

ROOKER REPORT

June 2002

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Two Veteran Deputy Clerks End Careers

Two senior employees of the circuit court clerk's office, with combined service of more than 60 years, will retire at the end of this month.

Terry Campion, who has served three clerks since joining the staff in 1965, and Virginia Laarz with 23.5 years as a deputy circuit clerk, will end their careers on June 28.

Circuit Court Clerk Richard Rooker praised both employees for their longevity, loyalty and dedication. He applauded their work ethics and their willingness to tackle new assignments with quality assurance, making them role models for others.



CAMPION

Before being transferred to the circuit court clerk's office in 1993, Campion spent 28 years as a deputy clerk in the General Sessions Civil Division. She had not planned on working there, but was enlisted by the late Circuit Court Clerk Alf Rutherford to help out with a special project at the request of Rutherford's wife. She was put on the payroll a short time later.

"I'm still here almost 38 years later," she said, "and I haven't regretted it one bit."

Following the passing of Rutherford, Campion spent the next 25 years in general sessions under the leadership of the late clerk George L. Rooker and moved to circuit when current



LAARZ

clerk Richard Rooker succeeded his father in 1993.

Campion said she "couldn't ask for a better organization" with which to work. "I have worked with and made so many friends," she added. "They have all become part of my family."

She plans to spend much of her retirement doing charity work, long one of her passions.

Laarz joined the circuit court clerk's staff on Jan. 1, 1979 and has held down a number of important positions. Her first assignment was doing the billing and posting of minutes for the Fourth Circuit and Probate courts. Later, follow-

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Service Will Cost More Under New Statewide Application

UNIFORM SHERIFF FEES GO INTO EFFECT JULY 1

" Certified mail rates will increase from \$7.14 to \$7.92 on July 1. Checks should be made payable to Postmaster.

Sheriff departments across the state will get equal pay for serving court papers when a new uniform fee law goes into effect on July 1.

The new fee structure, which will apply to all counties regardless of population, will increase the bottom line for filing civil lawsuits at all levels but will apply only to state regulated amounts sheriff departments must charge for the service of process.

Other filing fees, such as litigation taxes and the amounts clerks must charge for case handling, will not change.

The new service fee for original civil complaints in Davidson County will be \$20 per defendant with a one-time data processing fee of \$2. Subsequent requests for service in an initialized case will be a flat \$20 per document.

Service of process through any out-of-county sheriff will be \$20 per document, regardless of type, plus the \$2 processing fee for each service request.

The exception to the "flat \$20-plus" schedule will come in cases involving the execution of property levies and body attachments. Sheriff's fees in those matters will be set at \$40, plus the \$2 per case processing charge, and will replace the current commission payment system for service on levies and garnishments.

Revenues generated by the \$2 processing fee will be allocated for computerization, information systems and electronic records management costs of sheriff's offices in each county.

Historically, sheriff's fees have been established according to county population figures. This has meant a wide variation in the amounts charged for particular types of process. For example, the fee for serving a subpoena in one county might not be the same as in another county.

Implementation of the uniform fee schedule, therefore, should simplify accounting requirements and remove the uncertainty of cost for a specific type of action.

Circuit Court Clerk Richard Rooker said new filing fee schedules for Circuit, Probate and General Sessions Civil Division courts are being prepared for publication, both in print and on-line. The updated listings will incorporate the new sheriff's fees in the aggregate filing fee amount for each particular type of action, he said.



HAVE A SAFE 4th

All offices will be closed on Thursday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day. Regular business hours will resume on Friday, July 5.

CHEERS...



KAHRS

It's official. **Brian Kahrs** is now an honest man. The deputy circuit court clerk went to the altar on Saturday, June 22, and exchanged vows with **Sara Lynn Embury**. The ceremony was held at the Saint Stephen Catholic Community Church in Old Hickory. The couple chose Cancun for their honeymoon. Best wishes to the newlyweds.

