



16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Jackson County, Missouri

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Show-Me Jury system to provide easier communication with potential jurors**

A new jury system is coming to Jackson County which makes it possible for potential jurors who have been summoned to find out through a text or an e-mail if they will not be needed to serve before they ever step foot onto the courthouse steps.

The Show Me state is rolling out its Show-Me Jury system this year. The Office of State Courts Administration is implementing the system in the Jackson County Circuit Court this month. Juror summons will go out on January 18, 2018.

The new system makes it possible for potential jurors to interact with the Court earlier in the process by filling out their juror qualification form and questionnaire on-line. If jurors provide their e-mail address or cell phone number, they will find out more quickly if they have been excused, postponed or disqualified or if their service has been canceled.

“I am very excited about using this new system,” said Jury Supervisor Tracy Smedley. “I think it moves the Jury Office, as the Court has moved, into a more paperless environment. A lot of our customers are used to doing things on-line. And, we will work closely with those who need additional assistance.”

Potential jurors will receive a jury summons in the mail from the Court as they traditionally have. After that, they will go on-line to fill out the qualification form and questionnaire. If they choose to provide additional contact information, they will obtain answers more quickly to their inquiry than was provided by mail.

If a juror believes they are not qualified to serve under Missouri statute, they can submit documentation electronically. For instance, if someone has moved to another state, they can electronically submit a copy of their driver’s license as proof.

In addition, if jurors provide additional contact information, the Jury Office will inform potential jurors by e-mail or text before they are to report for service if they are no longer needed. Presently, jurors need to call the Court’s automated phone message or look on the Court’s website to find out if their service is no longer required, as the only contact information the Court has is their home address.

“Jurors will be able to seek information from us in a manner that best fits their needs,” said Smedley.

The new system was piloted last year in St. Louis City Circuit Court and will be rolled out to additional courts this year.

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