

Rooker Report

May 2006

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MOVING TIME!

General Sessions, Traffic Violations, Criminal Courts Heading Back Downtown to New Facility

For slightly more than three years, the county's judicial operations have served the public from temporary quarters in Metro Center.

It was a move made necessary by a major renovation of the Metro Courthouse and the construction of a brand new building to house all General Sessions and Criminal Court operations.

Although the courthouse renovation is still months from completion, the new Justice A. A. Birch Building will accept occupants early next month, signaling the



end of a 38-month stint in the well-manicured surroundings of Metro Center.

The serene setting has been both convenient and functional for conducting court business and, indeed, has become the location of choice for many. Others have expressed a preference (an "itch," if you will) to return to the hustle and bustle of downtown Nashville.

"I'm ready to get back downtown where I can walk to lunch, mingle with familiar faces and do some shopping,"

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GENERAL SESSIONS CIVIL DIVISION CLERK

Last day of business at First Image Building Friday, June 9
First day of business in A.A. Birch Building Monday, June 12

SATELLITE OFFICE

Last day of business at Ben West Building Friday, June 9
*Re-open in A. A. Birch Building Monday, June 12
*Office will be located in General Sessions Civil Division Office.

TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS BUREAU & WARRANT OFFICE

Last day of business at First Image Building Friday, June 9
First day of business in A.A. Birch Building Monday, June 12

GENERAL SESSIONS COURTS

Last day of business at First Image Building Friday, June 9
Courts in recess for move June 12-16
First day of business in A.A. Birch Building Monday, June 19

PROBATE COURT

Last day of business at 601 Mainstream Drive Wednesday, June 7
Court in recess for relocation to First Image June 13-20
First day of business in First Image Building Wednesday, June 21
(NOTE: No motion dockets will be held on June 8-9 and June 16.)

PROBATE CLERK

Last day of business at 601 Mainstream Drive Friday, June 16
First day of business in First Image Building Monday, June 19

CRIMINAL COURT CLERK

Last day of business at 601 Mainstream Drive Monday, June 12
First day of business in A. A. Birch Building Monday, June 19
Satellite office in Ben West Building, full range of services June 13-16
For more information, call Tommy Bradley at 862-5663.

CRIMINAL COURTS

Last day of business at 601 Mainstream Drive Friday, June 9
First day of business in A. A. Birch Building Monday, June 19

CHEERS...

Relief and joy have returned to the life of Kiesha Bass, the deputy circuit court clerk who gave birth prematurely and agonized through months of medical treatments to keep her baby son alive.

Kiesha returned to work this month, finally able to put behind her the traumatic experience of not knowing if her child would survive and often wondering if her own faith and strength would sustain her.

Her story begins on July 26 of last year when little Donovan Bass arrived just 23 weeks into Kiesha's pregnancy. As you can imagine, he was remarkably tiny. His official weight was recorded as 1 pound, 4.4 ounces and void of full development. He would become a major challenge for the doctors at Centennial Women's Hospital. After all, Donovan wasn't supposed to arrive until the following Nov. 23.

Doctors had already warned Kiesha of the possible birth defects associated with an extremely early birth.

In the months to follow, Donovan would undergo four major surgeries as new problems arose each time he was allowed to leave the hospital. He became a recognized face at Vanderbilt Children's Hospi-



DONOVAN TODAY AT HOME WITH MOM KIESHA BASS

tal. Necessary to his survival were operations on his heart, laser surgery to both eyes, his throat and a G tube placement in his stomach.

But Donovan, although tiny in size, proved to be a giant in toughness. He overcame the operations one by one and won dismissal from the hospital in February.

Today, at 10 months, he is up to 15 pounds and is being cared for by a house nurse while mother is back serving the public, knowing that a miracle will be waiting when she gets home every day.

We applaud both Kiesha and Donovan for their unrelenting determination in proving there are some things worth fighting for.

In the General Sessions Civil Division Clerk's Office, **Karen Brown** has the title of chief clerk. But recently she picked up two other titles outside the office--mother-in-law and grandmother--both within a four-day period.

On April 29, she gained a son-in-law when her daughter **Tiffany Ann Loxley** wed **Joshua Daniel Hardcastle** in ceremonies at the City Road Methodist Church. Following a reception at the Old Hickory Country Club the couple headed to Jamaica for their honeymoon.

