

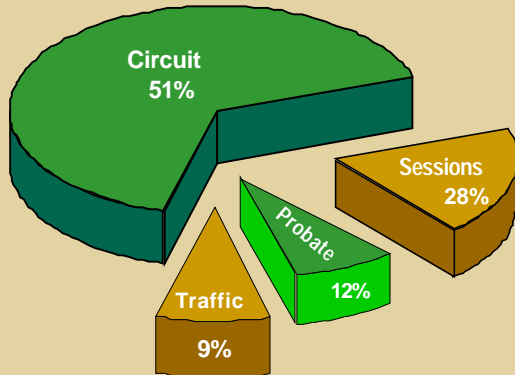
ROOKER REPORT

July 2002

Published by the Davidson County Circuit Court Clerk's Office

Vol.10, No. 6

Getting FI\$CAL



CIRCUIT	\$20,197,982
SESSIONS CIVIL	\$11,450,064
PROBATE	\$4,776,174
TRAFFIC	\$3,798,044
TOTAL CASH FLOW	\$40,222,264

Circuit, Sessions Boost Cash Flow

Civil litigation in the county's courtrooms generated more than \$40 million during the fiscal year ending June 30, fueled by continued strong activity in small claims matters and higher dollar awards in the trial courts.

With the number of new cases in general sessions court easily topping the previous record set last year, monetary awards in that department hit a new high of \$11,450,064, while winners at the circuit level shared in a \$20,197,982 distribution.

Gains in those two areas more than offset slight decreases in the bottom line figures of probate and the traffic courts, resulting in a \$1.8 overall increase from last year's reporting period.

All monies paid through the civil court system are under the fiduciary care of Circuit Court Clerk Richard Rooker, who must comply with the wishes of the courts in their distribution. None of the reported funds constitute revenue for the clerk, whose operations are financed by service fees mandated by state law.

See FISCAL, Page 3

NEW CASE FILINGS

	00-01	01-02
Circuit Court	3,208	3,241
Sessions Civil	36,603	39,603
Probate Court	1,978	2,081
Parking Citations	97,159	91,689
Moving Tickets	189,183	217,966
Divorces	2,996	2,782
Orders of Protection	2,611	2,717

The Higher Cost Of Getting Hitched

Some couples applying for marriage licenses this month were shocked to learn that the cost of becoming newlyweds in Tennessee was much higher than they expected.

A new state law that went into effect this month requires marrying couples to pay a \$60 surcharge if they fail to undergo premarital counseling.

Lack of a certificate signed by a qualified counselor stating that the couple has received at least four hours of marriage counseling within the last year doesn't mean a license cannot be obtained. But the couple must shell out a total of \$94 to get it. That includes a \$34 base cost (\$2.50 more than before), plus the \$60 non-counseling fee.

If the couple prefers not to pay the extra money, they can pick up a Certification of Completion form from the county clerk's office and return it once they have completed a premarital preparation course. The couple has several choices of a counselor--a trained representative of a religious institution, a psychologist, a licensed family therapist, a professional counselor, a clinical social worker, a clinical pastoral therapist, a psychological examiner, or any other approved instructor.

The new rules do not apply to couples who live out of state. By showing proof of residency, they may obtain a license for \$34, sans counseling.

What happens to the extra \$60 fee paid by non-counseled couples? The funds are designated to help fund a number of state programs, including those dealing with domestic violence, children's services, social work and foster care.



CHEERS...



Plummer

Traffic Violations Bureau bookkeeper **Stacey Plummer** now has a new title--mom. Stacey gave birth to a baby son on July 3. **Robert (Robbie) Plummer IV** arrived at Baptist Hospital weighing 7 pounds, 1.5 ounces and measuring 19 inches, much to the pleasure of daddy **Bobby Plummer**, a member of the Metro Police Department. Stacey is the daughter of **Sue Dumont**, formerly of the Probate Court staff.

Speaking of grandparents...Editor **Gene Baker** didn't waste any time in spreading the word about his new pride and joy--great-grandson **James Seth Garrett** who, in a truly Americana manner, chose the Fourth of July to make his entry into the world. Mommy is **Cari Ann Garrett**, the editor's granddaughter, who presented the 6-pound, 4-ounce bundle of love to hubby **Jimmy Garrett** at Hendersonville Hospital. Also in attendance for the big occasion were grandparents **Lance and Paula Kingsbury** (her side), **James and Judy Garrett** (his side) and great-grandmother **Bobbie Kingsbury**. Did we forget to mention that the new arrival was 20 inches long?

They didn't know it at the time, but when **Dan Vincent** and **Elaine McMackin** were in the same high school graduating class back in Paris, Tennessee many years ago they were destined to become soul mates. Fate took its course, culminating in an exchange of vows earlier this month. The couple were wed in a casual ceremony in Camden on July 5. Dan is a filing clerk in the circuit court clerk's office and Elaine is a retired Paris schoolteacher.