For 23-odd years, the first face attorneys and customers saw upon entering the Chancery Court Clerk and Master's office was that of **Fran Mace**. Her warm personality, combined with a unique ability to memorize names and faces, made her one of the most popular employees in the courthouse. So it wasn't a surprise when a throng of well-wishers and flowers filled the jury assembly room on May 31 in recognition of her retirement. Her career in the office began in 1979 at the urging of former Chancellor **C. Allen High** and was spent almost exclusively at the front desk where her friendliness and eagerness to assist lawyers and others was recalled at the open house. Said Clerk and Master **Claudia Bonnyman**: "Her uncanny ability to recall first and last names of parties, lawyers, and anyone else whose name she hears only once...and the warmth of her personality have been hallmarks of the clerk's office." Fran and husband **Bob Mace**, a pilot and gourmet cook, have three sons and four grandchildren. And, of course, a huge extended courthouse family.



MACE



GRIGSBY

Another extensive government career will come to an end on June 28 when **Harold Grigsby** closes out more than 25 years with the General Services Maintenance Division. A reception will be held in his honor on that day from 1-4 p.m. in the Civil Service conference room of the 222 Building. Most of Grigsby's years of service were spent at the Stahlman Building before he was assigned to the new police precinct in Hermitage last year.

Congratulations to former Davidson County Chancellor **Frank Drowota** upon his re-election to a four-year term as Chief Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court. Drowota first served as chief justice in 1989-90 and was elected last year to fill the unexpired term of Justice **Riley Anderson**, who stepped down from the post but remains on the court. Drowota, 64, is the longest serving member of the Tennessee Judicial Conference, which includes the state's 178 trial and appellate judges.

...TEARS

Condolences to **Elizabeth Harris** of the Traffic Violations Bureau in the June 8 passing of her younger sister **Virginia Abernathy (Mama Ginny) Wynne**, 77. She is also survived by her husband of 59 years, **C. O. Wynne**.

BIRTHDAYS

JULY

Traffic Violations

1 Steve Rose
4 Margie Perry
6 Penny Reed
12 Candace Benbow
22 Michael Austin
23 Carlene Stoehr

Probate Clerk

none

Circuit Court Clerk

4 Brian McDonald
21 Ray Akers
24 Glenn Balletto

General Sessions

1 Melissa McKee
14 Margaret Blair
20 Molly Travis

Clerk Retirements

(From Page 1)

ing a stint as cashier and doing specialized computer entries, she was named appellate clerk. Most recently, she has been filling in for Fifth Circuit Court administrative assistant Kelli Olin, who is on maternity leave.

Like Campion, she is devoted to charity work, spending much of her time in church-related projects and fund-raising events to help fight diabetes. Her husband Bill Laarz, a music teacher, is the minister of music at Hillmont Baptist Church.

Laarz has two main passions--baking and sewing--and will devote most of her retirement time cultivating both. "Hopefully, some of it for money," she said, pointing out that she plans to cater food and take on sewing projects for pay.

The rest of the time, she said, will be spent providing taxi service for her three children, all of whom attend different schools.

More Garnishment Routings

As reported in our May issue, all garnishments being sent to the State of Tennessee now must contain specific routing information to ensure service of process.

All garnishments sent for service must contain the State Department to be served, the name of the Commissioner, the correct address and the Social Security number of the employee being garnished.

Fifteen addresses of the total 25 departments, along with names of the commissioners, were published. Following is the remainder of that list:

**TN. Dept. of Finance
& Administration**
%Comm. Warren Neel
State Capitol, First Floor
Nash., TN 37243

**TN Dept. of Probation/Parole
& Commissioner**
404 James Robertson Pky.
13th Floor
Nash., TN 37243

TENNCARE
%Comm. Warren Neel
State Capitol, First Floor
Nash., TN 37243

**TN. Dept. of Tourist Development
& Comm. John Wade**
320 6th Ave. N., Fifth Floor
Nash., TN 37243

**TN. Dept. of Transportation
& Comm. Bruce Saltsman**
505 Deaderick St., 7th Floor
Nash., TN 37243

**TN. Dept. of Veterans Affairs
& Comm. Wendell Gilbert**
215 8th Ave. N., Third Floor
Nash., TN 37243

**Tn. Dept. of Commerce
& Insurance**
%Comm. Anne Pope
500 James Robertson Pky.
5th Floor
Nash., TN 37243

**TN. Secretary of State
& Commissioner**
State Capitol, First Floor
Nash., TN 37243

**TN Comptroller's Office
& Commissioner**
State Capitol, First Floor
Nash., TN 37243

**TN. Legislative Department
& Commissioner**
War Memorial Building
Nash., TN 37243
Complete lists are available upon request in clerk's offices.



