

# Rooker Report

November 2006

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## MORELAND LEFT MARK

### Achievements as Presiding Judge

- ◆ Gained approval from the National Safety Council to create the On-line Traffic School, enabling those who qualify to complete their Traffic Court obligations on-line.
- ◆ Coordinated through the Traffic Violations Bureau the creation of a traffic compliance ticket, allowing persons who admit guilt to not appear in court. This effort has reduced Traffic Court volume from 1,000 to less than 50 people a day.
- ◆ Created separate divisions for the court's DUI and Traffic School budgets, programs and staff to correspond with the expansion of both programs.
- ◆ Relocated the court's DUI and Traffic School operations to Metro Southeast facility to avoid continuous after-hour use of the Justice A.A. Birch Building.
- ◆ Collaborated with the court's DUI School and the Davidson County Sheriff's Office to offer simultaneous serving of jail sentence and alcohol treatment to defendants who qualify.
- ◆ Worked with Sheriff's Office and Criminal Court Clerk in forming a "One Stop" misdemeanor citation docket to process a variety of citations, thus eliminating multiple court dates and the issuance of capiases.
- ◆ Structured staff to allow an administrative assistant for each General Sessions judge.
- ◆ Worked to reallocate the budget and staff of Pretrial Services to the Davidson County Sheriff's Office without compromising program components.
- ◆ Extensively involved in the transition from Metro Center to the new Justice A. A. Birch Building--from groundbreaking to building's dedication.
- ◆ Implemented and further expanded the Misdemeanor Treatment Court for nonviolent offenders who qualify.
- ◆ Proposed and facilitated a new General Sessions docket rotation in conjunction with the downtown relocation.
- ◆ Provided leadership in the adoption of the court's first Personnel Manual for General Sessions Court employees.
- ◆ Approved an intranet computer information system for use by all court personnel in disseminating important communiques and basic news items.



### *Three-Year Leadership Role Improved Court Operations*

During a recess from hearing civil cases, Casey Moreland recently sat down with a reporter to reflect on his highly productive three years as presiding judge of the General Sessions Court.

It was a term of service that covered virtually the entire period of time the court operated out of temporary quarters at Metro Center, culminating in this year's relocation to the state-of-the-art Justice A. A. Birch Building downtown.

Between moves, Moreland burned the midnight oil to help bring about changes to expand and improve the court's efficiency in providing services to the community. New methods were implemented to solve old problems and to bring about more manageable and customer friendly programs.

While the list of overall accomplishments is long, perhaps the single most effective transformation came in the area of traffic violations, once a double nightmare for both the court and cited motorists.

Through extensive research and the availability of advanced technology, Moreland worked with traffic operations personnel to devise a workable system to eliminate court appearances for thousands of cited drivers and police officers who had clogged the courtroom on an hourly schedule.

Moreland, who credits Traffic Violations Bureau Chief Clerk Bill Cartwright and Traffic School Director Wayne Curry with researching and developing the new concept, explains it this way:

See MORELAND, Page 2



# CHEERS...



BECKY DYE

Longtime Circuit Court Clerk bookkeeper and internal auditor **Becky Dye** has announced her engagement to **Rodney McIntosh**, her romantic companion of two years. Becky accepted a ring in early October and says the wedding will take place next Spring. The husband-to-be is a technician for a heating and air conditioning company in Lewisburg. We wish them a long and happy marriage.

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**Chance Rainey**, a member of our archives staff, became a father again on November 3 when wife **Dayna** delivered a 6-pound, 13-ounce boy at Centennial Hospital. **Michael Cole Rainey**, who stretched the tape to 19.5 inches, is the couple's third child.

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Rooker Report Editor **Gene Baker** is a great-grandfather for the sixth time, compliments of granddaughter **Cari Garrett** and husband **Jimmy Garrett**. The couple welcomed **Ella Rose Garrett** into the family on October 7. Grandparents **Lance** and **Paula Kingsbury** and **James** and **Judy Garrett** were at Hendersonville Hospital for the arrival of the newest addition, who weighed in at 8 pounds, 2 ounces, distributed over a 19.75 inch torso. Also among the welcoming committee were **Seth** and **Sammy Garrett**, who were elated over getting a baby sister.

\*\*\*

Retired Deputy Probate Clerk **Phil York** and wife **Linda** became grandparents for the second time in September when daughter **Kelly** and husband **Barry Brewer** adopted a newborn son. His name is **Jacob Alexander Brewer** and, no doubt, will be riding in a golf cart at a very early age. Congratulations to the Yorks and Brewers.

