

Speaker: Jeff Kushner

Jeffrey Kushner is the Montana Statewide Drug Court Coordinator with the Montana Supreme Court/Office of the Court Administrator. Kushner assumed his duties in January of 2008. Kushner, in November of 2015, received an award by the Supreme Court of the State of Montana for "Distinguished Service to The Montana Judiciary And The People of The State of Montana."

Prior to assuming his duties in Montana, Kushner was the Drug Court Administrator for the 22nd Judicial Circuit in St. Louis, MO. Mr. Kushner began with the Circuit in December of 1996 as the primary planner for the drug court that opened in April of 1997. Since that time, the Court en banc of the 22nd Judicial Circuit approved a unified drug court with a single administration for the Adult Felony Drug Court (Pre and post plea), Family Drug Court, Juvenile Drug Court, Post Plea Felony Drug Court and the co-occurring docket of the Adult Felony Drug Court. Kushner served as the lead trainer at the National Rural Institute on Alcohol and Drug Abuse where he taught the basic drug court track. Kushner is a reviewer for the Department of Justice for a wide variety of drug court and other categories of grant applications.

Previous to his position in St. Louis, Kushner was the State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Director in Nebraska, Colorado and Oregon over a period of 27 years. Kushner was the Director in Oregon for sixteen years where he was designated as Manager of the Year in Oregon's Executive Service. Kushner has served on numerous national task forces, committees and the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment National Advisory Council. Kushner was President of the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors and received their Outstanding Service Award for his contribution to that organization. Other awards include the Oregon Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse President's Award, The Harold E. Hughes Exceptional Services Award, Ecumenical Ministries Award for Public Service, Women's Commission Award from the Oregon Women's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Issues, and the Administrator's Award for Public Service from the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the Federal government. Upon leaving St. Louis, the 22nd Judicial Circuit recognized Kushner for, "his vision, knowledge, persistence, diligence, and leadership in creating and developing the St. Louis City Drug Courts. Kushner was also recognized by the Supreme Court of Missouri for his contribution to the drug court movement in Missouri.

Kushner lives in the foothills of the Bitterroot Mountains with his wife, Siberian Husky and Great Pyrenees and is an active volunteer fire fighter and past President of the Victor, Montana Rural Volunteer Fire District Association.