Four days later, on May 3, Karen joined hubby **Feller Brown** in achieving grandparent status with the birth at Baptist Hospital of **Morgan Elizabeth Brown**, an 8 pound-10 ounce bundle of joy who struck the tape at 20 inches. The parents are **Myers Brown III** and **Angie Brown**. You might remember Myers from his days with the Circuit Court Clerk's Office. He now is employed by the Tennessee State Museum.

Connie Murff has announced that she will retire on June 9 from her job with the Traffic Warrant Office where she has worked since her initial employment on June 1, 1990. "This is the only office I ever wanted to work in," she said, adding that she has no definite plans for her retirement. Circuit Court Clerk Richard Rooker complimented her job performance and her 16 years of loyal service to the office.

...TEARS

DAVID F. GORE, an attorney most recently associated with the firm Stewart, Estes & Donnell, died suddenly on May 9.

MOVING TIME

(From Page 1)

said one anxious court employee.

"We are all going to miss the convenience of having free parking just a few steps outside the building," countered another.

The latter viewpoint was in reference to the free parking facilities adjoining each court facility in Metro Center. At the downtown location, free parking will still be available to employees, but the facilities are located on the other side of the river. Workers who opt to park there rather than paying for space in a closer commercial facility must either walk across the bridge or ride the shuttle.

The new home that awaits just a stone's throw from the temporary location more than makes up for concerns over parking. It is a state-of-the-art, multi-million dollar structure, rising seven stories and featuring an awe-inspiring facade that is a precursor to the majestic interior.

Named for Tennessee Supreme Court Justice A. A. Birch, the new courts facility is located at 408 Second Avenue North, adjacent to the historical Ben West Building, which will be renovated and made an attached extension of the complex in the near future.

The official dedication of the new building will not take place until June 21 when a ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held under the joint coordination of Mayor Bill Purcell, the General Sessions Court and Criminal Court.

But many judicial departments will have already been in full operation several days before the dedication.

Without missing a single business day, the General Sessions Civil Division Clerk's Office will be open at the Metro Center location on Friday, June 9 and will reopen the following Monday (June 12) at the Justice A. A. Birch Building. Same for the Traffic Violations Bureau and Traffic Warrant offices.

All state civil trial courts and their companion administrative offices will remain at Metro Center until the courthouse renovation project is complete. This includes Divisions 1-6 of Circuit Court and the Circuit Court Clerk's Office at 523 Mainstream Drive.

Division 7 (Probate) and Division 8 of Circuit Court will temporarily relocate to the First Image Building at 501 Great Circle Road, assuming space vacated by departments going to the new building. State Trial Courts Coordinator Larry Stephenson and staff also will take up temporary residence at the First Image Building.

The schedules on our cover are designed to help you with the dates of change.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

BIRTHSTONE: PEARL, MOONSTONE

Circuit Court Clerk

- 2 Dan Vincent
- 8 Jill Oliverius
- 13 Russell Purcell
- 17 Mary Stephens
- Debi Butzler
- 20 Randall Ladd
- 24 Ronnell Griffin

Probate Clerk

None

Back to May

Brent Mathes of the Traffic Violations Bureau was not included in our May birthday list. Brent's birthday was **May 12**. Sorry for the oversight, Brent.

General Sessions Civil

- 3 Sandra Perryman
- 14 Kim Clary

Traffic Violations

- 5 Shannon Gift
- 8 Stacey Plummer
- 29 Teresa Johnson

Traffic Warrants

- 19 Romayne Scalf
- 26 Daniel Piguet
- 27 Joanie Young

APRIL JURY TRIALS

APPEALS

GENERAL SESSIONS

Week of April 10

CIRCUIT COURT

CASE	TYPE	COURT	PRAYER	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
99C-3205	MEDICAL MALPRACTICE	2		DEFENDANT			

Soft Tissue Auto Cases

CASE	PRAYER	COURT	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	GENERAL SESSIONS	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
03C-710		1	DEFENDANT				

NON-JURY TRIAL RESULTS

APPEALS

GENERAL SESSIONS

Week of April 3

CIRCUIT COURT

CASE	TYPE	COURT	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
04C-2900	DAMAGES	3	\$6,759			

