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## People in Business

### Judge Armouti attends Seoul judicial conference

Judge Veronica Armouti attended Judicial Renaissance II, a conference of The National Judicial College in Seoul, South Korea from Sept. 19 to 22, 2022.



Armouti

Judges engaged with experts from the arts, humanities, and science to better understand the context of the legal system and judges' place within it. During Judicial Renaissance,

judges rediscovered the foundations of justice as embodied within the scope of lasting human achievements. The focus of the program was not the specifics of legal theory but rather how the law is enhanced by other disciplines.

The conference was hosted by the Judicial Research and Training Institute (JRTI) of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Korea.

The U.S. judges met with Honorable Kim Yong bin, President of the Judicial Research and Training Institute and Chief Judge of Korea's High Court, and several other Korean High Court, District, and Trial judges. American and Korean judges attended lectures from Dr. Park Hyun-Mo, Dean, Korean Leadership Academy and other presenters; and visited cultural and historic sites.

Judge Armouti along with 20 trial,

appellate, and state Supreme Court judges from the U.S. and Guam attended the conference. Judge Armouti received a scholarship from the National Judicial College for this conference.

### First Mid mortgage welcomes Banks

First Mid Bank & Trust has welcomed Carlos Banks as their new Mortgage Loan Officer serving Alton and the surrounding communities.



Banks

Banks received an Associate Degree from Butler Community College in El Dorado, Kan., and received his Bachelor of Arts from Southwest Missouri State University in Hospitality Administration/Management. He also played college football at both Oklahoma State University and Southwest Missouri State University.

Banks is an avid supporter of community organizations, and actively volunteers with the Special Olympics. He enjoys spending time with his two sons, playing golf, and watching professional football.

He is located at the First Mid Bank & Trust banking center at 111 E. 4th St. in Alton. Banks can also be reached at (618) 619-1114 or (817) 715-1393.

### Downing joins insurance agency as new producer

Courtney Downing has joined Downing Insurance Agency, Inc., as a licensed producer in Illinois and Missouri. A third-generation member of Downing Insurance, Courtney graduated from Metro East Lutheran High School before completing her Bachelor of Science degree at Western Kentucky University. She



Downing

will be joining her family at the agency and following tradition, providing a high level of quality service.

Located at 756 Central Ave. in Alton, Downing can be reached in her new role at (618) 462-1001 or by email at [insurance@downingins.com](mailto:insurance@downingins.com).

### IMPACT Strategies promotes Trout to Office Ops Manager

IMPACT Strategies has announced the promotion of Amber Trout who has been promoted to Office Operations Manager from Operations Administrator.



Trout

From her first day at IMPACT Strategies in April of 2008, Trout has been the

“go-to” source for office operations support. She also leads support of the firm's safety program, recruits support staff, and works to increase overall company efficiency. In her new role as Office Operations Manager, Trout will lead the support of operations activities at every level of the organization.

Amber Trout has nearly 15 years of experience and holds a degree in social science from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

### SIUE's Hall receives UMSL's alumni award

The University of Missouri–St. Louis recently honored the contributions of six outstanding alumni in the fields of busi-



Hall

ness, education, geoscience and nonprofit leadership during its 31st annual Founders Celebration.

Among the honorees was Candace Hall, an assistant professor and graduate program director in the Department of Educational Leadership at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, who received the Outstanding Young Alumni Award. UMSL has presented the Distinguished Alumni Awards annually since 1987 to honor esteemed alumni for their professional accomplishments, community service or both while also representing the highest standards of integrity and character.