

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid 601.1

EASTERN DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS

Abstract: Dockets, Minute Books, Record Books, and Indexes (1876-2000).

Extent: 52 cubic ft. and 12.83 GB (131 volumes).

Physical Description: bound volumes, paper, and digital.

Alternative Formats: Naturalization Record Books (digital and microfilm).

Location: Missouri State Archives

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions: No special restrictions.

Publication Restrictions: Copyright is in the public domain. Items reproduced for online or physical publication should carry the credit line: Courtesy of the Missouri State Archives.

Preferred Citation: [Item description], [Date]; [Volume and Page]; [Series]; Eastern District Court of Appeals, Record Group 601; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

Acquisition Information: Agency Transfer.

Processing Information: Finding Aid completed by Marianne Cline and Christina Miller on June 30, 2022.

Historical and Biographical Notes

The St. Louis Court of Appeals was created by the 1875 constitution (Article VI Section 12) and its district was limited to St. Louis City, St. Louis, St. Charles, Lincoln and Warren counties. Currently the Eastern District covers 25 counties and the City of St. Louis.

The St. Louis Court of appeals originally had final appellate jurisdiction over all cases of the circuit courts within its district, unless the amount in controversy exceeded \$2500, involved the construction of the Missouri or U.S. Constitution, validity of Missouri

Statutes, revenue laws, title to state office, title to real estate, if a political subdivision or state officer was a party, or felony cases. These cases were appealable to the Supreme Court from 1876-1884. From 1884-1972, these cases were appealed directly to the Supreme Court, skipping the appellate courts entirely.

An 1884 Constitutional amendment (Laws, 1883, p. 215) expanded the jurisdiction of the St. Louis Court of Appeals to 55 counties and the City of St. Louis. All other counties were assigned to the newly created Kansas City Court of Appeals. The amendment also gave the General Assembly the power to create an additional court of appeals and to modify the districts when necessary.

In 1909, the General Assembly created the Springfield Court of Appeals (Laws, 1909, p. 393).

In 1978, the St. Louis Court of Appeals was renamed the Court of Appeals – Eastern District (Laws, 1978, p 865) and its jurisdiction was set to 25 counties and the City of St. Louis.

Timeline

Year	Event
1875	St. Louis Court of Appeals created by the 1875 constitution.
1884	Constitutional amendment allows for the creation of additional appellate courts
1909	Springfield Court of Appeals created by SB 97.
1978	Renamed the Court of Appeals – Eastern District by HB 1634.

Additional Descriptive Information

Bibliography

Laws of Missouri, 1883, “Concurrent Resolution submitting to the qualified voters of the state of Missouri an amendment to the constitution thereof, concerning the judicial department,” p. 215.

Laws of Missouri, 1909, SB 97, p. 393.

Laws of Missouri, 1978, “Court Reform and Revision Act of 1978, HB 1634, p. 696.

Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri, 1879, Constitution of Missouri, Article VI Section 12, page 71.

Other Finding Aids

Case.net provides an index to modern case files for circuit and appellate cases:

<https://www.courts.mo.gov/cnet/welcome.do>.

Related Material

Eastern District Case Files (1876-2014, 7,716 cubic ft.) are unprocessed but filed in case number order and can be retrieved with a known case number.

For records related to the other appellate courts see RG 600 (Supreme Court of Missouri), RG 602 (Western District Court of Appeals) and RG 603 (Southern District Court of Appeals).

Series

The records are organized into the following series:

Dockets, 1890-1973
Index to Case Files, 1876-1983
Minute Books, 1876-1971
Naturalizations, 1876-1906
Opinions, 1883-1983
Record Books, 1880-1973
Miscellaneous, 1876-1952

DOCKETS, 1890-1973

Extent: 5 cubic ft. (9 volumes)

Arrangement: Chronological

Scope and Content

Court Dockets generally provide the case number, name of plaintiff and defendant, term of court, date and disposition of case.

Note: Unprocessed Case Records, ED35000-72999 (accession #2022-0082, 41 cubic ft.) located in Archives 2. These records replace the General Return Docket starting with case #35000.

