

ROOKER

NOVEMBER 2012

REPORT

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

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DAVIDSON COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CLERK RECEIVES AWARD AS OUTSTANDING STATE COURT CLERK IN TENNESSEE FOR 2012

Nashville-Davidson County Circuit Court Clerk Richard Rooker has received the Outstanding State Court Clerk Award for 2012 from the County Officials Association of Tennessee (COAT). The award was presented to him at the association's annual conference held in Kingsport, Tennessee in early November. Rooker first became the Circuit Court Clerk in 1993 upon the death of his father, George Rooker, who had been in that position for over 25 years. Since then, the voters of Davidson County have elected him five times to consecutive four-year terms, and he is currently serving in his fifth term.

Rooker attended Lipscomb University and holds the designation of Public Administrator awarded by the Institute for Public Service of the University of Tennessee. He is a past-president of the Tennessee State Court Clerks Association and immediate past Secretary-Treasurer of the County Officials Association of Tennessee.

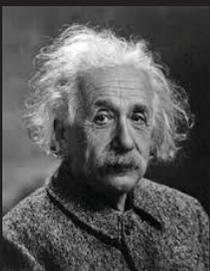
COAT is a non-profit association of County Clerks, State Court Clerks, Registers and Trustees. COAT was formed in 1968 to serve coordinated efforts of county officials with respect to training and intergovernmental relations while providing a cooperative information sharing environment.



Davidson County Circuit Court Clerk Richard Rooker (left) accepts the Award for Outstanding State Court Clerk for 2012 from COAT President and Dyer County Circuit Court Clerk Tom "T.J." Jones.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"In matters of truth and justice, there is no difference between large and small problems, for issues concerning the treatment of people are all the same."



ALBERT EINSTEIN

CIRCUIT COURT TRIAL VERDICTS NOVEMBER 2012

JURY TRIALS

**IF CASE WAS
APPEALED FROM
GENERAL SESSIONS**

CASE	TYPE	COURT	CIRCUIT JUDGMENT	GEN. SESSIONS JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
Week of November 5					
10C-4751	WRONGFUL TERMINATION	5	COMPROMISE & SETTLEMENT ON 2ND DAY OF TRIAL	N/A	
10C-4666	AUTOMOBILE	6	PLAINTIFF \$10,762	N/A	
12C-880	AUTOMOBILE	1	PLAINTIFF \$2,500	P - \$3,276	DEFENDANT

NON-JURY TRIALS

CASE	TYPE	COURT	CIRCUIT JUDGMENT	GEN. SESSIONS JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
Week of November 13					
11C-1461	CONTRACT/DEBT (DAMAGES)	2	PLAINTIFF \$800,000	N/A	
11C-1503	AUTOMOBILE	2	PLAINTIFF \$21,750	N/A	
11C-2094	WORKERS' COMP	6	PLAINTIFF 28% IMPAIRMENT	N/A	
12C-933	CONVERSION (DAMAGES)	6	PLAINTIFF \$50,161 + COSTS	N/A	
09C-2902	WORKERS' COMP	5	PLAINTIFF \$79,725 LUMP SUM	N/A	
12C-1065	AUTOMOBILE (DAMAGES)	5	PLAINTIFF \$60,341	N/A	
11C-3343	WORKERS' COMP	2	PLAINTIFF \$115,000	N/A	

SPECIALLY SET TRIALS (JURY & NON-JURY)

CASE	TYPE	COURT	CIRCUIT JUDGMENT	DATE OF TRIAL	JURY OR NON-JURY
12C-1304	AUTOMOBILE (DAMAGES)	2	PLAINTIFF \$7,500	11-2-12	NON-JURY
09C-1445	BREACH OF CONTRACT	5	PLAINTIFF \$276,400 + 10% PRE-JUDGMENT INTEREST	11-15-12	NON-JURY

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

DEPARTMENTS BY THE NUMBER

November 2012

CIRCUIT COURT

	NOV	YTD
New Civil Cases Filed.....	250	2,324
Jury Demand.....	123	1,055
Non-Jury.....	127	1,269
New Divorce Cases Filed	169	2,189
Domestic Petitions Filed	187	2,670
New Adoption Petitions	16	136
Civil Cases Concluded.....	170	2,311
Jury Demand.....	97	1,361
Non-Jury.....	73	950
Divorce Cases Concluded	182	2,073
Domestic Petitions Concluded	204	2,588

GENERAL SESSIONS CIVIL

	NOV	YTD
Total New Cases Filed	3,714	45,887
Civil Warrants	1,909	23,606
Detainer Warrants	892	10,894
Recovery Warrants.....	17	196
Pet for Order of Protection.....	218	3,177
Emergency Committals	636	7,257
Other.....	42	757
Executions Issued.....	3,899	45,860
Garnishment Payments	4,530	49,930
Judgments Collected.....	\$986,025	\$10,897,307

PROBATE COURT

	NOV	YTD
Total New Cases Filed	142	1,817
Total Cases Closed.....	131	1,860
Probate Will	59	800
Probate Will for Muniment of Title.....	6	78
Letters of Administration.....	29	252
Small Estate Affidavits.....	23	286
Conservatorship.....	14	200
Guardianship of Minor.....	2	27
Name Change	4	98
Trust Matters.....	2	22
Other Miscellaneous	3	54

TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS BUREAU

	NOV	YTD
Total Traffic Violations.....	9,471	112,791
Moving Citations	6,447	76,544
Parking Citations.....	3,024	36,247
Environmental Citations.....	115	2,103
Total Fines Collected	\$340,567	\$4,283,712
Nullifications.....	617	7,649
Nullification Fees Collected	\$7,398	\$91,774
Credit Card Payments.....	3,617	37,191

Crawford Sworn-In As New Juvenile Court Judge in Davidson County



Judge Sophia Crawford

Sophia Brown Crawford was appointed Nashville's newest Juvenile Court Judge by the Metro Council on October 16th to complete the term of Judge Betty Adams Green, who retired in September. On November 14th, she was officially sworn-in during a ceremony at the Juvenile Justice Center which is located on Woodland Street adjacent to LP Field.

