

# ROOKER REPORT

April 2004

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## Soloman: No Final Decree, No Exceptions in Her Court

### Divorcing Parents Face Mandatory Parenting Classes

Eighth Circuit Court Judge Carol Soloman says she will no longer consider exempting divorcing parents from attending parent education seminars.



SOLOMAN

In an order handed down this month, Soloman declared that parenting skills classes are in the best interest of the children and must be completed and certified before she will grant a final divorce decree.

The order applies to both contested and uncontested divorce cases filed in Soloman's court.

Soloman said that when a divorce is granted by default judgment, the party seeking the divorce must complete a seminar. "However, it will not be held against the

party seeking the divorce by default if the unresponsive party fails to answer or attend the parenting seminar..." In such cases, she declared, the final divorce may still be granted.

There are currently four parenting seminar providers in Davidson County, each offering four-hour classes for the same enrollment fee of \$40, which includes an 80-page handbook.

**(A listing of the county's Parenting Class Providers can be found on Page 2 of this report.)**

The seminars teach divorcing parents how to talk to their children about divorce, how to effectively communicate with an uncooperative ex-spouse, how to cope with changes in their economic situation and what community resources are available to assist them during the period of adjustment.

### Sessions Two-Year Report Loaded With Information

Anything you want to know about the operations of General Sessions Court can be found in the judge's two-year report and overview of services released this month.

Unfold the eight-page full color brochure (shown here) and get an education on the county's most utilized judicial forum.

Learn when the court was created, how it has grown, its jurisdiction and the broad range of affiliated services it provides. Meet the judges and their administrative staff, together with addresses and phone numbers.

A variety of charts and other graphics are used to provide quick overviews  
See SESSIONS, Page 4



### Advice on Protecting Yourself From Fraud

The value of the internet sometimes is immeasurable. Once you survive the unwanted pop-ups, there can be information that can improve your knowledge and your lifestyle.

We retrieved an e-mail from a corporate attorney who sent out the following advice to employees in his company. It is worth sharing.

1. The next time you order checks have only your initials (instead of first name) and last name put on them. If someone takes your check book they will not know if you sign your checks with just your initials or your first name. But the bank will know how you sign your checks.

2. When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, DO NOT put the complete account number on the "For" line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through all the check processing channels won't have access to it.

3. Put your work phone number on your checks instead of your home

phone. If you have a PO Box use that instead of your home address. Never have your Social Security number printed on your checks (DUH!) You can add it if it is necessary. But if you have it printed, anyone can get it.

4. Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine; do both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel.

5. Keep the photocopy in a safe place. I also carry a photocopy of my passport when I travel either here or abroad.

6. We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed on us in stealing a name, address, Social Security number, credit cards, etc. Here's some critical information to limit the damage in case this happens to you or someone you know:

+We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately.

See PROTECTING, Page 3

## CHEERS...



EPLEY

After 22 years of service in Metro's Central Printing office, Karen Epley has joined the Human Resources Department as a billing clerk. Her transfer was approved in the wake of Metro's recent decision to cease operations of the printing office and to contract out to private firms the government's massive printing needs. Epley had played a major role in the print shop operations since 1982 when she began working in the press room. Many other areas of the business would require her services over the years, from type setting to plate making and clerical responsibilities. That experience made her an ideal candidate for the Human Resources position and we wish her well.

## ...TEARS



**NORMAN (BUCK) DOZIER SR.**, father of former Metro Fire Chief and councilman Norman (Buck) Dozier Jr., passed away on April 8. He was 84. During a 20-year career with Metro Government he had worked for the Traffic Violations Bureau and was on the staff of County Clerk Bill Covington at the time of his death. He leaves his wife Frances, three sons and a daughter, nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

**NINA ELIZABETH NORMAN**, mother of Circuit Court Judge Barbara Haynes and former Juvenile Court Clerk Kenny Norman, expired on March 28. She was a longtime employee of the Nashville Banner and Newspaper Printing Corporation. Survivors also include seven grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

**NORMAN HALL**, 84, father-in-law of Traffic Violations Bureau business manager Don Rosso, passed away on March 25 from complications arising from a broken hip that kept him hospitalized for three months. His daughter Ellen Rosso survives.

**ERNEST PELLEGRIN**, 76, former 18th Judicial District Criminal Court judge, died April 19 at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Originally appointed to the judgeship by Gov. Winfield Dunn in 1972, he would later resign to head up the state corrections department. He was a major supporter of Gallatin High School athletics.

