



# ROOKER

## JANUARY 2012

# REPORT

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE DAVIDSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE CIRCUIT COURT CLERK'S OFFICE

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## THE YEAR IN REVIEW



### CIRCUIT COURT

	2011	2010	2011 vs. 2010
Total Number of New Civil Cases Filed (Non-Domestic)	2,480	2,503	- 23
Total Number of Civil Cases Concluded (Non-Domestic)	2,600	2,596	+ 4
Total Number of New Divorce Cases Filed	2,286	2,362	- 76
Total Number of Divorce Cases Concluded	2,435	2,147	+ 288
Total Number of Domestic Petitions Filed	2,702	2,539	+ 163
Total Number of Domestic Petitions Concluded	2,734	4,480	- 1,746

### PROBATE

Total Number of New Cases Filed	1,902	1,907	- 5
Total Number of Cases Concluded	1,802	1,829	- 27
Number of Petitions to Probate a Will Filed	825	927	- 102
Number of Petitions for Letters of Administration Filed	285	261	+ 24
Number of Small Estate Cases Filed	288	272	+ 16
Number of Conservatorship Cases Filed	204	202	+ 2
Number of Guardianship of a Minor Cases Filed	37	38	- 1
Number of Name Change Cases Filed	114	94	+ 20
Number of Trust and Other Matters Filed	82	113	- 31

### GENERAL SESSIONS CIVIL

Total Number of New Cases Filed	48,368	47,287	+ 1,081
Number of Civil Warrants Filed	25,085	25,542	- 457
Number of Detainer Warrants Filed	11,485	11,632	- 147
Number of Recovery Warrants Filed	339	341	- 2
Number of Petitions for an Order of Protection Filed	2,867	2,593	+ 274
Number of Emergency Committals	7,344	6,038	+ 1,306
Number of Other Miscellaneous Matters Filed	1,248	1,141	+ 107
Number of Executions Issued	45,032	50,058	- 5,026
Number of Garnishment Payments Received	53,123	52,652	+ 471
Total Dollar Amount of Judgments Collected	\$11,311,946	\$10,879,213	+\$432,733

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"The mind of a bigot is like the pupil of the eye; the more light you pour upon it, the more it will contract."



Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.  
(1841 - 1935)

U.S. Supreme Court Justice

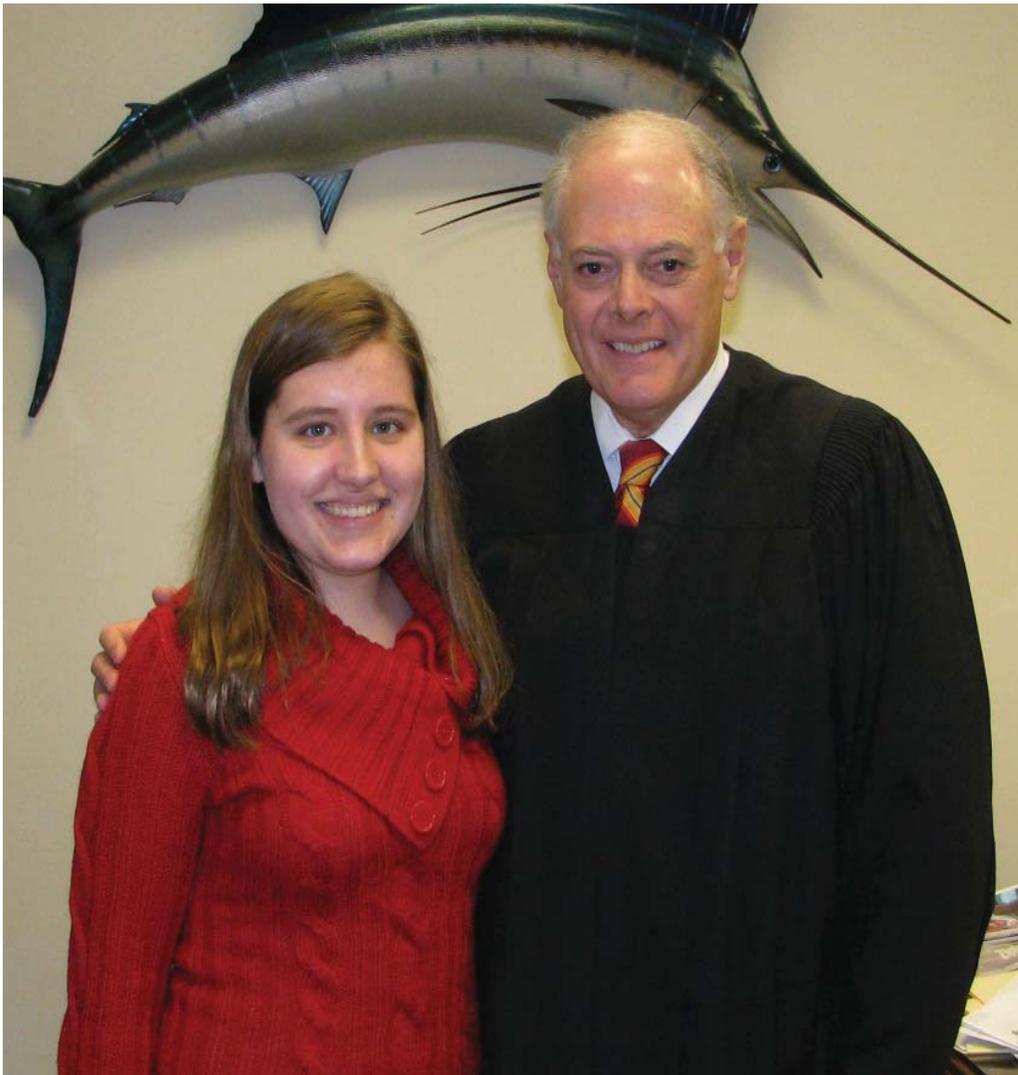
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## TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS BUREAU

