



ROOKER

JUNE 2012

REPORT

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

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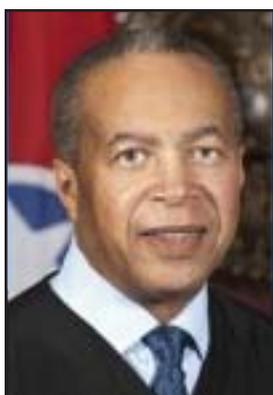
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TWO NASHVILLE JUDGES HONORED WITH PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS



WATKINS

Criminal Court Division 5 Judge Monte D. Watkins recently received the 2012 Z. Alexander Looby Lifetime Achievement Award. The award recognizes outstanding achievements in the legal community, academia and public service. Watkins has been a criminal court judge since 2003. Prior to his appointment, he worked as a private practitioner focusing on criminal defense, probate law and real estate.

General Sessions Division 3 Judge Angelita Blackshear Dalton recently received the 2012 J.C. Napier Trailblazer Award. The award recognizes the courage and resilience exemplified in her decisions to take the road less traveled and acknowledges her efforts in blazing a trail of excellence that will serve as a map for future generations. Dalton was elected to the Davidson County General Sessions Court in 2006. She was the first African-American woman elected to a judgeship in Nashville.



DALTON

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Tennessee Supreme Court Enhances Language Access Services

The Tennessee Supreme Court has modified its rules to provide Limited English Proficient (LEP) Tennesseans with more meaningful access to court hearings. The new rules went into effect on July 1, when an additional \$2 million in funding was made available to the courts. The additional funding provides an opportunity to modify how language access services are delivered.

"I am grateful to Governor Haslam and our legislature for taking this important step to ensure that justice for all is available for all Tennesseans," Chief Justice Cornelia A. Clark said. "It is very important that not only those charged with a crime, but also crime victims, divorcing parents, persons who owe rent and anyone who finds himself/herself before the courts are able to communicate effectively."

The new funding and the new rules will help judges better communicate with parties in civil and criminal cases and will enable LEP persons to more fully participate in court proceedings and understand what is expected of them. Before the new funding, interpreter costs were paid for by the state in cases where a person was entitled to an attorney and could not afford to pay for an attorney. These cases included criminal, child abuse and neglect cases and termination of parental rights cases.

The new rules will now provide for qualified interpreters to be paid for all hearings before a judge or judicial magistrate in cases where a court finds an interpreter is needed.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH



"Next to knowing when to seize an opportunity, the most important thing in life is to know when to forego an advantage."

BENJAMIN DISRAELI

British Prime Minister
1804 - 1881

For more information on Interpreter Services, visit <http://www.tncourts.gov/programs/court-interpreters>

CIRCUIT COURT TRIAL VERDICTS

JUNE 2012

JURY TRIALS

IF CASE WAS
APPEALED FROM
GENERAL SESSIONS

CASE	TYPE	COURT	CIRCUIT JUDGMENT	GEN. SESSIONS JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
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Week of June 18

11C-2050	AUTOMOBILE	8	PLAINTIFF \$73,755	N/A	
12C-53	PROPERTY DAMAGE	2	PLAINTIFF \$18,655	N/A	
10C-4963	AUTOMOBILE	6	PLAINTIFF \$18,000 (BY DEFAULT)	N/A	
10C-2964	AUTOMOBILE	6	DEFENDANT (FAULT P-50% & D-50%)	N/A	
11C-1686	AUTOMOBILE	5	DEFENDANT (FAULT P-50% & D-50%)	N/A	

NON-JURY TRIALS

CASE	TYPE	COURT	CIRCUIT JUDGMENT	GEN. SESSIONS JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
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Week of June 11

11C-2451	AUTOMOBILE	8	PLAINTIFF \$10,486 (AFTER 10% FAULT REDUCTION)	N/A	
09C-3849	BREACH OF CONTRACT	1	COMPLAINT & COUNTER COMPLAINT BOTH DISMISSED (COSTS 1/2 EACH)	N/A	

SPECIALLY SET TRIALS (JURY & NON-JURY)

CASE	TYPE	COURT	CIRCUIT JUDGMENT	DATE OF TRIAL	JURY OR NON-JURY
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12C-216	AUTOMOBILE	5	PLAINTIFF \$13,691	6-27-12	Non-Jury
10D-3108	DOMESTIC / DIVORCE	8	PLAINTIFF GRANTED DIVORCE	6-28-12	Non-Jury

USE CASELINK TO ACCESS MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THESE CASES AND THOUSANDS MORE

DEPARTMENTS BY THE NUMBER

June 2012

CIRCUIT COURT

	JUNE	YTD
New Civil Cases Filed.....	210	1,219
Jury Demand.....	91	544
Non-Jury.....	119	675
New Divorce Cases Filed	185	1,249
Domestic Petitions Filed	261	1,600
New Adoption Petitions	13	70
Civil Cases Concluded.....	257	1,349
Jury Demand.....	122	795
Non-Jury.....	135	554
Divorce Cases Concluded	148	1,086
Domestic Petitions Concluded	205	1,274

