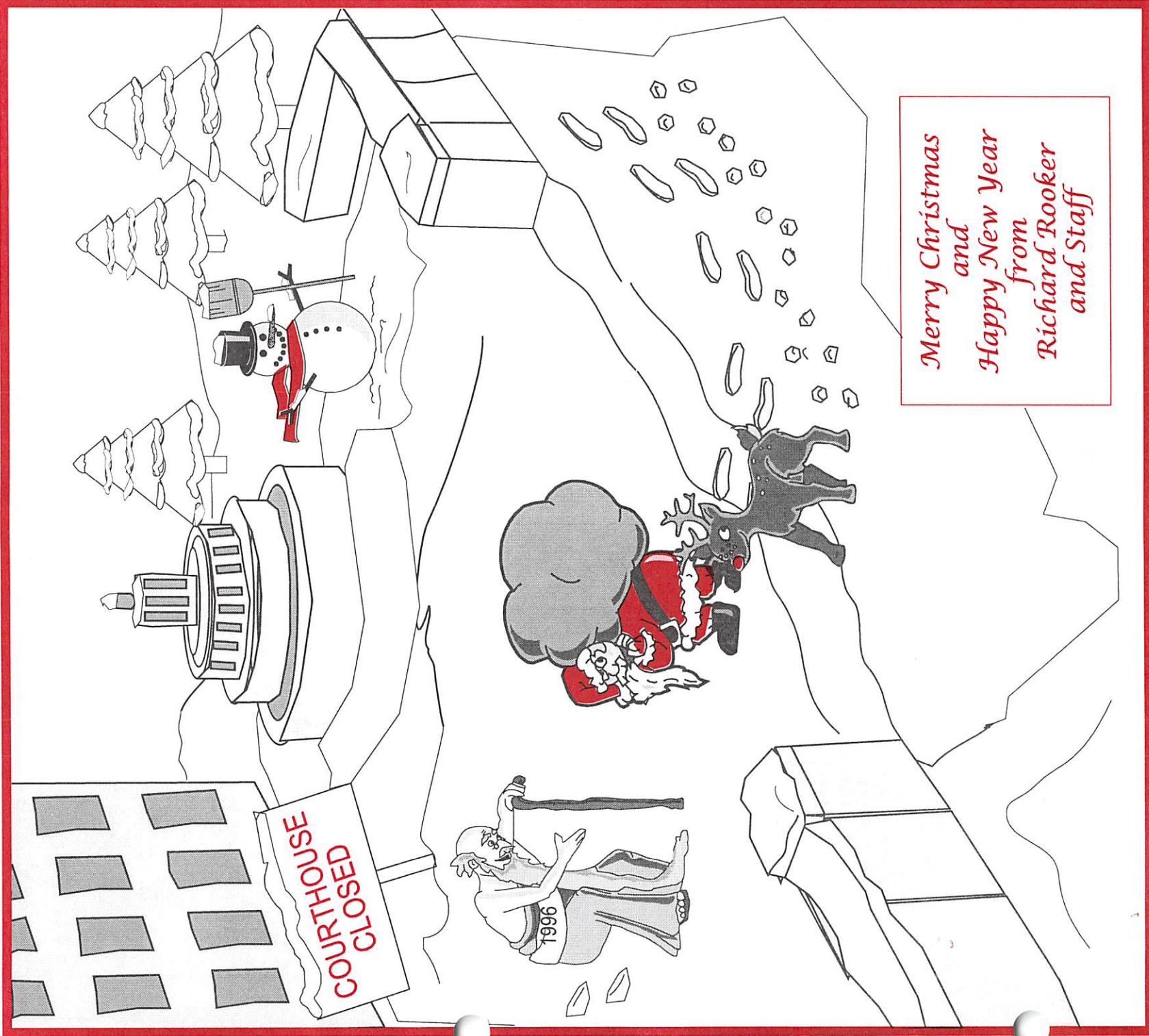


# Rooker Report

December 1996

Published by the Davidson County Circuit Court Clerk's Office

Vol. 4, No. 11



*Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year  
from  
Richard Rooker  
and Staff*

## SUPREME COURT:

### Woman to Woman

#### BENCH



**GAIL ASHWORTH**  
...new bar president



**PAUL NEY**  
...president-elect



**GREGORY SMITH**  
...pro bono work cited

When Penny White was appointed to the state Supreme Court in 1994, one of the losing contenders for the post was Circuit Court Judge Janice Holder of Shelby County.

Today, almost two years and a new administration later, it is Holder who occupies the seat after White was ousted by voters in the August statewide general election.

