

# Rooker Report

September 2008

Published by the Davidson County Circuit Court Clerk's Office

Vol. 16, No. 8

## Joseph Day New Warrant Office Chief As Steve Rose Ends 27-year Career

Circuit Court Clerk Richard Rooker has named Joseph Day as supervisor over the Traffic Warrant Division, following the recent retirement of veteran Steve Rose.

Rose, who served as the department's supervisor for 12 of his 27 years in the office, effected his retirement in July.

Day, who joined the office staff as a full time employee in 2001 after working there as a summer intern for four years, served as Rose's assistant the past year.

"He was a great teacher with tremendous knowledge of all phases of the business," Day said of Rose. "He taught me the importance of solving problems in a calm and courteous manner while holding firmly to the rules."

The main responsibility of the warrant division is to collect unpaid traffic fines, which often means locating absentee violators both in and out of state. Rose has been a part of that process since 1981 when warrant officers were required to hand-deliver process and confiscate property to satisfy outstanding fines.

As time went by and new technology ushered in new and more civil methods, Rose adapted to each change while helping to introduce more beneficial concepts. In 1996, he was named office supervisor to succeed a retiring Richard Vester, now deceased.

Along the way, Rose affirmed his credentials by completing a "Certified Public Administrator" course administered by the University of Tennessee.

He and wife Rose reside in Goodlettsville.



Joseph Day at work after succeeding Steve Rose, below, as supervisor



Rooker praised Rose's effective contributions to the office, saying that "his efforts and dedication are duly noted and appreciated."

Bill Cartwright, chief clerk of the Traffic Violations Bureau, added similar praise, saying that Rose "has been a great friend to all and he will be sorely missed."

Cartwright also expressed his confidence in Day, citing his technical knowledge and organizational skills as strong points. "He will be a great addition to the management team, as he has excelled in many facets of the operations of the Warrant Office," he added.

Day, 29, holds a bachelor's degree from Tennessee State University, a diploma he earned while

Please turn to Page 3

INSIDE

George Rooker Jr. Becomes Metro's Eighth Property Assessor

### Swearing-In Ceremonies

# George Rooker Jr. Officially Becomes Property Assessor

After 30 years of service to the office, George L. Rooker Jr. was sworn in this month as Davidson County's Assessor of Property, making him only the eighth person in history to hold that position.

Mayor Karl Dean administered the oath of office in September 1 ceremonies witnessed by outgoing Assessor Jo Ann North and members of Rooker's immediate family, including wife Jennifer and brother Richard Rooker, the county's Circuit Court Clerk.

It was an historic day, marking the first time two brothers have held elected Metro office positions at the same time.

They received their motivation to enter public service through encouragement of their father, the late and beloved Circuit Court Clerk George L. Rooker Sr., whose death in 1993 provided a sad entry for Richard, who was appointed by the Metro Council to fill his father's unexpired term. He would later be elected to four 4-year terms.

By that time, George Rooker Jr., had become entrenched in a career with the Property Assessor's Office where he worked as a summer intern while attending Goodpasture Christian Academy and David Lipscomb University. He became a full time employee there upon his graduation from Lipscomb where he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration.



**George L. Rooker, left, is administered the oath of office by Mayor Karl Dean while wife Jennifer witnesses the occasion.**

His first boss was Jim Ed Clary, whose death in 1992 precipitated the appointment of Jo Ann North, who held the assessor's title for 16 years before announcing her retirement. As George Rooker Jr. continued to excel in his job performance, he was named Chief Deputy under North in 1997, thus posturing him for a run at the assessor position. He would be the only candidate to seek the position.

Like his younger brother, George Rooker is active in both professional and community affairs. On the professional side, he is an active member and former officer of the Middle Tennessee Assessors Association and the International Association of Assessing Officers. He is a certified public administrator, having completed course work through the University of Tennessee Institute of Public Administration.

At the community level, he served for five years as a vestry member of St. Phillips Episcopal Church and has worked on a variety of charitable programs, including Habitat for Humanity, Second Harvest Food Bank and Room in the Inn.

