

MICHAEL – JOHN VOSS

Assistant Professor of Law and Law Librarian
Saint Louis University - School of Law
101 N. Tucker Street, St. Louis, MO 63101
314-977-2759 | michaeljohn.voss@slu.edu

EXPERIENCE

Saint Louis University School of Law, St. Louis, MO

Assistant Professor of Law and Law Librarian: 2022—present

Courses: Advanced Legal Research, Intellectual Property Research

Research Interests: Legal Research, Intellectual Property, Civil Rights, Race and the Law, Civil Procedure, Litigation

Academic Governance: Library Faculty Assembly Steering Committee Member, Law School Climate and Retention Working Group

ArchCity Defenders, Inc., St. Louis, MO

Co-Founder/Special Projects Director and Senior Litigator: 2009—2022

Reinert, Weishaar, & Associates PC, St. Louis, MO

Associate Attorney: 2010—2012

Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, Inc., St. Louis, MO

Law Clerk: 2008—2009

Missouri Attorney General's Office, St. Louis, MO

Law Clerk: 2007—2008

Chicago Public Library—Conrad Sulzer Regional Library, Chicago, IL

Reference Librarian: 2004—2006

PRESENTATION, PANELS, PAPERS & PROJECTS

Environmental Racism in St. Louis, Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic at Washington University School of Law, et al., – September 2019 (Contributor)

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5f75504832055a109f6f3ca6/t/63910e6348702e60cea3fb65/1670450793296/2019-09-30_STL_Env_Racism_Report_REVISED_FINAL_Cropped.pdf

Close the Workhouse Report: A Plan to Close the Workhouse and Promote a New Vision for St. Louis, ArchCity Defenders, et al., – January 2019 (Contributor)

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ada6072372b96dbb234ee99/t/5efa4138a8553428c9426948/1593459020672/CTW+Report+1.0.pdf>

Segregation in St. Louis: Dismantling the Divide, Health Equity Works at Washington University Brown School of Social Work, et al., – June 2018 (Contributor)

<https://sites.wustl.edu/healthequityworks/files/2018/06/Segregation-in-St.-Louis-Dismantling-the-Divide-22ih4vw.pdf>

State of the South Conference, Access to Justice Center at Georgia State University School of Law, Atlanta, GA – February 2018 (Panelist)

Moving Justice Forward Conference, The Justice Collaboratory at Yale Law School, New Haven, CT – October 2017 (Speaker)

Shifting the Dialogue: Transportation Equity and Community-Driven Planning, National New Partners for Smart Growth Conference, Citizens for Modern Transit and Metro St. Louis, St. Louis, MO– February 2017 (Speaker)

Shackled to Debt: Criminal Justice Financial Obligations and the Barriers to Re-entry They Create Panel, Harvard University, Kennedy School, MA – January 2017 (Panelist)

Reforming Criminal Justice Panel, The Atlantic Live, The Nexus of Safety and Reform – St. Louis, MO, November 2016 (Panelist)

Indigence in the Criminal Justice System, 2016 Childress Lecture, St. Louis University School of Law, MO - October 2016 (Panelist)

How Municipal Courts Violate Constitutional Rights and Erode Trust to Raise Revenue: What is Happening and What Can be Done About It, Equality Under Law Conference – Plenary Session, Webster University, MO– September 2016 (Speaker)

Love, the Law and Social Justice Panel, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Celebration, University City, MO – January 2016 (Panelist)

ArchCity Defenders: Municipal Courts Whitepaper, ArchCity Defenders, November 2014 (Co-author)
<https://www.archcitydefenders.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/ArchCity-Defenders-Municipal-Courts-Whitepaper.pdf>

United States-China Relation on Intellectual Property Issues, Comparative Law Yearbook of International Business, (Vol. 33, pp. 701-36) Kluwer Law Int. –2011

Enforcement of Arbitration Awards Around the World: An International Survey, International Dispute Resolution: Comparative Law Yearbook of International Business, (Vol. 31A, pp. 351-366) Kluwer Law Int. –2010 (Co-author)

