

ROOKER REPORT

July 2004

Published by the Davidson County Circuit Court Clerk's Office

Vol.12, No. 6

CaseLink:

New Internet Case Access Service Works With Mouse, Not Modem

CaseLink, the Circuit Court Clerk's online subscription service for accessing civil case file information in a more efficient and cost effective format, has finally arrived.

The new service, which replaces the original modem-driven Dial-A-Case format, becomes fully operational on August 1 following a thorough evaluation period.

Because it utilizes a web interface, subscribers can access CaseLink through their internet browser and say goodbye to long dial-up delays. And case information can be tapped from circuit, probate and general sessions civil division in real time, just like being at the courthouse.

Examples of data available include style of case, pleadings filed, court dates, judgments, attorney information and service and payment de-

tails. A future goal of the service will be to allow the viewing of actual documents online.

And the subscription cost is considerably lower than the Dial-A-Case fees.

For \$20 a month per connection, a subscriber gets unlimited usage. The Dial-A-Case rate was \$40 for the Basic Party Line package that allowed only four hours usage without added costs. Other Dial-A-Case packages based on non-party use were higher.

Subscribers may order as many connections as they wish by paying a \$20 monthly rate for each connection, an ideal situation for offices



See CaseLink, Page 2

Fiscal 2003-04

Crunching the Numbers

A slow turnaround in judgment and interest payments lowered the county's civil litigation cash flow for the fiscal year by \$5 million from the previous reporting period.

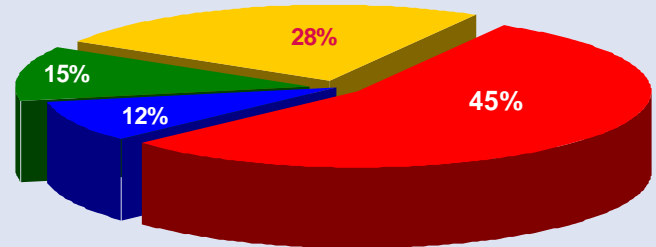
Activity in circuit, general sessions civil, probate and traffic courts generated \$40.5 million in the form of jury awards, judgment collections, civil penalties and other monetary conveyances.

Conversely, the previous fiscal year produced \$45.5 million in collections and distribution by Circuit Court Clerk Richard Rooker, who has fiduciary responsibility over all funds paid through the civil courts, other than chancery.

Two of Rooker's four clerical departments showed increases. The Probate Court Clerk's Office surpassed its previous year's collections of \$5.3 million. The 2004 figure hit \$6.2 million.

The Traffic Violations Bureau figures rose by \$699,496 with fine collections of \$4.8 million. The General Sessions Civil Division showed virtually no change.

The biggest impact was in circuit court where judgment payments failed to meet previous standards, leaving the clerk's office with a \$6.6 million shortfall from last year. The department was still by far the highest cash producer at \$18.1 million, including \$2.3 million in child support collections.



By Department

CIRCUIT	\$18,182,538
SESSIONS CIVIL	\$11,254,114
PROBATE	\$6,246,813
TRAFFIC	\$4,840,590
TOTAL CASH FLOW	\$40,524,055

— New \$5 Litigation Tax Earmarked for Jail Improvements —

Starting August 1, the cost of filing new litigation in the county and state courts will be going up.

An additional \$5 privilege tax was approved by the Metro Council to help finance new construction, reconstruction and upgrading of jail facilities.

The extra tax will apply to all civil and criminal litigation filed in state and county courts except those instituted in municipal courts.

No total revenue projections were cited in the council resolution.

It was the second litigation surtax for General Sessions Court cases, which incurred a \$1 increase this month for the purpose of supporting the victim offender mediation centers in the county. That increase did not apply to state trial courts.

The \$5 surcharge originally had an effective date of Jan. 1, 2005 but was amended to become effective on July 1 of this year. Clerks were given a one-month grace period to prepare for the change.

CHEERS...

In addition to his duties as a deputy clerk in our circuit court clerk's office, **Will Tidwell** recently acquired new responsibilities on the homefront. He is now sharing diaper patrol with wife Joslin following the birth of son **Sam Riley Tidwell**, who arrived on June 27. The one who will be responsible for carrying on the Tidwell bloodline weighed a solid 8 pounds, 12 ounces and measured 22 inches from his toes to his thick red mane. Mom and baby are doing quite well and dad is wearing a happy face.



WILLTIDWELL

Also sporting a beaming smile is **Carol Crews**, longtime court officer for General Sessions Judge **John Brown**. Carol welcomed her seventh grandchild into the world on June 28 with the arrival of **Aidan Connor Crews**, who weighed an even 7 pounds and measured 20.75 inches upon his debut at Centennial Hospital. It was the firstborn for Carol and **Carl Crews'** son **Daniel** and wife **Tiffany Crews**.