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

### Circuit Court Clerk

- 7 Michelle Sawyer
- 9 Brad Jenkins
- 10 Suzanne Parker
- 27 Brenda Parks
- 29 Bobbie Eden
- 30 Ricky Rooker

### Probate Clerk

- 17 Kim Jackson

### Traffic Violations

- 2 Beverly Swafford
- 6 Vickie Slate
- 25 Felice Graham
- 30 Ray Fuller

### General Sessions

- 6 Dawn Gorham
- 24 Jennifer Borntrager
- 29 Sue Burgett

## Parenting Class Providers

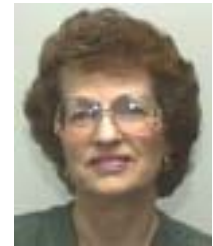
Here is a listing of parenting class providers, along with phone numbers and seminar venues:

- ◆ **Exchange Club (333-2644)**. Classes offered at 139 Thompson Lane and 601 Mainstream Drive (MetroCenter).
- ◆ **LifeBridge (824-9801)**. Classes offered in Hermitage, Hendersonville, Donelson, Brentwood, Green Hills and Franklin.
- ◆ **Nashville State Tech (353-3255)**. Classes offered on campus. 120 White Bridge Road.
- ◆ **Parenting Skills Institute (824-8369)**. Classes offered in Goodlettsville at the Delmas Long Community Center, 106 S. Main St., and in Gallatin at the Gallatin City Hall, 132 West Main Street, Room 210.

Preregistration is required at all four locations.

## Spotlight

**Barbara Eddings**  
Secretary/Calendar Clerk  
Second Circuit Court



*In 1973 when Barbara Eddings was hired as a deputy clerk in the Circuit Court Clerk's Office, her services were limited to part-time because all the workstations were already occupied in the cramped fifth floor space that accommodated not only regular employees but the clerk himself and his secretary.*

*But the situation would eventually heal itself when one of the full-time deputy clerks was assigned to work in the office of then Fourth Circuit Court Judge Benson Trimble. Eddings got the vacated desk and spent the next 30 years as a bona fide full-time employee of the clerk.*

*She was 30 years old at the time. Earlier this month she celebrated her 61st birthday and shared the news that she would be ending her three decades of service to the clerk, joining her husband David Eddings in total retirement.*

*David took his service pension from the Metro Police Department four years ago.*

*To honor her many years of service and to celebrate her retirement, a reception will be held from 2-4 p.m. on April 30 in the Second Circuit Courtroom of Judge Marietta Shipley for whom Eddings has served as secretary and calendar clerk for a number of years. Circuit Court Clerk Richard Rooker and his staff will help host the event, which is open to the public.*

## Rooker Report

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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)

## MARCH JURY TRIALS

CIRCUIT COURT						APPEALS	
Week of March 8						GENERAL SESSIONS	
CASE	TYPE	COURT	PRAYER	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
00C-2493	MEDICAL MALPRACTICE	6TH		DEFENDANT			
02C-2394	PERSONAL INJURY	1ST		\$100,000			
02C-3678	GSA/FRAUD	5TH		UNDER ADVISEMENT		P-\$8,090	DEFENDANT
Week of March 22							
CASE	TYPE	COURT	PRAYER	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
01C-1569	CONDEMNATION	5TH		\$30,569			
01C-1570	CONDEMNATION	5TH		\$30,751			
Week of March 29							
CASE	TYPE	COURT	PRAYER	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
03C-480	MEDICAL MALPRACTICE	5TH		\$1.8 MILLION			
01C-1142	AUTO ACCIDENT	2ND		DEFENDANT			
02C-557	PERSONAL INJURY	1ST		\$10,857			
Soft Tissue							
CASE	TYPE	COURT	PRAYER	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
03C-598	AUTO ACCIDENT/ST	2ND	\$60,000	ZERO AWARD	(P-50) (D-50)		
02C-351	AUTO ACCIDENT/ST	1ST	\$700,000	\$243,589	ADMITTED		

## NON-JURY TRIAL RESULTS

CIRCUIT COURT						GENERAL SESSIONS	
Week of March 15							
CASE	TYPE	COURT	PRAYER	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
03C-2504	GSA/CONTRACT	1ST		\$2,500		P-\$5,308	DEFENDANT
03C-2688	GSA/CONTRACT	2ND		(D) \$750		P-\$4,730	DEFENDANT
03C-3301*	GSA/CONTRACT	6TH		\$6,300		P-\$6,300	DEFENDANT
03C-1439	DAMAGES	5TH		\$100,000			
03C-685	DAMAGES	3RD		\$50,000			
03C-1493	GSA/CONVERSION	5TH		\$1,000		P-\$2,600	DEFENDANT
99C-38	WORKERS COMPENSATION	8TH		\$20,929+LIFETIME MEDICAL+30% VOCATIONAL DISABILITY			
02C-2091	DAMAGES	3RD		PENDING			
02C-2647	CONTRACT	5TH		GRANT PETITION			
02C-1922	WORKERS COMPENSATION	1ST		2.5 PERCENT IMPAIRMENT			
93C-2156	SCIRE FACIAS	3RD		PETITION GRANTED			

\*--HEARD BY MARSH NICHOLS

## Protecting Yourself From Fraud

(From Page 1)

But the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them easily.

