

Rooker Report

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Courtroom 'Transquips'

More Outtakes to Tickle Your Judicial Funnybone

Most language is spoken language, and most words, once they are uttered, vanish forever into the air. But such is not the case with language spoken during courtroom trials, for there exists an army of courtroom reporters whose job it is to take down and preserve every statement made during the proceedings.

Mary Louise Gilman, the venerable editor of the National Shorthand Reporter, has collected many of the more hilarious courtroom bloopers in two books - *Humor in the Court* (1977) and *More Humor in the Court*, published a few months ago.

During past issues, we have brought you selected outtakes from court transcripts appearing on the internet through courtesy of Gilman and other sources. We continue to get requests to publish more "transquips."

Since there have been so many that have already appeared in this report, we apologize for any duplications that might show up in the newest installment of "feel good" reality.

Q. What is your brother-in-law's name?

A. Borofkin.

Q. What's his first name?

A. I can't remember.

Q. He's been your brother-in-law for years, and you can't remember his first name?

A. No. I tell you I'm too excited. (Rising from the witness chair and pointing to Mr. Borofkin.) Nathan, for God's sake, tell them your first name!

Q. Did you ever stay all night with this man in New York?

A. I refuse to answer that question.

Q. Did you ever stay all night with this man in Chicago?

A. I refuse to answer that question.

Q. Did you ever stay all night with this man in Miami?

A. No.

Q. What is your name?

A. Ernestine McDowell.

Q. And what is your marital status?

A. Fair.



Q. Are you married?

A. No, I'm divorced.

Q. And what did your husband do before you divorced him?

A. A lot of things I didn't know about.

Q. Were you acquainted with the deceased?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Before or after he died?

Q. What happened then?

A. He told me, he says, "I have to kill you because you can identify me."

Q. Did he kill you?

A. No.

Q. And lastly, Gary, all your responses must be oral. O.K.? What school do you go to?

A. Oral.

Q. How old are you?

A. Oral.

Q. What is your relationship with the plaintiff?

A. She is my daughter.

Q. Was she your daughter on February 13, 1979?

Q. Now, you have investigated other murders, have you not, where there was a victim?

Q. ...and what did he do then?

A. He came home, and next morning he was dead.

Q. So when he woke up the next morning he was dead?

Q. Did you tell your lawyer that your husband had offered you indignities?

A. He didn't offer me nothing; he just said I could have the furniture.

Q. Could you see him from where you were standing?

A. I could see his head.

Q. And where was his head?

A. Just above his shoulders.

Q. ...any suggestions as to what prevented this from being a murder trial instead of an attempted murder trial?

A. The victim lived.

CHEERS...

When Stephanie Hill took a parttime job at a local Wal-Mart, little did she know that she was headed for a fulltime position as a wife and mother.



You might say a "sweet" romance developed back in February when she caught the attention of Gregory Chatman, an employee of the Metro Transit Authority, who became a nightly customer at Stephanie's work station where he would always purchase M&Ms. Come to find out, his sweet tooth wasn't for the candy, but for Stephanie.

"It was love at first sight for both of us," says Stephanie, a deputy clerk in the Circuit

Court Clerk's Office. It surely was. For the couple will be married on August 11 at a private residence in Gatlinburg. It will be her first marriage and his second. His daughter Kiara, 9, completes the package. That's the three of them in the photo above.

Just a suggestion: Why not throw M&Ms instead of rice?

Two deputy clerks in the Traffic Violations Bureau have returned to work following recent illnesses. **Wanda Clymer** is doing well after suffering a mild stroke on July 18. And **Denise Beverly** has recovered after suffering difficulty in breathing and chest pains.

Hats off to the children of two deputy clerks in the General Sessions Civil Division Office for their outstanding performances on the ball fields this summer.

Casey Wolfe, daughter of deputy **Kim Wolfe**, was a member of the Portland All-Stars team which won four straight games to clinch the District 7 softball title for 9-10 year-old girls. That earned the team a trip to the state tourney in Jackson where two losses ended the season.

Reed Johnson, son of deputy clerk Janice Johnson, helped the Bellevue Blue Sox win six games in the USSSA "AA" Baseball World Series for 11 and under boys. After winning the World Series Qualifier here, the Babe Ruth League team advanced to the final level in Johnson City where double elimination ended their reign.

The Bellevue Blue Sox of the Babe Ruth Baseball League earned entry into the World Series at Johnson City with six victories locally. Reed Johnson, second from left in front row, is the son of Janice Johnson, a deputy clerk in the General Sessions Civil Division Office.



...TEARS

LONDON HUME RIZOR, 74, a retired deputy clerk with the Criminal Court Clerk's Office, passed away at his home on July 19. Survivors include his mother, one son and two daughters.

EMANUEL TAYLOR, 82, brother-in-law of Traffic Warrant Officer Roy Bohannon, passed away on July 15 at the Bordeaux Hospital. He was a victim of Alzheimer's Disease and a former construction worker.

Warner Hassell Gets Three-Year Term On National Courts Board

Longtime General Sessions Court Administrator Warner Hassell has been elected to serve a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the National Association for Court Management.

His election came at the association's annual convention earlier this month.

The NACM is a nationwide organization dedicated to improvement of court management at all levels of court through the exchange of information and education.



WARNER HASSELL

Hassell has been a member of the association since becoming administrator of the General Sessions Court in September 1986.

