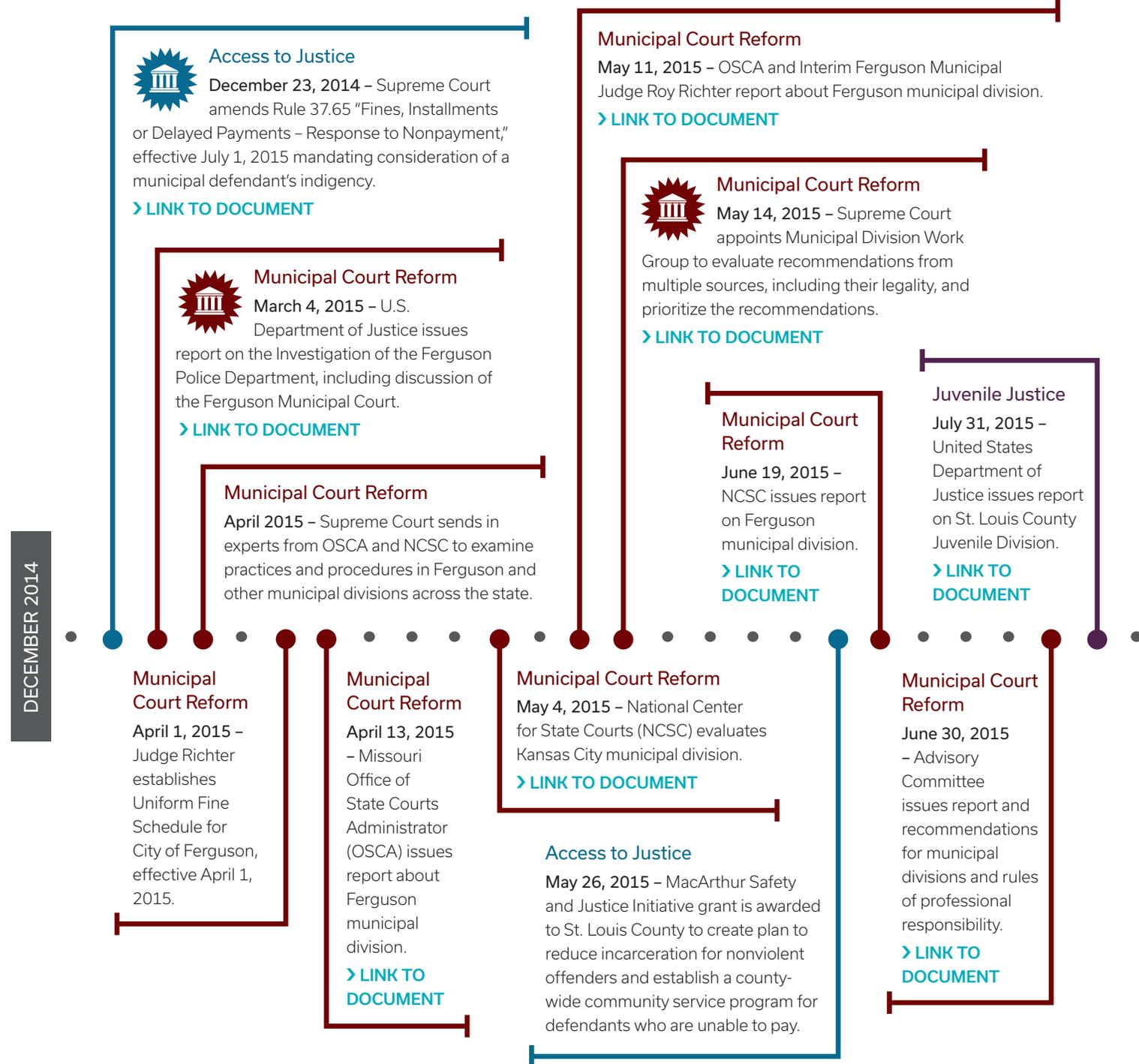


# COMMISSION ON RACIAL AND ETHNIC FAIRNESS: TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS AFFECTING MISSOURI COURTS



## Access to Justice

**December 23, 2014** – Supreme Court amends Rule 37.65 “Fines, Installments or Delayed Payments – Response to Nonpayment,” effective July 1, 2015 mandating consideration of a municipal defendant’s indigency.

[LINK TO DOCUMENT](#)



## Municipal Court Reform

**March 4, 2015** – U.S. Department of Justice issues report on the Investigation of the Ferguson Police Department, including discussion of the Ferguson Municipal Court.

[LINK TO DOCUMENT](#)

## Municipal Court Reform

**April 2015** – Supreme Court sends in experts from OSCA and NCSC to examine practices and procedures in Ferguson and other municipal divisions across the state.

