. Vicky Hartzler (R-Harrisonville, 4th District)
Rep. Ann Wagner (R-St. Louis, 2nd District)

43% of Missouri Supreme Court Judges are women:
Judge Laura Denvir Stith
Judge Mary Rhodes Russell
Judge Patricia Breckenridge

16% of Statewide Constitutional Office Holders are women:
Nicole Galloway, Auditor

**In the Missouri Legislature:**
♦ Currently, women hold 43 (25.76%) of the 163 seats in the Missouri House of Representatives and 6 (17.6%) of the 34 seats in the Missouri Senate.

♦ In 2016, the Center for American Women in Politics ranked Missouri 26th among the states in the percentage of women in the state legislature.

In St. Louis-Area Local Government:
♦ In 2016 women held 2 (28.5%) of 7 seats on the St. Louis County Council and 0 of 7 seats on the St. Charles County Council.

♦ The City of St. Charles elected its first woman mayor in 1987 and a woman has held that leadership position for all but one term since then.

♦ In 2016 women held 11 (39%) of the 28 seats on the St. Louis Board of Aldermen and Kim Gardner became the first female African American circuit attorney.

♦ In 2016 women led 18 (20%) of the 90 municipalities in St. Louis County and 4 (23.5%) of 17 municipalities in St. Charles County.

(Source: St. Louis County http://www.stlouisco.com/scripts/communities and the Sue Shear Institute)
Emerging from a Republican tide that swept the November 2017 general election, Missouri Governor-elect Eric Greitens has a number of appointments to make in a very short period of time. He will take office January 9, 2017. Recently, he named two women for prominent positions within his cabinet: Anne Precythe as Director of the Missouri Department of Corrections and Chris Chinn as Director of the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

Ann Precythe was Greitens’ first cabinet announcement. She is a former parole officer who currently serves as the Director of Community Corrections in North Carolina’s Department of Public Safety. She was the first woman to serve in that position. Precythe grew within her department into leadership roles. She hired and led a team that changed the culture of corrections in North Carolina. Greitens is hopeful for this kind of change within Missouri’s prison system under Precythe’s leadership. She will be only the second woman to oversee Missouri’s prisons, after Dora Schriro, who served as director from 1993 to 2001. The Senate must still confirm her appointment.

Chris Chinn is a hog farmer from northeast Missouri who is popular among the agricultural community and initially became involved in farming when she married her husband, Kevin. Chinn was selected in 2013 by the U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance as one of their Faces of Farming & Ranching. She has defended farm families and the importance of farming as a profession across the country. Chinn will need to be confirmed by the Missouri Senate but will replace Richard Fordyce, who was appointed to the job in 2013 by outgoing Governor Jay Nixon.

Greitens former campaign manager and current senior advisor, Austin Chambers, will oversee the transition. Additional transition team members will be announced in the coming days.
The Institute’s LEAD Program has been successful over the years because it has encouraged UMSL students to engage in public sector leadership through community service, examined different leadership styles and strategies, and provided opportunities to interact with successful women leaders.

During Fall 2016, our eleven LEAD participants had the opportunity to engage in all of these areas by meeting on a weekly basis and addressing a variety of leadership topics. Our two LEAD Apprentices this year were 2015 LEAD alumnae, Mahogany Wilson and Ashley Westbrook. The Institute was grateful for their assistance in facilitating activities and coordinating professional introductions for each of our presenters.

The Institute was also fortunate enough to host incredible women leaders who presented valuable information within their areas of expertise. Dr. Malaika Horne, Director of the UMSL Executive Leadership Consortium, presented her mentoring program to the participants and explained the importance of a mentor in the advancement of their careers. Representatives from Express Scripts, Danyal Davis and Jen Lemen, offered strategies for an “Enlightened Career Path” by defining their passions, seeing new possibilities in their careers, building their online presence, and packaging themselves well.

The Institute is always fortunate to have the input of Career Services’ Associate and Assistant Directors, Emily Rapko McEneny and Rachael Boehlow respectively to offer practical advice on salary negotiation and resume/cover letter strategies. LEAD also tackled new topics related to women in local government and international business with personal narratives from both local and academic leaders, as well as 22nd Circuit Associate Judge, Honorable Nicole Colbert Botchway.