Janice Johnson cleared a spot on the mantle for son **Reed Johnson's** latest additions--three trophies, including a first place statuette symbolizing his team's championship in the BSAA Baseball League for 9-10 year olds. Reed, who plays first base, pitcher, catcher and shortstop, hit a two-run bunt that helped his Reds edge out the Giants 9-6 for the tourney title. He also picked up trophies for his team's regular season achievements, buoyed by his being named the season's Most Valuable Player in the 9-year-old division. Now it's on to the All-Star tournaments and possibly a state championship title. You can follow Reed's progress by checking with mom, who is a supervisor in the General Sessions Civil Division office.

...TEARS

PAUL KERRIGAN, former accountant for Metro's General Services Department, has lost his battle with lung cancer. Mr. Kerrigan, 63, passed away at his home on July 15 with his wife Patricia at his side. After retiring from public service three years ago, he continued a limited private accounting business, often helping friends with their taxes without compensation. He will be missed.

MARY LOUISE RINE, 89, grandmother of Environmental Court Referee Ed Ryan, passed away on July 12, leaving behind her husband of 69 years, John H. Rine, Sr.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Circuit Court Clerk
21 Mark Herring

General Sessions
4 Judy Meadows
18 Janice Johnson
29 Kim Wolfe

Probate Clerk
None

Traffic Violations
2 Sarah Dunn-McClain
3 Joe Foster
15 Sandy Ford
23 Billye Barnard
25 Pat Trimble

Mental Health, Student Drivers Get Budget Help

Yates To Coordinate Drug Court Functions

Needing more money to advance operations of specialty programs, General Sessions Court asked for, and was granted, a \$235,500 budget increase for the current fiscal year by the Metro Council.

The funding will be shared by the Mental Health Court, which will get \$120,000; Judge Casey Moreland's new Drug Court, which was allotted \$65,000; and the Metro schools driver education program Alive @ 25, which received \$50,500.

It was the first time funding has been budgeted for the Drug Court, which was created by Moreland last fall to provide an alternative solution for drug offenders willing to complete a rigid regimen to overcome their habits. Volunteers from various government agencies have teamed to perform all related duties associated with the court's performance criteria. The \$65,000 allotment enables the hiring of a fulltime coordinator to manage all aspects of the multi-faceted program.



SCOTT YATES

Scott Yates, a longtime probation officer under Moreland, has filled that position. The job comes with a multitude of responsibilities, including being liaison between defendants and treatment providers, overseeing defendant monitoring, the program's budget and doing grant searches, to name a few.

Moreland said Yates would continue to serve as a probation officer as well until a replacement is hired for that position.

CaseLink:

(From Page 1)

with multiple users.

All that is required is Microsoft Explorer and an internet connection to access CaseLink.

Most Dial-A-Case subscribers have already been contacted about the new internet service and will be issued a new identification number that will be necessary to access their CaseLink account. Dial-A-Case identification numbers will become obsolete on August 1.

New subscribers wishing to sign on for the new internet service can apply by phone (862-5194) or email their name, address and phone number to caselink@nashville.gov for a return response by a representative.

More information is available on Circuit Court Clerk website at <http://nashville.gov/circuit>. Select the CaseLink button at the top of the page and click on "frequently asked questions."

Rooker Report

Published by the Davidson County Circuit Court Clerk's Office
523 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, TN 37228
Internet @ www.nashville.gov/circuit

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)

JUNE JURY TRIALS

APPEALS

Week of June 21

CIRCUIT COURT

GENERAL SESSIONS

CASE	TYPE	COURT	PRAYER	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
01C-146	PERSONAL INJURY	6TH		DISMISSED			
02C-1826	MEDICAL MALPRACTICE	1ST		DEFENDANT			
03C-3576	GSA/PROPERTY DAMAGE	2ND		\$2,000		DISMISSED	PLAINTIFF

Week of June 28

CASE	TYPE	COURT	PRAYER	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
04C-494	GSA/AUTO ACCIDENT	5TH		DEFENDANT		P-\$1,500	PLAINTIFF
02C-1871	AUTO ACCIDENT	5TH		\$102,500			
02C-2696	AUTO ACCIDENT	6TH		\$20,000			
03C-517	GS/TRANSFER	1ST		*DISMISSED			
00C-1212	CONSUMER PRODUCT	3RD		\$17,000			

*--JURY WAIVED

Soft Tissue

CASE	TYPE	COURT	PRAYER	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
02C-1321	AUTO ACCIDENT/ST	3RD		DEFENDANT			
02C1170	GSA/AUTO ACCIDENT/ST	6TH		PENDING		P-\$5,110	DEFENDANT
03C-1814	GSA/AUTO ACCIDENT/ST	5TH		\$7,700		P-\$3,571	PLAINTIFF
02C-1704	AUTO ACCIDENT/ST	2ND		\$6,871			