ABA Law Student Division 2009 Fall Leadership Summit, Public Interest Law Panel Discussion, St. Louis, MO –November 2009 (Panelist)

Issues Affecting Payment—State and Federal Prompt Pay Laws, Construction Lien Law Annual Conference, St. Louis, MO – 2007 (Co-author)

Serving Ethnic Populations—Planning Programs and Building Collections, Illinois Library Association Annual Conference, Peoria, IL – 2005 (Speaker)

MEDIA

Film, Ferguson Rises, The Inspiring Story of the residents of Ferguson, Missouri, The Hope Love and Beauty Project, Mobolaji Olambiwonnu (2021) <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt5918432/>

Interview, Ferguson Settlement Will Refund Court Fees, ArchCity Co-Founder Says, St. Louis Public Radio, Sarah Fenske (April 2, 2020) <https://www.stlpr.org/show/st-louis-on-the-air/2020-04-02/ferguson-settlement-will-refund-court-fees-archcity-co-founder-says>

Interview, Veteran Who Spurred Historic Missouri Debtors Prison Ruling Finds Himself Back Behind Bars, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Tony Messenger (February 5, 2020) https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/messenger-veteran-who-spurred-historic-missouri-debtors-prison-ruling-finds-himself-back-behind-bars/article_85a36bb3-749c-5eae-8231-3771d19593cf.html

Interview, ArchCity Celebrates 10 Years of Advocacy, Growth, St. Louis Public Radio, Sarah Fenske (November 7, 2019) <https://www.stlpr.org/show/st-louis-on-the-air/2019-11-07/archcity-defenders-celebrates-10-years-of-advocacy-growth>

Interview, Muslim Man's Civil Rights Lawsuit Points to Islamophobia, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Tony Messenger (August 27, 2019) https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/columns/tony-messenger/messenger-muslim-mans-civil-rights-lawsuit-points-to-islamophobic-facebook-posts-of-jailer/article_3e010aea-d0e4-56e8-8836-3ed4569550ca.html

Interview, Punitive. Predatory. Dehumanizing. Could it Happen Again?, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Jeremy Kohler, (August 6, 2019) https://www.stltoday.com/news/special-reports/punitive-predatory-dehumanizing-criminal-justice-in-st-louis-area-has-changed-but-is-it-enough/article_6964b792-3726-5455-8737-fa1e85891253.html

Interview, Municipal Courts are Less of a Cash Cow Five Years After Ferguson, but Problems Remain, St. Louis Public Radio, Rachel Lippman (August 6, 2019) <https://www.stlpr.org/government-politics-issues/2019-08-06/municipal-courts-are-less-of-a-cash-cow-five-years-after-ferguson-but-problems-remain>

Interview, ArchCity Defender Co-Founder, Law Professor Offer Analysis of Missouri's Pre-Trial Rules, St. Louis Public Radio, Sarah Fenske (June 27, 2019) <https://www.stlpr.org/show/st-louis-on-the-air/2019-06-27/archcity-defenders-co-founder-law-professor-offer-analysis-of-missouris-new-pretrial-rules>

Interview, A Happy Ending for St. Louis woman who faced Six Months in Rural Jail Over Speeding Ticket, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Tony Messenger (January 27, 2019) https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/messenger-a-happy-ending-for-st-louis-woman-who-faced-six-months-in-rural-jail/article_9a1d621e-d1f5-591b-99d5-3353439f0e93.html

Interview, Missourians Struggling to Keep Upon Child Support Face Perpetuating Cycle, Say Local Attorneys, St. Louis Public Radio, Sarah Fenske (August 15, 2018) <https://www.stlpr.org/show/st-louis-on-the-air/2018-08-15/missourians-struggling-to-keep-up-on-child-support-face-perpetuating-cycle-say-local-attorneys>

Featured, ArchCity Defenders Makes Guide to Help People Maneuver Legal System, St. Louis Public Radio, Marissanne Lewis-Thompson (April 22, 2018) <https://www.stlpr.org/government-politics-issues/2018-04-22/archcity-defenders-makes-guide-to-help-people-maneuver-legal-system#stream/0>

