



MINKS Conference

Chief Justice Marla Luckert

Stephanie Smith
Judicial Administrator

June 12, 2025



Ad Hoc Artificial Intelligence Committee

- Established February 2025 to address AI use in Kansas judicial branch and wider legal system.
- Internal and external policy subcommittees to develop complementary policies.



Kansas Mental Health Summit

- Out of 31 judicial districts, 12 have active Multibranch of Communities of Practice.
- So far, 20 districts will be represented at this year's summit.



KANSAS
**Mental
Health**
SUMMIT

Join us!

August 26–27

**Fort Hays State University
Hays**

A collaborative effort to improve
court and community response
to behavioral health issues



Kansas Child Welfare Summit

- All three branches of government, persons with lived expertise, and child welfare professionals.
- All 31 judicial districts assembled teams to attend and develop action plans to improve service to children and families in their communities.
- Local teams report improved collaboration and communication.



**Kansas
Child
Welfare
Summit**

*Working together
to create lasting
improvement
in child welfare.*



Strategic Planning Project

- Renewed strategic plan is under way.
- Data, feedback from surveys and focus groups driving four new strategic goals:
 - Access to Justice
 - Workforce
 - Court Operations and Efficiencies
 - Public Trust, Confidence, and Understanding





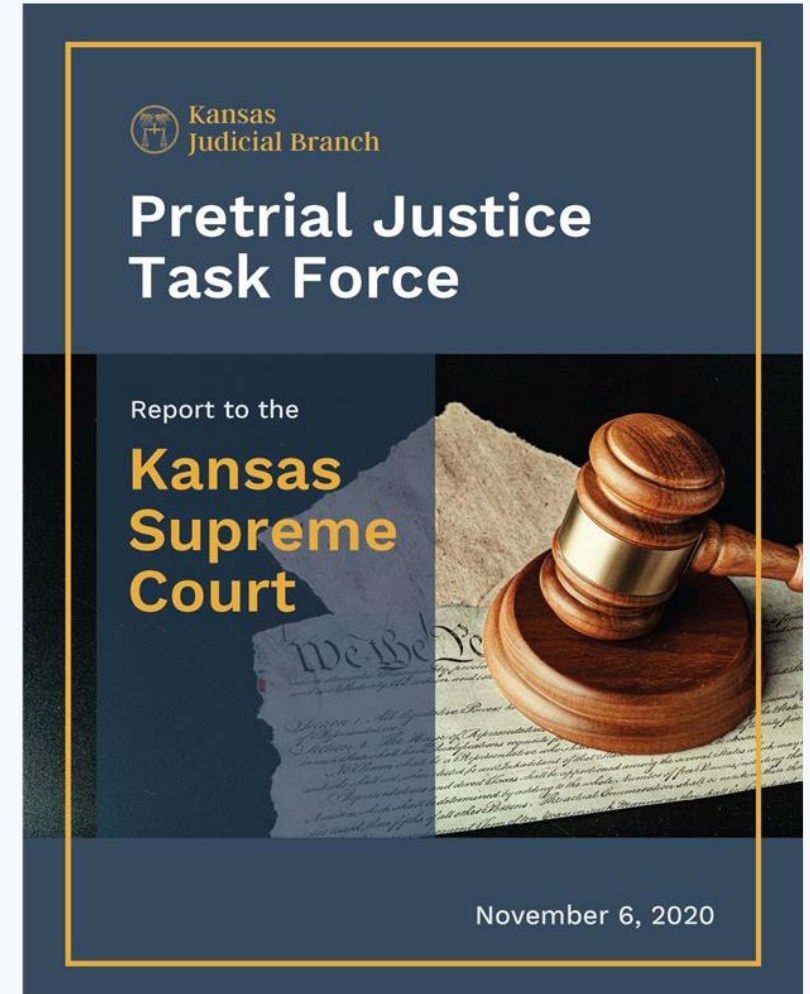
Local Action Plans

- Partnering with NCSC on action plan templates for small, medium, and urban districts.
- Each of 31 judicial districts and the Kansas Court of Appeals will receive a blueprint to move forward within the four strategic goals.



Pretrial Justice Task Force

- Judges, CSOs, defense attorneys, district attorneys, and law enforcement.
- Four subcommittees looking at data, representation, standard pretrial supervision, and pretrial risk assessments.
- Goal to present court with recommendations by end of year.