Container List

Volume	Contents
2	General Return Docket, May 29, 1890 - February 20, 1904 (#4701-9384)
3	General Return Docket, February 20, 1904 - September 20, 1913 (#9385-14160)
4	General Return Docket, September 20, 1913 - September 20, 1924 (#14161-19065)
5	General Return Docket, September 22, 1924 - October 18, 1935 (#19066-24053)
6	General Return Docket, October 21, 1935 - December 31, 1953 (#24054-28984)
7	General Return Docket, January 4, 1954 - August 26, 1970 (#28985-33970)
5	Clerks Motion Docket, March 27, 1951 - April 20, 1971
6	Clerks Motion Docket, April 21, 1971 - January 16, 1973
	Executions Docket, April 27, 1876 - January 17, 1950

Index to Case Files, 1876-1983

Extent: 6 cubic ft. (12 volumes)

Arrangement: Chronological

Scope and Content

Indexes to Case Files will provide the case number and term of court, along with the names of the plaintiff and defendant. The direct index is an index to the plaintiff and the indirect index is an index to the defendant.

Container List

Volume	Contents
1	Direct Index to Case Files #10648-15220
2	Direct Index to Case Files #15201-17904
3	Direct Index to Case Files #17848-22140 (January 3, 1922 - December 31, 1931)
4	Direct Index to Case Files #22141-27947 (January 2, 1932 - December 29, 1949)
5	Direct Index to Case Files #27948-33152 (January 5, 1950 - December 28, 1967)
6	Direct Index to Case Files #33153-43087 (January 2, 1968 - June 20, 1980)
7	Direct Index to Case Files #41035-46804, state case files only (November 1, 1978 - January 31, 1983)
8	Direct Index to Case Files #43006-4782 (June 2, 1980 - January 25, 1983)
1	Inverted Index to Case Files #1-22774 (January 1876 - March 1933)
2	Inverted Index to Case Files #22775-30833 (October 1933 - January 1960)
3	Inverted Index to Case Files #30834-43329 (January 1961 - January 1980)
4	Inverted Index to Case Files #43009-46546 (June 1980 - January 1982)

MINUTE BOOKS, 1876-1971

Extent: 15 cubic ft. (34 volumes)

Arrangement: Chronological

Scope and Content

Minute books record the filings and motions made in the court on each day.

Container List

Volume	Contents
1	January 3, 1876 - March 2, 1878
2	March 4, 1878 - May 13, 1880
3	May 13, 1880 - December 21, 1882
4	January 2, 1883 - June 13, 1885
5	October 5, 1885 - January 10, 1890
6	January 14, 1890 - November 15, 1894
7	November 50, 1894 - January 25, 1899
8	February 7, 1899 - April 28, 1903
9	May 12, 1903 - April 16, 1907
10	April 30, 1907 - June 14, 1910
11	June 28, 1910 - January 16, 1913
12	February 3, 1913 - February 27, 1915
13	March 1, 1915 - April 13, 1917
14	April 18, 1917 - June 11, 1919
15	June 19, 1919 - March 18, 1921
16	March 24, 1921 - March 2, 1922
17	March 6, 1922 - March 6, 1927
18	March 7, 1927 - October 7, 1931
19	October 5, 1931 - October 5, 1935
20	October 7, 1935 - October 7, 1938
21	October 3, 1938 - February 37, 1943
22	March 1, 1943 - October 1, 1946
23	October 7, 1946 - September 73, 1948
24	September 14, 1948 - September 10, 1951
25	September 11, 1951 - January 11, 1954
26	January 12, 1954 - September 12, 1956
27	September 13, 1956 - April 13, 1959
28	April 6, 1959 - September 6, 1961
29	September 5, 1961 - August 5, 1961
30	September 3, 1963 - September 3, 1965
31	September 7, 1965 - September 7, 1967

Volume	Contents
32	September 5, 1967 - August 5, 1969
33	September 2, 1969 - September 2, 1971 (not bound)
	Vacation Minute Record Books, March 10, 1913 - October 16, 1920

Naturalizations, 1876-1903

Extent: Digital scans of 3 volumes (tiff and PDF, 12.83 GB)

Arrangement: By type of record and then chronological.

Scope and Content

Naturalization Records filed with the St. Louis Court of Appeals. Records will include name, date, and type of record (declaration of intention or petition for naturalization). Original volumes are held by the Eastern District.

PDF copy of each volume is available in Reference.

Container List

Location	Film #	Volume	Contents
DVD Vault	S4461	1	Declaration of Intention, 1876-1906
DVD Vault	S4461	1	Petitions for Naturalization, 1898-1902
DVD Vault	S4461- S4462	2	Petitions for Naturalization, 1898-1902

OPINIONS, 1883-1983

Extent: 4 cubic ft. (14 volumes)

Arrangement: Chronological

Scope and Content

The Opinions Filed or List of Opinions provide the date of opinion, case number, style of case, judgement, where reported (generally the Southwest Reporter citation) and remarks.

