

9th Anniversary Issue

ROOKER REPORT

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DIAL-A-CASE GETTING NEW NAME, NEW HOME ON WEBSITE

Dial-A-Case, the name of the computer that allows subscribers to view civil case files, will soon be getting a new name, a new home, and a more affordable rate.

Beginning this spring, the public electronic access service will become a link of the Circuit Court Clerk internet website and will be known as CaseLink. The new name corresponds with the change which eliminates the need for connecting to the service via modem hook-up.

Computer owners with internet access and using Internet Explorer 5.0 (or greater) browsers will be able to access the service for a nominal monthly fee of \$20—about half of the current Dial-A-Case cost.

Information from the inquiry terminals in Circuit, Probate, and General Sessions (Civil) will be available from your home or office.

An additional benefit will be constant updates of files with unlimited access 24 hours per day. The current modem service provides updates only once a day while the new service updates data as it is being entered in the various departments.

“Our goal is to provide access to information with familiar browser interface, allowing a greater ease of use,” said chief computer technician Mike Garrett. “This is the first step toward better things to come, such as viewing scanned documents at home.”

Dial-A-Case was introduced in October 1993 and has enjoyed nominal success. There are currently 77 active subscribers, each of whom will be offered conversion to CaseLink during its testing phase.

Check out our newly designed website at www.nashville.org/cir under the “Information” section to learn more about CaseLink.



CANDY RUCKER

JOB SHARING Concept Proves Ideal For Two Court Workers



MARIAN KOHL

A recent newspaper article focusing on two women who shared the same television account executive job for eleven years caught the eye of Circuit Judge Hamilton Gayden, Jr.

“We’ve been doing that in my office for years,” Gayden responded to an inquiring reporter in reference to what has become, for some, an alternative means for balancing a career and a quality family life.

The concept allows two people to share a single job classification while splitting the allotted weekly hours—and the salary—budgeted for that particular position.

Understandably, the required elements for success are rarely present—not the least of which is the willingness of employers to convert a fulltime position to two parttime jobs. It also is a change that seldom meets the financial requirements of most workers.

But for some, it fulfills a need for spending more time with their families while keeping a career afloat.

Such is the case for Candy Rucker and Marian Kohl, who have shared a court administrative job under Gayden for the past two years with satisfactory results to both their professional and personal lives.

Both women were attracted to the job sharing concept because of the flexibility it offered in providing them greater involvement in their children’s development and the pursuit of other personal interests while still contributing to their family’s income.

Kohl actually is the fourth job sharing partner for Rucker, who began participating in the concept in 1996.

“I got the idea from President (Bill) Clinton,” said Gayden. “He came on television and called for

See JOB SHARING, Page 2

Check Out New Look Of Website

For the first time since its original design in 1996, our internet website has undergone a major facelift.

Visitors to the site (www.nashville.org/cir) will find it to be more user friendly, more attractive and easier to navigate.

The new design went on-line earlier this month.

Because of advanced technology, users will see dramatic improvement to the speed with which pages will appear, said Clay Hardin, who designed both the old and new versions.

All the original features have been retained and are accessible from the site’s main menu, laid out in file folder format that allows users to “tab” the department from which they wish to base their search.

Sub-directories then guide users to subjects of choice. Information pertaining to virtually every issue dealing with circuit, probate and general sessions civil courts is available on the site.

You’ll even find this report, along with back issues—all in Adobe PDF format for printer downloading or screen viewing in the paper published version.

Your comments are invited.

CHEERS...

Pssst! Want to see some pictures? If so, just drop by the circuit court clerk's office and ask for **Carolyn Davis**. She has oodles of them, all of which are of her new granddaughter **Taylor Elizabeth Driver**, who arrived for the photo session on Jan. 22. Carolyn's fourth grandchild is the product of her daughter **Kim Driver** and Kim's happy hubby **Tony Driver**, who are pleased with their daughter's 6 pound, 7.5 ounce birth weight, distributed over a 19-inch frame. And Carolyn is pleased to share her middle name (Elizabeth) with her new granddaughter. Incidentally, both of the happy parents are government workers--Kim for the state and Tony for the Metro Benefit Board.