With the vacancy, the Tennessee Judicial Selection Commission was called back into session to recommend three new candidates for the high court seat. Once again, Holder's name emerged, along with Shelby Circuit Judge George Brown and Court of Criminal Appeals Judge William Barker of Chattanooga. Gov. Don Sundquist could select from the trio or request a new slate. He chose Holder, thereby retaining a female presence on the five-member tribunal.

The 47-year-old Holder thus becomes the third woman to serve on the high court, following Martha Craig Daughtrey and White. She, too, must face the voters in 1998 when all state judicial posts will be on the ballot.

The new justice, a native of Pennsylvania who moved to Memphis in 1979, has 21 years of legal experience. She was elected to the Shelby circuit judgeship in 1990.

Holder describes herself as having no political party preference. Sundquist said political affiliation was not a consideration.

### **Other Nashville Bar Association Officers for 1997**

John Kitch, first vice president; Joe B. Brown, second vice president; Lesa Skoney, treasurer; Mark Westlake, assistant treasurer; Barbara Bennet, sec-

### **...as Gail Ashworth Becomes second female to head Bar**

#### BAR

It had been nine years since members of the Nashville Bar Association chose a woman to lead them, but the drought ended this month when attorney Gail Vaughn Ashworth was installed as president of the barrister organization.

Ashworth received the gavel from outgoing president Tom White at the association's annual banquet at the Doubletree Hotel. She becomes only the second woman to head the 2,000-plus member group, following the lead of Juliet Griffin, who held the top post in 1987. Griffin is now a U. S. magistrate for Middle Tennessee.

Ashworth is managing partner of the Gideon & Wiseman law firm and a former member of the organization's board of directors, which this year chose Paul Ney as president-elect to succeed Ashworth in 1997.

The bar group presented its Pro Bono Volunteer of the Year Award to attorney Gregory Smith for his relentless representation of an indigent woman whose parental rights were terminated.

Smith, a partner in the law firm of Willis & Knight, ultimately lost the case, but only after devoting four years and 600 working hours without pay.

retary; and Carlton Lewis, D. Tracy Shaw, Gareth Aden, William H. Tate, Grant Glassford and Ruth Ellene Johnson, new members of the board of directors.

## **Blood Drive is Coming; Mayor Issues Challenge**

Mayor Phil Bredesen is out for blood.

Literally.

The mayor has issued a challenge to all Metro employees to respond to crucial shortages by donating to the government's blood drive, which kicks off a 10-day run starting Jan. 21.


This year's goal: 1,000 pints.

Nicole Vaughn, a mayor's office spokesperson, said designated locations would be assigned to each Metro

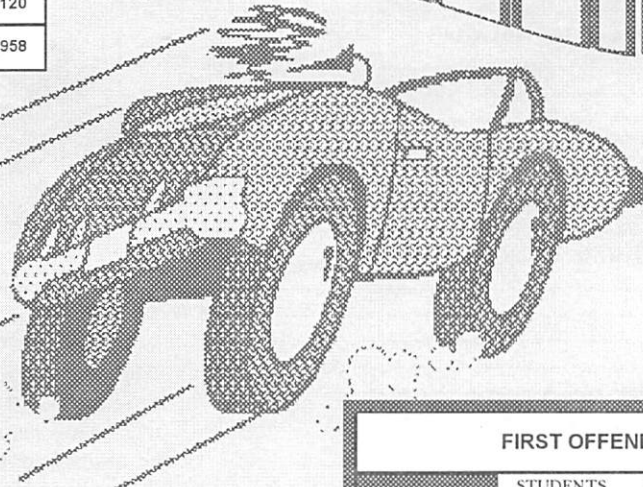
department for the convenience of donor workers. And specially equipped buses will be available at designated locations each Saturday during the month of January, she added.

Vaughn said times and donor locations will be determined at a Jan. 8 meeting between department representatives and the American Red Cross.

The drive has been labeled "Metro Challenge 1000." For additional information, contact the mayor's office at 862-6000.

 <b>TOTAL MOVING VIOLATIONS</b>				
MONTH	TICKETS		FINES PAID	
	1995	1996	1995	1996
JULY	15,706	20,324	\$179,558	\$200,704
AUGUST	20,634	20,978	187,934	192,381
SEPTEMBER	18,229	20,372	175,279	198,753
OCTOBER	18,242	21,228	182,684	208,120
TOTALS	72,811	82,902	\$725,455	\$799,958

# WHEELING




When the county's traffic fines were given a drastic overhaul in June, the reaction from cited motorists was predictable: more requests for alternative driving classes.