Interview, Legal Roundtable: St. Louis Police Actions, Sexual Harassment Allegations, Taking on Google, More, St. Louis Public Radio, Don Marsh (November 20, 2017), <https://www.stlpr.org/show/st-louis-on-the-air/2017-11-20/legal-roundtable-st-louis-police-actions-sexual-harassment-allegations-taking-on-google-more>

Featured, Municipal Courts Stoked the Rage That Exploded in Ferguson. Have they Changed?, Huffington Post, Ryan Reilly (September 14, 2017) https://www.huffpost.com/entry/st-louis-county-municipal-courts-ferguson_n_59b95ee9e4b0edff97188a1f

Interview, In North St. Louis County the Court and Poverty Intertwine, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Tony Messenger (May 29, 2017) https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/messenger-in-north-st-louis-county-the-courts-and-poverty-intertwine/article_f7d7ac14-3cc6-5f42-b070-6609a459c243.html

Film, Ferguson 365, Documentary Short, Maverick Media, Chris Phillips (2015) https://m.imdb.com/title/tt5292572/?ref=tt_rvi_tt_i_3

Featured, Two Years After Ferguson, Missouri Cops Are Accused of Shaking Down the Poor, Vice News, Daniel Denvir (November 2, 2016) <https://www.vice.com/en/article/gqk58q/maplewood-missouri-ferguson-st-louis-county-debtor-prison-poor-arrest-fine>

Interview, Ferguson Judge Holds Vet's Reputation in Her Hands, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Tony Messenger (September 16, 2016) https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/messenger-ferguson-judge-holds-naval-vets-reputation-in-her-hands/article_5fd18b94-c99c-520f-9d17-79c710b3cfa7.html

Featured, Debtors Prison: Life Inside America's For-Profit Justice System, Vice News (August 16, 2016) https://video.vice.com/en_us/video/debtors-prisons-life-inside-americas-for-profit-justice-system/56f95141d675f3a8077011bd?latest=1

Interview, Suit Takes Aim at 'Debtor' Prisons' in St. Louis County Cities, St. Louis Public Radio, Jason Rosenbaum (August 10, 2016) <https://www.stlpr.org/politics-issues/2016-08-10/suit-takes-aim-at-debtors-prisons-in-st-louis-county-cities#stream/0>

Interview, Lawsuit Alleges Wrongful Arrests, Seeks \$20 Million, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Stephen Deere (August 10, 2016) https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/suit-seeks-20-million-alleging-wrongful-arrests-prosecutions-in-ferguson/article_be51dc4a-0f99-5a5d-a512-7aae4cac94ec.html

Featured, Missouri City to Pay \$4.7 Million to Settle Suit Over Jailing Practices, New York Times, Campbell Robertson (July 15, 2016) <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/16/us/missouri-city-to-pay-4-7-million-to-settle-suit-over-jailing-practices.html>

Featured, St. Louis County Police Arrest Blacks Without Warrants, Lawsuit Alleges, Newsweek, Jacob Kirn (February 25, 2016) <https://www.newsweek.com/one-year-after-michael-browns-death-driving-while-black-still-problem-st-louis-360736>

Interview, Class Action Suit Targets "Illegal" Florissant Court Fees, Riverfront Times, Sarah Fenske (January 22, 2016) <https://www.riverfronttimes.com/news/class-action-suit-targets-illegal-florissant-court-fees-3054767>

Interview, Overlapping Judges, Prosecutors Weave Tangled Web in St. Louis County Municipal Courts, St. Louis Public Radio, Durrie Bouscaren (March 22, 2015) <https://www.stlpr.org/politics-issues/2015-03-22/overlapping-judges-prosecutors-weave-tangled-web-in-st-louis-county-municipal-courts>

Interview, Ferguson Court Reform Points to Deeper Concern for St. Louis, Christian Science Monitor, Henry Gass (August 26, 2015) <https://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Justice/2015/0826/Ferguson-court-reform-points-to-deeper-concern-for-St.-Louis>