The new assessor resides in Inglewood with his wife Jennifer and son Jonathan, a student at Tennessee Technological University.

Only seven other persons have been elected assessor since the office was created by the State Legislature in 1907. John P. McCord, who served from 1920-1944, holds the record for the longest time served.

The late Clifford Allen was assessor for 15 years, from 1960-1975. The late Jim Ed Clary succeeded Mr. Allen in 1975 and served until his death in 1992, followed by Jo Ann North (1991-2008.)

**Brothers Richard Rooker, left, and George Rooker Jr. together after swearing-in ceremony. They are the first brothers to hold elected Metro offices at the same time.**





## August Trial Verdicts

Jury

Week of August 11

CASE	TYPE	COURT	PRAYER	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
08C-698	GSA/CONTRACT	2		\$4,000		DISMISSED	PLAINTIFF

Week of August 18

CASE	TYPE	COURT	PRAYER	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
07C-3480	ASSAULT	2		\$4,310			

CIRCUIT COURT

Appeals

GENERAL SESSIONS

**Non-Jury** There were no non-jury trials in August

# Cheers...

General Sessions Judge **Dan Eisenstein** has received national recognition for granting military leave three times to one of his court officers. In ceremonies at the Justice A. A. Birch Building on September 22, Judge Eisenstein was presented the "Patriotic Employer Award" by the National Committee of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense organization.



Eisenstein earned the award by granting three military leaves to court officer **Sgt. Jason Martin**, a member of the Tennessee National Guard's 269th Military Police Company in Murfreesboro.

The judge said he was honored and privileged "...to support the military effort and the service that Jason and the other Metropolitan Government employees have given to our country."

Deputy Circuit Court Clerk **Barbara Hinch** received an award of a different kind in August when she became a grandmother to the first boy born into her family since 1937. **Thomas Everitt Henry** weighed 6 pounds, 5 ounces and measured 20 inches when he arrived on August 14 in Portsmouth, Ohio. Daughter **Kathleen Marie Henry** delivered Barbara's second grandchild. Barbara now looks forward to December when her third grandchild will be presented by another one of her children.

The Metro Council has chosen **Dawn Deaner** as the new Public Defender to serve out the existing term of the late Ross Alderman, who passed away in August. Deaner, wife of General Sessions Court Officer **Richard Norris**, has served as a deputy in the Public Defender Office for 11 years. Her appointment runs through the 2010 general election.

Public Information Director **Margaret Larobardiere** has decided on a retirement date. The veteran public servant, who earlier was undecided on an official departure date, says October 31 will be her last day on the job.



## Day New Warrant Office Manager

(From Page 1)

working part time in the warrant office from 1997-2001. He was a member of the Phi Gamma Nu Business Fraternity, the Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc., and Beta Gamma Sigma, an international honor society in the study of business.

Following graduation, he signed on as a full time employee of the warrant office and, a year later, married Tomesia, his wife of six years. They are the parents of two children, 3-year-old Jared, and 1-year-old Jaden.

Day is an active member of Richland Creek Church of Christ where he teaches a Sunday School class and frequently delivers sermons.

He is an avid fan of all sports, but has an even greater passion for computers. "I'm a tech guy," he said. His expertise in that area has helped him adapt to the many technological changes that have taken place in the workplace, such as the transition to a new cashing system and helping document new office procedures in 2006.

He knows the procedures well, having worked each one along the way—from issuing parking warrants to cashing to being a field officer and adapting to the flow of the office operations.

At home, Day enjoys cooking with his wife. "I love to fire up that grill," he chuckled.

## FYI:

Effective November 1, monthly subscription rates for the Circuit Court Clerk's CaseLink service will increase from \$20 to \$35.