As a result, the Metro Traffic Safety School program has realized a dramatic increase in defensive driving class enrollment and in revenue generated by the multiple-offender courses.


The charts on this page reflect a four-month comparison period of the programs offered and the base from which enrollment was derived (total moving violations).

While the figures speak for themselves, it should be noted that this year's numbers reflect enrollment fee increases of \$15 and \$5 for first offender and defensive driving four-hour classes respectively.

The Alive at 25 class for youthful offenders was added this year following cancellation of the Buckle-Up course, which became obsolete with the reduction of seat belt fines.

 <b>FIRST OFFENDER</b>				
MONTH	STUDENTS		FEES	
	1995	1996	1995	1996
JULY	1,202	1,052	\$24,140	\$37,075
AUGUST	1,337	1,179	27,180	41,020
SEPTEMBER	1,146	1,098	24,140	38,935
OCTOBER	996	1,160	20,260	41,380
TOTALS	4,681	4,489	\$94,720	\$158,410


 <b>DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE (DDC4)</b>				
MONTH	STUDENTS		FEES	
	1995	1996	1995	1996
JULY	195	274	\$7,320	\$11,515
AUGUST	197	282	7,465	11,900
SEPTEMBER	210	285	7,525	12,005
OCTOBER	216	228	8,040	9,720
TOTALS	818	1,069	\$31,350	\$45,140

 <b>DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE (DDC8)</b>				
MONTH	STUDENTS		FEES	
	1995	1996	1995	1996
JULY	61	138	\$3,185	\$6,910
AUGUST	72	217	3,810	11,310
SEPTEMBER	79	111	4,330	5,820
OCTOBER	73	173	3,730	9,080
TOTALS	285	639	\$15,055	\$33,120

## 1995

<b>COMBINED/BUCKLE-UP CLASSES</b>		
MONTH	STUDENTS	FEES
JULY	277	\$9,880
AUGUST	353	13,060
SEPTEMBER	331	11,900
OCTOBER	210	7,700
TOTALS	1,171	\$42,540

## 1996

<b>ALIVE AT 25</b> 		
MONTH	STUDENTS	FEES
JULY	221	\$8,980
AUGUST	261	10,670
SEPTEMBER	177	7,345
OCTOBER	229	9,865
TOTALS	888	\$36,860

# \$ DATA BANK #

Statistics compiled for the month of November

### Case Information

#### Circuit Court

New Civil Cases Filed.....	284
Civil Cases Concluded.....	274
New Divorce Cases Filed.....	264
Divorce Cases Concluded.....	247

#### General Sessions Civil

New Cases Filed.....	3,106
Executions Issued.....	2,626
Judgments Collected.....	\$482,042
Orders of Protection Petitions.....	151

#### Probate Court

New Cases Filed.....	125
Cases Closed.....	81

#### Traffic Violations

Moving Citations.....	17,707
Parking Violations.....	5,404
Total Fines Collected.....	\$280,724
Nullifications.....	1,962
Nullification Fees Collected.....	\$17,658

### Circuit Court Jury Trial Verdicts

#### Week of November 4

Case	Type	Court		Verdict
94C-3445	Auto Accident	1st	(P)	\$1,458
95C-2551	Auto Accident	6th	(P)	\$150,000
94C-321	Medical Malpractice	2nd		Defendant
94C-1641	Product Liability	6th		Defendant
95C-1155	Auto Accident	Chan.II	(P)	\$25,000

#### Week of November 18

Case	Type	Court		Verdict
93C-232	Medical Malpractice	6th		Defendant
95C-576	Auto Accident	2nd		Defendant
95C-2635	Auto Accident	1st	(P)	\$7,000
95C-682	Auto Accident	1st	(P)	\$8,000

#### Week of December 2

Case	Type	Court		Verdict
93C-2792	Auto Accident	6th	(P)	\$7,000
95C-3386	Slip & Fall	1st		Defendant
94C-255	Job Contract	2nd	(P)	\$310,412
90C-156	Auto Accident	5th		Defendant
95C-2251	Auto Accident	5th	(P)	\$8,000

### Gift drive underway for cancer patient Hall

Familiar courthouse employee Marcellus (Mac) Hall, assistant supervisor of custodial services in the General Services public service office, will spend Christmas in a hospital where he is undergoing cancer treatments.