This year, our LEAD participants selected the Saint Louis Crisis Nursery in St. Charles as their Saturday Community Service Project. The Crisis Nursery is committed to the prevention of child abuse and neglect and provides emergency intervention, care, and support to families in crisis. Our LEAD students were thrilled to interact with the children: toys, playground time, and helping with lunch. Several of our LEAD participants were eager to return and volunteer again on their personal time.

Due to severe operational cuts to the Institute’s budget this year and reduction to the St. Louis Public Schools’ transportation budget, we were unable to offer the Girls’ Summit program, which has been a valuable part of the LEAD experience. The Girls’ Summit is an outreach program to middle school girls in the St. Louis area and offers them a day of leadership activities and inspirational guidance by select speakers. Sadly, it was not possible to offer the program this year, but we are hopeful that in future years, we will be able to reincorporate this program into the LEAD experience depending upon future funding for the Institute.

The Institute is grateful to all of our LEAD presenters who offered their unique guidance in preparing our participants to become leaders within their own fields. We are also thankful to UMSL Interim Provost, Christopher Spilling and Susan Block, attorney at Paule, Camazine & Blumenthal for offering their inspirational remarks at our LEAD graduation and encouraging our UMSL women to become the most confident and capable leaders possible.
Please welcome our new Administrative Coordinator, Jalina Drake

Sue Shear Institute Administrative Coordinator, Jalina Drake

The Sue Shear Institute is pleased to welcome Jalina E. Drake, who joined us as an Administrative Coordinator in November 2016.

Jalina previously worked as an Office Support Assistant for the Departments of Political Science and Psychological Sciences at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Some of her key responsibilities include maintaining the Institute’s webpage and database, supporting the Institute’s programs, and providing donor outreach and financial support. We are grateful for Jalina’s attention to detail, work ethic, and commitment to the Institute’s mission.

Jalina is not new to the UMSL community. She graduated with her bachelor’s degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice in 2012, then started working with the Parking and Transportation Department on campus in 2009. She moved to the Department of Political Science in 2014. At the beginning of this year she “wore two hats,” acting as secretary for both the Department of Political Science and Psychological Sciences. We are thrilled to have Jalina working with the Institute and encourage everyone to introduce themselves to her! Please see the following contact information for Jalina:

Jalina Drake  
Monday-Friday 8:00a-5:00 p.m.  
tel: 314-516-4727  
drakeje@umsl.edu

In addition to updates from Leadership Academy alums, we’re now including news from graduates of the UMSL LEAD program. We are proud to share their accomplishments with you! Graduates of respective programs are in parenthesis.

♦ Caitlyn Adams  
University of Central Missouri (’07)  
Caitlyn is the new Executive Director at Missouri Jobs with Justice. She has been associated with that organization for the past seven years and looks forward to her new role as Executive Director.

♦ Khaiuna Ayetimiyi  
Southeast Missouri State University (’16)  
Khaiuna has been selected to intern with the Missouri State Legislature for Winter/Spring 2017. She will also be graduating in 2017.

♦ Alison Bonner  
University of Missouri – Columbia (’16)  
Alison interned for the Missouri Commission on Human Rights in Jefferson City, MO in the Fall of 2016. This Spring, 2017, she will intern for the Associated Students for the University of Missouri and lobby at the Missouri State Capitol.

♦ Antionette Carroll  
University of Missouri – Columbia (’07)  
Antionette was named President of The Professional Association of Design (AIGA) in 2016.

♦ Amber Clifford  
University of Central Missouri (’00)  
Amber was named Director of the McClure Archives & University Museum at the University of Central Missouri in Summer 2016.

♦ Melony Crayton  
University of Missouri St. Louis (’16)  
Melony is currently working on her Masters in Mental Health Counseling at UMSL. She is also a College Completion Coach at College Bound St. Louis.

Alumni News
Alumni News

♦ Nousheen ("Bri") Ehsan
UMSL LEAD Program ('15)
Bri just completed her first semester of law school at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. She does pro bono work for the University in conjunction with the National Immigrant Justice Center which participates in the Immigrant Detention Project. Bri will be interning with the city attorney’s office in St. Ann, Missouri in Summer 2017.

♦ Kristin Geiman
Truman State University ('16)
Kristin serves on the board of Exodus Cry which raises awareness about human trafficking. She also serves the Central Missouri Stop Human Trafficking Coalition by assisting in their fundraising efforts.