Vincent

Deputy circuit court clerk **Hilary Hiland** will be needing a new name plate, now that she has become Mrs. **Corey Duke**. The couple tied the knot on July 20 at McKendree United Methodist Church.



Griffin

Meanwhile, co-worker **Ronnell Griffin** is awaiting her turn at the altar after becoming engaged to longtime friend **Marlon Hannah**, a car salesman at a local dealership. Hannah waited for his birthday (July 6) to give Ronnell an engagement ring. Her gift to him was acceptance of his proposal.

Congratulations to former Stahlman Building maintenance technician **Matt Mares**, who graduated from the Metro Fire Department's Class of 2002 in ceremonies at the Municipal Auditorium on July 9. Matt took on the new career challenge in March. As a full-fledged fireman, he will be working out of Station 22 in the Pennington Bend area.

Glenn Balletto, a deputy clerk in circuit, is back on the job after recently undergoing a medical procedure to correct heart arrhythmia. The irregularity was discovered during a routine physical examination.

Also back among the working is Probate Master **Bob Bradshaw**, who is finding out how difficult it is to recover from a tonsillectomy for a person over 40. Bradshaw, 43, said he "thought I was gonna die" from the symptoms of an abscess that necessitated the recent surgery. But liquid cough medicine is helping the healing process, he said. And, on the positive side, he said he has dropped 35 unwanted pounds on the "tonsillectomy diet."

BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST

Traffic Violations

2 Sarah Dunn-McClain
3 Joe Foster
22 Tammany Carter
23 Billye Barnard
25 Pat Trimble

Probate Clerk

9 Gay Parker

Circuit Court Clerk

9 Jan Jorgensen
21 Mark Herring

General Sessions

18 Janice Johnson
29 Kim Wolfe

Rooker Honored by Council For Outstanding Service

Circuit Court Clerk Richard Rooker was honored by the Metro Council this month for outstanding service to the community.

In a resolution introduced by Councilman Lawrence Hart and adopted by the full council, Rooker was cited for "leadership, commitment and devotion" while serving the public as clerk of the civil court system since 1993.

During his tenure, the resolution read, Rooker has "continued with the updating of computer programs and other available technical resources" while offering courteous and respectful personal service.

Singled out as innovative contributions were Rooker's introduction of computer modem services, an internet web site and a monthly newsletter. Also noted were Rooker's accomplishments while serving as president of the State Court Clerks Association, and as a member of the Bench Bar Relations and the Jury Reform committees.

Rooker said he was both flattered and honored at being recognized by the council.

...TEARS

We are grieved by the tragic death of **John Knight**, husband of general sessions deputy clerk **Jackie Knight**, who was killed in a boating accident on Percy Priest Lake on July 18. Mr. Knight, 56, lost his life when his boat was stricken headon by another boat near the Fate Sanders Recreation Area. Our sympathy goes out to the Knight family, which includes five surviving children.

Condolences to traffic data entry clerk **Susan Grannis** in the passing of her father, **John A. "Jack" Grannis, Jr.** Mr. Grannis died on July 13 at the age of 86.

Deepest sympathy to deputy circuit court clerk **Suzanne Parker** and her family in the passing of her son-in-law **Dale Clemonz**, who lost his battle against cancer in Crossville on July 19. His wife **Tracy** survives.

Sad news from the state of North Carolina where **Adele Harding Koch**, mother of Tennessee Supreme Court Judge **William C. Koch, Jr.**, passed away from lung cancer on July 11. Mrs. Koch died at her Pinehurst home which she shared with husband **William C. Koch Sr.**, who survives.

Noted attorney **Charles Trabue**, 91, died July 3 of natural causes. He was a former president of both the Nashville and Tennessee bar associations, a partner in the firm of **Trabue, Sturdivant and Dewitt** and chaired the Nashville Public Library Board from 1959-1986.

We join the entire community in mourning the loss of former Metro Fire Chief **Fred Davis**, who passed away on July 12 at the age of 78. Mr. Davis served as fire chief from 1979-1987, capping a 34-year career in which he never missed a day's work. He will be sorely missed.



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 June 3

CIRCUIT COURT

CASE	TYPE	COURT	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
99C-3055	MEDICAL MALPRACTICE	8TH	(D) DIRECTED			

Week of June 17

CASE	TYPE	COURT	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
00C-1407	SLIP/FALL	2ND	DEFENDANT			

Week of June 24

CASE	TYPE	COURT	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
01C-3873	GSA/AUTO ACCIDENT	6TH	(P) \$5,032			
02C-29	GSA/CONTRACT	1ST	DEFENDANT			
01C-882	GSA/AUTO ACCIDENT	2ND	(P) \$5,502		TRANSFERRED	
00C-1765	AUTO ACCIDENT	1ST	(P) \$62,500			
99D-2360	CRIMINAL	5TH	GUILTY			
01T-563	DUI	8TH	HUNG JURY			

FISCAL

(From Page 1)

Because each of the four departments under the umbrella of the clerk maintain separate accounting systems, it is easier to monitor gains and losses in specific judicial categories. Probate Court, for example, is officially a division of Circuit Court but addresses a totally different area of law. Therefore, it is separated for accountability purposes.

