



# State of the Court Address

Boone County Bar Association  
October 8, 2008



# State of the Court Address

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- Courthouse Expansion Update
- Jury Issues
- Reintegration Court Update
- Domestic Violence Docket
- Mental Health Appearances by Video
- Jail Population Issues



# Boone County Courthouse

## Courthouse Expansion Project Highlights



## Progress to Date

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- Demolition of the Ground Floor was completed following the temporary relocation of the Juvenile Office to space across the street from the courthouse on August 8-9, 2008.
- A temporary occupancy permit was issued for the third floor east section of the annex on September 23.
- Staff from several departments (ACS, IT, Traffic and Probate Clerks) temporarily moved on September 24 and 25 to space that will eventually serve as a new jury assembly area.
- The Court Marshals moved to their new permanent space on the third floor on September 24 and 25.
- Demolition of the first floor south (the space vacated by the temporary moves mentioned above) began on September 29.

## Progress to Date



- A temporary occupancy permit was issued for the fourth floor of the annex on October 2, 2008.
- The Prosecuting Attorney moved to their new permanent offices on the fourth floor on October 2 and 3.
- Demolition of the second floor south (the former prosecutor's office) began on October 6.



## Scheduled Events Ground Floor

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Ground floor renovation is scheduled for completion in Mid-December and the juvenile office is scheduled to permanently move back into the courthouse in the renovated ground floor at the end of December.

Once completed the ground floor will include

- The existing courtroom with an expanded lobby and an off lobby waiting area/conference room for juvenile proceedings.
- A secure entrance for juveniles in custody with new holding rooms and more secure interview space.
- A relocated reception area that will require the public to enter the juvenile office through the front security station
- An expanded Juvenile Office with additional workspace for Juvenile Court Personnel



## Scheduled Events First Floor South

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- Completion of renovation to the first floor south is scheduled for the end of November. Court Services and Technology Services will return to the east side.
- The Traffic and Accounting Clerks will have new walk-up payment windows and renovated office space on the west side.
- A new security control station will be built next to the walk-thru metal detector and x-ray machine to provide additional security at the front entrance. Marshals stationed in the control station will also monitor security cameras located inside and outside of the courthouse.



## Scheduled Events First Floor North

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- Renovation of the Clerk's Office Space in the first floor annex is scheduled for completion at the end of January.
- Once completed this space will be occupied by

The Civil and Family Divisions of the Clerk's Office

Court Reporters' Offices

Callaway County Judges' Offices





## Scheduled Events Second Floor South

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- Renovation of the former prosecuting attorney's office is scheduled for completion at the end of December.
- Once completed this space will include

The Office of the Circuit Clerk and the Criminal and Probate Division of that Department

A new hearing room



## Scheduled Events Third Floor West

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- Completion of the Third Floor Courtroom is scheduled for the end of October.
- Once construction of the courtroom is completed the new technology system will be commissioned and the courtroom will be available for scheduling in November.
- The west side of the third floor annex will also include
  - A new jury deliberation room
  - An additional chambers for use during jury trials
  - A custody elevator and holding room adjacent to the new courtroom



## Scheduled Events Third Floor East

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- Once all other renovations are complete, finishes will be done on the east portion of the third floor.
- Once completed this area will include
  - A jury check-in and reception area
  - An office for the Jury Supervisor
  - Restrooms and vending for jury assembly
  - A large jury assembly room that can be divided and used for multiple juries and/or for court related training or conference activities



## Scheduled Events Fourth Floor

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- The Prosecutor has moved to their permanent location on the fourth floor.
- In addition to the PA's office the fourth floor will house a new IT training room equipped with technology ready tables and presentation equipment.



# Jury Issues

Jury Trial Statistics  
New Jury Assembly Process



## Jury Trial Statistics 2007 and 2008

	2007 (Jan-Sep)			2008 (Jan-Sep)		
Division	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total
I	0	4	4	1	18	19
II	1	10	11	5	4	9
III	9	5	14	7	11	18
IV	1	7	8	3	5	8
XI	1	0	1	1	0	1
Visiting	1	0	1	0	1	1
Total	13	26	39	17	39	56

- **Total reflects an overall increase of 44% in jury trials**
  - 31% increase in civil trials
  - 50% increase in criminal trials
- **Jury costs are significantly over budget**



## Jury Assembly Procedures Pending Changes

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- Juries will be assembled together in the new jury assembly room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor annex.
- Jurors will be asked to report earlier (by 8:00 a.m.)
- Jurors will be checked in but not assigned to a particular case at the time they arrive.
- Once qualified, jurors will be randomly assigned to a division.
- Seating charts and jury books will be compiled for each division.