♦ Anna Gourdin
Southeast Missouri State University ('05)
Anna is Development Coordinator at the MS Center of Saint Louis.

♦ Anne Case-Halferty
University of Missouri – Columbia ('07)
Anne began pursuing her law degree in Fall 2016 at University of Missouri–Kansas City and with an anticipated graduate date of May 2019.

♦ Precious Hardy
Lincoln University ('14)
Precious returned from Handan, Hebei, China in June, 2016. During her time there, she taught English to middle & high school students and assisted on academic research focusing on solutions for alleviating student stress related to the College Entrance Exam. Precious is now assisting Dr. Wendi Gardner at Northwestern University, researching identity development in bisexual individuals.

♦ Jasmine Harvey
University of Missouri – Columbia ('12)
Jasmine currently works for AgBiTech, specializing in the production of natural insecticides. She also partners in a financial development program and recently became engaged to be married!

♦ Chloe Jackson
Truman State University ('14)
Chloe received her Permaculture Design Certification in Fall 2016 and is now working in St. Louis as a Climate Justice Organizer at Missourians Organizing for Reform & Empowerment (MORE).

♦ Brianna Lennon
Truman State University ('06)
Brianna has been active in the Democratic party and was a 2016 candidate for Boone County Commissioner, District 1. She won the primary handily with 39% of the vote in a 6-way race. However, in November 2016, she fell short by 2% in a very competitive run against her Republican opponent.

♦ Domonique McGruder
Truman State University ('12)
Domonique graduated magna cum laude from Valparaiso University Law School in May 2016. She took the Colorado Bar Exam and secured a position at the Colorado Attorney General’s Office in October 2016.

♦ Bridget Member-Meneh
University of Missouri – St. Louis ('07)
Bridget graduated from St. Louis University with a Master of Health Administration (MHA) in December 2016. She moved to Tennessee and accepted a position as an HCFS Instructor.

♦ Jeanne Norris
University of Missouri – St. Louis ('04)
Jeanne is celebrating her two-year anniversary at the Institute for School Partnership at Washington University in St. Louis. She was recently selected as one of 39 educators to join the inaugural EQuIP Peer Review Panel for Science. The goal of the panel is to identify high-quality K-12 lessons and units that are designed for the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

♦ Ashley Patton
University of Central Missouri ('16)
Ashley was recently hired as the Community Engagement Manager for Visit KC, a nonprofit economic development organization dedicated to tourism contracted by the city. Ashley will complete her M.A. in Communication from the University of Central Missouri in May 2017.

♦ Tyra Pearson
UMSL LEAD Program ('13)
Tyra plans to graduate from UMSL in May 2017 with her degree in Business Administration. She is completing an HR internship for DMR Events and will be starting a full -time position with them in May 2017. At that time, she will also begin her M.A. at Webster University.

♦ Tiffany Shockley
UMSL LEAD Program ('12)
Tiffany is currently working on her Masters of Paralegal Studies (MPLS) at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

♦ Sivya Smason
UMSL LEAD Program ('15)
In December 2016, Sivya graduated with honors with her B.A. in Psychology. She will be spending the next eight months traveling through the Middle East, Europe, Southeast Asia & South Africa.

♦ Ashley Westbrook
University of Missouri St. Louis ('16)
This year, Ashley acted as a Peer Mentor/Tutor for UMSL’s Office of Multicultural Student Services and was also LEAD Apprentice for the Sue Shear Institute’s Fall LEAD Program. Currently, Ashley is the recording secretary for Alpha Xi Delta and President of the Political Science Academy. She is preparing to take the LSAT in 2017.

♦ Amy Williams
University of Missouri – Columbia ('10)
Amy recently started a new position as a court advocate with the Courage Connection, a domestic violence services agency.

For more fellows’ updates, visit: www.umsl.edu/sueshear

Need to update your contact information?
Please email: lvoss@umsl.edu
Appointments

Serving on a public board or commission is an excellent way to put your talents to use in public service without running for office.

For a list of boards and commissions in Missouri, visit the Governor’s website at http://governor.mo.gov/boards/

The following lists include women who have been appointed to boards and commissions since July 2016.

