

Rooker Report

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LEGAL COMMUNITY DECLARES OCTOBER "CELEBRATE PRO BONO MONTH"

The Tennessee and Nashville Bar Associations are joining with legal organizations across the state of Tennessee for "Celebrate Pro Bono Month" during October 2009. A full slate of activities are scheduled to take place across the state to bring attention to pro bono efforts of Tennessee lawyers, to help Tennessee citizens in need of legal assistance, and to provide training for Tennessee attorneys who take part in pro bono work.

"Despite welcome indications of improvements in the economy," TBA President Gail Vaughn Ashworth said, "the reality for many in our state is that they cannot afford basic legal services. The TBA is committed to providing all lawyers opportunities to provide free legal assistance to these needy Tennesseans."

Studies have shown that more than one million Tennesseans are unable to afford needed legal services and more than seven out of ten of these Tennesseans, or 700,000, will face legal problems each year. Last year, it is estimated that Tennessee lawyers provided more than twenty million dollars worth of pro bono or free legal assistance. On April 4th of this year, the TBA led efforts resulting in

the participation of more than 575 lawyers who in one day served more than 1,323 Tennesseans in need of legal services.

The Tennessee Supreme Court has made access to justice its number one strategic priority and towards this end has established an Access to Justice Commission to foster and promote better access to justice in Tennessee. During the month of October 2009, the Celebrate Pro Bono activities will continue this effort to tackle the growing need for access to our system of justice by those in need with free legal clinics, "Meet the Need" challenges, "Wills for Heroes" programs and other events across the state.

More than 40 Tennessee law firms have also adopted formal pro bono policies and Tennessee Supreme Court Chief Justice Janice Holder has been a leader in encouraging other firms to adopt policies. In issuing a Proclamation proclaiming October 2009 as "Tennessee Celebrates Pro Bono Month," Governor Bredesen commended the volunteer legal services provided by Tennessee lawyers and called upon all Tennesseans to celebrate these pro bono efforts.

September Trial Verdicts

Jury

CIRCUIT COURT

Appeals

GENERAL SESSIONS

Week of September 14

CASE	TYPE	COURT	PRAYER	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
06C-2495	MEDICAL MALPRACTICE	1		P-\$5,200			
08C-3084	AUTOMOBILE	6		P-\$10,045			
08C-1736	AUTOMOBILE	2		D-VERDICT			

Week of September 21

CASE	TYPE	COURT	PRAYER	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
06C-2261	AUTOMOBILE	5		P-\$12,454			
07C-2160	AUTOMOBILE	2		P-\$1,150			

Non-Jury

CIRCUIT COURT

Week of September 28

CASE	TYPE	COURT	PRAYER	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
09C-2186	GSA/CONTRACT - DEBT	6		P-\$2,923		D-DISMISSED	PLAINTIFF
07C-2323	DECLARATORY RELIEF	5		P-VERDICT			
09C-1989	PROPERTY RENTAL/CONVERSION	6		P-\$27,779			
07C-2732	WORKER'S COMPENSATION	6		P-VERDICT			

BINKLEY COMPLETES COURSE AT NATIONAL JUDICIAL COLLEGE



Judge Joe Binkley

Judge Joe Binkley of the 20th Judicial District Fifth Circuit Court was one of three Tennessee trial court judges who recently completed the General Jurisdiction course at the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada. Binkley, along with Judge David Earl Durham of

the 15th Judicial District Circuit Court (Jackson, Macon, Smith, Trousdale and Wilson counties) and Judge Bobby Ray McGee, of the 6th Judicial District Criminal Court in Knoxville, completed the 11-day course that took place from October 4-15, 2009.

Course participants learned how to manage cases involving self-represented litigants; conduct jury and non-jury trials more effectively; summarize and apply developments in criminal law and procedure, family law, judicial discretion, judicial ethics and sentencing; rule on evidence more confidently; make fair and unbiased decisions; and interact with the media in a positive manner.

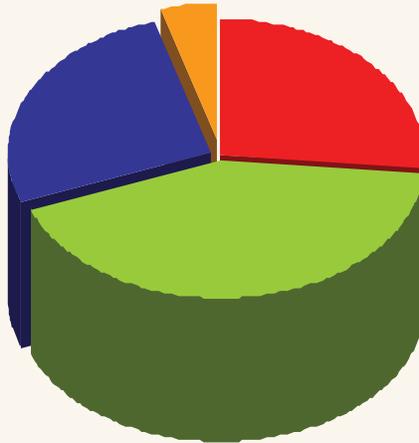
The judges received scholarships from the State Justice Institute and National Judicial College to attend the course.

"We encourage all new judges to attend the National Judicial College to enhance their skills on the bench," said Libby Sykes, Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts. "I commend Judge Binkley, Judge Durham and Judge McGee for completing this rigorous curriculum and placing such an importance on furthering their judicial education."

The National Judicial College was founded in 1963 and is the nation's leading provider of judicial education. For more than 45 years, the NJC has been offering courses to improve judicial productivity, challenge current perceptions of justice and inspire judges to achieve judicial excellence.



Civil Trial Recap By Class



Miscellaneous	54%
Auto	22%
Contracts	21%
Medical Malpractice	3%



DATA BANK

September 2009

Case Information

Circuit Court

New Civil Cases Filed	181
Jury	79
Non-Jury	102
Civil Cases Concluded	202
Jury	143
Non-Jury	59
New Divorce Cases Filed	193
Divorce Cases Concluded	207
Domestic Petitions Filed	203
Domestic Petitions Concluded	263

General Sessions Civil

New Cases Filed	3,829
Executions Issued	4,772
Garnishment Payments	5,032
Judgments Collected	\$1,018,080
Orders of Protection Petitions	226

Probate Court

New Cases Filed	153
Cases Closed	135

Traffic Violations

Moving Citations	10,958
Total Violations	15,772
Parking Violations	4,814
Total Fines Collected	\$554,136
Nullifications	1,415
Nullification Fees Collected	\$16,974
Environmental Citations	381
*Credit Card Payments	4,042

*--Online and phone payments combined

Case Analyses

GENRE	SEPTEMBER	YTD
AUTO ACCIDENTS	4	55
PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	3	37
DEFENDANT VERDICTS	1	13
NONE	0	5
CONTRACTS	1	52
PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	1	38
DEFENDANT VERDICTS	0	13
NONE	0	1
TOTAL AWARDS	\$2,923	*\$616,477
*REPRESENTS AMOUNTS DISCLOSED BY COURT		
MEDICAL MALPRACTICE	1	7
PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	1	4
DEFENDANT VERDICTS	0	3
PENDING	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS	3	134
PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	3	99
DEFENDANT VERDICTS	0	29
NONE	0	6

Auto Accident Cases

	SEPTEMBER	YTD
JURY TRIALS	4	35
NON-JURY TRIALS	0	20
PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	3	37
DEFENDANT VERDICTS	1	13
NONE	0	5
HIGHEST JUDGMENT	\$12,454	\$2,500,000
AVERAGE JUDGMENT	N/A	N/A

Soft Tissue Auto Cases

	SEPTEMBER	YTD
JURY TRIALS	4	18
NON-JURY TRIALS	0	0
PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	3	14
DEFENDANT VERDICTS	1	4

General Sessions Auto Appeals

	SEPTEMBER	YTD
PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	0	7
DEFENDANT VERDICTS	0	5
NONE	0	0

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If you have a disability and require assistance, please contact 862-5204