## Municipal Court Reform

**April 1, 2015** – Judge Richter establishes Uniform Fine Schedule for City of Ferguson, effective April 1, 2015.

## Municipal Court Reform

**April 13, 2015** – Missouri Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA) issues report about Ferguson municipal division.

[LINK TO DOCUMENT](#)

## Municipal Court Reform

**May 4, 2015** – National Center for State Courts (NCSC) evaluates Kansas City municipal division.

[LINK TO DOCUMENT](#)

## Access to Justice

**May 26, 2015** – MacArthur Safety and Justice Initiative grant is awarded to St. Louis County to create plan to reduce incarceration for nonviolent offenders and establish a county-wide community service program for defendants who are unable to pay.

## Municipal Court Reform

**May 11, 2015** – OSCA and Interim Ferguson Municipal Judge Roy Richter report about Ferguson municipal division.

[LINK TO DOCUMENT](#)



## Municipal Court Reform

**May 14, 2015** – Supreme Court appoints Municipal Division Work Group to evaluate recommendations from multiple sources, including their legality, and prioritize the recommendations.

[LINK TO DOCUMENT](#)

## Municipal Court Reform

**June 19, 2015** – NCSC issues report on Ferguson municipal division.

[LINK TO DOCUMENT](#)

## Juvenile Justice

**July 31, 2015** – United States Department of Justice issues report on St. Louis County Juvenile Division.

[LINK TO DOCUMENT](#)

## Municipal Court Reform

**June 30, 2015** – Advisory Committee issues report and recommendations for municipal divisions and rules of professional responsibility.

[LINK TO DOCUMENT](#)



Municipal Court Reform



Access to Justice



Racial and Ethnic Fairness



Juvenile Justice



Supreme court



Legislature



### Municipal Court Reform



**August 2015** – SB5 goes into effect. The Supreme Court worked with the legislature on this legislation, which places a cap on fines and fees and requires municipal divisions to notify the Supreme Court of their existence, along with other requirements. Before the law, no list existed of municipal divisions or their judges and staff. Through the Court’s required reporting, over 600 municipal divisions have been identified, with over 2,000 judges and staff. Approximately 400 of these divisions operate independently, while approximately 200 operate in conjunction with associate circuit divisions.

[> LINK TO DOCUMENT](#)

### Municipal Court Reform

**August 15, 2015** – St. Louis County municipal judges, prosecutors, and court administrators meet, resulting in Fresh Start Initiative where judges in 81 municipalities in St. Louis County removed all pending driver license suspensions for failure to appear in court or pay for minor moving traffic violations, dismissed pending failure to appear cases for minor traffic violators, and recalled warrants for failure to appear on minor traffic violations.

### Municipal Court Reform

**October 8, 2015** – The Chief Justice, in a speech at annual meeting of the Missouri Bar, acknowledges problems in some municipal divisions and announces publicly that the judicial system will not rest until municipal divisions meet the standards for all courts; that persons coming into the courts will be treated fairly and impartially and with respect.

### Municipal Court Reform

**March 1, 2016** – Final report of Supreme Court Municipal Work Group is submitted.

[> LINK TO DOCUMENT](#)

### Racial and Ethnic Fairness

**November 17, 2015** – The Commission on Racial & Ethnic Fairness holds its initial meeting, followed by meetings of each working group.

### Municipal Court Reform

**November 2015** – NCSC and State Justice Institute issue final report at request of Supreme Court entitled “Missouri Municipal Courts: Best Practice Recommendations.”

[> LINK TO DOCUMENT](#)



### Municipal Court Reform

**September 22, 2015** – Missouri Supreme Court issues letter to Municipal Divisions Work group outlining priorities.

[> LINK TO DOCUMENT](#)



### Racial and Ethnic Fairness

**October 6, 2015** – The Court creates the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Fairness, with 6 subcommittees, including municipal, juvenile, criminal, civil, judicial and practice of law.

[> LINK TO DOCUMENT](#)



### Racial and Ethnic Fairness

**December 16, 2015** – Supreme Court approves new Jury Instruction in Criminal Cases on Eyewitness Identification and Testimony.

[> LINK TO DOCUMENT](#)



### Racial and Ethnic Fairness

**November 10, 2015** – Supreme Court approves recommended changes to Rule 2-2.3 Bias, Prejudice and Harassment, effective 1/1/16.

[> LINK TO DOCUMENT](#)

MARCH 2016

# COMMISSION ON RACIAL AND ETHNIC FAIRNESS: TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS AFFECTING MISSOURI COURTS

MARCH 2016



## Juvenile Justice

**March 3, 2016** – Supreme Court revises Court Operating Rule 14.01 "Assignment of Judicial Personnel" (effective July 1, 2016) that mandates that any case in family or juvenile court in which a juvenile officer is a party is not heard by the judge who appointed that officer.