	2011	2010	2011 vs. 2010
Total Number of Traffic Citations Processed (Moving & Parking)	131,888	166,865	- 34,977
Number of Moving Citations Processed	86,258	115,272	- 29,014
Number of Parking Citations Processed	45,630	51,593	- 5,963
Number of Environmental Citations Processed	3,002	4,827	- 1,825
Total Amount of Fines Collected	\$5,302,228	\$6,401,389	- \$1,099,161
Total Number of Nullifications	11,449	14,392	- 2,943
Total Amount of Nullification Fees Collected	\$137,378	\$172,684	- \$35,306
Total Number of Credit Card Payments Processed	35,166	36,303	- 1,137

## JUDGE BINKLEY HOSTS HARPETH HALL INTERN

JUNIOR MIRANDA RONNOW GETS UP CLOSE LOOK AT LEGAL SYSTEM DURING HER WINTERIM PROGRAM



Miranda Ronnow, a Junior at Harpeth Hall, poses with Fifth Circuit Court Judge Joe P. Binkley, Jr. during her Winterim Internship Program.

Judge Joe P. Binkley, Jr., presiding judge for the Davidson County trial courts and judge of the Fifth Circuit Court, was proud to host Miranda Ronnow, a Junior at Harpeth Hall, for her Winterim program this past January.

Begun in 1973, Winterim is a three week program of on and off campus opportunities meant to broaden the intellectual horizons of the students at Harpeth Hall. As part of an innovative curriculum, Winterim takes place every January and offers students an opportunity in experiential learning, creating for them a chance to see their academic studies take a tangible, dynamic form. Ninety-seven students interned in the greater Nashville area at hospitals, production companies, media outlets, courtrooms, financial institutions, government offices, social service agencies and schools.

Miranda, who has taken a keen interest in the legal profession from the perspective of a trial lawyer, was able to observe a highly complex medical malpractice trial conducted by experienced and seasoned attorneys.

# CIRCUIT COURT TRIAL VERDICTS

## JANUARY 2012

### JURY TRIALS

**IF CASE WAS  
APPEALED FROM  
GENERAL SESSIONS**

CASE	TYPE	COURT	CIRCUIT JUDGMENT	GEN. SESSIONS JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
<b>Week of January 9</b>					
10C-3950	AUTOMOBILE	6	PLAINTIFF \$7,716	P - \$15,622	DEFENDANT
06C-2750	HEALTH CARE LIABILITY	5	DEFENDANT VERDICT	N/A	
<b>Week of January 23</b>					
10C-228	MALICIOUS PROSECUTION	2	DEFENDANT VERDICT	N/A	
10C-3311	AUTOMOBILE	1	PLAINTIFF \$143,152	N/A	
09C-1429	AUTOMOBILE	2	DISMISSED (PRO SE PLAINTIFF FAILED TO APPEAR)	N/A	

