



ROOKER REPORT

September 2001

Published by the Davidson County Circuit Court Clerk's Office

Vol.9, No. 8

PERSONNEL

JOHNSON NAMED SESSIONS Office ASSISTANT CHIEF



Janice Johnson

Circuit Court Clerk Richard Rooker has named longtime staffer Janice Johnson as assistant chief clerk of the General Sessions Civil Division office.

The appointment, making Johnson second in command under Chief Clerk Margaret Larobardiere, was effective on August 17.

Johnson has served more than 16 years in the office, beginning in June 1985 as a deputy clerk assigned to collecting garnishment payments. Since 1994, she has worked in the bookkeeping department, which collects and distributes almost \$11 million annually in court-ordered payments.

In her new role, Johnson will concentrate on customer service and internal office operations.

"Janice is familiar with every phase of the general sessions operations and will be a tremendous asset to the office," said Larobardiere. "She is conscientious, dependable and dedicated to high job performance. I look forward to working with her in this capacity."

Johnson is the mother of two sons, Ryan, 8, and Reed, 6.



JUDGING THE PROS MORELAND: 'IT'S JUST FOOTBALL'

If you watched the Titans' season opener against the Miami Dolphins (and who didn't?) you may or may not have recognized umpire No. 144.

That was our own General Sessions Judge Casey Moreland, looking as much in control on the gridiron as he does on the bench.

Moreland, a veteran high school and college football official, was selected by the NFL as a replacement umpire during the league's lockout of its regular referees.

Moreland (shown in photo at left during an Ohio Valley Conference game) was chosen by the pro league after he filled out a questionnaire sent to college officials

SEE MORELAND, PAGE 2

Holt's Goal: Make Courts 'User Friendly'

Judge John Aaron Holt says he hopes to make the General Sessions courts more "user friendly" during his term as presiding judge, emphasizing a need for increased "accessibility and availability" to those requiring the services of the courts.

"I want us to be readily available and accommodating to police, witnesses, victims and all other parties," said Holt, quickly adding that he was not being critical of the courts' operations in the past. "I just want to make that a priority during my term--to make everyone know that whatever brings them to our courts is important to us and will be handled in a professional and expeditious manner," he said.

Holt assumed the presiding judge position the first of this month, inheriting the on-going preliminaries of constructing a courthouse annex to house most of the General Sessions operations.

Holt said he is meeting weekly with the mayor and architects as the design phase approaches the bidding stage. The annex is targeted for completion in 2003.

The eleven judges who make up the General Sessions court currently are pinched for space with all but two of them housed in the Ben West Building. Holt and Judge Mark Fishburn have offices in the Stahlman Building. Several of the judges gave up their main offices in the courthouse in exchange for the future annex structure.

Meantime, Circuit Court Judge Carol Soloman has remodeled a portion of the vacated courthouse space and is now holding court in her own courtroom for the first time since she was elected in 1998.

The General Sessions Court has an operating budget of \$7.4 million and addresses a wide variety of litigation of both a criminal and civil nature. The presiding judge is charged with overseeing all phases of the operation with support from eleven committees made up of the other judges.

The makeup of the committees normally changes each year, but Holt said the judges had, for the most part, agreed to continue their previous appointments. "This gives us continuity and strong representation in specialized areas of the courts' functions," said Holt.

A complete list of the General Sessions Committees is on next page.



PRESIDING JUDGE JOHN AARON HOLT SETS AGENDA FOR LEADERSHIP TERM

CHEERS...

After successfully undergoing open heart surgery last month, General Sessions Judge **William Faimon** has returned to the bench. Although his recovery time had been scheduled for six weeks, the resilient jurist felt fit enough to beat that estimate by a full two weeks. Doctors replaced an aorta valve and performed two bypasses during the Aug. 15 surgery. Good to see you back, judge.

General Sessions Judge **John Brown** rode an emotional roller coaster in July. One day he was filled with pride over the arrival of his fourth grand-



Wizzer

child and the next he found himself mourning the death of his favorite pet dog. But he did what every grieving pet owner is encouraged to do--he went out and got himself another dog. His new pal is an eight-month-old retriever mix whose name was **Chip** before the judge renamed him **Wizzer**. "He doesn't know his name is Wizzer," said Brown. "But he didn't know his name was Chip either." We're betting he will know (and love) his new master.