Mike Fischer has returned to work in the General Sessions Civil Division office after undergoing surgery to correct a herniated disc in his back.

...TEARS

Condolences to **Janice Johnson**, assistant chief clerk of the general sessions civil division, in the loss of her grandfather **Justin Register**, 94, who passed away in St. Petersburg, Florida where he resided.

We are saddened by the sudden passing of **Boyd Overby**, an employee of Metro Water Services who was popular with fellow government workers and a former candidate for the Metro Employee Benefit Board. He died of heart failure on Feb. 12 at Southern Hills Hospital.

Former court security guard **Bobby Fleming**, who waited unsuccessfully for a liver transplant, lost his struggle in January. He had been on the disabled list for about two years. He will be missed.

Revised Case Count Comparison

<u>CIRCUIT</u>	1999	2000	2001
CIVIL FILINGS:			
Jury	1,382	1,438	1,373
Non-Jury	1,631	1,683	1,890
TOTAL	3,013	3,121	3,263
Concluded:			
Jury	2,161	2,179	1,974
Non-Jury	1,272	1,348	1,352
TOTAL	3,433	3,527	3,326
Divorce Filings	3,260	3,129	2,927
Divorce Concluded	3,410	3,300	2,816
PROBATE			
New Filings	2,007	1,952	2,001
Cases Concluded	1,769	2,043	3,010

An audit of annual case figures as reported in our January issue revealed discrepancies for both the 2000 and 2001 calendar years in some circuit court and probate court statistics.

The chart above reflects the correct figures for both years in those departments. We regret the errors.

BIRTHDAYS

Traffic Violations

2 Dana McGregor
5 Wanda Clymer
12 Roy Bohannon
24 Lisa Jones

General Sessions

None

MARCH

Circuit Court Clerk

10 Penny Hubbell
17 Deanna Alexander
26 Micah Howell
29 Cheryl Kennedy

Probate Clerk

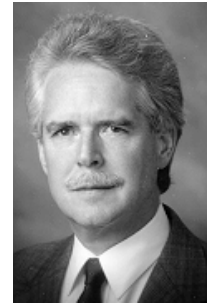
21 Kyle Sowell

Job Sharing

(From Page 1)

'I got the idea from President Clinton'

--Circuit Judge Hamilton Gayden



JUDGE GAYDEN

job sharing as a means of stimulating growth in the nation's work force."

When Marsh Nichols came on board, Gayden paired her with Rucker to test the concept. Since both Nichols and Rucker had small children at home, both the idea and the timing were perfect.

It worked out so well that when Nichols was appointed a civil court special master, others were receptive to filling the spot under the same conditions. Nick Lampkin and Janet Hodge would precede Kohl as Rucker's job partner.

Kohl and Rucker appear to have the compatibility necessary to making the arrangement a long-term success. Their job is budgeted for only one salary, which is divided between them, and they earn it on different days with each working 2.5 days per week—Rucker on Monday and Wednesday and Kohl on Thursday and Friday. Each works a half day on Tuesday.

Job responsibilities attached to the job classification are separately assigned. Rucker serves as court administrator, arranges status conferences and confers with attorneys on court dates, etc. while Kohl does law clerking, prepares motion dockets and frequently presides over certain cases as a special master. And, of course, each can be found in the courtroom doing court officer duty during hearings.

"The nice thing about it," says Rucker, "is that we know each other's job and can fill in for each other when the situation calls for it. It's great to have that flexibility."

Such flexibility will come in handy in June. That's when Kohl is expecting her second child and a companion for three-year-old Caroline. Rucker also has two children, son Chris who is a ninth grader at Hume Fogg and Lauren, a second grader.

For Rucker, job sharing allows her to do volunteer work and devote attention to being a Brownie Troop Leader.

