



ROOKER

MAY 2011 REPORT

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE DAVIDSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE
CIRCUIT COURT CLERK'S OFFICE

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WANT TO MAKE A
CASELINK PAYMENT
ONLINE?

WANT TO MAKE A
PAYMENT TOWARDS
A JUDGMENT IN
GENERAL SESSIONS
COURT ONLINE?



NOW YOU CAN

Our office has contracted with an independent company to process online payments so that judgment debtors in General Sessions Court, as well as subscribers to our online court record system called CaseLink, now have the option to make payments online. Here's how.

FIRST, GO TO OUR OFFICIAL WEBSITE AT - - <http://circuitclerk.nashville.gov>

FOR GENERAL SESSIONS

Click on the tab for General Sessions and then pick the Pay Online menu option. Carefully enter the docket number of the case on which you wish to make a payment and then press the tab key or click on the Search button. The style of the case and the amounts due will be displayed. After verifying that the style of the case and amounts due are correct, click the Pay Now button. Remember that Plaintiffs are entitled to interest on their judgments, which accrues until the judgment is paid in full. It is the Plaintiff's responsibility to provide the amount of this interest to the Clerk's Office. Prior to making final payment on a judgment, you should ask the Plaintiff's attorney to notify the Clerk's Office of any outstanding interest so that our system can be updated. Otherwise, the balance displayed on this page may be incorrect.

FOR CASELINK

Click on the tab for CaseLink and then pick the Pay Online menu option. Enter your Subscriber ID and Password and press the tab key or click on the Search button. The subscriber name and the total due will be displayed. After verifying that you have entered the correct ID, click the Pay Now button.

IN GENERAL

You will receive an email from the vendor confirming that your payment has been authorized. The vendor is able to process electronic checks as well as most credit and debit cards except for Visa due to restrictions imposed by Visa. The vendor also charges an additional non-refundable 5% processing fee for this convenience.

Patterson Completes Public Administrator Certification Program



DAVID PATTERSON

David Patterson, Business Operations Manager in the Traffic Violations Bureau, has earned certification as a public administrator. Patterson received his certificate in graduation ceremonies at Montgomery Bell State Park on May 27th following completion of an 80 hour course administered by the University of Tennessee's County Official Training Program. He joined the Circuit Court Clerk's Office in 1996 as a Deputy Clerk and Warrant Officer in the Traffic Bureau. Patterson also served as a cashier and a supervisor in the Traffic Bureau before being promoted in 2006 to his current post. He and his wife Karen have been married for 23 years and have 3 children and 3 grandchildren. As an avid sports fan, Patterson has enjoyed officiating high school football for the past 4 years. He becomes the 8th member of Circuit Court Clerk Richard Rooker's

current staff to complete the program which fosters creative leadership, managerial effectiveness, professional skills enhancement and lifelong development. Rooker himself is among those completing the program, along with Karen Brown (Chief Deputy Clerk of the General Sessions Civil Division), Janice Ingro (Team Leader in the General Sessions Civil Division), Glenn Balletto (Chief Deputy Clerk of Circuit Court), Bill Cartwright (Chief Deputy Clerk of the Traffic Violations Bureau), Tracy Cartwright (Director of Operations) and Becky Dye (Internal Auditor). Those completing the course must take an additional 16 hours of training each year to retain their certification.



New Pro Bono Website Unveiled

A new website that allows Tennesseans to seek free legal advice from volunteer lawyers is now available at OnlineTNJustice.org. The service, a joint project of the Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services and the Tennessee Bar Association, will provide civil legal help to those unable to afford a lawyer. In announcing the site, TBA President Sam Elliott said, "With its statewide reach and ability to match volunteer attorneys with those in need at times and places where practical difficulties interfere with personal contact, this website represents a paradigm shift in the delivery of pro bono legal services." Former TBA President Buck Lewis, who was a driving force behind the new site, praised the work of his colleagues at Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, P.C., who helped design and develop the service, and said, "This is the first statewide resource of its type in the country. From the start, it has been our fervent hope that this site would be a convenient way for more lawyers to provide help to those in need." Users of this website:

- Must be low income.
- Cannot have cash, checking account, savings account, stocks or bonds worth more than \$5,000.
- Cannot be locked up in jail or prison or have a legal problem which could result in going to jail or prison.
- Cannot have already hired a lawyer to help with the legal problem.

