

ROOKER REPORT

November 2001

Published by the Davidson County Circuit Court Clerk's Office

Vol.9, No. 10

We Pause To Give Thanks



**NOVEMBER
22-25**

CHEERS...

Congratulations to **Mary Hackett**, law clerk for Circuit Judge **Marietta Shipley**, who passed the state bar examination in July.



THOMAS

BISIO

Belated best wishes to newlyweds **George Thomas III** of the Metro Property Assessor's Office and **Lesley Bisio** of the Criminal Court Clerk's Office. The couple tied the knot on Oct. 6 in ceremonies at the Hermitage Hotel, culminating a three-year relationship.

They became engaged last Thanksgiving and are looking forward to spending their first Christmas together as a married couple. They spent their honeymoon in Mexico.

Sorry ladies, but deputy circuit court clerk **Brian Kahrs** is no longer approachable. He has asked 24-year-old **Sara Embury**, a student and part-time radiology technologist at Vanderbilt, to become Mrs. Brian Kahrs. The couple have been dating since April of last year when they met at an apartment complex fitness center. They were engaged on Oct. 23 and expect to tie the knot next June.



KAHRS



WOODS

Wedding bells are in the future of Traffic Violations Bureau bookkeeper **Stacey Woods**, whose longtime romance with police officer **Robert Plummer** hit a high note on Nov. 9. He popped the question. She answered in the affirmative. They became engaged. No date has been set for the big event at this point. Stay tuned.

For the second time, **Don Corn** has announced his retirement from court officer duties. Corn, who came out of retirement in April to replace outgoing fellow court officer **Bob McClain** at the request of General Sessions Judge **Bill Higgins**, will try again on Jan. 1--three days after his 65th birthday. As he has done in the past, Corn will work with organized labor, helping retirees and assisting in political action programs. He will be replaced in the court officer's post by **Stanley Frank**, a retired certified financial planner.



CORN



CARTER

Congratulations to **Tammany Carter**, a deputy clerk in the Traffic Violations Bureau, upon giving birth to a son. **Kaden Carter** arrived at Baptist Hospital on Oct. 25, weighing in at 6 pounds, 13 ounces and measuring 19 inches in length. Tammany is currently on maternity leave.

General Sessions Judge **Leon Ruben** has been appointed to the American Judges Association Court of Appeals for a one-year term, after which he will be eligible to seek election to a five-year term. This following Ruben's six-plus years of service on the AJA's board of directors. The association's purpose is to improve the effective and impartial administration of justice and to promote the interchange of ideas among judges, court organization and the public.

December Birthdays

Traffic Violations

11 Connie Murff

12 Wayne Elrod

27 Joseph Day

Monty Russell

29 Lori Davis

Pat Baxter

31 Don Clunan

Probate Clerk

27 Brenda Osborne

29 Tom Brown

Circuit Court Clerk

1 Kelly Baltz

4 Becky Dye

11 Scott Speer

General Sessions

2 Denise Dill

25 Marie Anderson

31 Jackie Knight

...TEARS

The legal community lost two prominent attorneys this month:

William W. Berry, 84, a member of the firm **Bass Berry & Sims** since 1940, died of heart failure at Baptist Hospital on Nov. 7. He had remained active in the law firm his uncle helped found in 1922 until about one week before his demise.

Edward L. Jennings, 86, passed away on Nov. 10 following a long illness. In addition to being an outstanding attorney, he served in many key positions, including the executive vice presidency of Belmont University.

We are also saddened by the passing of Circuit Judge **James E. Walton** of Springfield, who lost his battle with cancer on Nov. 13. He was 62 and served on the bench for 17 years.

Condolences to Nashville attorney **Monica Edwards**, whose mother **Marion Edwards** passed away on Nov. 12.

Sympathy to Traffic Violations Bureau bookkeeper **Jean Hart** in the passing of her sister **Mary Etta McAfee**, who succumbed to cancer at the age of 81 in a Fayetteville hospital.

Our thoughts are with the parents of 10-year-old **Chandler Wynne** of Bellevue whose two-year struggle with brain cancer came to an end on Nov. 13. Chandler was known to members of the General Sessions Civil Division staff who had prayed for his recovery.

Deepest sympathy to **Carolyn Hall**, wife of attorney **Wes Hall**, in the Nov. 7 departure of her mother **Nancye Hatcher**. Mrs. Hatcher passed away at Vanderbilt Hospital following a long illness.

Annex Update

For those who have been asking...

The construction contract on the Ben West courthouse annex project is scheduled to be awarded on April 16 with work to begin shortly thereafter. Substantial completion of the annex is targeted for June 30, 2003.