The Traffic Violations Bureau is a Metro Government entity that is staffed and managed by Rooker, who is accountable for all fines paid through the department. Consequently, those fines become a part of the clerk's fiscal budget and identified as departmental cash flow.

During the past fiscal year, combined moving and parking infractions produced \$3.8 million in Metro revenue, constituting 9 percent of the clerk's total cash flow.

As a separate entity, probate court generated slightly less than the previous fiscal year with \$4.8 million representing 12 percent of the cash flow pie.

At the other end of the spectrum, circuit court

METROPOLITAN GENERAL SESSIONS COURT OF DAVIDSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

2001

ANNUAL REPORT & GUIDE



You will be able to check out the new General Sessions Annual Report & Guide (cover above) this month. The full-color, 22 x 34-inch fold-out presentation can be obtained at no charge via countertop display in clerk's offices and through the courts.

generated 51 percent, accounting for the chief portion of the overall increase, while general sessions showed a \$650,000 increase to claim 28 percent of the cash flow.

As expected, child support payments through circuit court continued to melt as a result of the

state's takeover of wage assignment cases two years ago. With only approved direct payments being made through the courts, collection and distribution of support monies fell to \$3.6 million during the fiscal period--down from last year's \$5.2 million.

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)



ADA coordinator, Gene Baker (880-3309)

Richard R. Rooker Circuit Court Clerk
Gene Baker Editor

TRENDS

CASE ANALYSES



RATIO: PLAINTIFFS 4.2-1

AUTO ACCIDENTS

PLAINTIFFS 18
DEFENDANTS 4

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
JUNE	3	3	0	8	0	0

JURY AWARDS

MONTH	TOTALS	DOLLAR RANGE	\$MEAN
JANUARY	1,342,250	578-945,000	89,235
MARCH	10,000	N/A	N/A
MAY	122,373	0-100,000	12,686
JUNE	73,034	5,032-62,500	34,001

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
JUNE	N/A	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
JUNE	N/A	N/A	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
JUNE	10,534	2	0	0

Other Classes



CONTRACTS YTD PLAINTIFFS DEFENDANTS NO VERDICT
26 17 2 7

JUNE AWARDS: \$0-- TOTAL AWARDS TO DATE: \$94,624

MISCELLANEOUS

42

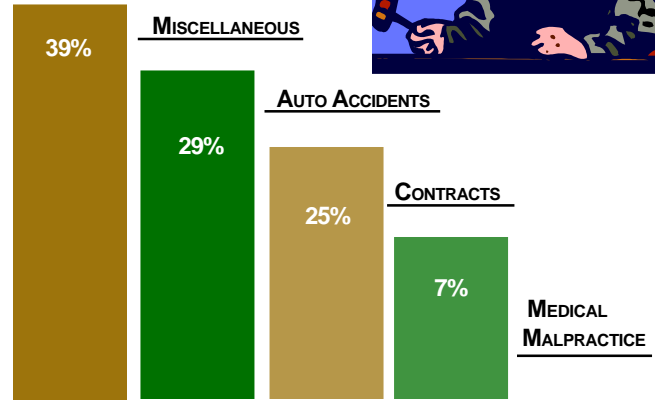
PLAINTIFFS 29
DEFENDANTS 6
NO VERDICT 7

MALPRACTICE

8

PLAINTIFFS 2
DEFENDANTS 6
NO VERDICT 0

CIVIL TRIALS By CLASS



DATA BANK

Statistics compiled for the month of June

CASE INFORMATION

Circuit Court

NEW CIVIL CASES FILED	270
JURY	118
NON-JURY	152
CIVIL CASES CONCLUDED	321
JURY	195
NON-JURY	126
NEW DIVORCE CASES FILED	209
DIVORCE CASES CONCLUDED	303

General Sessions Civil

NEW CASES FILED	3,494
EXECUTIONS ISSUED	3,672
GARNISHMENT PAYMENTS	3,237
JUDGMENTS COLLECTED	\$56,172
ORDER OF PROTECTION PETITIONS	226

Probate Court

NEW CASES FILED	165
CASES CLOSED	145

Traffic Violations

MOVING CITATIONS	23,202
PARKING VIOLATIONS	6,624
TOTAL FINES COLLECTED	\$311,214
NULLIFICATIONS	1,568
NULLIFICATION FEES COLLECTED	\$18,807

FYI

For planning purposes, you might want to mark your calendar that General Sessions courts will not be in session September 18-20. Judges will be attending a judicial conference on those dates.

All government offices will be closed on Labor Day, September 2. There are no holidays in October. But Veterans Day will be observed on Nov. 11, followed by Thanksgiving on Nov. 28-29.