

Safety and Justice Roundtable-January 2009: Springfield Municipal Court

Purpose: Provide a forum for the just, fair, and expeditious resolution of cases filed in the City of Springfield, Missouri under the ordinances and charter of the City.

Types of Cases: City ordinance prosecutions and administrative hearings.
Punishment range: up to \$1000.00 fine, up to 180 days in Greene County jail.

Number of Cases: Average for past 6 years is 52,466 per year, 16% of which are parking.

Self-Imposed Time Goals: To resolve DWI and BAC cases within 270 days, and all other cases within 120 days, all from the date of filing by the prosecutor.

Arrest Warrants: 14,227 active, 1376 issued in December, 2008, Springfield only (not Greene County Circuit Court).

Employees: 2 full-time judges, 4 part-time judges, approximately 30 staff including a court administrator, court clerk, probation officer, computer system administrator, accounting services representative, probation collections officer, deputy clerks, file clerk, and data entry clerk.

Budget: \$1.5 million- \$1.4 personnel, \$100k in operation supplies/services

Building History: 1856-1873-3rd Floor of Court House: Now Heers Building
1873-1915-Police Station, College and Patton
1915-1920-319 Boonville
1920-1953-Back to Police Station, College and Patton
1953-1972-First Floor of City Hall-Chestnut and Boonville
1972-1993-300 E. Central
1993-Current-625 N. Benton

Needs: Building, phone system, night court staffing, MULES connection, bailiff radios, trainer/file-auditor position, parking ticket employees.

**OFFICE OF THE
SPRINGFIELD MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR
OVERVIEW**

- 4 FULLTIME PROSECUTORS
 - 2 PARALEGALS
 - 2 STAFF ASSISTANTS
 - 1 CLERICAL ASSISTANT
 - 1 PART-TIME INVESTIGATOR
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- 20 DOCKETS PER WEEK (1,000 DOCKETS PER YEAR, APPROX.)
 - 2,848 TRIALS SCHEDULED PER YEAR
 - 44,908 CRIMINAL COMPLAINTS FILED IN 2008
 - 31,495 DEFENDANTS
 - 89,816 WITNESSES
- 121,311 CITIZENS TOUCHED BY OPERATIONS OF THE
PROSECUTOR IN THE COURSE OF 2008**

GREATEST NEEDS

SPACE – One attorney has his office space in a combination file and conference room. The Clerical Assistant has her desk situated in a hallway.

ATTORNEY – Currently, there are just enough attorneys to address day-to-day assignments. If a special assignment arises, which is not uncommon, or if an attorney takes a vacation, sick, or training day, certain tasks must be postponed. The office needs an additional full-time attorney and the infrastructure (computer and etc.) to support that attorney.

VICTIM/WITNESS ADVOCATE – Effective communication with the victims and witnesses of crimes is essential for efficient and successful prosecutions. Currently the role of victim/witness advocate is handled on an ad hoc basis as time permits by existing staff members or attorneys with less than optimum results.