JURY

TRIAL VERDICTS

ABBREVIATIONS:

P	PLAINTIFF	CP	COUNTER PLAINTIFF
D	DEFENDANT	CD	COUNTER DEFENDANT
NP	Non-PARTY	GSA	GENERAL SESSIONS APPEAL
PPD	PERMANENT PARTIAL DISABILITY	PUN	PUNITIVE

APPEALS

GENERAL SESSIONS

Week of May 13

CIRCUIT COURT

CASE	TYPE	COURT	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
00C-2299	MEDICAL MALPRACTICE	1ST	(P) \$199,000			
99C-3027	MEDICAL MALPRACTICE	3RD	DEFENDANT			
00C-1778	AUTO ACCIDENT	6TH	(P) \$23,000	(D1 33) (D3 67)		
99C-1031	AUTO ACCIDENT	5TH*	UNDER ADVISEMENT			

*--JURY WAIVED

Soft Tissue

CASE	TYPE	COURT	PRAYER	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
00C-2400	AUTO ACCIDENT/ST	2ND	\$40,000	No AWARD	(P 40) (D 60)		
01C-3382	GSA/AUTO ACCIDENT/ST	5TH	\$15,000	\$373	ADMITTED	P-\$549	PLAINTIFF

Week of May 20

CASE	TYPE	COURT	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
96C-1097	MEDICAL MALPRACTICE	3RD	DIRECTED (DEFENDANT)			
00C-2645	AUTO ACCIDENT	5TH	(P) \$100,000			

NON-JURY TRIAL RESULTS

APPEALS

GENERAL SESSIONS

Week of May 6

CIRCUIT COURT

CASE	TYPE	COURT	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
02C-475	DAMAGES	8TH	(P) \$95,414			
01C-3619	DAMAGES	8TH	(P) \$30,482			
01C-2767	GSA/CONTRACT	5TH	(P) \$3,800		P-\$2,213	DEFENDANT
00C-2697	WORKERS COMPENSATION	8TH	(P) 10% PPD			
01C-3383	GSA/CONTRACT	1ST	(P) \$2,358		P-\$2,358	PLAINTIFF
01C-1661	WORKERS COMPENSATION	6TH	(P) 20% KNEE PPD 25% ARM PPD			
01C-1215	WORKERS COMPENSATION	1ST	(P) \$6,100			
01C-2924	GSA/CONTRACT	5TH	(P) \$335+FEES		P-\$3,098	DEFENDANT
01C-3689	GSA/CONTRACT	1ST	(P) \$9,919		\$11,195	DEFENDANT
01C-3867	GSA/AUTO ACCIDENT	8TH	(P) \$1,500+COSTS		P-\$1,500	DEFENDANT
01C-3465	GSA/MALICIOUS PROSECUTION	5TH	DEFENDANT		P-\$300	PLAINTIFF
01C-1164	GSA/AUTO ACCIDENT	1ST	DEFENDANT		P-\$2,280	DEFENDANT
01C-3771	GSA/DETAINER	5TH	(P) \$3,000+FEES		P-POSSESSION	DEFENDANT
01C-3608	GSA/DETAINER	5TH	(P) \$14,071		P-\$8,068	PLAINTIFF
01C-3772	GSA/CONTRACT	8TH	(P) \$2,182		P-\$2,182	DEFENDANT
02C-108	WORKERS COMPENSATION	6TH	RESERVED			
01C-2861	DAMAGES	8TH	(P) \$24,673			

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ADA coordinator, Gene Baker (880-3309)

Richard R. Rooker Circuit Court Clerk
Gene Baker Editor

TRENDS



CASE ANALYSES

AUTO ACCIDENTS

PLAINTIFFS 15
DEFENDANTS 4

RATIO: PLAINTIFFS 3.3-1

MONTH-BY-MONTH

MONTH	TOTALS	JURY	NON-JURY	PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	NONE
JANUARY	9	9	0	8	1	0
FEBRUARY	5	5	0	3	1	1
MARCH	3	1	2	2	0	1
APRIL	5	5	0	3	2	0
MAY	7	5	2	5	1	1