Container List

Volume	Contents
	Opinion Books (Indexed), October 5, 1883 - June 14, 1887
2	Opinion Books (Indexed), October 25, 1887 - October 1, 1894
3	Opinion Books (Indexed), October 1, 1894 - January 2, 1901
	Opinion Books (Indexed), January 15, 1901 - December 14, 1909
	Opinion Books (Indexed), January 4, 1910 - December 7, 1926
	Opinion Books (Indexed), January 11, 1927 - December 6, 1938
	Opinion Books (Indexed), January 3, 1939 - June 13, 1950
	Opinion Books (Indexed), June 20, 1950 - December 30, 1965
	Opinion Books (Indexed), January 18, 1966 - October 21, 1976
	Opinion Books (Indexed), July 13, 1976 - March 30, 1982
	Opinion Books (Indexed), April 6, 1982 - January 4, 1983
	Undetermined context #8791-38391, October 29, 1902 - November 4, 1942
	Subject index, January 1909 - January 1919
	#11271-16335, January 12, 1909 - February 8, 1921

RECORD BOOKS, 1880-1973

Extent: 20 cubic ft. (57 volumes)

Arrangement: Chronological

Scope and Content

Record Book entries usually include the term of court, date, officials in attendance, number and style of case, a detailed statement in formal language of any proceedings, motions, judgments, actions taken, adjournments, etc.

Note: Volumes 1 and 2 are held by the Eastern District.

Container List

Volume	Contents
3	May 13, 1880 - January 1, 1883
4	January 2, 1883 - May 19, 1885
5	October 5, 1885 - February 4, 1890
6	February 11, 1890 - November 14, 1894
7	November 20, 1894 - January 24, 1899
8	February 7, 1899 - April 23, 1903
9	May 12, 1903 - April 16, 1907
10	April 30, 1907 - June 14, 1910
11	June 28, 1910 - January 16, 1913
12	February 3, 1913 - February 27, 1915
13	March 1, 1915 - April 13, 1917
14	April 18, 1917 - June 11, 1919
15	June 19, 1919 - March 4, 1922
16	Index to Record Book 16
16	March 6, 1922 - July 20, 1923
17	Index to Record Book 17
17	August 28, 1923 - January 29, 1925
18	Index to Record Book 18
18	February 2, 1925 - March 5, 1927
19	Index to Record Book 19
19	March 7, 1927 - March 2, 1929
20	Index to Record Book 20
20	March 4, 1929 - February 28, 1930
21	Index to Record Book 21
21	March 3, 1930 - October 1, 1931
22	Index to Record Book 22
22	October 5, 1931 - March 4, 1933
23	Index to Record Book 23

Volume	Contents
23	March 6, 1933 - March 2, 1935
24	Index to Record Book 24
24	March 4, 1935 - October 3, 1936
25	Index to Record Book 25
25	October 5, 1936 - October 1, 1938
26	Index to Record Book 26
26	October 3, 1938 - October 5, 1940
27	Index to Record Book 27
27	October 7, 1940 - October 3, 1942
28	Index to Record Book 28
28	October 5, 1942 - October 3, 1945
29	Index to Record Book 29
29	March 5, 1945 - March 5, 1946
30	Index to Record Book 30
30	October 7, 1946 - October 13, 1948
31	September 14, 1948 - September 11, 1950
32	September 12, 1950 - September 8, 1952
33	September 9, 1952 - September 12, 1954
34	April 13, 1954 - April 9, 1956
35	January 10, 1956 - January 4, 1958
36	January 6, 1958 - January 5, 1959
37	September 8, 1959 - April 1, 1961
38	April 3, 1961 - September 1, 1962
39	September 4, 1962 - December 31, 1963
40	January 1, 1964 - September 4, 1965
41	September 7, 1965 - April 1, 1977
42	April 3, 1967 - August 30, 1968
44	September 8, 1970 - March 31, 1973
45	April 3, 1972 - October 31, 1972

SALARY RECORDS, 1905-1952

Extent: 1 cubic ft. (1 volumes)

Arrangement: Chronological

Scope and Content

Salary Records include name, position, date of service and amount paid.

Container List

Contents
Salary Records, November 30, 1905 - August 19, 1936
Salary Records, September 19, 1936 - March 19, 1952