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

GENERAL SESSIONS

Week of October 1

CIRCUIT COURT

CASE	TYPE	COURT	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
00C-1657	AUTO ACCIDENT	2ND	DEFENDANT			
99C-2099	AUTO ACCIDENT	3RD*	DEFENDANT			
01C-1030	AUTO ACCIDENT/ST	1ST (P)	\$5,751			

*--JURY WAIVED

Week of October 8

CASE	TYPE	COURT	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
99C-1268	PROPERTY DAMAGE	1ST (P)	\$39,012			
99C-2941	AUTO ACCIDENT/ST	8TH (P)	\$4,000	(D-100)		
01C-2061	GSA/AUTO ACCIDENT	5TH (P)	\$2,486		P-\$2,486	DEFENDANT

Week of October 29

CASE	TYPE	COURT	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
00C-3440	AUTO ACCIDENT/ST	5TH	DEFENDANT			
99C-1101	AUTO ACCIDENT/ST	1ST (P)	\$2,300	ADMITTED		
01C-1926	AUTO ACCIDENT/ST	6TH (P)	\$5,123	(P-50 D-50)		
01C-1927	AUTO ACCIDENT/ST	6TH (P)	\$1,099	(P-50 D-50)		

NON-JURY TRIAL RESULTS

APPEALS

Week of October 15

CIRCUIT COURT

GENERAL SESSIONS

CASE	TYPE	COURT	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
97C-1117	WORKERS COMPENSATION	8TH	UNDER ADVISEMENT			
00C-2020	CONTRACT	6TH	UNDER ADVISEMENT			
99C-3320	WORKERS COMPENSATION	5TH (P)	\$39,068			
99C-110	CONTRACT	1ST (D)	DISMISSED			
01C-1864	GSA/CONTRACT	8TH	UNDER ADVISEMENT		P-\$4,115	DEFENDANT
01C-188	CONTRACT	6TH (P)	\$13,745			
01C-1480	PROPERTY DAMAGE	6TH (P)	\$1,935			
01C-2003	GSA/AUTO ACCIDENT	8TH (P)	\$2,500		DISMISSED	PLAINTIFF
01C-1336	GSA/CONTRACT	5TH (P)	\$7,085		P-\$5,250	DEFENDANT

HOLIDAY PLANNING

Courts and related offices will be closed for the holidays according to the following schedule:

Thanksgiving

Thursday-Friday--Nov. 22-23. Reopen Monday, Nov. 26

Christmas

Monday-Tuesday--Dec. 24-25. Reopen Wednesday, Dec. 26

New Year

Tuesday--Jan. 1. Reopen Wednesday, Jan. 2

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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)

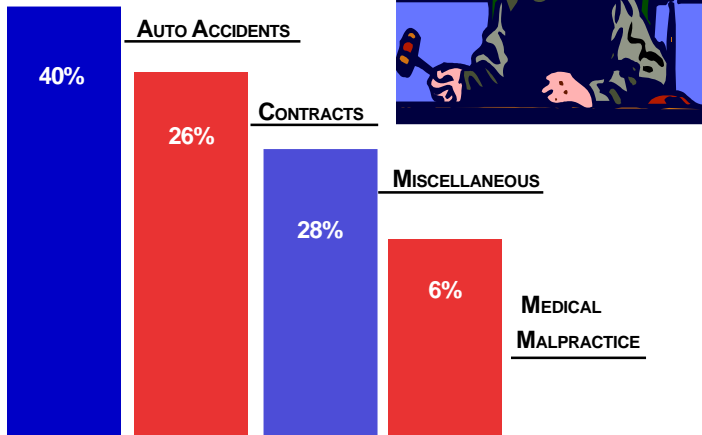
Richard R. Rooker Circuit Court Clerk
Gene Baker Editor



ADA coordinator, Gene Baker (880-3309)

TRENDS

CIVIL TRIALS By CLASS



DATA BANK

Statistics compiled for the month of October

CASE INFORMATION

Circuit Court

NEW CIVIL CASES FILED	288
CIVIL CASES CONCLUDED	299
NEW DIVORCE CASES FILED	231
DIVORCE CASES CONCLUDED	327

General Sessions Civil

NEW CASES FILED	3,808
EXECUTIONS ISSUED	3,715
GARNISHMENT PAYMENTS	4,311
JUDGMENTS COLLECTED	\$689,403
ORDER OF PROTECTION PETITIONS	254

Probate Court

NEW CASES FILED	123
CASES CLOSED	332

Traffic Violations

MOVING CITATIONS	15,201
PARKING VIOLATIONS	8,326
TOTAL FINES COLLECTED	\$291,247
NULLIFICATIONS	1,262
NULLIFICATION FEES COLLECTED	\$15,144



RATIO: PLAINTIFFS 5.1-1

CASE ANALYSES

AUTO ACCIDENTS

PLAINTIFFS 56
DEFENDANTS 11

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-SEPTEMBER	25	21	4	20	4	1
OCTOBER	9	8	1	6	3	0

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
SEPTEMBER	39,968	1,918-28,750	4,700
OCTOBER	20,759	1,099-5,751	3,477

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
SEPTEMBER	10,123	2,500-7,623	N/A
OCTOBER	2,500	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
SEPTEMBER	35,550	6,800-28,750	N/A
OCTOBER	18,273	1,099-5,751	3,807

*GENERAL SESSIONS APPEALS

MONTH	TOTALS	PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	NONE
JANUARY-MARCH	4	3	0	1
APRIL-MAY	3	2	1	0
JUNE-SEPTEMBER	6	5	1	0
OCTOBER	2	2	0	0



CONTRACTS	YTD	PLAINTIFFS	DEFENDANTS	NO VERDICT
	45	31	4	10

OCTOBER AWARDS: \$20,830-- TOTAL AWARDS TO DATE: \$368,282

MISCELLANEOUS

49
PLAINTIFFS 32
DEFENDANTS 8
NO VERDICT 9



MALPRACTICE

10
PLAINTIFFS 1
DEFENDANTS 8
NO VERDICT 1