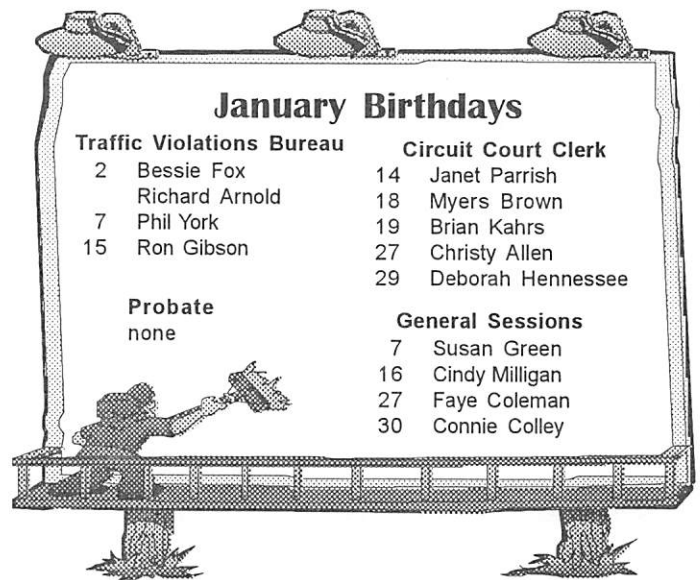
Rather than their usual exchanging of gifts, fellow workers are directing all gifts to him. Anyone wishing to contribute should contact General Services accountant Paul Kerrigan at 862-5050.

## Rooker Report

Published by the Davidson County Circuit Court Clerk's Office  
506 Metro Courthouse, Nashville, TN 37201

Established by George L. Rooker (1929-1993),  
(Circuit Court Clerk, 1968-1993)

Richard R. Rooker ..... Circuit Court Clerk  
Gene Baker ..... Editor



### January Birthdays

#### Traffic Violations Bureau

2	Bessie Fox
	Richard Arnold
7	Phil York
15	Ron Gibson

#### Circuit Court Clerk

14	Janet Parrish
18	Myers Brown
19	Brian Kahrs
27	Christy Allen
29	Deborah Hennessee

#### Probate none

#### General Sessions

7	Susan Green
16	Cindy Milligan
27	Faye Coleman
30	Connie Colley

## Cheers...

The search for a new state trial court administrator ended this month with the selection of **Larry Stephenson, Jr.** to replace **George Prentice**, who resigned this summer. Stephenson assumes the post on Jan. 2. He comes to the courts from the county clerk's office where he has been director of systems since 1992...Friends and associates gave retiring Metro Legal Department fixture **Bill Parker** a nice send-off on Dec. 12. Parker was honored at a reception for his 25 years of service to the department...One of those striped shirts on the field during the Class 3A Clinic Bowl championships was being worn by bossman **Richard Rooker**, a veteran TSSAA football official. Rooker said he was honored at being chosen to officiate in such a prestigious event, but admitted being a bit fatigued by game's end. It seems the contest lasted longer than most because of clock-stopping aerial offense strategy (91 pass attempts) by the two teams...General Sessions administrative aide **Becky Baron** has committed her future to **Ray Hahn**, a member of the police department's burglary squad. He gave her a ring and said the wedding date would be set once the couple's new house in Franklin is completed...Circuit Judge **Walter Kurtz** has a new title. He is now Grandfather Kurtz. Son **Ryan** and his wife **Patrizia** presented the judge with his first grandchild on Dec. 6. They named her **Sophia Kurtz**. She made her debut at St. Thomas Hospital at a healthy 8 pounds, 13 ounces...Meantime, the traffic bureau's **Anna Williams** celebrated her birthday in Baptist Hospital on Dec. 1. But she didn't mind, because son **Justin Clay Williams** (8 pounds 3/4 ounce) came along to celebrate it with her. The double birthday party was delightful for dad **Corey Williams** and grandparents **Larry Williams**, an attorney, and **Carol Edmondson**, an employee of the criminal court clerk's office.

## ...Tears

**Danny Lamb** was a never-say-quit individual whose final years were filled with personal tragedies. Yet, he continued to give life his best shot and paid his own way by working as an archives organizer in our circuit court clerk's office. He was only 41 years old when a friend found him dead at his home on Dec. 3. Serious health problems of past origin had taken their toll. He will be sorely missed...We also are deeply saddened by the passing of former Metro Councilman **Sanders Anglea**, who succumbed to a series of strokes on Nov. 26. He was 83 years old and the uncle of deputy circuit clerk **Tracy Cartwright**...Deepest sympathy also to retired Traffic Violations Bureau employee **Norma Reasoner** in the untimely death of her son **Bobby Reasoner**, who passed away at his home on Dec. 13 at the age of 47.