GENERAL SESSIONS CIVIL

	JUNE	YTD
Total New Cases Filed	4,723	25,557
Civil Warrants	2,430	13,223
Detainer Warrants	1,305	5,984
Recovery Warrants.....	24	120
Pet for Order of Protection.....	293	1,740
Emergency Committals	642	3,943
Other.....	29	547
Executions Issued.....	3,559	24,383
Garnishment Payments	4,131	27,613
Judgments Collected.....	\$891,198	\$5,983,627

PROBATE COURT

	JUNE	YTD
Total New Cases Filed	148	1,018
Total Cases Closed.....	182	1,054
Probate Will	56	442
Probate Will for Muniment of Title.....	8	46
Letters of Administration.....	20	134
Small Estate Affidavits.....	27	161
Conservatorship.....	18	114
Guardianship of Minor.....	2	18
Name Change	9	59
Trust Matters.....	4	15
Other Miscellaneous	4	29

TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS BUREAU

	JUNE	YTD
Total Traffic Violations.....	10,347	62,915
Moving Citations	7,065	41,918
Parking Citations.....	3,282	20,997
Environmental Citations.....	210	1,310
Total Fines Collected	\$281,680	\$2,417,158
Nullifications.....	635	4,388
Nullification Fees Collected	\$7,619	\$52,652
Credit Card Payments.....	3,441	19,115

Tennessee Supreme Court Adopts New Ethics Rules for Judges

The Tennessee Supreme Court has adopted a comprehensive revision to the Code of Judicial Conduct, which sets forth the ethics rules for Tennessee judges. The new Code of Judicial Conduct, which is Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 10, took effect on July 1, 2012. "Maintaining a high standard of judicial ethics is paramount to the public's trust and confidence in the courts and the judges who preside over them," Chief Justice Cornelia A. Clark said. "These changes to the Code of Judicial Conduct will provide Tennessee judges with greater guidance for conducting the business of the courts in a fair, impartial and ethical manner."

Along with the changes to the Code of Judicial Conduct, the Court also adopted a rule setting out a new procedure for pursuing the recusal of a judge, and a new process for seeking an expedited appeal if a motion for recusal is denied. Under the new recusal procedure, judges are required to provide, in writing, grounds for denying any motion for recusal. And, in cases where the recusal is

granted, the rule outlines the process for designating a new judge in the case. The Court also established the process for seeking an expedited appeal should a motion for recusal be denied.

The revised Code of Judicial Conduct continues to allow elected judges and judicial candidates to make contributions to political organizations or to other candidates for public office and to attend or purchase tickets to dinners and other events sponsored by a political organization or a candidate for public office. However, judges and judicial candidates are prohibited from endorsing or opposing other candidates for public office.

In following the American Bar Association's model rules of judicial conduct, the Court adopted a new provision regarding the disability and impairment of a judge or attorney. The new rule instructs judges to take "appropriate action" should a judge have reasonable belief that another judge or attorney is impaired by drugs, alcohol or other physical, mental or emotional condition.

CIRCUIT COURT TRIALS
BY TYPE OF CASE

**JUNE
2012**



AUTO ACCIDENT

	JUNE	YTD
Total Cases Tried	6	23
Plaintiff Verdicts	4	14
Defendant Verdicts	2	9
Other/Under Adv	0	0
Jury Trials	4	16
Non-Jury Trials	2	7
Appeal from G.S.	0	1
Plaintiff Verd.	0	1
Def. Verdict	0	0
Other/None	0	0

CONTRACT

	JUNE	YTD
Total Cases Tried	1	22
Plaintiff Verdicts	0	18
Defendant Verdicts	1	4
Other/Under Adv	0	0

HEATH CARE LIABILITY

	JUNE	YTD
Total Cases Tried	0	10
Plaintiff Verdicts	0	1
Defendant Verdicts	0	6
Other/Under Adv/Hung	0	3

MISCELLANEOUS

	JUNE	YTD
Total Cases Tried	2	31
Plaintiff Verdicts	2	24
Defendant Verdicts	0	5
Other/Under Adv	0	2

**FORMER NASHVILLE PROBATE JUDGE
FRANK CLEMENT, JR., RECEIVES
APPELLATE JUDGE OF THE YEAR AWARD**

Recently, the Tennessee Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) recognized Judge Frank Clement, Jr., as Appellate Judge of the Year. Aubrey B. Harwell, Jr., the current president of the Tennessee Chapter of ABOTA, presented Judge Clement with the award. Clement currently serves on the Tennessee Court of Appeals, having been appointed to this position by former Governor Phil Bredesen in 2003. Prior to being elevated to the Court of Appeals, Clement served as Nashville's probate judge, presiding over Davidson County's Seventh Circuit Court from 1995 until 2003.

The American Board of Trial Advocates is a national association of experienced trial lawyers and judges dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the civil jury trial right provided by the Seventh Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. ABOTA works to uphold the jury system by educating the American public about the history and value of the right to trial by jury.



Tennessee Court of Appeals Judge Frank Clement, Jr., (fourth from right) poses with representatives of the Tennessee Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates after being presented his award.

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REPORT**

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