

Rooker Report

June 2007

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New Law Guards Privacy of Domestic Litigants

A new law designed to block public access to vital personal information of litigants in domestic court cases goes into effect on July 1.

No longer will divorce complaints, petitions for legal separation, paternity orders and child support orders include social security numbers on original complaints.

Instead, that information, along with parties' full names, current mailing addresses and dates of birth, must be included in a separate document to be filed and kept under seal in the protective custody of the clerk.

The filing party will be required to file both documents simultaneously and include an 8.5x11 inch envelope labeled with the names of the parties.

The same rule will apply to orders derived from paternity and child support cases with separate documents listing names, social security numbers and dates of birth.

The law effectively addresses the issue of identity theft.

In conjunction with the new requirements, temporary injunctions will be required on all petitions for divorce and/or legal separations, along with additional injunctions incorporated in the new statute.

New temporary injunction forms with the additional injunctions will be available in the Circuit Court Clerk's Office and also on the clerk's internet site: www.nashville.gov/circuit.



BURKETT



HARRIS

Burkett Retires From Night Court; Harris Gets Seat

Gerald Burkett, the first bilingual commissioner to serve on the General Sessions Night Court, has retired after eight years of service.

Judges have selected attorney Evan Harris to replace him on the five-member court, which presides over proceedings that take place after normal business hours. The transition will take place on July 2.

During his tenure on the court, which was preceded by 18 years of serving as a substitute commissioner, Burkett translated documents into Spanish for the court, Pretrial Services and the police department.

Harris, a 1997 graduate of the Nashville School of Law, is a member of the Harris Law Office, a family practice.



Abby Hite

Sherri Hite

Mother, Daughter Serve On Same Jury

When a mother and her daughter who live on opposite sides of the county received summonses for jury duty at the same time, it was coincidence enough.

But when they both were selected to serve on the same jury? That was even more bizarre.

Yet, that's what happened when Sherri Hite, who lives in Antioch, found herself in the jury assembly room at the same time as her daughter Abby Hite, a resident of Hermitage, whose report date was the same.

Both were excited about sharing each other's company while waiting to see if they would be selected as possible jurors. "I liked that," said Abby, a deputy clerk in the Davidson County Register of Deeds Office. "I had me a lunch buddy."

Mom Sherri, a secretary for Metro Nashville Public Schools, had served once before, but it was Abby's first jury experience.

Imagine their surprise when both their names were called out for the juror qualifying phase of a civil case scheduled to get underway that day.

Each wondered if she would be accepted on the jury, but neither one dreamed the opposing attorneys would accept them both. What are the odds?

But that is exactly what happened. And, following two days of testimony before Circuit Judge Walter Kurtz, the mother and daughter agreed with the majority of their panel peers and found in favor of the plaintiff, awarding him a five-figure dollar amount for back injuries he suffered when he was knocked down by a neighbor's dog.

It is believed to be the first time in Davidson County that a mother and daughter have served on the same trial jury. As for Abby Hite, she would probably welcome the chance to do it again. "I liked the experience," she said. "The system worked really well."



Criminal Court Clerk David Torrence (right) presents the first Walt Draper Dedication to Service Award to veteran employee Horace Bass, who heads the office's filing/archive team. The award was named for the late chief clerk who passed away in February 2006. Bass has been a member of the Criminal Court Clerk's Office staff since January 1997.

July

May Trial Verdicts

Week of May 14

CIRCUIT COURT

CASE	TYPE	COURT	PRAYER	VERDICT
03C-1585	WRONGFUL DEATH/DAMAGES	5		\$3,250,000

Week of May 21

CASE	TYPE	COURT	PRAYER	VERDICT
05C-1235	AUTO ACCIDENT	1		\$4,800
04C-3227	DAMAGES	6		PLAINTIFF

Cheers...

Ryan Hager, a docket clerk in the General Sessions Civil Division, says his upcoming wedding next month might not be traditional in nature, but each phase of the ceremony will reflect a sentimental reason. Hager will tie the knot with fiancée Courts Veasey at the Bicentennial Mall Amphitheater where the two spent time on their first date four years ago.

The wedding date of July 7, 2007 was selected because the number 7 has been Hager's lucky number since he was four years old and was his jersey number throughout his days of playing soccer.