As a member of the board, "I will be attempting to increase membership from Nashville and Tennessee in general while handling any inquiries you may want me to explore on a national basis," he said.

As General Sessions administrator, Hassell manages a metropolitan limited jurisdiction court that is the second largest in the state with a \$10 million budget, 11 fulltime judges, five fulltime judicial commissioners and 101 fulltime employees.

During his tenure as court administrator, he has been instrumental in the development and implementation of the automated records management systems for the court's Probation Department, the court administered DUI School and the court's newly implemented On-Line Traffic School. He was the court's representative on the planning committee for the new \$49 million Justice A. A. Birch facility.

He received a BS degree in political science from the University of Tennessee at Martin and worked as a budget analyst for the Tennessee State Senate while earning his Masters degree in public administration from Tennessee State University. Before assuming his current position, he served as director of the Tennessee Judicial Information System for the Tennessee Supreme Court-Executive Secretary's Office.

Hassell and his wife of 28 years, Marilyn, are the parents of two grown daughters, Meredith and Rebecca.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

BIRTHSTONE: PERIDOT/SARDONYX

Circuit Court Clerk
7 Kristen Meulpolder
11 Polly Owens
21 Mark Herring

General Sessions Civil
4 Judy Meadows
18 Janice Johnson
29 Kim Wolfe

Traffic Violations
15 Sandy Ford
23 Billye Barnard
25 Delores Oglesby

Traffic Warrants
2 Sarah McClain
3 Joe Foster

Probate Clerk
None

JUNE JURY TRIALS

APPEALS

GENERAL SESSIONS

Week of June 19

CIRCUIT COURT

CASE	TYPE	COURT	PRAYER	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
04C-2860	DAMAGES	5		\$31,282			
05C-823	DAMAGES	3		\$300,000			

Week of June 26

CASE	TYPE	COURT	PRAYER	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
05C-2095	AUTO ACCIDENT	1		DEFENDANT			

NON-JURY TRIAL RESULTS

APPEALS

GENERAL SESSIONS

Week of June 5

CASE	TYPE	COURT	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
05C-3544	CONTRACT	1	\$39,600			
05C-3889	TRAFFIC APPEAL	1	TRAFFIC SCHOOL		P-\$50.00	DEFENDANT
06C-932	GSA/PROPERTY DAMAGE	2	\$1,500		DISMISSED	PLAINTIFF
04C-3635	AUTO/PERSONAL INJURY	6	D-\$9,182			
05C-2869	WORKERS COMPENSATION	1	200 WEEK COMP*			
05C-1183	DAMAGES	6	\$49,000			
06C-285	GSA/CONTRACT	5	\$9,580		P-\$1,370	DEFENDANT
05C-3786	CONTRACT	6	\$20,000			

*--PLUS 3X IMPAIRMENT RATING

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

CASE ANALYSES

GENRE	JUNE	YTD
AUTO ACCIDENTS	2	30
•PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	0	18
•DEFENDANT VERDICTS	2	8
•NONE	0	4
CONTRACTS	3	14
•PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	3	10
•DEFENDANT VERDICTS	0	2
•NONE	0	2
TOTAL AWARDS	\$69,180	95,298
MEDICAL MALPRACTICE	0	1
•PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	0	0
•DEFENDANT VERDICTS	0	1
MISCELLANEOUS	6	35
•PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	6	22
•DEFENDANT VERDICTS	0	5
•NONE	4	8

Auto Accident Cases

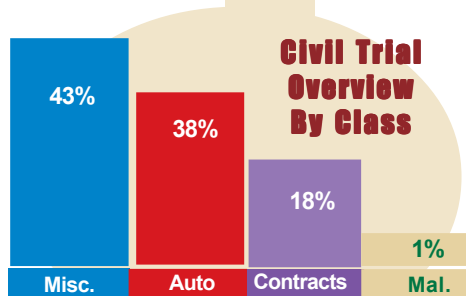
	JUNE	YTD
JURY TRIALS	1	19
NON-JURY TRIALS	1	11
PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	0	18
DEFENDANT VERDICTS	2	8
NONE	0	4
HIGHEST JUDGMENT	\$9,182	N/A
AVERAGE JUDGMENT	N/A	N/A

Soft Tissue Auto Cases

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

General Sessions Auto Appeals

	JUNE	YTD
PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	0	3
DEFENDANT VERDICTS	0	2
NONE	0	2



DATA BANK

Statistics compiled for the month of June

CASE INFORMATION

Circuit Court

NEW CIVIL CASES FILED	254
JURY	102
NON-JURY	152
CIVIL CASES CONCLUDED	310
JURY	202
NON-JURY	108
NEW DIVORCE CASES FILED	74
DIVORCE CASES CONCLUDED	141
DOMESTIC PETITIONS FILED	364
DOMESTIC PETITIONS CONCLUDED	342

General Sessions Civil

NEW CASES FILED	3,967
EXECUTIONS ISSUED	3,723
GARNISHMENT PAYMENTS	3,527
JUDGMENTS COLLECTED	\$699,956
ORDER OF PROTECTION PETITIONS	200

Probate Court

NEW CASES FILED	176
CASES CLOSED	180

Traffic Violations

MOVING CITATIONS	26,883
PARKING VIOLATIONS	4,858
TOTAL FINES COLLECTED	\$496,068
NULLIFICATIONS	4,415
NULLIFICATION FEES COLLECTED	\$52,975

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