For Kohl, a former practicing attorney, it means she can still keep up on the law while having the necessary time to raise a family.

"I wasn't interested in working fulltime," Kohl said. "I knew the atmosphere of this office would be conducive to my home schedule. The arrangement is just perfect."

Upcoming Holidays

March 29--Good Friday

May 27--Memorial Day

July 4--Independence Day

September 2--Labor Day



JURY

TRIAL VERDICTS

ABBREVIATIONS:

P	PLAINTIFF	CP	COUNTER PLAINTIFF
D	DEFENDANT	CD	COUNTER DEFENDANT
NP	NON-PARTY	GSA	GENERAL SESSIONS APPEAL
COM	COMPENSATORY	PUN	PUNITIVE

APPEALS

Week of January 7

CIRCUIT COURT

GENERAL SESSIONS

CASE	TYPE	COURT	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
94C-4055	MEDICAL MALPRACTICE	5TH	DEFENDANT			
01C-1923	GSA/AUTO ACCIDENT	8TH (P)	\$5,776		P-\$10,200	DEFENDANT
01C-356	DEFAULT	3RD	\$100,000			
00C-1492	AUTO ACCIDENT	8TH (P)	\$34,172 (Com)			
00C-1492	AUTO ACCIDENT	8TH (P)	\$52,000 (Pun)			

Soft Tissue

CASE	TYPE	COURT	PRAYER	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
00C-62	AUTO ACCIDENT/ST	1ST	\$150,000	\$10,028	(D-100)		

Week of January 14

CASE	TYPE	COURT	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
99C-3044	MEDICAL MALPRACTICE	1ST	DEFENDANT			
00C-1700	SLIP/FALL	6TH (P)	\$10,100	(D-55) (P-45)		
01C-912	AUTO ACCIDENT	8TH	DEFENDANT			

Soft Tissue

CASE	TYPE	COURT	PRAYER	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
00C-3219	AUTO ACCIDENT/ST	8TH	\$35,000	\$1,882			

Week of January 22

CASE	TYPE	COURT	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
99C-739	ASSAULT	6TH (P)	\$1,000			
99C-3246	CONTRACT	5TH (D)				
99C-1338	AUTO ACCIDENT	1ST (P)	\$75,000			
99C-1610	AUTO ACCIDENT/DEATH	8TH (P)	\$895,000 (Com)			
99C-1610	AUTO ACCIDENT/DEATH	8TH (P)	\$500 (Pun)			

Soft Tissue

CASE	TYPE	COURT	PRAYER	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
98C-2515	AUTO ACCIDENT/ST	3RD	\$50,000	\$578	ADMITTED		

NON-JURY TRIAL RESULTS

APPEALS

Week of January 22

CIRCUIT COURT

GENERAL SESSIONS

CASE	TYPE	COURT	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
99C-1340	WORKERS COMPENSATION	1ST (P)	\$47,564			
01C-2056	GSA/CONTRACT	6TH (P)	\$1,000		P-\$2,500	DEFENDANT
99C-1256	WORKERS COMPENSATION	5TH	UNDER ADVISEMENT			
01C-1743	METRO APPEAL	8TH	\$50+Costs		D-\$50 FINE	DEFENDANT
01C-2004	GSA/CONTRACT	3RD (P)	\$3,468		P-\$3,121	DEFENDANT
01C-2553	GSA/CONTRACT	6TH (P)	\$100		P-\$1,500	DEFENDANT
01C-2641	GSA/CONTRACT	6TH (P)	\$300		P-\$8,000	DEFENDANT
01C-2852	GSA/CONTRACT	3RD	UNDER ADVISEMENT		P-\$8,600	DEFENDANT
01C-1623	GSA/CONTRACT	8TH (P)	\$5,000		DISMISSED	PLAINTIFF
95C-2669	CONDEMNATION	8TH (D)	\$72,572			