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With one appointment under his belt, **Gov. Phil Bredesen** now is considering a selection committee's recommendations to fill a final vacant seat on the State Supreme Court. Justices **A. A. Birch Jr.** and **E. Riley Anderson** announced their retirements from the high court earlier this year. Bredesen filled one of the vacancies in May by naming **Gary Wade** of Sevierville, former presiding judge of the State Court of Criminal Appeals. He now will choose between Court of Appeals Judge **William Koch** of Nashville, Circuit Court Judge **D'Army Bailey** of Memphis and Covington Attorney **Houston Gordon**--the emerging top three from the selection committee screenings.

# ...TEARS

**BARBARA HAWKINS**, mother of Sixth Circuit Court Administrative Assistant Lori Stratton, passed away on November 5. She was the widow of the late Jimmy Hawkins, a former Metro Councilman and a member of Metro's General Services Department.

**BARBARA CRANE DETRING**, 53, wife of Attorney Wayne Detring, passed away at her Goodlettsville home on September 13 following a long battle with cancer.

**YVETTE HILL (DEBBIE) SOBEL**, 58, mother of former General Sessions Civil Division Deputy Clerk Caroline Sobel Crouch and attorney Cliff Sobel, lost her fight with cancer on September 12.

**GLENN FERGUSON**, 76, former Metro Trustee and a member of both the Nashville City Council and Metro Council, died in early September. His political career began in the 1950s and ran for more than two decades.

## Moreland Brought Positive Changes To Sessions Court



(From Page 1)

"By borrowing some ideas from other major cities and amending them to meet the needs of our own market, we were able to produce a more efficient system from top to bottom.

"Since a study showed that 95 percent of all persons coming to court were pleading guilty, we developed a mandatory mail-in response to all moving citations, thereby eliminating the previous hourly dockets to a single docket each day. The mail-in ticket gives cited motorists the option of paying their fines or requesting traffic school without appearing in court.

"Most recently, that feature has been expanded to allow school registration on-line. To give an example of how well that program is being received, approximately 50 percent of school enrollment is now being done over the internet--a higher percentage than other major markets, such as Chicago.

"Additionally, on-line enrollment allows applicants to set their own school dates and soon they will have the option of paying their fees on-line as well."

Moreland hit the ground running when fellow judges handed him the reins. He immediately established a special Treatment Court for qualified drug and alcohol abusers who expressed interest in turning their lives around.

Using Criminal Court Judge Seth Norman's nationally acclaimed drug court as a model, Moreland has since shared in the graduations of 24 participants while receiving two major awards, including the Middle Tennessee Drug Council's coveted John P. Mallory Award. He credits the program's success and a recidivism rate of less than 10 percent to a diverse staff trained in dealing with all areas of drug and alcohol treatment.

During his three terms at the helm, Moreland diligently reviewed each phase of the court's multifaceted operations, seeking ways to improve efficiency to match his vision of doing business in a new environment downtown.

Moreland took a hands-on approach in the development of the new building and constantly made his presence known from groundbreaking to dedication.

"We collaborated with every agency and department with whom we do business," he said. "It was very important that everyone's needs were met."

Moreland said it was gratifying to have played a role in the three-year building project and to see it working. "After all, about 40 percent of the people who come to court are seeing the building for the first time."

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

BIRTHSTONE: **TURQUOISE, BLUE TOPAZ**

### Traffic Violations

3 Chance Rainey  
18 Tammy Sampson  
29 Pat Nichols

### Circuit Court Clerk

4 Becky Dye  
15 Kiesha Bass

### Traffic Warrants

27 Joseph Day

### General Sessions Civil

2 Denise Dill  
25 Marie Anderson  
27 Brenda Osborne

### Probate Clerk

29 Tom Brown

## OCTOBER JURY TRIALS

### Week of October 23

#### CIRCUIT COURT

CASE	TYPE	COURT	PRAYER	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT
04C-553	SLIP/FALL	6		\$73,000	D-70, P-30
04C-914	AUTO ACCIDENT	6		\$4,260	D-40, P-60

### Week of October 30

#### CIRCUIT COURT

CASE	TYPE	COURT	PRAYER	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT
06C-1140	GSA/AUTO ACCIDENT	1		DEFENDANT	

### SOFT TISSUE

#### CIRCUIT COURT

CASE	TYPE	COURT	PRAYER	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT
03C-3185	AUTO ACCIDENT/ST	1		\$44,257	
04C-1804	AUTO ACCIDENT/ST	5		\$101,000	
00C-2140	AUTO ACCIDENT/ST	6		\$300,000	

## NON-JURY TRIAL RESULTS

### Week of October 2

CASE	TYPE	COURT	PRAYER	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
06C-352	GSA/CONTRACT	2		\$6,500		P-\$15,000	DEFENDANT
01C-3952	GSA/MAL PROSECUTION	1		DEFENDANT		PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT
03C-2596	CONTRACT	5		MOTION/SET ASIDE		P-\$1,025	DEFENDANT
06C-1276	WORKERS COMP	6		\$115,996			
05C-2774	GSA/AUTO ACCIDENT	6		\$9,862		P-\$9,862	DEFENDANT
06C-1957	GSA/CONTRACT	1		\$17,160		DISMISSED	PLAINTIFF
03C-2193	WORKERS COMP	6		\$67,088			