Former Davidson County Chancellor **Frank Drowota** is the new chief justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court for the second time in his 21 years on the high court. Drowota was chosen by fellow members of the court to fill out the remaining year of Justice **Riley Anderson's** term after Anderson decided to leave the post the first of this month. Anderson remains on the court but passed along the administrative-laden chief justice duties. Drowota said he would seek a full four-year term as chief justice once he has completed his current assignment.

Congratulations to **Grace Mosley**, a probation officer for General Sessions Judge **Sue McKnight Evans**, on her recent wedding to **Arvis Sawyers**, a counselor with the Teen Challenge program. The couple exchanged vows on Sept. 15 at Mt. Zion Baptist Church. As a symbol of peace and love, each newlywed released a white dove. Plans for a honeymoon in Hawaii were postponed because of the terrorist conflict.

October Birthdays

Traffic Violations

4 Joe Hurt
5 Kim Smith
21 David Patterson
24 Mary Archey
30 Marvin Cohen
Susan Grannis

Circuit Court Clerk

1 Terry Campion
6 Carolyn Davis
9 Sandy Adams

General Sessions

9 Margaret Larobardiere

Probate Clerk

none

...TEARS

Sympathy to Probate Assignment Clerk Gay Parker in the Sept. 6 passing of her grandmother Rosie Mai Sheppard, who succumbed to cancer at the Tennessee Christian Medical Center.

Condolences to attorney Ed Hiland in the death of his mother Evelyn Young Hiland, who passed away on Sept. 3 at the age of 91. Mrs. Hiland was the grandmother of deputy circuit court clerk Hilary Hiland.

MORELAND: A TRIPLE THREAT GRID OFFICIAL

(From Page 1)

across the country, testing their credentials.

Moreland's were pretty good. For 15 years he has officiated games for the TSSAA and he added the OVC to his resume seven years ago.

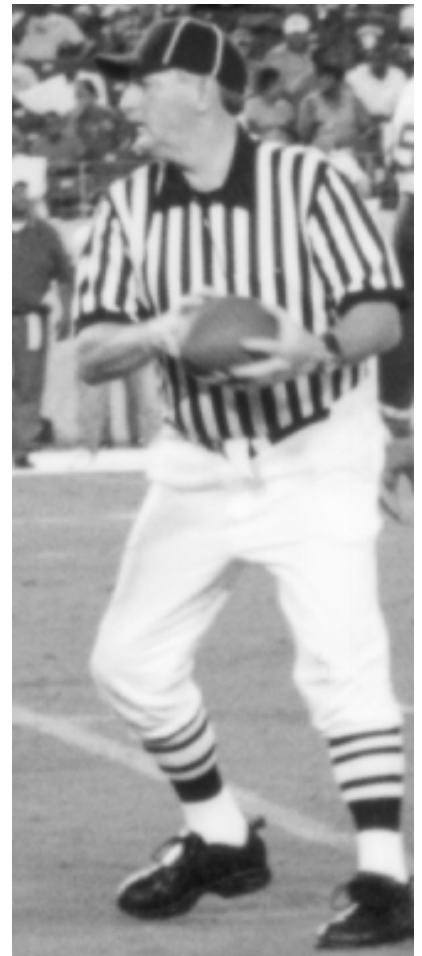
But one would think officiating at the professional level might be a bit overwhelming.

Not true, says Moreland. "The game is quicker and more violent, of course," he said. "But once the ball is kicked off, it's just a regular football game."

The Titans game actually was Moreland's second pro game assignment. He also worked the preseason game between the Philadelphia Eagles and the Denver Broncos in Philadelphia a week earlier.

Now that the NFL and its referees have reached a contract agreement, the judge can settle back into the old routine of Friday and Saturday games--just like our officiating boss Richard Rooker.

Ho hum.