### NON-JURY TRIALS

CASE	TYPE	COURT	CIRCUIT JUDGMENT	GEN. SESSIONS JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
<b>Week of January 30</b>					
10C-4781	TRAFFIC APPEAL	2	AGREED JUDGMENT	N/A	
11C-3653	CONTRACT / DEBT	2	PLAINTIFF \$6,696	P - \$9,500	DEFENDANT
11C-3161	TRAFFIC APPEAL	1	PLAINTIFF (TICKET REDUCED, \$25 FINE, COSTS)	N/A	
11C-2238	AUTOMOBILE	2	DEFENDANT / DISMISSED	P - \$4,719	DEFENDANT
11C-3338	CONTRACT	5	PLAINTIFF (DISMISSED - D FAILED TO APPEAR)	P - POSSESSION	DEFENDANT
10C-2446	WORKERS' COMP	5	DEFENDANT EMPLOYEE \$707,296	N/A	
10C-2127	CONTRACT / DEBT	2	DEFENDANT / DISMISSED (COSTS SPLIT)	P - \$9,214	PLAINTIFF
11C-3906	TRAFFIC APPEAL	1	PLAINTIFF / DISMISSED	N/A	
11C-1639	TRAFFIC APPEAL	1	PLAINTIFF (DRIVER GUILTY OF SPEEDING BUT LANE VIOLATION DISMISSED)	N/A	
11C-3456	DETAINER	5	PLAINTIFF \$7,813	P - \$3,124 (+ POSS)	DEFENDANT
11C-3959	CONTRACT / DEBT	5	PLAINTIFF \$8,156	P - \$28,500	DEFENDANT
11C-2115	MOTION TO QUASH	2	G.S. JUDGMENT VOID (GARNISHMENT QUASHED)	P - \$5,632	DEFENDANT

### SPECIALLY SET TRIALS (JURY & NON-JURY)

CASE	TYPE	COURT	CIRCUIT JUDGMENT	DATE OF TRIAL	JURY OR NON-JURY
11C-869	METRO APPEAL (Vicious Dog)	5	DOG TO BE PUT DOWN	1-27-12	NON-JURY

# DEPARTMENTS BY THE NUMBER

# January 2012

## CIRCUIT COURT

	JAN	YTD
New Civil Cases Filed.....	184	184
Jury Demand.....	87	87
Non-Jury.....	97	97
New Divorce Cases Filed .....	176	176
Domestic Petitions Filed .....	257	257
New Adoption Petitions .....	10	10
Civil Cases Concluded.....	260	260
Jury Demand.....	152	152
Non-Jury .....	108	108
Divorce Cases Concluded .....	168	168
Domestic Petitions Concluded .....	151	151

## GENERAL SESSIONS CIVIL

	JAN	YTD
Total New Cases Filed .....	4,468	4,468
Civil Warrants .....	2,178	2,178
Detainer Warrants .....	1,185	1,185
Recovery Warrants.....	20	20
Pet for Order of Protection.....	295	295
Emergency Committals .....	687	687
Other.....	103	103
Executions Issued.....	4,130	4,130
Garnishment Payments.....	4,594	4,594
Judgments Collected.....	\$943,589	\$943,589

## PROBATE COURT

	JAN	YTD
Total New Cases Filed .....	167	167
Total Cases Closed .....	173	173
Probate Will .....	78	78
Probate Will for Muniment of Title.....	3	3
Letters of Administration.....	16	16
Small Estate Affidavits.....	27	27
Conservatorship.....	16	16
Guardianship of Minor.....	8	8
Name Change .....	14	14
Trust Matters.....	1	1
Other Miscellaneous .....	4	4

## TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS BUREAU

	JAN	YTD
Total Traffic Violations.....	10,720	10,720
Moving Citations .....	7,556	7,556
Parking Citations.....	3,164	3,164
Environmental Citations.....	239	239
Total Fines Collected .....	\$409,884	\$409,884
Nullifications.....	848	848
Nullification Fees Collected ...	\$10,172	\$10,172
*Credit Card Payments .....	2,744	2,744

### A REMINDER FOR THOSE WITH OPERATIONAL BURGLAR OR FIRE ALARMS

The metro false alarm ordinance requires that Nashvillians in Davidson County with operational burglar or fire alarms in their homes or businesses must register their alarms with the Metropolitan Clerk's Office. Cost of an annual permit for a home alarm system is \$20 and for a business or non-residential property is \$50 starting March 1st. Permits expire annually and must be renewed on April 1st of each year. 2011 permit holders will receive a reminder in the mail in March to renew their permits by April 1, 2012.