State of Missouri

Dr. Katie E. Barton  
Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Katie L. Brown  
MO State Foster Care & Adoption Board

Margaret T. Donnelly  
Circuit Judge for the 21st Circuit

Jennifer Cato-Liberty  
Allie Chang Ray

Donna Erickson  
Lana Martin

Amy Thompsoon  
Child Abuse & Neglect Review Board

Ellen Wyatt Dunne  
Associate Circuit Judge for the 21st Circuit

Jennifer A. Feldhaus  
Missouri Citizens’ Commission on Compensation for Elected Officials

Mondonna (Mondi) L. Ghasedi  
Associate Circuit Judge for the 21st Circuit

Martha O. Harris  
Public School Retirement System of Missouri Board of Trustees

Nila B. Hayes  
Missouri Consolidated Health Care Plan Board of Trustees

Carla G. Holste  
Child Abuse and Neglect Review Board

Theresa R. Hubbard  
State Committee of Marital and Family Therapists

Susan Michelle Kneuvean  
Missouri Workforce Development Board

Rebekah S. Lucas  
Missouri Citizens’ Commission on Compensation for Elected Officials

Sarah E. Mullen  
St Charles County Convention & Sports Facilities Authority

Amanda Oesch  
Missouri Citizens’ Commission on Compensation for Elected Officials

Janay Orange  
Northwest Missouri State University Board of Regents

Linda D. Outersky  
Wright County Collector

Judge Peggy D. Richardson  
Circuit Judge for the 21st Circuit

Taryn G. Sandheinrich  
MO State Board of Nursing

Betty J. Sisco  
Missouri Brain Injury Advisory Council

Andrea Spillars  
Counsel to the Governor

Roxanna R. Swaney  
Northwest Missouri State University Board of Regents

Dr. Margaret M. Vandeven  
Education Commission of the States

Helen R. Washburn  
Missouri Citizens’ Commission on Compensation for Elected Officials

St. Louis County

Yemi Akande-Bartsch  
Zoo-Museum District-Botanical Garden Subdistrict Board of Commissioners

Cenia Bosman  
St. Louis County Workforce Development Board

Helen Casteel  
Older Adult Commission

Lisa Hautly  
Older Adult Commission

Jennifer Hope  
St. Louis - Jefferson Solid Waste Management District

Shelley Lavender  
Zoo - Museum District – St. Louis Science Center Subdistrict Board of Commissioners

Judy Luther  
Animal Care & Control Advisory Board

Elizabeth Perkins  
St. Louis County Workforce Development Board

Carroll Rodriguez  
Older Adult Commission

Zuleyma Tang-Martinez  
Older Adult Commission

Janice Williams  
Older Adult Commission

City of St. Louis

Beulah Brandon  
Baden Market Centre Special Business District

Joan Briccetti  
Pamela Shepard  
Missouri Botanical Garden Subdistrict

Cynthia Brinkley  
Sallie Burke  
Irene Soll  
Board of Adjustment

Gail Brown  
Tax Increment Financing Commission

Carol Clark  
Susan S. Colgrove  
Susanne Evens  
Renee Franklin  
World Trade Center Board of Directors

Justine Craig- Meyer  
Member of the Board of Hospitals

Cynthia Crim  
Simone Cummings  
History Museum Subdistrict

Adrienne Davis  
Judith Levy  
Art Museum Subdistrict

Jackie Engel  
Developmental Disabilities Resources Commission

Catherine Gilbert  
Taxicab Commission, Regional

Patricia Griffe  
Board of Merchants and Manufacturers Tax Equalization

Virginia Guyse  
Equalization Board

Suzanne LeBeau  
Cathedral Square Special Business District

Ann Liberman  
Forest Park Advisory Board

Maggy Malcolm  
Central West End South Business District Commission

Donna F. Schmitt  
Board of Trustees for the Community Mental Health Fund

Shelby Watson  
PACE Clean Energy Development Board

Carol Wilson  
Zoo Subdistrict

Phyllis Young  
Great Rivers Greenway - Metropolitan Park and Recreation District
Yes, I want to support the Institute’s mission of helping women participate fully in public policy decision making arenas.

Donor Designations

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Contributions are tax-deductible. Thank You.

Upcoming Events and Important Dates:

Pipeline to Local Office
January 25 & 26, 2017
UMSL Alumni Room, Woods Hall 101

St. Louis City Primary
March 7, 2017

General Municipal Election
April 4, 2017

21st Century Leadership Academy Dinner
Thursday
May 25, 2017

Visit our website for more details:
www.umsl.edu/sueshear