Moreland steps off yardage

General Sessions Committees

Chairmen denoted in bold face type

TRAFFIC COURT

JOHN BROWN
WILLIAM FAIMON
JOHN AARON HOLT

CRIMINAL COURT

CASEY MORELAND
MIKE MONDELLI
SUE MCKNIGHT EVANS

CIVIL COURT

SUE MCKNIGHT EVANS
LEON RUBEN
GLORIA DUMAS
CASEY MORELAND

COMMISSIONERS

MIKE MONDELLI
CASEY MORELAND
SUE MCKNIGHT EVANS
GALE ROBINSON

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

GLORIA DUMAS
GALE ROBINSON
CASEY MORELAND

PROBATION

JOHN AARON HOLT
JOHN BROWN
BILL HIGGINS
GLORIA DUMAS

BAR LIAISON

WILLIAM FAIMON
LEON RUBEN
MIKE MONDELLI

ADMINISTRATIVE-PERSONNEL

MARK FISHBURN
JOHN BROWN
SUE MCKNIGHT EVANS
WILLIAM FAIMON

TRIAL COURT LIAISON

BILL HIGGINS
MIKE MONDELLI
WILLIAM FAIMON
GALE ROBINSON

FACILITY SPACE PLANNING

MIKE MONDELLI
CASEY MORELAND
MARK FISHBURN
GLORIA DUMAS

LEGISLATIVE-EXECUTIVE

GLORIA DUMAS
LEON RUBEN
BILL HIGGINS
JOHN AARON HOLT



JURY

TRIAL VERDICTS

ABBREVIATIONS:

P	PLAINTIFF	CP	COUNTER PLAINTIFF
D	DEFENDANT	CD	COUNTER DEFENDANT
PPD	PERM. PARTIAL DISABILITY	GSA	GENERAL SESSIONS APPEAL
CO	COMPENSATORY	TCPA	TN. CONSUMER PROTECT ACT

APPEALS

Week of August 20

CIRCUIT COURT

GENERAL SESSIONS

CASE	TYPE	COURT	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
00C-531	AUTO ACCIDENT/ST	5TH	(P) \$7,903	ADMITTED		
99C-3136	AUTO ACCIDENT	2ND	DEFENDANT			
98C-1175	AUTO ACCIDENT	5TH	(P) \$1,750,000	ADMITTED		

NON-JURY TRIAL RESULTS

APPEALS

Week of August 13

CIRCUIT COURT

GENERAL SESSIONS

CASE	TYPE	COURT	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
00C-20/25	AUTO ACCIDENT	1ST	PENDING			
01C-390	GSA/CONTRACT	5TH	(P) \$1,173		P-\$3,527	DEFENDANT
00C-3174	WORKERS COMP	8TH*	UNDER ADVISEMENT			
01C-948	GSA/DETAINER	5TH	UNDER ADVISEMENT		POSSESSION ONLY	DEFENDANT
01C-1098	GSA/BAILMENT	8TH*	DEFENDANT		P-\$3,100	DEFENDANT
01C-726-727	GSA/CONTRACT	5TH	UNDER ADVISEMENT		TRANSFER	
01C-714	GSA/AUTO ACCIDENT/ST	8TH	(P) \$5,283		P-\$4,334	DEFENDANT
01C-576	DAMAGES	1ST	PENDING			

*HEARD BY MARSH NICHOLS, SITTING AS SUBSTITUTE.

'Rooker's Renegades' Clerk's Team Nabs Softball Championship

It's not a requirement for employment, but a number of Circuit Court Clerk Richard Rooker's staff came equipped with good athletic skills.

In fact, some of them pooled their talents in August to form a softball team of championship caliber.

Calling themselves Rooker's Renegades, 11 employees from the Traffic Violations Bureau, Circuit Court Clerk's Office and General Sessions Civil Division captured the title in the annual Metro Coed Softball Tournament at Cedar Hill Park in Madison.

We're happy to present them to you in the adjoining photo.

Correction

We erroneously stated in our August edition that the claim limit in General Sessions civil court is \$20,000. The limit, of course, is \$15,000. We regret the error.



ROOKER'S RENEGADES--Showing off their first place trophy from the Metro Coed Softball Tournament in August are (back row l-r) Ross Barton (General Sessions), David Patterson (Traffic Violations, who also coached the team), Ronny Nollner (General Sessions) Brian Kahrs (Circuit), Candace Benbow (Traffic Violations), Tracy Cartwright (Circuit) and Robin Smith (Traffic Violations). Front row l-r: Bill Cartwright, Antonio Lanier and Jesse Woodard (all Traffic Violations). At right is Traffic Warrant Office staffer Marie Roberts, who provided cheers and moral support. Team member Sarah Dunn-McClain (Traffic) was not present for the picture.