The only exemptions are motor vehicle alarms, self-contained smoke detectors, and medical-alert systems.

Not having a current permit could result in a fine and court costs totaling \$104.50.

In 2011, Metro Police responded to 3,352 false alarm calls resulting in the issuance of 533 citations of which 410 were for no alarm permit.

The metro government alarm permit staff can be reached at 615-862-6779, email at [alarms@nashville.gov](mailto:alarms@nashville.gov), and website [http://www.nashville.gov/mc/alarm\\_reg.htm](http://www.nashville.gov/mc/alarm_reg.htm).

# JANUARY 2012



## AUTO ACCIDENT

	JAN	YTD
Total Cases Tried	4	4
Plaintiff Verdicts	2	2
Defendant Verdicts	2	2
Other/Under Adv	0	0
Jury Trials	3	3
Non-Jury Trials	1	1
Appeal from G.S.	1	1
Plaintiff Verd.	1	1
Def. Verdict	0	0
Other/None	0	0

## CONTRACT

	JAN	YTD
Total Cases Tried	4	4
Plaintiff Verdicts	3	3
Defendant Verdicts	1	1
Other/Under Adv	0	0

## HEATH CARE LIABILITY

	JAN	YTD
Total Cases Tried	1	1
Plaintiff Verdicts	0	0
Defendant Verdicts	1	1
Other/Under Adv/Hung	0	0

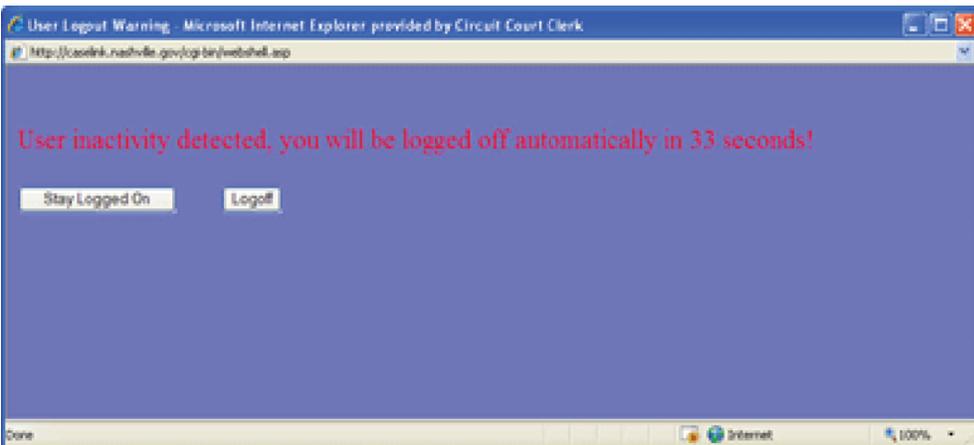
## MISCELLANEOUS

	JAN	YTD
Total Cases Tried	9	9
Plaintiff Verdicts	7	7
Defendant Verdicts	2	2
Other/Under Adv	0	0

# CASELINK CORNER

## INACTIVITY TIME-OUT FEATURE NOW PART OF CASELINK

In an effort to improve our online electronic court record system called CaseLink, we have incorporated a new feature which will alert a user when the system detects that a particular account has been idle or inactive for one hour. Specifically, once the idleness threshold has been reached, the inactivity timer notification (seen below) will be displayed on the user's computer screen. An audible alert will also accompany the notification. If the user does not respond within a specified time limit indicating that he or she wishes to stay logged on, the user will be logged off automatically. Previously, a user would remain logged on to an account indefinitely until such time as the user logged out regardless of any length of inactivity. Since most customers only pay for one connection, meaning that only one person at a time can be logged into a specific account, this new feature will help address the situation where a user might log in at home, for example, but forget to log out, only to then discover when they get to the office that neither they nor anyone else in their office can log in because of the existing connection elsewhere. Similarly, in those instances where multiple users in an office are sharing one account, the new feature will help keep the account available should someone log in but simply forget to log out after they have finished using CaseLink.



## ROOKER REPORT

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(Circuit Court Clerk, 1968-1993)

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To request an ADA accommodation,  
please call Dart Gore at 880-3309