TRENDS



RATIO: PLAINTIFFS 7-1

CASE ANALYSES

AUTO ACCIDENTS

PLAINTIFFS 7
DEFENDANTS 1

MONTH-BY-MONTH

MONTH	TOTALS	JURY	NON-JURY	PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	NONE
JANUARY	9	9	0	8	1	0

JURY AWARDS

MONTH	\$TOTALS	DOLLAR RANGE	\$MEAN
JANUARY	1,342,250	578-945,000	89,235

NON-JURY AWARDS

MONTH	\$TOTALS	DOLLAR RANGE	\$MEAN
JANUARY	N/A	N/A	N/A

SOFT TISSUE CASES

MONTH	\$TOTALS	DOLLAR RANGE	\$MEAN
JANUARY	185,578	578-150,000	35,000

*GENERAL SESSIONS APPEALS

MONTH	TOTALS	PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	NONE
JANUARY	10,200	1	0	0

Other Classes



CONTRACTS YTD PLAINTIFFS DEFENDANTS NO VERDICT
7 4 1 1

JANUARY AWARDS: \$9,868-- TOTAL AWARDS TO DATE: \$9,868

MISCELLANEOUS

7
PLAINTIFFS 5
DEFENDANTS 1
NO VERDICT 1

MALPRACTICE

2
PLAINTIFFS 0
DEFENDANTS 2
NO VERDICT 0



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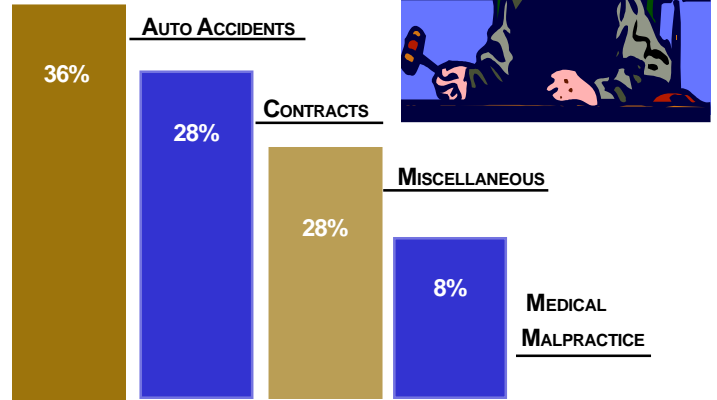
Established by George L. Rooker (1929-1993),
(Circuit Court Clerk, 1968-1993)

Richard R. Rooker Circuit Court Clerk
Gene Baker Editor



ADA coordinator, Gene Baker (880-3309)

CIVIL TRIALS By CLASS



DATA BANK

Statistics compiled for the month of January

CASE INFORMATION

Circuit Court

NEW CIVIL CASES FILED	238
JURY	90
NON-JURY	148
CIVIL CASES CONCLUDED	352
JURY	172
NON-JURY	180
NEW DIVORCE CASES FILED	238
DIVORCE CASES CONCLUDED	259

General Sessions Civil

NEW CASES FILED	3,200
EXECUTIONS ISSUED	3,563
GARNISHMENT PAYMENTS	4,040
JUDGMENTS COLLECTED	\$639,823
ORDER OF PROTECTION PETITIONS	200

Probate Court

NEW CASES FILED	197
CASES CLOSED	175

Traffic Violations

MOVING CITATIONS	19,105
PARKING VIOLATIONS	8,397
TOTAL FINES COLLECTED	\$302,636
NULLIFICATIONS	1,360
NULLIFICATION FEES COLLECTED	\$16,314

Soloman Concludes 18 DUI Cases

Eighth Circuit Court Judge Carol Soloman gave a helping hand to the criminal courts in January, taking on 34 DUI cases for final disposition.

Conclusion was reached in 18 cases with 15 defendants entering guilty pleas. Two cases were retired and one was dismissed on motion. The remaining 16 cases are on the February calendar.

Circuit and criminal courts have concurrent jurisdiction and often inter-change to avoid case backlogs.