Nashville lawyers take advantage of video conferencing to meet with inmate clients located throughout the state

Tucked away on the 5th floor of the Justice A.A. Birch Building is a room where Nashville lawyers can video conference with their clients who are inmates at any Tennessee Department of Correction facility across the state or who are incarcerated locally at the Davidson County jail. This project is a joint effort of Metro State Trial Courts, the TDOC and Metro ITS. The system has only been operable since last August, but according to Ted Wallace, Information Technology Manager for Davidson County State Trial Courts, Nashville lawyers have conducted approximately 200 video conferences just since January. The major advantage for lawyers is that this is a secure and easy way to communicate with clients without having to travel across the state to far away prison facilities. Of equal importance is the fact that this program benefits Tennessee taxpayers. It is estimated that this video conferencing project alone has saved well over \$100,000 to date in state expenditures, primarily from reduced inmate transportation costs and reduced fees and reimbursements for lawyers representing indigent clients at state expense. Those wishing to utilize this system should contact Ted Wallace with the State Trial Courts office at 880-2558 or 880-1433. He will need at least 24 hours to set up the meeting and one will need to fill out a form which can be obtained from the State Trial Courts office or at www.nashvillebar.org.





CIRCUIT COURT TRIAL VERDICTS

April 2011

USE CASELINK TO ACCESS MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THESE CASES AND OTHERS

JURY TRIALS

IF CASE WAS APPEALED FROM GENERAL SESSIONS

CASE	TYPE	COURT	CIRCUIT JUDGMENT	GEN. SESSIONS JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
Week of April 4					
08C-1223	MEDICAL MALPRACTICE	1	DEFENDANT VERDICT	N/A	
Week of April 11					
09C-687	SLIP & FALL	2	PLAINTIFF \$160,096 (MINUS 25% FAULT ASSESSED TO P)	N/A	

NON-JURY TRIALS

CASE	TYPE	COURT	CIRCUIT JUDGMENT	GEN. SESSIONS JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
Week of April 18					
10C-3736	CONVERSION	2	DEFENDANT (EXCEPT RETURN MICROWAVE)	P - \$2,810	DEFENDANT
10C-4806	CONTRACT/DEBT	1	DEFENDANT (CASE DISMISSED)	P - \$1,400	DEFENDANT
10C-3425	CONTRACT/DEBT	5	PLAINTIFF \$3,204 + COSTS	DISMISSED	PLAINTIFF
09C-4402	WORKERS' COMP	2	DEFENDANT (NO RECONSIDERATION)	N/A	
10C-3844	DOG BITE	5	PLAINTIFF \$16,000 (GS JUDG REINSTATED)	P - \$16,000	DEFENDANT
11C-81	CONTRACT/DEBT	5	PLAINTIFF \$5,680 (GS JUDG REINSTATED)	P - \$5,680	DEFENDANT
10C-4953	TRAFFIC APPEAL	1	DEFENDANT DRIVER (CHARGES DISMISSED)	METRO	DRIVER
10C-3030	CONTRACT/DEBT	1	PLAINTIFF \$3,000	P - \$3,249	DEFENDANT
10C-525	CONTRACT/DEBT	5	PLAINTIFF \$4,277	P - \$16,336	DEFENDANT
10C-3026	DAMAGE/TORT	2	PLAINTIFF \$10,486 (DEFAULT)	DISMISSED	PLAINTIFF

SPECIALLY SET TRIALS (JURY & NON-JURY)

CASE	TYPE	COURT	CIRCUIT JUDGMENT	DATE OF TRIAL	JURY OR NON-JURY
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NO SPECIALLY SET TRIALS REPORTED FOR APRIL