Week of April 17

CASE	TYPE	COURT	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
05C-933	CONTRACT	2	\$13,800			
05C-3228	GSA/AUTO ACCIDENT	5	\$10,000		DISMISSED	PLAINTIFF
05C-3530	GSA/CONTRACT	2	\$450		P-\$800	DEFENDANT
05C-2117	DAMAGES	2	\$150,000			
05C-3756	GSA/DETAINER	5	UNDER ADVISEMENT		P-\$8,433	DEFENDANT
06C-52	CITIZENSHIP RESTORATION	5	GRANTED W/RESTRICTIONS			
05C-3170	GSA/AUTO ACCIDENT	1	PENDING		P-\$8,823	DEFENDANT
05C-3755	GSA/CONTRACT	5	\$2,568		DEFENDANT	PLAINTIFF
05C-3905	GSA/CONTRACT	1	\$6,000		P-\$67,739	DEFENDANT
05C-3747	WORKERS COMPENSATION	5	DEFENDANT			
05C-3370	GSA/CONTRACT	1	DEFENDANT		P-\$1,130	DEFENDANT

Week of April 24

CIRCUIT COURT

GENERAL SESSIONS

CASE	TYPE	COURT	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
04C-71	AUTO ACCIDENT	1	\$45,000			

P PLAINTIFF	GSA GENERAL SESSIONS APPEAL	TPD TOTAL PARTIAL DISABILITY
D DEFENDANT	TTD TOTAL TEMPORARY DISABILITY	ST SOFT TISSUE

CASE ANALYSES

GENRE	APRIL	YTD
AUTO ACCIDENTS	4	26
•PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	2	16
•DEFENDANT VERDICTS	1	6
•NONE	1	4
CONTRACTS	5	11
•PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	4	7
•DEFENDANT VERDICTS	1	2
•NONE	0	2
TOTAL AWARDS	\$22,818	\$26,118
MEDICAL MALPRACTICE	1	1
•PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	0	0
•DEFENDANT VERDICTS	1	1
MISCELLANEOUS	5	23
•PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	3	14
•DEFENDANT VERDICTS	1	5
•NONE	1	4

Auto Accident Cases

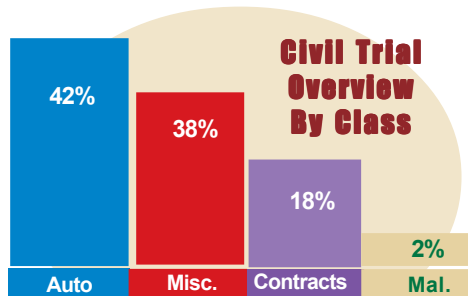
	APRIL	YTD
JURY TRIALS	1	16
NON-JURY TRIALS	3	10
PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	2	16
DEFENDANT VERDICTS	1	6
NONE	1	4
HIGHEST JUDGMENT	\$45,000	
AVERAGE JUDGMENT	N/A	

Soft Tissue Auto Cases

	APRIL	YTD
JURY TRIALS	1	8
NON-JURY TRIALS	0	1
PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	0	6
DEFENDANT VERDICTS	1	2
PENDING	0	2
HIGHEST JUDGMENT	N/A	
AVERAGE JUDGMENT	N/A	

General Sessions Auto Appeals

	APRIL	YTD
PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	1	3
DEFENDANT VERDICTS	0	2
NONE	1	2



DATA BANK

Statistics compiled for the month of April

CASE INFORMATION

Circuit Court

NEW CIVIL CASES FILED	193
JURY	80
NON-JURY	113
CIVIL CASES CONCLUDED	218
JURY	123
NON-JURY	95
NEW DIVORCE CASES FILED	85
DIVORCE CASES CONCLUDED	151
DOMESTIC PETITIONS FILED	363
DOMESTIC PETITIONS CONCLUDED	322

General Sessions Civil

NEW CASES FILED	3,690
EXECUTIONS ISSUED	2,994
GARNISHMENT PAYMENTS	3,239
JUDGMENTS COLLECTED	\$640,201
ORDER OF PROTECTION PETITIONS	190

Probate Court

NEW CASES FILED	145
CASES CLOSED	122

Traffic Violations

MOVING CITATIONS	25,041
PARKING VIOLATIONS	4,545
TOTAL FINES COLLECTED	\$459,320
NULLIFICATIONS	4,350
NULLIFICATION FEES COLLECTED	\$52,200

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



If you have a disability and require assistance, please contact 862-5204