

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 14, 2023

Greene County 31st Circuit Court Receives O'Toole Award

31st Judicial Circuit Presiding Judge Jerry Harmison is pleased to announce that Greene County has achieved the Daniel O'Toole Award for fiscal year 2023.

This award, which is named after the presiding judge who served St. Louis County until his death in 1998, is designed to recognize the success of circuits achieving specific processing time standards. The Supreme Court established the award and named it in honor of the late judge's service as the first chair of the time standards monitoring committee.

The 31st Circuit was one of 10 of the 46 state circuits to receive the honor. The award is a result of the teamwork between the circuit court, prosecuting attorney, public defender, attorneys, circuit clerk's office, law enforcement, probation and parole and our justice partners.

Presiding Judge Jerry Harmison stated, "Receipt of the O'Toole Award by the 31st Circuit is a great honor. I am proud of the teamwork between our court partners and the judicial officers and court staff. We all work hard to serve the citizens of Greene County."

Case processing time standards became effective in 1997 with Court Operating Rule 17. These serve as guidelines for the time frame of various kinds of cases should take from filing to case disposition. The case types that are measured include: circuit civil, associate civil, small claims, domestic relations, probate, circuit felony and other criminal (including associate felony, associate and circuit misdemeanor, municipal certification-trial de novo, conservation, watercraft and traffic).

To be considered for the O'Toole award a circuit must meet all three of the following criteria:

- A combined clearance rate of 100 percent or higher for all six categories.
- A rate of 90% or higher for all six categories.
- At least four categories must have a rate of 100 percent or higher.

Greene County has now received this award in 2018, 2019, and 2023.

###

Greene County is the State of Missouri's fourth most populous county, serving more than 275,000 people (2010 census). Its mission is to provide all citizens of Greene County, including those in its cities, a safe and thriving community through excellent customer service,

unparalleled dedication and the efficient use of taxpayer dollars. The Greene County Commission is the executive body of Greene County operating under guidelines established in the Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri. Within that authority the Commission enacts ordinances, resolutions and policies, supervised the activities of county departments, fixes salaries, adopts the annual budget, provides construction and other services, and conducts hearings on planning and zoning matters.

For additional information, contact Kylie Young, Greene County Court Administrator, at 417-868-4899.