Following the ceremony, which will be performed by General Sessions Judge Aaron Holt, a reception will be held on the Pedestrian Bridge. It was there that the couple met and renewed a friendship that began in high school.

The bride-to-be is a chiropractic assistant in Brentwood.

The couple, both 27, will spend their honeymoon at a jungle tree home in Belize, which is one phase with no historical significance.

Congratulations to Monica England, a deputy clerk in the Traffic Violations Bureau, upon becoming a first-time grandmother. Daughter Jennifer Gonzalez delivered Emily Jasmine Gonzalez on June 16 at Vanderbilt Hospital. The newborn weighed just 2 pounds and measured 14 inches, but father Juan Gonzalez says mother and child are doing fine.

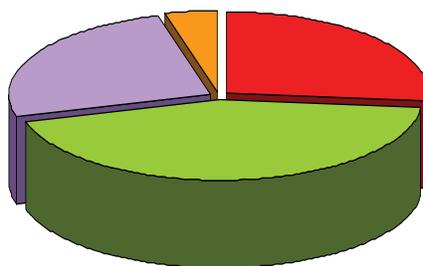
Tears...

WILLIAM CONWAY KOCH, SR., 92, father of Tennessee Court of Appeals Judge William C. Koch, Jr., passed away on June 7 at his home in Pinehurst, North Carolina.

KENNETH BRYANT, 79, passed away on June 1 at a hospital in Memphis after a short illness. He was the father of Randy Bryant, IT manager for the offices of the Circuit Court Clerk, and Teresa Johnson, a deputy clerk in the Traffic Violations Bureau. Mr. Bryant was a resident of Jackson, Tennessee.

JUNE CRISWELL HARDY, 83, mother of General Sessions Judge Gloria Dumas, passed away on June 23 in Milledgeville where she resided. She was a retired employee of Central State Hospital. She also leaves four other children.

Civil Trial Overview By Class



Miscellaneous44%
 Auto.....27%
 Contracts25%
 Medical Malpractice.....4%



DATA BANK

May, 2007

CASE INFORMATION

Circuit Court

New Civil Cases Filed.....	223
Jury.....	111
Non-Jury.....	112
Civil Cases Concluded.....	219
Jury.....	130
Non-Jury.....	89
New Divorce Cases Filed.....	217
Divorce Cases Concluded.....	216
Domestic Petitions Filed.....	284
Domestic Petitions Concluded.....	292

General Sessions Civil

New Cases Filed.....	4,165
Executions Issued.....	3,675
Garnishment Payments.....	4,139
Judgments Collected.....	\$916,444
Orders of Protection Petitions.....	191

Probate Court

New Cases Filed.....	195
Cases Closed.....	157

Traffic Violations

Moving Citations.....	14,186
Total Violations.....	22,761
Parking Violations.....	6,908
Total Fines Collected.....	\$664,580
Nullifications.....	3,715
Nullification Fees Collected.....	\$44,574
Environmental Citations.....	705

CASE ANALYSES

GENRE	MAY	YTD
AUTO ACCIDENTS	1	19
•PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	1	16
•DEFENDANT VERDICTS	0	2
•NONE	0	1
CONTRACTS	0	18
•PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	0	15
•DEFENDANT VERDICTS	0	1
•NONE	0	2
TOTAL AWARDS	N/A	\$116,844
MEDICAL MALPRACTICE	0	3
•PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	0	0
•DEFENDANT VERDICTS	0	2
•MISTRIALS	0	1
MISCELLANEOUS	2	31
•PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	2	16
•DEFENDANT VERDICTS	0	7
•NONE	0	8

Auto Accident Cases

	MAY	YTD
JURY TRIALS	1	15
NON-JURY TRIALS	0	4
PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	1	16
DEFENDANT VERDICTS	0	2
NONE	0	1
HIGHEST JUDGMENT	\$4,800	\$80,000
AVERAGE JUDGMENT	N/A	N/A

Soft Tissue Auto Cases

	MAY	YTD
JURY TRIALS	0	5
NON-JURY TRIALS	0	0
PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	0	5
DEFENDANT VERDICTS	0	0
PENDING	0	0
HIGHEST JUDGMENT	N/A	\$80,000

General Sessions Auto Appeals

	MAY	YTD
PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	0	2
DEFENDANT VERDICTS	0	1
NONE	0	0

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