Crawford takes the bench as someone with vast knowledge of and experience with the juvenile justice system. She was previ-

ously appointed to the bench as a Juvenile Court Magistrate in October, 2002, by Judge Green and has presided continuously since that time. Prior to her appointment, she spent 14 years in private practice with a focus on family and juvenile law. During that time, she was appointed as a contract attorney by the Governor of Tennessee to prosecute termination of parental rights cases for 14 counties. Judge Crawford has spent her entire 24 years in the legal field with a focus on families and children. She is a member of the Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the Nashville Bar Association and the Women's Political Collaborative. She resides in Nashville with her husband of 27 years and has two daughters.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The Offices of the Circuit Court Clerk (i.e., Circuit, Probate, General Sessions Civil and Traffic Violations Bureau) will be closed Monday & Tuesday, December 24th & 25th and will be closed Monday & Tuesday, December 31st & January 1st.

CIRCUIT COURT TRIALS
BY TYPE OF CASE

NOVEMBER 2012



AUTO ACCIDENT

	NOV	YTD
Total Cases Tried	5	48
Plaintiff Verdicts	5	37
Defendant Verdicts	0	11
Other/Under Adv	0	0
Jury Trials	2	30
Non-Jury Trials	3	18
Appeal from G.S.	1	2
Plaintiff Verd.	1	2
Def. Verdict	0	0
Other/None	0	0

CONTRACT

	NOV	YTD
Total Cases Tried	2	45
Plaintiff Verdicts	2	36
Defendant Verdicts	0	9
Other/Under Adv	0	0

HEALTH CARE LIABILITY

	NOV	YTD
Total Cases Tried	0	11
Plaintiff Verdicts	0	2
Defendant Verdicts	0	6
Other/Under Adv/Hung	0	3

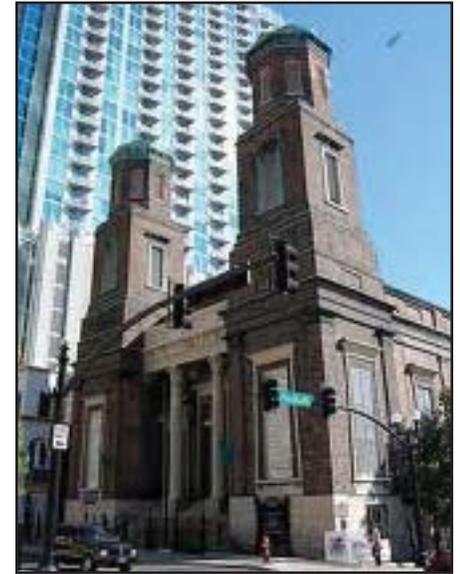
MISCELLANEOUS

	NOV	YTD
Total Cases Tried	5	64
Plaintiff Verdicts	4	49
Defendant Verdicts	0	11
Other/Under Adv	1	4

MEMORIAL SERVICE HONORS LOCAL ATTORNEYS WHO PASSED AWAY WITHIN THE PAST SIX MONTHS

The Nashville Bar Association's Fall Memorial Service was held on Thursday, November 15, 2012, at the Downtown Presbyterian Church. A project of the NBA's Historical Committee, the Memorial Service honors the memory of those Nashville lawyers and judges who passed away during the preceding 6-month period. The service was the 104th such memorial conducted by the NBA, and this year, for the first time, the annual observance was divided into two services - - this one in the fall and a previous memorial service which was conducted last spring.

Memorial resolutions, recounting the lives and legal careers of the deceased individuals, were prepared and then read at the service by friends and colleagues. Those attorneys honored were William (Bill) Redick, Jr., Robert Belton, Roger Baskette, Sr., Judge Irvin Kilcrease, Jr., Robert Whitaker, Lloyd Walwyn, Amy Adams Gowan and Mark Ellmore, Jr.



JUDICIAL ETHICS COMMITTEE ISSUES ADVISORY OPINION ON SOCIAL MEDIA USE

In late October, the Judicial Ethics Committee issued an advisory opinion regarding the use of social media among judges. While the opinion acknowledges that the Code of Judicial Conduct allows judges to engage in social media, such as Facebook, the opinion also states in part: "... while judges may participate in social media, they must do so with caution and with the expectation that their use of the media likely will be scrutinized for various reasons by others." Because of constant changes in social media, the Committee could not be specific as to allowable or prohibited activity, but based on their review of various approaches taken by other states, they were clear in stating that judges must be constantly aware of ethical implications. In short, the opinion acknowledges that judges must decide whether the benefit and utility of participating in social media justify the attendant risks.

ROOKER REPORT

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