DEPARTMENTS BY THE NUMBER

April 2011

	APR	YTD
New Civil Cases Filed.....	181	759
Jury Demand.....	96	357
Non-Jury.....	85	402
New Divorce Cases Filed	177	820
Domestic Petitions Filed	350	1,097
New Adoption Petitions	11	42
<hr/>		
Civil Cases Concluded.....	185	813
Jury Demand.....	117	511
Non-Jury.....	68	302
Divorce Cases Concluded	167	877
Domestic Petitions Concluded	190	1,123



	APR	YTD
Total New Cases Filed	3,871	15,525
Civil Warrants	1,959	8,464
Detainer Warrants	894	3,490
Recovery Warrants.....	14	91
Pet for Order of Protection.....	222	805
Emergency Committals	625	2,197
Other.....	157	478
<hr/>		
Executions Issued.....	3,936	15,157
Garnishment Payments	3,947	16,839
Judgments Collected.....	\$847,997	\$3,672,332

	APR	YTD
Total New Cases Filed	187	698
Total Cases Closed	153	565
<hr/>		
Probate Will	70	314
Probate Will for Muniment of Title.....	9	26
Letters of Administration.....	31	101
Small Estate Affidavits.....	27	94
Conservatorship.....	24	77
Guardianship of Minor.....	4	15
Name Change	11	42
Trust Matters.....	3	5
Other Miscellaneous	8	24



	APR	YTD
Total Traffic Violations	10,867	46,064
Moving Citations	7,617	30,882
Parking Citations.....	3,250	15,182
Environmental Citations.....	257	985
<hr/>		
Total Fines Collected	\$442,910	\$2,053,582
Nullifications.....	967	4,118
Nullification Fees Collected	\$11,605	\$49,408
*Credit Card Payments	2,999	11,867

**CIRCUIT COURT TRIALS
BY TYPE OF CASE**

APRIL 2011



AUTO ACCIDENT

	APR	YTD
Total Cases Tried	0	6
Plaintiff Verdicts	0	5
Defendant Verdicts	0	1
Other/Under Adv	0	0
Jury Trials	0	4
Non-Jury Trials	0	2
Appeal from G.S.	0	1
Plaintiff Verd.	0	1
Def. Verdict	0	0
Other/None	0	0

CONTRACT

	APR	YTD
Total Cases Tried	5	24
Plaintiff Verdicts	4	21
Defendant Verdicts	1	3
Other/Under Adv	0	0

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

	APR	YTD
Total Cases Tried	1	4
Plaintiff Verdicts	0	1
Defendant Verdicts	1	2
Other/Under Adv/Hung	0	1

MISCELLANEOUS

	APR	YTD
Total Cases Tried	6	19
Plaintiff Verdicts	3	11
Defendant Verdicts	3	8
Other/Under Adv	0	0

**NEWS ALERT
COURTHOUSE
SURVIVES
INVASION**



Music City has always welcomed its visitors with open arms. But the month of May 2011 will be remembered for some special visitors. They invaded our fair city and the surrounding region by the millions. As it turned out, the 13-year cicadas emerged from the ground right on schedule, the first time since 1998, to sing, fly, mate and die. Although harmless, they were loud, annoying, distracting but amorous. Even the courthouse complex and Public Square Park were eventually invaded. Considering that our flying friends didn't have the ground of Public Square Park to burrow into in 1998 (i.e., the park was finished and dedicated in 2006), they had no trouble finding the trees, vegetation and airspace surrounding the courthouse complex. You can bet their offspring had fertile ground to burrow into this time. How long until 2024?

**COURTHOUSE
HUMOR**



Quotes of the Month

Could a greater miracle take place than for us to look through each other's eyes for an instant?

As a single footstep will not make a path on the earth, so a single thought will not make a pathway in the mind. To make a deep physical path, we walk again and again. To make a deep mental path, we must think over and over the kind of thoughts we wish to dominate our lives.

Henry David Thoreau



**ROOKER
REPORT**

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KYLE SOWELL..... Editor



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please call 862-5204