JURY AWARDS

MONTH	\$TOTALS	DOLLAR RANGE	\$MEAN
JANUARY	1,342,250	578-945,000	89,235
FEBRUARY	263,905	3,225-258,946	4,734
MARCH	10,000	N/A	N/A
APRIL	49,743	1,000-46,030	2,713
MAY	122,373	0-100,000	12,686

NON-JURY AWARDS

MONTH	\$TOTALS	DOLLAR RANGE	\$MEAN
JANUARY	N/A	N/A	N/A
FEBRUARY	N/A	N/A	N/A
MARCH	2,374	N/A	N/A
APRIL	N/A	N/A	N/A
MAY	1,500	N/A	N/A

SOFT TISSUE CASES

MONTH	\$TOTALS	DOLLAR RANGE	\$MEAN
JANUARY	185,578	578-150,000	35,000
FEBRUARY	3,225	N/A	N/A
MARCH	N/A	N/A	N/A
APRIL	1,000	N/A	N/A
MAY	373	0-373	N/A

*GENERAL SESSIONS APPEALS

MONTH	\$TOTALS	PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	NONE
JANUARY	10,200	1	0	0
FEBRUARY	9,401	1	1	0
MARCH	12,374	2	0	1
APRIL	N/A	0	1	0
MAY	1,873	2	1	0

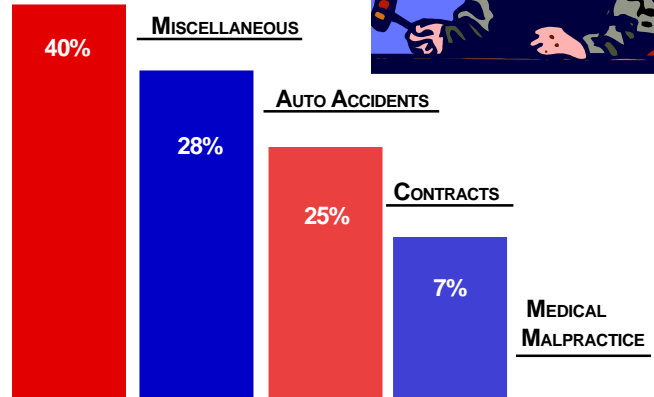
Other Classes



CONTRACTS	YTD	PLAINTIFFS	DEFENDANTS	NO VERDICT
	25	17	1	7

MAY AWARDS: \$18,594-- TOTAL AWARDS TO DATE: \$94,624

CIVIL TRIALS By CLASS



DATA BANK

Statistics compiled for the month of May

CASE INFORMATION

Circuit Court

NEW CIVIL CASES FILED	288
JURY	113
NON-JURY	175
CIVIL CASES CONCLUDED	290
JURY	161
NON-JURY	130
NEW DIVORCE CASES FILED	208
DIVORCE CASES CONCLUDED	175

General Sessions Civil

NEW CASES FILED	3,834
EXECUTIONS ISSUED	3,109
GARNISHMENT PAYMENTS	3,620
JUDGMENTS COLLECTED	\$666,238
ORDER OF PROTECTION PETITIONS	201

Probate Court

NEW CASES FILED	182
CASES CLOSED	192

Traffic Violations

MOVING CITATIONS	20,928
PARKING VIOLATIONS	7,308
TOTAL FINES COLLECTED	\$332,252
NULLIFICATIONS	1,627
NULLIFICATION FEES COLLECTED	\$19,524

Access Sessions Dockets on Our Web Site

Complete docket information for civil cases scheduled in General Sessions Court can be found on our internet web site.

Dockets for the previous, current and following days for each of the court's three courtrooms can be accessed at www.nashville.org/cir.

Select "General Sessions" from the main menu, then "Dockets" from the sub-directory. A day-by-day listing for each courtroom will link you to the docket of your choice.

MISCELLANEOUS

41

PLAINTIFFS 29
DEFENDANTS 5
NO VERDICT 7

MALPRACTICE

7

PLAINTIFFS 2
DEFENDANTS 5
NO VERDICT 0