### Week of October 23

#### CIRCUIT COURT

CASE	TYPE	COURT	PRAYER	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
*04C-2919	DAMAGES	3		\$41,765			

\*--ORIGINALLY SET FOR JURY TRIAL

### Week of October 30

#### CIRCUIT COURT

CASE	TYPE	COURT	PRAYER	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
*06C-412	DAMAGES	3		\$800,000			

\*--ORIGINALLY SET FOR JURY TRIAL

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

### APPEALS

#### GENERAL SESSIONS

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#### GENERAL SESSIONS

### — Sykes Named New AOC Administrator —

In another development from the State Supreme Court, a replacement has been named for **Randy Camp**, who resigned his post in August as State Court Administrator. The nod went to the AOC's former deputy director, **Elizabeth (Libby) Sykes**, who has been serving as acting administrator

since Camp's resignation. As court administrator, Sykes will oversee a staff of 80 in the AOC and manage a \$100 million budget for the state's 183 trial and appellate court judges and their staffs. The office also provides educational programs and other services for general sessions and municipal court judges and their clerks.

### CASE ANALYSES

GENRE	OCTOBER	YTD
<b>AUTO ACCIDENTS</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>40</b>
•PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	4	23
•DEFENDANT VERDICTS	2	12
•NONE	0	5
<b>CONTRACTS</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>29</b>
•PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	3	22
•DEFENDANT VERDICTS	0	3
•NONE	1	4
TOTAL AWARDS	\$44,681	\$178,400
<b>MEDICAL MALPRACTICE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
•PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	0	0
•DEFENDANT VERDICTS	0	1
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>59</b>
•PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	5	38
•DEFENDANT VERDICTS	1	11
•NONE	0	10

### Auto Accident Cases

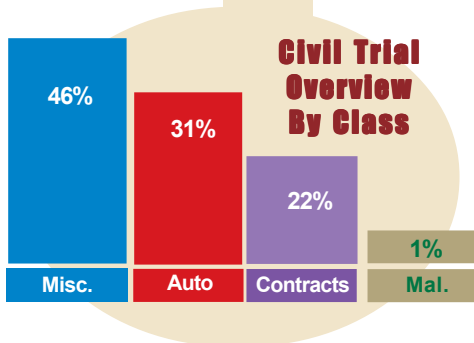
	OCTOBER	YTD
<b>JURY TRIALS</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>NON-JURY TRIALS</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>PLAINTIFF VERDICTS</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>DEFENDANT VERDICTS</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>NONE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
HIGHEST JUDGMENT	\$300,000	N/A
AVERAGE JUDGMENT	\$6,384	N/A

### Soft Tissue Auto Cases

	OCTOBER	YTD
<b>JURY TRIALS</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>NON-JURY TRIALS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>PLAINTIFF VERDICTS</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>DEFENDANT VERDICTS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>PENDING</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
HIGHEST JUDGMENT	\$300,000	
AVERAGE JUDGMENT	\$80,634	

### General Sessions Auto Appeals

	OCTOBER	YTD
<b>PLAINTIFF VERDICTS</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>DEFENDANT VERDICTS</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>NONE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>



## DATA BANK

Statistics compiled for the month of October

### CASE INFORMATION

#### Circuit Court

NEW CIVIL CASES FILED .....	202
JURY .....	102
NON-JURY .....	100
CIVIL CASES CONCLUDED .....	245
JURY .....	132
NON-JURY .....	113
NEW DIVORCE CASES FILED .....	91
DIVORCE CASES CONCLUDED .....	129
DOMESTIC PETITIONS FILED .....	357
DOMESTIC PETITIONS CONCLUDED .....	327

#### General Sessions Civil

NEW CASES FILED .....	4,415
EXECUTIONS ISSUED .....	3,203
GARNISHMENT PAYMENTS .....	3,921
JUDGMENTS COLLECTED .....	\$755,453
ORDER OF PROTECTION PETITIONS .....	166

#### Probate Court

NEW CASES FILED .....	183
CASES CLOSED .....	160

#### Traffic Violations

MOVING CITATIONS .....	15,364
TOTAL VIOLATIONS .....	26,059
PARKING VIOLATIONS .....	5,738
TOTAL FINES COLLECTED .....	\$702,559
NULLIFICATIONS .....	4,652
NULLIFICATION FEES COLLECTED .....	\$55,825

## Rooker Report

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Established by George L. Rooker (1929-1993)  
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Richard R. Rooker.....Circuit Court Clerk  
Gene Baker.....Editor



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