## Jury Assembly Procedures Anticipated Benefits

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- This process will make more efficient use of jurors who can easily be assigned to one panel or another depending on the number of jurors reporting and the number of jurors requested for each panel.
- The process will make more efficient use of court time as some of the voir dire will take place prior to seating of the jurors. This also allows more privacy for issues such as whether a juror has a prior felony history that might make them ineligible for service.
- The process will be more interactive and productive for jurors as more activity (completing the questionnaire and participating in voir dire) will take place during the jury assembly process.





## Jury Assembly Procedures Possible Concerns

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- The jury assembly process may take longer than it has in the past. This is being addressed by having jurors report 15 minutes earlier, however it may delay the seating of jurors in some divisions as each jury will be selected randomly the morning they are assembled.
- Jury books may not be available until approximately 9:00 a.m. because assignment to a specific division will not occur until later in the assembly process at which time jury books will be compiled and delivered, along with the seating chart, to the judge and attorneys.
- One possibility being considered is making available a list of all jurors scheduled to appear during a week of jury service in advance of the trial. This list could include juror names and dates of birth.



# REI Court Update

Program History  
Program Statistics  
Future Needs



## Program History

- Boone Counties REI Court is one of three pilot programs in the State of Missouri
  - Boone County
  - Jackson County
  - St. Charles County
- Funding Sources for Pilot Project
  - Drug Court Coordinating Commission
    - Treatment and Case Management
    - Drug Testing
  - Department of Corrections
    - Housing
    - Transportation
    - Treatment and Case Management
    - Employment Counseling
  - Other OSCA Grant
    - Coordinator Position



## Program Statistics

- First Docket was held in July 2007
- Total of 114 Admissions July 2007-September 2008
- 15 participants have successfully completed the program (minimum 12 month participation period)
- 61 current participants
- Allocation of funds were significantly restricted at the beginning of FY09 (July of the second year of the pilot program)
- Admissions were suspended pending allocation of additional funds
- Department of Corrections provided a one time additional allocation of \$97,800
- Admissions protocol has been restored to include all individuals sentenced by Boone County under Sections 217.362 and 559.115 who will return to Boone County upon release from incarceration.



## Future Needs

- A request was made to the Circuit Court Budget Committee to include the position of REI Court Coordinator in its FY10 Budget to the legislature and the CCBC's FY10 budget proposal includes funding of the position.
- Significant efforts will need to be made to ensure
  - Allocation of funds by the legislature for the REI Court Coordinator Position in FY10
  - Continued funding of the REI Court by
    - Drug Court Coordinating Commission (additional funding will need to be approved by legislature)
    - Department of Corrections-a decision will need to be made by DOC to continue to support at the increased level in the final year of the pilot and in future years for the program to continue beyond the pilot phase.



# Other Court Updates

Domestic Violence Docket  
Mental Health Appearance by Video



## Domestic Violence Docket

- Effective September 1, 2008
- Domestic Violence Cases scheduled for arraignment in Div XI
- Allows for more concentrated attention by PD and APA assigned to this caseload.
- Intent is to improve efficiency as cases are handled in one division



## Mental Health Appearances by Video

- In August a brown bag luncheon was held to discuss the possibility of holding some probate mental health cases by video from Mid Missouri Mental Health Center
- Attorneys representing individuals at MMHC would appear with their client by video from the hospital.
- The BCSD has worked with MMHC and court IT personnel to determine equipment needs and will recommend funding of the purchases through Prop L.





## Jail Population Issues

- Early in 2008 out of county placements reached a several year high and concerns arose about whether the funds budgeted for payment of out of county housing would be sufficient.
- For several years the court has been hosting monthly committee meetings with representatives from the Court, County Commission, Sheriff, Police Department, Prosecuting Attorney, Public Defender, Defense Bar, Reality House and others to address concerns regarding the jail population.
- Out of county housing numbers are down to a more manageable level and the committee continues to communicate about these issues regularly.