Featured, Report: Racial Motivations in St. Louis County Traffic Practices, Newsweek, Victoria Bekiempis (August 14, 2015) <https://www.newsweek.com/one-year-after-michael-browns-death-driving-while-black-still-problem-st-louis-360736>

Featured, Policing by Fleecing, in Ferguson and Beyond, Washington Post, Ruth Marcus (March 6, 2015) https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/in-ferguson-and-other-cities-jailed-for-being-poor/2015/03/06/e8cb5896-c42a-11e4-9271-610273846239_story.html

Interview, Civil Rights Lawyers Sue Ferguson Over Debtor's Prisons', Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), The Current (February 18, 2015) <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/thecurrent/korean-adoptees-return-home-civil-rights-in-ferguson-and-the-secrets-of-monopoly-1.2961822/civil-rights-lawyers-sue-ferguson-over-debtors-prisons-1.2961855>

Interview, Debtors' Prisons and Deplorable Conditions, Mellissa Harris-Perry (MHP) The Syllabus, Dorian Warren (February 15, 2015) <https://www.msnbc.com/melissa-harris-perry/mhp-syllabus-21515-msna530016>

Interview, Ferguson Resident Challenge "Modern Debtor" Prison Scheme" Targeting Blacks with Fines, Arrests, Democracy Now, Amy Goodman, Aaron Maté (February 10, 2015) https://www.democracynow.org/2015/2/10/ferguson_residents_challenge_modern_debtors_prison?jwsourc=cl

Featured, St. Louis Suburbs Ferguson and Jennings Sued Over Debtors Prison Criminalizing Poverty, Vice News, Alice Speri (February 9, 2015) <https://www.vice.com/en/article/wjym95/st-louis-suburbs-ferguson-and-jennings-sued-over-debtors-prisons-criminalizing-poverty>

Interview, Jail Time For Unpaid Court Fines and Fees Can Create Cycle of Poverty, National Public Radio (NPR), Morning Edition, Joe Shapiro (February 9, 2015) <https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2015/02/09/384968360/jail-time-for-unpaid-court-fines-and-fees-can-create-cycle-of-poverty>

Interview, Civil Rights Attorneys Sue Ferguson Over 'Debtors Prisons', National Public Radio (NPR), Morning Edition, Joe Shapiro (February 8, 2015) <https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2015/02/08/384332798/civil-rights-attorneys-sue-ferguson-over-debtors-prisons>

Featured, How Expensive It Is To Be Poor, New York Times, Opinion, Charles Blow (January 19, 2015) <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/19/opinion/charles-blow-how-expensive-it-is-to-be-poor.html>

Featured, Justice in St. Louis County, New York Times, New York Time Editorial Board (September 7, 2014) <https://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/07/opinion/sunday/inquiry-into-ferguson-mo-police-practices-is-just-a-start.html>

Interview, How Municipalities in St. Louis County, Missouri Profit from Poverty. The Uprising in Ferguson was an Inevitable Reaction to the Institutional Racism coursing Through the Area for Decades, Washington Post, Radley Balko, (September 3, 2014) <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-watch/wp/2014/09/03/how-st-louis-county-missouri-profits-from-poverty/>

Featured, In Ferguson, Court Fines and Fees Fuel Anger, National Public Radio, Joseph Shapiro (August 25, 2014) <https://www.npr.org/2014/08/25/343143937/in-ferguson-court-fines-and-fees-fuel-anger>

Featured, Injustice in Ferguson, Long Before Michael Brown, Bloomberg News, Peter Coy (August 21, 2014) <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2014-08-21/ferguson-economic-political-conditions-fuel-protest-fury?embedded-checkout=true>

Interview, ArchCity Defenders: Meet the Legal Superheroes Fighting for St. Louis' Downtrodden, Riverfront Times, Ray Downs (April 24, 2014) <https://www.riverfronttimes.com/news/archcity-defenders-meet-the-legal-superheroes-fighting-for-st-louis-downtrodden-2505869>

