

NEWS RELEASE: July 24, 2009

Division 25 courtroom to be dedicated Monday

Greene County's 31st Judicial Circuit, in conjunction with the Greene County Commission, will dedicate the new Division 25 courtroom today, July 27, 1:00 p.m., on the first floor of the Greene County Judicial Courts Facility, 1010 Boonville Ave., Springfield.

Presiding Commissioner Dave Coonrod, Presiding Judge Dan Conklin, Courts Administrator Jerry Moyer and representatives of the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association will conduct the dedication.

The Div. 25 courtroom has been in use since July 6. Judge Conklin established Div. 25 by administrative order March 11 to accommodate visiting judges supplied by the Missouri Supreme Court through the Judicial Partnership Program. The program was established in response to the Supreme Court's October, 2007, Weighted Workload Study, which showed Greene County's 31st Circuit needed seven additional judges to manage the court's annual caseload.

Div. 25 is staffed with a rotating roster of visiting judges from Missouri's judicial circuits. Cases heard in Div. 25 are limited to associate civil suits for less than \$25,000, such as lawsuits, landlord-tenant disputes and small claims. Prior to completion of the new courtroom, Div. 25 was temporarily held in the Greene County Historic Courthouse Hearing Room.

Div. 25 is one of two new courtrooms created out of the former Christian Greene Taney Prosecutors Regional Child Support Office, which moved out of the Judicial Courts Facility in February. The second courtroom will house Greene County's new Family Court Commissioner, a position included in the Missouri State Budget, expected to be filled later this year.

The new courtrooms were constructed by the Greene County Building Operations Department for an estimated cost of \$40,000, funded by general revenue. Greene County Administrator Tim Smith said utilizing internal staff, rather than bidding the project out, saved an estimated \$200,000 taxpayer dollars.

For more information, call Jerry Moyer, Greene County Courts Administrator, at 417-868-4899; or Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Greene County Public Information Officer, at 417-829-6019 or 417-379-5713.

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