Finished Statewide Rollout

- Jury management
- Courthouse News Service instant access to new civil filings
- Petitions for review
- Remote check-in
- Digital evidence



Virtual Self-Help Center

- self-help.kscourts.gov
- Covers commonly court processes and legal topics of interest to self-represented litigants.
- Hearing search
- Court-based self-help center directory
- How to pay fines and fees
- Searchable list of statewide docket fees

The screenshot shows the top of the website with the Kansas Judicial Branch logo and the title "Self-Help". Below this is a disclaimer: "This website is designed to provide information, tools, and resources. These resources are informational only; they are not intended to take the place of legal advice. It is always best to speak with an attorney who can help you understand your rights and options." A large orange banner contains the heading "Find Legal Resources" and the text "Explore our virtual self-help center for reliable answers to common questions." Below the banner is a section titled "I Need Help With..." which contains a grid of 12 buttons, each with an icon and a text label: "Finding A Hearing", "Paying a Fine or Fee", "Requesting or Searching Court Records", "Finding Legal Assistance", "Finding a District Court", "Finding Court Forms", "Legal Research", "Requesting an Interpreter", "Court Basics & What to Expect", "Filing Court Papers", "Finding a Self-Help Center", and "Submitting a Complaint".



Civil Case Filings Search

- kansasnewcivilfilings.kscourts.gov
- Immediate access to new civil case filings before they are reviewed and accepted by the district court clerk.

 **Kansas Judicial Branch** | **Kansas Civil Filings**

Recent Civil Case Submissions

Last updated: June 5, 2025 3:43 PM

Show entries Filter:

County	Case Style	Create Date	Case Category	Status	Documents
Sedgwick	Newly Filed Case	6/5/2025	CV Automobile Tort	Awaiting Approval	<input type="button" value="Download"/>
Johnson	Newly Filed Case	6/5/2025	CV Name Change	Awaiting Approval	<input type="button" value="Download"/>
Johnson	Newly Filed Case	6/5/2025	CV Other Civil (Non-Domestic)	Awaiting Approval	<input type="button" value="Download"/>



Guardianship Project

- Three-year grant supported by Administration for Community Living and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- Initial research study to assess Kansas' adult guardianship/conservatorship process
- Data collected will be used to create trainings, interventions, and other resources



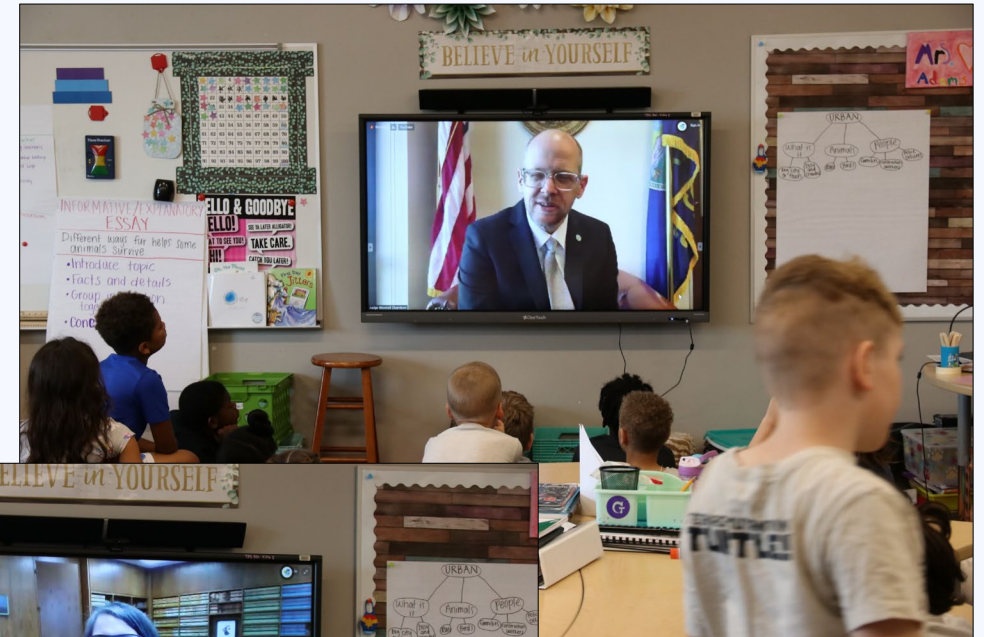
Outreach

- Focus on students.
- Hosted or partnered with others.