Interview, Fighting for Justice: SLU Law Attorneys Provide a Holistic Approach to Criminal Defense, Saint Louis Brief, Kim Gordon (Winter 2010) <https://issuu.com/kimleydiggordon/docs/slu-law-brief>

REPORTED CASES

Investors Alliance, v. Inez Bordeaux, (E.D. MO99804). (Opinion in favor of Defendant: April 15, 2014)
Templeton v. Dotson, 4:14-cv- 01019 (E.D. Mo. 2015) (settlement approved January 2015)
Jenkins et al. v. City of Jennings, 15-cv- 252-CEJ (E.D. Mo. 2015) (settlement approved Dec. 2016)
Powell, et. al v. City of St. Ann, 4:15-cv-840 (E.D. Mo. 2015) (settlement approved March 2015)
Pierce, et. al v. City of Velda City, 4:15-cv- 570 (E.D. Mo. 2015) (settlement approved May 2015)
Watkins, et. al v. City of Florissant, 16SL-CC00165 (21st Cir Ct., Jan. 2016) (settlement approved Sept. 2017) (settlement approved Dec. 2022)
Lampkins, et al. v. City of Jennings, 14SL-CC04207 (21st Cir. Ct., Dec. 2014) (settlement approved Nov. 2016)
Johnson v. City of Kansas City, 1516-cv-07365 (16th Cir Ct., 2015) (settlement approved May 2017)
Eldridge v. City of St. John, 15SL-CC00456 (21st Cir. Ct., Feb. 2015) (settlement approved Dec. 2018)
Fant, et al. v. City of Ferguson, 15-cv- 253-AGF (E.D. Mo. Jan. 2015) (settlement approved Sept. 2023)
Thomas et al. v. St. Ann, et al., 4:16-cv- 1302 (E.D. Mo. Aug. 2016) (settlement approved June 2022)
Pruett, et al. v. Village of Bel-Ridge et al., 14SL-CC03593 (21st Cir. Ct., Oct. 2014)
Reed v. City of Ferguson, 14SL-CC04195 (St. Louis Co. Cir. Ct., Dec. 2014) (settlement approved May 2020)
Cody, et al., v. City of St. Louis, 4:17-cv-02707-AGF (E.D. Mo. Nov. 2017) (class certified May 2022)
Dixon, et al. v. City of St. Louis, 4:19-cv-00112-AGF (E.D. Mo. Feb. 2019)

EDUCATION

Saint Louis University School of Law

Juris Doctor – May 2009

- Certificate in International and Comparative Law, Public Interest Law Group
- Admissions: Missouri, United States 8th Circuit, Eastern and Western District Courts of Missouri

University of Georgia, School of Law

Chinese Law Certificate – June 2007

University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana

Master of Library & Information Science – May 2004

University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana

Bachelor of Fine Arts in the History of Art – August 2001

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography – May 2001

A W A R D S

2018 Thomas Merton Award, *Thomas Merton Center, Pittsburgh, PA*
2017 Harvard Club Community Service Award, *Harvard Club of Saint Louis, MO*
2016 Injustice Anywhere Award, *The National Benevolent Association, MO*
2016 Ethics in Action, *Ethical Society of St. Louis*
2016 Trial Lawyer of the Year Award, *Public Justice, Los Angeles, CA*
2016 What's Right with the Region Award, *FOCUS St. Louis*
2014 Leadership St. Louis – 2014-15 Class Member, *FOCUS St. Louis*
2014 Best Lawyers Award, *Riverfront Times, St. Louis*
2014 New Leaders in Advocacy Award, *National Legal Aid and Defenders Association, DC*
2013 Atticus Finch Award, *Missouri Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys*
2012 Spirit of Justice Award, *Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis*
2011 Missouri Bar Pro Bono Hall of Fame, *Missouri Bar Association*

M E M B E R S H I P S

- Missouri Bar Association
- American Bar Association
- Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis
- American Association of Law Libraries
- Mid-America Association of Law Libraries
- National Public Defenders Association
- Saint Louis University School of Law Alumni Association
- University of Illinois Alumni Association