+File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where it was stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and it is the first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).

+But here's what is perhaps most important: Call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud

alert on your name and Social Security number. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit.

Here are the numbers to call:

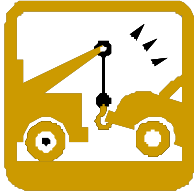
Equifax: 1-800-525-6285;

Experian (formerly TRM): 1-888-397-3742;

Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289

Social Security Administration (fraud line): 1-800-269-0271

## Auto Accidents



### 2004 CASE ANALYSES

PLAINTIFFS 12  
DEFENDANTS 1

RATIO: PLAINTIFFS --11-1

### MONTH-BY-MONTH

	TOTALS	JURY	NON-JURY	PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	NONE
JANUARY	7	4	3	7	0	0
FEBRUARY	6	4	2	4	0	2
MARCH	3	3	0	1	1	1

### JURY AWARDS

MONTH	\$TOTALS	DOLLAR RANGE	\$MEAN
JANUARY	57,050	1,296-52,500	3,254
FEBRUARY	76,410	1,266-60,000	15,144
MARCH	243,589	0-243,589	N/A

### NON-JURY AWARDS

MONTH	\$TOTALS	DOLLAR RANGE	\$MEAN
JANUARY	60,124	6,664-35,000	18,460
FEBRUARY	6,500	N/A	N/A
MARCH	N/A	N/A	N/A

### SOFT TISSUE CASES

MONTH	\$TOTALS	DOLLAR RANGE	\$MEAN
JANUARY	53,500	1,000-52,500	N/A
FEBRUARY	61,266	1,266-60,000	N/A
MARCH	243,589	0-243,589	N/A

### GENERAL SESSIONS AUTO CASE APPEALS

MONTH	\$TOTALS	PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	NONE
JANUARY	28,378	3	0	0
FEBRUARY	0	0	0	0
MARCH	0	0	0	0



### CONTRACTS

YTD PLAINTIFFS 12 DEFENDANTS 9 NO VERDICT 3  
MARCH AWARDS--\$66,250. Year to Date--\$107,345



### MISCELLANEOUS

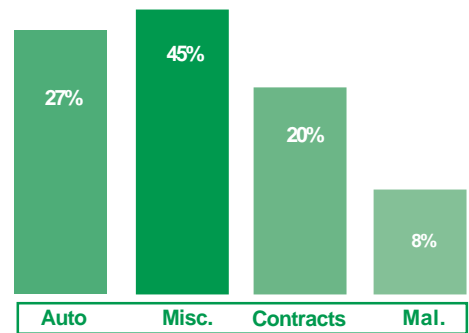
YTD PLAINTIFFS 26 DEFENDANTS 19 NO VERDICT 4



### MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

YTD PLAINTIFFS 5 DEFENDANTS 1 NO VERDICT 4

## CIVIL TRIALS BY CLASS



## DATA BANK

Statistics compiled for the month of March

### CASE INFORMATION

#### Circuit Court

NEW CIVIL CASES FILED .....	276
JURY .....	108
NON-JURY .....	168
CIVIL CASES CONCLUDED .....	303
JURY .....	163
NON-JURY .....	140
NEW DIVORCE CASES FILED .....	249
DIVORCE CASES CONCLUDED .....	229

#### General Sessions Civil

NEW CASES FILED .....	3,909
EXECUTIONS ISSUED .....	3,797
GARNISHMENT PAYMENTS .....	3,844
JUDGMENTS COLLECTED .....	\$680,336
ORDER OF PROTECTION PETITIONS .....	201

#### Probate Court

NEW CASES FILED .....	201
CASES CLOSED .....	197

#### Traffic Violations

MOVING CITATIONS .....	38,269
PARKING VIOLATIONS .....	9,508
TOTAL FINES COLLECTED .....	\$379,791
NULLIFICATIONS .....	3,248
NULLIFICATION FEES COLLECTED .....	\$38,976

Sessions Brochure:  
Everything You Need  
To Know About Courts  
(FROM PAGE 1)

of activities in each area of service under the court's jurisdictional umbrella, such as traffic safety instruction, pretrial services, probation, dispute resolution and drug and mental health dockets.

The brochure/report covers case statistics for both 2002 and 2003 calendar years, designed for easy reader comparison.

You can pick one up at either the civil or criminal clerk's offices at no charge. Use it as a reference for the next time you go to court.