

FREE PUBLIC EVENT

“Freedom and The Courts”

Monday April 16, 2012, 1:00-3:00 pm

Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse
111 South Tenth Street, St. Louis, MO 63102
28th Floor, En Banc Courtroom

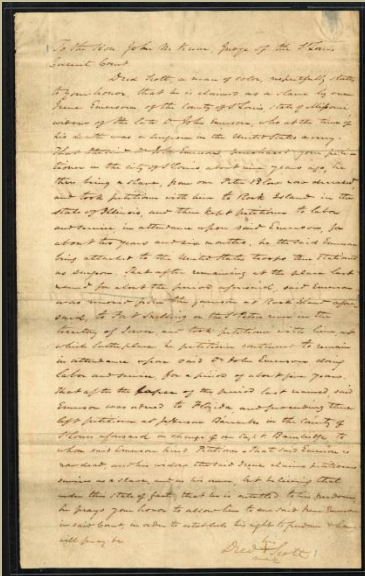


Did you know that over 300 individuals sued for their freedom in St. Louis, and that many of them won?

What made Dred and Harriet Scott's case different from those before them, if anything?

Learn about the local stories and infamous decisions that will forever be a part of our history.

The United States Courts invite you to an afternoon of learning, exploration and discussion. This program is held in conjunction with the exhibition “Free at Last: A History of the Abolition of Slavery in America,” on display at the courthouse through April 20, 2012.



A 12:30 P.M. reception will precede the program.

Free and open to the public. To make a reservation, call or email Rachel Marshall at (314)244-2410 or Rachel.Marshall@ca8.uscourts.gov.

Attendees will be required to pass through a security screening upon entering the building. Photo ID is required. Cameras are not allowed in the courthouse.

For further information and speaker bios, visit www.moed.uscourts.gov.



Image Credits: Dred Scott, Courtesy of the Library of Congress
Dred Scott's petition for freedom, Courtesy of the National Archives

12:30 P.M. - Reception and Light Refreshments

1:00 P.M. - Welcome and Opening Remarks

Lynne M. Jackson, President and Founder of the Dred Scott Heritage Foundation, and great-great granddaughter of Dred and Harriet Scott.

1:15 P.M. - The Honorable Duane Benton, Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. *A Judicial Perspective on the Dred Scott Decisions.*

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Dred Scott v. Sandford* (1857) was a precipitating cause of the Civil War. In addition to insights into that decision, Judge Benton will analyze the predecessor decision of the Missouri Supreme Court in *Scott v. Emerson* (1852). Judge Benton, the expert on the Missouri decision, raises "what might have been" in light of the precedent on freedom suits in Missouri, and discusses the lessons of the Missouri decision for modern-day judges and lawyers.

2:00 P.M. - Robert Moore, PhD., Historian, The Old Courthouse, National Park Service. *They Love Liberty.*

This portion of the program will highlight the struggles of persons of color within the St. Louis court system to gain their freedom during the 19th century. Learn about slave suits for freedom, emancipations, freedom licenses, and underground railroad activity as revealed in court documents, newspaper reports, and memoirs of the period. See court records documenting the auctions of enslaved persons from the steps of the Old Courthouse.

Followed by tours of the “Free at Last” exhibit at 3:00 P.M.