



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Judge Kirsten Poppen Honored with 2026 Women's Justice Award for Public Service

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Judge Kirsten E. Poppen, Associate Circuit Judge for Missouri's 31st Judicial Circuit in Greene County, was honored with a 2026 Women's Justice Award in the Public Service category by Missouri Lawyers Media on April 16 at the Ameristar Resort & Casino in St. Charles, MO.

Now in its 28th year, the Women's Justice Awards recognize women who have demonstrated a track record of excellence, integrity, and service that helps those impacted by the legal system. Judge Poppen was one of 65 Missouri attorneys honored at this year's ceremony, which drew approximately 280 attendees.

Judge Poppen was recognized for her work as Greene County's Civic Education coordinator, a role in which she collaborates with fellow judges to deliver presentations on the judicial system to local civic groups and schools. In the first two months of 2026 alone, judges coordinated through her efforts presented to local schools more than six times. She also regularly hosts student interns and job shadows from area high schools, welcomes college student observers into her courtroom, and organizes monthly "lunch and learn" discussions among the courthouse's judges on current legal issues.

Beyond the courthouse, Judge Poppen volunteers as a judge for mock trial competitions hosted by the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association and Missouri State University, and she also judges high school debate competitions. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Poppen spent more than a decade as a business owner while practicing law before returning to full-time legal practice.

“Judge Poppen’s commitment to public service reflects the best of the 31st Judicial Circuit,” said T. Todd Myers, Presiding Judge of the 31st Judicial Circuit. “Through her work in the courtroom and her dedication to civic education, she helps strengthen public understanding of the courts and the role of the justice system in our community.”

The 31st Judicial Circuit congratulates Judge Poppen on this well-deserved recognition and thanks her for her continued service to Greene County, the legal community and the public.

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Greene County is the State of Missouri’s fourth most populous county, serving approximately 308,000 people. 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, supervises the activities of county departments, fixes salaries, adopts the annual budget, provides for construction and other services, and conducts hearings on planning and zoning matters.

For additional information contact the Greene County Commission’s Public Information Office at 417-844-4311 or pio@greencountymo.gov.