

Outreach Programs
In The
Eastern District of Tennessee

Courthouse Visits/Tours

Naturalization Ceremonies

Open Doors to the Court Mock Trials

Summer Intern Tours

Combined Federal Campaign

Annual Food Drives

Professional Clothing Drive (Partnering
with Barristers Assoc.)

Coats for the Cold Campaign

CJA Panel Attorney Luncheons

Constitution Day Activities



**United States District Court
Eastern District of Tennessee**

The district court values the importance of education concerning the federal judicial system. Our outreach programs offer educational field trips for students and groups which include touring the courthouse, observing court hearings, mock trial scripted programs, observing/participating in naturalization ceremonies, and being able to meet and ask questions of our judges. Visits can be scheduled Monday through Friday by contacting the Court. Students will learn about the types of cases which are heard in federal court, how one becomes a federal judge, the judicial branch of government, and the structure of the federal court system. A visit to the federal courthouse is a memorable experience for teachers and students alike. For further information or to make a reservation, please contact the division representative for the office you wish to visit.

The district court also values the importance of giving back to the communities which we serve. Employees individually participate in numerous community service activities that benefit local agencies. As a district, the court gives back through food drives donating to local area food pantries, clothing drives for individuals entering the professional work environment, coats for the cold campaigns to provide children and adults with coats, gloves, and hats when the weather turns cold, and so much more.

**COMMUNITY
OUTREACH
PROGRAMS**



Honorable Thomas A. Varlan
Chief Judge

Debra C. Poplin
Clerk of Court

Joel W. Solomon Federal Bldg. & Courthouse
900 Georgia Avenue, Room 309
Chattanooga, TN 37402
423-752-5200

James H. Quillen U. S. Courthouse
220 West Depot Street, Suite 200
Greeneville, TN 37743
423-639-3105

Howard H. Baker Jr. U. S. Courthouse
800 Market Street, Suite 130
Knoxville, TN 37902
865-545-4228

Community Outreach in the Eastern District of Tennessee

The Eastern District has long recognized the benefit of opening its doors for the purpose of offering educational programs to the public.



In 2012, Chief Judge Thomas A. Varlan created a Community Outreach Programs Committee to coordinate the Court's various outreach efforts. The following are some of the programs currently offered.

Open Doors to the Court

Open Doors to the Federal Courts is a national program, which welcomes students into local federal courthouses around the country. The objective is to bring high school students, teachers, judges, court staff, and local lawyers together to enhance public knowledge and understanding of the federal court system. The program is intended for high school students (generally juniors and seniors) who have studied civics or United States government. The students and their teachers are invited into the courthouse to participate in a scripted mock trial program.



Constitution Day Activities

Judges in the Classroom

The judges of the Eastern District of Tennessee travel to give presentations to local scout troops working on their citizenship merit badge, they serve as mock trial judges for area schools and universities, serve on question and answer panels for schools, civic groups, professional groups, and bar associations, and also conduct classroom type training in the courtroom. Constitution Day activities are held in the courtroom where students play the role of characters in a skit and other students respond to trivia questions. The judges who participate in these programs strive to encourage students to embrace the concepts of justice, to clarify the roles of the individual in a free society, and to convey the message that hard work in school will achieve success. The judges believe that if we can provide a positive influence, even in a small way, which leads to success of students in our schools, our communities will reap the benefits in the future.



Courthouse Tours/Visits

The Community Outreach Programs Coordinator or Division Representative can arrange for a visit to the federal courthouse in your area. The visit can include a tour of the courthouse, observing a court hearing, a presentation by one of our judges, a presentation by federal law enforcement and court personnel sharing an overview about their jobs, and much more.



If your organization or class would benefit from one of these programs or would like a customized program, please contact our Community Outreach Coordinator or Division Representative.

Eastern District of Tennessee Community Outreach Programs Committee Committee Members:

Hon. Curtis L. Collier

Hon. C. Clifford Shirley, Jr.

Debbie Poplin, Clerk of Court

Janet M. Jackson, Outreach Coordinator

Ashley Spangler, Chattanooga Representative

Leah Cassanego, Greeneville Representative

Brooke Ramsey, Knoxville Representative