TRENDS

CASE ANALYSES



RATIO: PLAINTIFFS 5.4-1

AUTO ACCIDENTS

PLAINTIFFS 44
DEFENDANTS 8

MONTH-BY-MONTH

MONTH	TOTALS	JURY	NON-JURY	PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	NONE
JANUARY-MARCH	21	18	3	17	2	2
APRIL-MAY	16	12	4	13	2	1
JUNE-JULY	14	14	0	11	3	0
AUGUST	5	3	2	3	1	1

JURY AWARDS

MONTH	\$TOTALS	DOLLAR RANGE	\$MEAN
JANUARY	166,391	3,750-76,000	2,888
FEBRUARY	173,656	2,000-150,000	7,218
MARCH	21,892	500-10,691	3,567
APRIL	53,462	1,352-20,000	6,422
MAY	1,031,362	1,275-1,000,000	10,062
JUNE	3,905,929	2,229-3.75 MILLION	76,850
JULY	126,668	466-59,353	13,171
AUGUST	9,653	1,750-7,903	N/A

NON-JURY AWARDS

MONTH	\$TOTALS	DOLLAR RANGE	\$MEAN
JANUARY	3,300	N/A	N/A
FEBRUARY	N/A	N/A	N/A
MARCH	5,100	N/A	N/A
APRIL	27,500	2,300-16,000	9,200
MAY	N/A	N/A	N/A
JUNE	N/A	N/A	N/A
JULY	N/A	N/A	N/A
AUGUST	5,283	N/A	N/A

SOFT TISSUE CASES

MONTH	\$TOTALS	DOLLAR RANGE	\$MEAN
JANUARY	29,000	N/A	N/A
FEBRUARY	23,656	2,000-9,000	6,328
MARCH	21,392	1,600-10,691	4,550
APRIL	58,410	5,000-20,000	11,049
MAY	N/A	N/A	N/A
JUNE	152,229	2,229-150,000	N/A
JULY	67,315	466-8,500	14,587
AUGUST	13,186	5,283-7,903	N/A

*GENERAL SESSIONS APPEALS

MONTH	TOTALS	PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	NONE
JANUARY-MARCH	4	3	0	1
APRIL-MAY	3	2	1	0
JUNE-JULY	2	1	1	0
AUGUST	1	1	0	0

OTHER TYPES



CONTRACTS YTD PLAINTIFFS DEFENDANTS NO VERDICT
39 28 3 8

AUGUST AWARDS: \$1,173-- TOTAL AWARDS TO DATE: \$302,987

MISCELLANEOUS

39

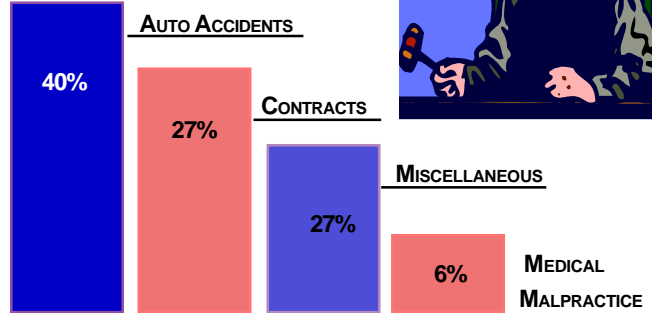
PLAINTIFFS 27
DEFENDANTS 6
NO VERDICT 6

MALPRACTICE

9

PLAINTIFFS 0
DEFENDANTS 8
NO VERDICT 1

CIVIL TRIALS By CLASS



DATA BANK

Statistics compiled for the month of August

CASE INFORMATION

Circuit Court

NEW CIVIL CASES FILED	342
CIVIL CASES CONCLUDED	267
NEW DIVORCE CASES FILED	239
DIVORCE CASES CONCLUDED	238

General Sessions Civil

NEW CASES FILED	3,723
EXECUTIONS ISSUED	3,494
GARNISHMENT PAYMENTS	3,900
JUDGMENTS COLLECTED	\$628,361
ORDER OF PROTECTION PETITIONS	252

Probate Court

NEW CASES FILED	180
CASES CLOSED	291

Traffic Violations

MOVING CITATIONS	18,187
PARKING VIOLATIONS	8,411
TOTAL FINES COLLECTED	\$349,577
NULLIFICATIONS	1,474
NULLIFICATION FEES COLLECTED	\$17,676

ROOKER REPORT

Published by the Davidson County Circuit Court Clerk's Office
506 Metro Courthouse, Nashville, TN 37201
Internet @ www.nashville.org/cir

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

Richard R. Rooker Circuit Court Clerk
Gene Baker Editor



ADA coordinator, Gene Baker (880-3309)