NON-JURY TRIAL RESULTS

Week of June 7

CIRCUIT COURT

GENERAL SESSIONS

CASE	TYPE	COURT	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
03C-2689	GSA/CONTRACT	5TH	DISMISSED		DISMISSED	PLAINTIFF
01C-2782	WRONGFUL DEATH/DAMAGES	3RD	\$10,050,000			
03C-3018	GSA/DETAINER	5TH	UNDER ADVISEMENT		P-POSSESSION	DEFENDANT
02C-3596	DAMAGES	3RD	\$21,225			
04C-344	GSA/AUTO ACCIDENT	1ST	\$900		P-\$1,784	DEFENDANT
04C-322	DAMAGES	3RD	\$15,105			
00C-1976	DAMAGES	3RD	\$15,000			
03C-1274	WORKER'S COMPENSATION	6TH	30%			
03C-1427	DAMAGES	3RD	\$32,848			
03C-2329	GSA/CONVERSION	1ST	UNDER ADVISEMENT		P-\$7,195	DEFENDANT
04C-61	DAMAGES	3RD	\$2,451			
03C-1887	DAMAGES	3RD	\$30,842			
03C-1280	GSA/CONTRACT	**	DISMISSED		P-\$5,255	DEFENDANT
03C-2080	WORKER'S COMPENSATION	2ND	\$27,888			
02C-1424	DAMAGES	3RD	\$27,500			
03C-762	DAMAGES	3RD	\$35,148	JUDGMENT VS. 2 DEFENDANTS; CASE STILL OPEN		
03C-2115	GSA/CONTRACT	1ST	DISMISSED		DISMISSED	PLAINTIFF
04C-63	GSA/CONTRACT	3RD	\$2,226		P-\$2,226	PLAINTIFF
04C-1019	GSA/CONTRACT	2ND	\$50		P-\$367	DEFENDANT

**--DESIGNATED JUDGE

P	PLAINTIFF	GSA	GENERAL SESSIONS APPEAL	C/S	CERTIORARI/SUPERSEDEAS
D	DEFENDANT	PPD	PERMANENT PARTIAL DISABILITY	ST	SOFT TISSUE

AUTO ACCIDENTS



2004 CASE ANALYSES

PLAINTIFFS 19
DEFENDANTS 6

RATIO: PLAINTIFFS 4-1

MONTH-BY-MONTH

	TOTALS	JURY	NON-JURY	PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	NONE
JAN-FEB	13	8	5	11	0	2
MARCH	3	3	0	1	1	1
APRIL	2	2	0	1	1	0
MAY	3	3	0	2	1	0
JUNE	8	7	1	4	3	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
APRIL	46,717	N/A	N/A
MAY	55,250	5,250-50,000	N/A
JUNE	137,071	6,871-102,500	13,850

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-MAY	N/A	N/A	N/A
JUNE	900	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
APRIL	N/A	N/A	N/A
MAY	55,250	5,250-50,000	N/A
JUNE	14,571	6,871-7,700	N/A

GENERAL SESSIONS AUTO CASE APPEALS

MONTH	\$TOTALS	PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	NONE
JANUARY	28,378	3	0	0
FEBRUARY	0	0	0	0
MARCH-MAY	0	0	1	0
JUNE	8,600	2	1	1



CONTRACTS

YTD PLAINTIFFS DEFENDANTS NO VERDICT
26 18 6 2

June Awards--\$2,276. Year to Date--\$186,077



MISCELLANEOUS

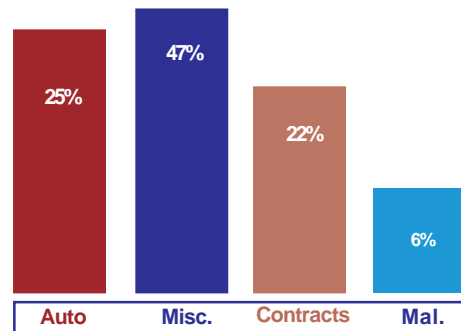
YTD PLAINTIFFS DEFENDANTS NO VERDICT
54 43 3 8



MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

YTD PLAINTIFFS DEFENDANTS NO VERDICT
7 1 6 0

CIVIL TRIALS BY CLASS



DATA BANK

Statistics compiled for the month of June

CASE INFORMATION

Circuit Court

NEW CIVIL CASES FILED	271
JURY	132
NON-JURY	139
CIVIL CASES CONCLUDED	309
JURY	164
NON-JURY	145
NEW DIVORCE CASES FILED	214
DIVORCE CASES CONCLUDED	239

General Sessions Civil

NEW CASES FILED	3,484
EXECUTIONS ISSUED	2,705
GARNISHMENT PAYMENTS	3,404
JUDGMENTS COLLECTED	\$589,500
ORDER OF PROTECTION PETITIONS	260

Probate Court

NEW CASES FILED	160
CASES CLOSED	211

Traffic Violations

MOVING CITATIONS	37,364
PARKING VIOLATIONS	7,195
TOTAL FINES COLLECTED	\$455,364
NULLIFICATIONS	4,153
NULLIFICATION FEES COLLECTED	\$49,836

Metro Court

MISDEMEANOR CITATIONS	608
TOTAL FINES COLLECTED	\$7,180

Don't Forget to Vote
In August 5
General Election