Virtual Mock Trial

- Constitution Day event
- Reached 13,000 3rd grade students across Kansas.





Supreme Court on the Road

Outreach effort reflects Supreme Court's commitment to civic education when it brings oral arguments to Kansas communities.



Special Session



Kansas Supreme Court

9:30 a.m.
Introduction to Courts
10:00 a.m.
Oral argument

APRIL 29

LEARN MORE ONLINE



LIFE Center

Logan Intergenerational Family Education Center

**601 W. North St.
Logan**

Public reception afterward

Kansas Civic Games

Teams from 44 high schools participated in 2025.





Court Careers Handout

Used to promote courts as an employer and supports civic education.

Careers in Kansas District Courts

Every day, district courts provide vital services to the people and businesses of Kansas. It takes teams of people in a variety of roles to fulfill judicial branch constitutional and statutory responsibilities.

* High school graduate or equivalent	** Bachelor's degree	*** Law degree and admitted to practice in Kansas
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District Judge*** \$185,550/yr
District Judges can hear any matter within their jurisdiction, including felony and civil cases. The Kansas Supreme Court appoints one judge in each district to serve as chief judge.

Additional education, licensure, and experience

- At least 30 years old.
- Practice law for at least five years.
- A resident of the county they will serve.

District Magistrate Judge* \$102,053/yr
Some counties have district magistrate judges, who may or may not be lawyers, and whose jurisdiction is limited. Magistrate judges can hear all misdemeanors, all traffic cases, and all felony cases up to arraignment.

Additional education, licensure, and experience

- A resident of the county they will serve.
- Either a lawyer admitted to practice in Kansas or able to pass an examination to become certified within 18 months.

Court administrator** \$84,353–\$134,366/yr
Court administrators implement court policies, coordinate operations, and supervise nonjudge employees.

Additional education, licensure, and experience

- One year court administrative experience.

Court services officer** \$58,405–\$97,588/yr
Court services officers contribute to the safety and well-being of all Kansans. They are probation officers for adults and juveniles sentenced to probation for their crimes.

High Demand Job

Clerk of the Court* \$51,759–\$90,734/yr
The clerk keeps an accurate record of cases brought before the court. This role receives paper and electronic filings, summons jurors for jury trials, processes marriage licenses, receives payments, and helps the public with a wide variety of questions and needs.

Additional education, licensure, and experience

- Three years' clerical experience.
- At least one year court clerical or other legal experience.

Court reporter* \$58,405–\$76,479/yr
Court reporters use different tools to record and transcribe everything spoken during trials, conferences, and hearings. They also administer oaths to witnesses and mark evidentiary exhibits.

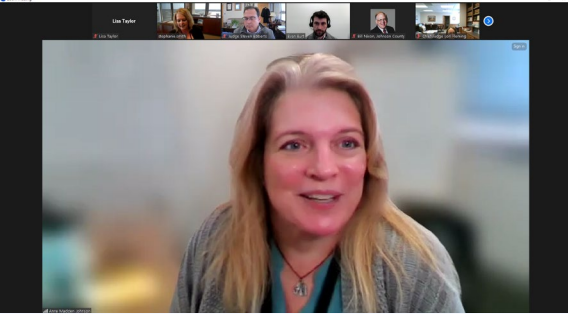
Additional education, licensure, and experience

- Certified Court Reporter certification.
- Three years' experience typing and taking high-speed dictation using a stenotype machine.

Rev. 04-2025



Cybersecurity Committee





Traveling Court Reporter

- OJA employs one full-time traveling court reporter.
- Assigned to 45 trials throughout state.
- Trials assigned by crime severity level and length of time case has been pending.



For the Record Pilot Project

- Partnered with For the Record to install its Justice Cloud solution in eight pilot courts.
- Key features:
 - Automatic, secure storage for audio content.
 - Instant access to records.
 - On-demand conversion of audio records into speech-to-text drafts



Internal and External Outreach Efforts

- Chief Judges Council
- OJA Connections
- District Court Personnel Management Advisory Committee
- Clerks Advisory Council