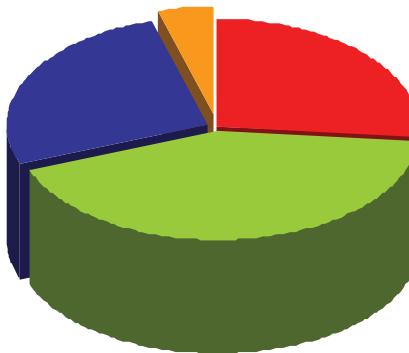
\*\*\*

There will be no Environmental Court docket on Wednesday, October 8.

\*\*\*

On August 25, credit card payments for traffic violations surpassed the number of payments made in all of 2007.

## Civil Trial Recap By Class



Miscellaneous	58%
Auto	23%
Contracts	17%
Medical Malpractice	2%



## DATA BANK

August 2008

### Case Information

#### Circuit Court

New Civil Cases Filed	196
Jury	96
Non-Jury	100
Civil Cases Concluded	207
Jury	119
Non-Jury	87
New Divorce Cases Filed	205
Divorce Cases Concluded	221
Domestic Petitions Filed	204
Domestic Petitions Concluded	275

#### General Sessions Civil

New Cases Filed	3,806
Executions Issued	3,483
Garnishment Payments	4,119
Judgments Collected	\$895,847
Orders of Protection Petitions	199

#### Probate Court

New Cases Filed	159
Cases Closed	174

#### Traffic Violations

Moving Citations	12,958
Total Violations	18,507
Parking Violations	6,461
Total Fines Collected	\$574,879
Nullifications	1,889
Nullification Fees Collected	\$22,663
Environmental Citations	778
*Credit Card Payments	4,864

\*--Online and phone payments combined

## Case Analyses

GENRE	AUGUST	YTD
<b>AUTO ACCIDENTS</b>	0	21
PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	0	14
DEFENDANT VERDICTS	0	6
NONE	0	1
<b>CONTRACTS</b>	1	17
PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	1	11
DEFENDANT VERDICTS	0	6
NONE	0	0
TOTAL AWARDS	\$4,000	*\$201,872
*REPRESENTS ONLY THOSE AMOUNTS DISCLOSED.		
<b>MEDICAL MALPRACTICE</b>	0	2
PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	0	0
DEFENDANT VERDICTS	0	1
PENDING	0	1
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	1	55
PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	1	42
DEFENDANT VERDICTS	0	12
NONE	0	1

## Auto Accident Cases

	AUGUST	YTD
JURY TRIALS	0	17
NON-JURY TRIALS	0	4
PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	0	14
DEFENDANT VERDICTS	0	6
NONE	0	1
HIGHEST JUDGMENT	N/A	\$66,000
AVERAGE JUDGMENT	N/A	N/A

## Soft Tissue Auto Cases

	AUGUST	YTD
JURY TRIALS	0	8
NON-JURY TRIALS	0	0
PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	0	6
DEFENDANT VERDICTS	0	2

## General Sessions Auto Appeals

	AUGUST	YTD
PLAINTIFF VERDICTS	0	5
DEFENDANT VERDICTS	0	1
NONE	0	0

## Rooker Report

Published by the Davidson County  
Circuit Court Clerk's Office

1 Public Square, Suite 302, Nashville, TN 37201  
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



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

# ...Tears

**NIKIA LEE HOLLAND**, 20, sister of General Sessions Civil Division Deputy Clerk Dawn Gorham, passed away on September 4 from injuries received in an automobile accident. She was a resident of Camden, Tennessee.

**ROBERT (BOB) RENNER**, 76, passed away on August 26 at the V.A. Medical Center. Jacquelyn Jones, a deputy clerk in the Traffic Violations Bureau, is married to Mr. Renner's grandson.

**NORMA REASONER**, an employee of the Traffic Violations Bureau from 1980-90, passed away on September 15. She was the widow of former Metro Councilman Robert "Dude" Reasoner.

**WILLIAM KENNETH PENNINGTON**, 67, nephew of Traffic Violations Bureau Deputy Clerk Bessie Fox, passed away on September 16 in Five Points, Tennessee where he resided.

**NEXT HOLIDAY:**

**VETERANS DAY  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11**