[LINK TO DOCUMENT](#)

## Racial and Ethnic Fairness

**May - October 2016** – Implicit bias training for judges and court personnel on all levels, including OSCA and Supreme Court personnel.



## Municipal Court Reform

**May 31, 2016** – Supreme Court creates Committee on Practice and Procedures in the Municipal Division to implement the recommendations as ordered by the Court.

[LINK TO DOCUMENT](#)



## Municipal Court Reform

**May 17, 2016** – Supreme Court establishes a Municipal Clerk Education Committee to develop and conduct educational activities for municipal division clerks and other personnel of the municipal division.

[LINK TO DOCUMENT](#)



## Municipal Court Reform

**April 14, 2016** – Supreme Court approves new Court Operating Rules 21.06 and 21.07 governing municipal division debt collections to be effective July 1, 2016.

[LINK TO DOCUMENT](#)



## Access to Justice

**August 2016** – Supreme Court approves a uniform model local court rule to determine indigency. The model rule simplifies the process of determining indigency in high-volume dockets and seeks information within the defendant's present knowledge to alleviate the need for continuances. Effective September 19, 2016 and corrected December 14, 2016.

[LINK TO ORDER](#)

[LINK TO CORRECTED ORDER](#)



## Municipal Court Reform

**August 2016** – SB 572 goes into effect. The law establishes certain regulations for penalties for municipal ordinance violations, including prohibiting a municipal court from assessing a fine greater than \$200 and allowing a court to waive court costs if the individual is deemed indigent or the case is dismissed.

[LINK TO DOCUMENT](#)

## Racial and Ethnic Fairness

**June 4, 2016** – The Commission on Racial and Ethnic Fairness hold its second meeting of the entire commission.

## Municipal Court Reform

**September 2016** – Missouri receives a State Justice Institute Grant for Normandy Municipal Division Consolidation pilot project, to provide financial and technical support to aid the consolidation of the court operations of 9 municipalities in St. Louis County.



Municipal Court Reform



Access to Justice



Racial and Ethnic Fairness



Juvenile Justice



Supreme court



Legislature

### Access to Justice

**September 2016** – OSCA receives a \$500,000 U.S. Department of Justice Price of Justice grant to assist in developing of software that will allow defendants to seek and obtain determinations of indigency and referral to community service in lieu of payment of fines and costs, without having to appear in court.



### Access to Justice

**November 2016** – “Track This Case” is launched and allows parties and the public to be notified electronically of activity in a particular case.



### Municipal Court Reform

**September 2016** – Supreme Court orders the creation of web pages with uniform information about each municipal division on the Missouri Courts web site.

[LINK TO DOCUMENT](#)

### Racial and Ethnic Fairness

**October 2016** – Supreme Court amends the annual attorney enrollment form seeking voluntary racial and ethnic data on the profession.



### Municipal Court Reform

**October 2016** – Supreme Court amends code of judicial conduct to prohibit a judge from hearing any case where the multiple roles of the judge and attorneys creates a conflict of interest.

[LINK TO ORDER](#)

[LINK TO CODE OF CONDUCT](#)

### Racial and Ethnic Fairness

**October 27, 2016** – Commission on Racial and Ethnic Fairness issues interim report with recommendations and detailed additional items the Commission is examining.

[LINK TO DOCUMENT](#)



### Municipal Court Reform

**September 20, 2016** – Supreme Court adopts new 37.04 “Supervision of Courts Hearing Ordinance Violations” and adopts “Minimum Operating Standards for Municipal Divisions of Missouri Courts” with regular reporting of compliance in January and July of each year, beginning January 2017.

[LINK TO DOCUMENT](#)

### Municipal Court Reform

**October 2016** – Presiding Judge Doug Beach of the St. Louis County 21st Judicial Circuit establishes a new standing committee for Municipal Divisions including Municipal Judges, Municipal Court Administrators, and attorneys who practice before the Municipal Divisions.



### Municipal Court Reform

**November 16, 2016** – Supreme Court approves the adoption of a Code of Conduct for Municipal Division Personnel, effective January 1, 2017.

[LINK TO DOCUMENT](#)

NOVEMBER 2016

# COMMISSION ON RACIAL AND ETHNIC FAIRNESS: TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS AFFECTING MISSOURI COURTS

DECEMBER 2016

## Juvenile Justice/Racial and Ethnic Fairness

**December 14, 2016** – St. Louis County Family Court and the Department of Justice enter into a Memorandum of Agreement to ensure that the family court protects the constitutional rights of children throughout their court proceedings. The agreement also focuses on addressing racial disparities among youth in different stages of the juvenile justice process.



### Juvenile Justice

**December 23, 2016** – Supreme Court adopts new comments to Juvenile Justice Standards Rule 110.01 which provide guidance and direction as to the legal mandates and ethical obligations for juvenile officers, and offer strategies for elevating practice and accountability in each juvenile office. Standards also mandates uniformity in practices.

[> LINK TO DOCUMENT](#)

## Racial and Ethnic Fairness

**February - March 2017** – Commission on Racial and Ethnic Fairness holds public feedback sessions in Columbia, Kansas City, St. Louis, and Springfield.



### Municipal Court Reform

**March 2017** – Supreme Court authorizes the hiring of clerk and attorney monitors to monitor municipal divisions across the state.

### Municipal Court Reform

**April 2017** – Feature added to “Track This Case” for text and/or email reminders of court and payment dates. Available to all who register.

## Racial and Ethnic Fairness

**December 8, 2016** – Commission on Racial and Ethnic Fairness holds its third meeting of the entire commission.

## Municipal Court Reform

**December 29, 2016** – Supreme Court establishes protocols for presiding circuit court judges to supervise the municipal divisions, which outline the sanctions for failure to comply – including reporting a judge to the Commission on Retirement, Removal and Discipline; transfer of cases to another municipal division; and cessation of court operations.

[> LINK TO ORDER](#)

[> LINK TO PROTOCOLS](#)

## Racial and Ethnic Fairness

**April 3, 2017** – Commission on Racial and Ethnic Fairness holds its fourth meeting of the entire commission



### Racial and Ethnic Fairness

**May 15-17, 2017** –

Supreme Court hosts 2017 National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts Conference in St. Louis attended by representatives from court systems around the country, as well as local judges, attorneys and member of the public.

[> LINK TO DOCUMENT](#)



Municipal Court Reform



Access to Justice



Racial and Ethnic Fairness



Juvenile Justice



Supreme court



Legislature

### Juvenile Justice

**June 22, 2017** – First report of Independent Auditor regarding the agreement between the Department of Justice and the St. Louis City Family Court.

[> LINK TO DOCUMENT](#)

[> LINK TO PRESS RELEASE](#)



### Access to Justice

**June 28, 2017** – Supreme Court establishes the Commission on Civil Justice Reform to review the Conference of Chief Justices recommendations for civil justice reform to review all civil practices and procedures and to recommend measures to ensure the fair, affordable, and prompt resolution of civil disputes in the justice system and thereby enhancing public confidence in and meaningful access to the state court civil justice system.

[> LINK TO DOCUMENT](#)

### Municipal Court Reform/Access to Justice

**June 2017** – St. Louis County 21st Judicial Circuit adopts new Local Court Rule 69 for all Municipal Divisions in St. Louis County incorporating all of the changes mandated by the State Legislature and the Supreme Court.

[> LINK TO DOCUMENT](#)

The 21st Judicial Circuit also uses funds received through the MacArthur Safety and Justice Initiative to establish a program to identify and release nonviolent offenders into established programs using outside contracted agencies to track those released into programs for mental health, job creation, and housing.

### Racial and Ethnic Fairness

**June - September 2017** – Commission on Racial and Ethnic Fairness holds public feedback sessions in St. Louis, Springfield and Kansas City on juvenile justice issues.

### Racial and Ethnic Fairness

**July 2017** – First phase of "Show-Me Courts" software is piloted throughout the state and St. Louis County with the goal of moving toward one case management system for all municipal divisions.



### Municipal Court Reform/Access to Justice

**June 30, 2017** – Supreme Court approves a bench card for judges concerning "Lawful Enforcement of Legal Financial Obligations" detailing how courts and judges should deal with financial obligations of defendants.

[> LINK TO ORDER](#)

[> LINK TO BENCH CARD](#)



### Access to Justice/Racial and Ethnic Fairness

**June 30, 2017** – Supreme Court appoints a Task Force on Criminal Justice to ensure that Missouri criminal defendants are treated fairly and equitably, and to ensure that the determination and conditions of pretrial release are based on risks of failing to appear and dangerousness to crime victims, communities, or others, and not on race, gender, ethnicity, or economic conditions. The Task Force is charged with reviewing pretrial practices and making recommendations regarding private probation, the imposition and collection of fines, sentencing disputes, driver's license suspensions, and other collateral consequences.

[> LINK TO DOCUMENT](#)



### Access to Justice

**January 1, 2018** – SB 588, 603 and 942 will go into effect. The law expands the opportunities for criminal litigants to seek petitions for expungement of their criminal records for a certain set of convictions.

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