



ROOKER FEBRUARY 2013 REPORT

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

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Quote of the Month

CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK KAREN BROWN RETIRES AFTER 36 YEARS OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO THE CIRCUIT COURT CLERK'S OFFICE

On February 26th a crowd of friends, colleagues, court officials, family and others gathered at a reception in the Jury Assembly Room in the Justice A.A. Birch Building to honor and celebrate the career of Karen Brown on the occasion of her retirement from the Circuit Court Clerk's office. Karen's decision to retire at this time was prompted by the recent early retirement incentive program offered by the Metro government to those Metro employees who qualified.

Karen began her career with the Circuit Court Clerk's office on September 1, 1976, when she was hired as the personal assistant for the late George Rooker, prior Circuit Court Clerk for Davidson County and father of current Circuit Court Clerk Richard Rooker. Throughout her career, she served in a number of leadership positions in the office including as Chief Deputy Clerk in the Circuit Division, as Chief Deputy Clerk in the Probate Division, as Chief Deputy Administrator and for the last eight years as the Chief Deputy Clerk of the General Sessions Civil Division. In 1996 Karen earned her certification as a Certified Public Administrator through a program administered by the University of Tennessee's County Official Training Program.



Davidson County Circuit Court Clerk Richard Rooker congratulates and thanks Karen Brown for her years of remarkable service.

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KAREN BROWN CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

As part of the retirement program, District 11 Councilmember Darren Jernigan presented and read an official Proclamation honoring Karen's noteworthy career. In addition, Circuit Court Clerk Richard Rooker shared some of his memories and expressed his personal gratitude to Karen for her friendship, insight, leadership and devotion to the office. Her professionalism, experience and common sense will be sorely missed by our office, but with her retirement, Karen will now have the time and freedom to pursue her other passions.

Karen's last day was February 28th and with her departure, Circuit Court Clerk Richard Rooker has named Kyle Sowell, formerly the Public Information Director for the office, as the new Chief Deputy Clerk in the General Sessions Civil Division.



(1) Karen accepts a commemorative clock as a gift from her employees in the General Sessions Civil Office; (2) Councilmember Darren Jernigan signs the official Proclamation in Karen's honor at her reception; and (3) Karen seen here with Kyle Sowell, newly named Chief Deputy Clerk in the General Sessions Civil Division.

CIRCUIT COURT TRIAL VERDICTS FEBRUARY 2013

JURY TRIALS

**IF CASE WAS
APPEALED FROM
GENERAL SESSIONS**

CASE	TYPE	COURT	CIRCUIT JUDGMENT	GEN. SESSIONS JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
Week of February 25					
12C-1782	AUTOMOBILE	1	\$0.00 DAMAGES TO PLAINTIFFS	P - \$21,987	DEFENDANT
12C-3058	AUTOMOBILE	5	\$0.00 DAMAGES TO PLAINTIFF	P - \$17,904	PL & DEF
11C-1915	SEXUAL HARASSMENT	8	DEFENDANT VERDICT	N/A	

NON-JURY TRIALS

CASE	TYPE	COURT	CIRCUIT JUDGMENT	GEN. SESSIONS JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
Week of February 19					
12C-4099	DAMAGE TO TRAILER	2	DISMISSED / COSTS TO PLTF	DISMISSED	PLAINTIFF
12C-2435	CONTRACT / DEBT	8	DEFENDANT \$5	P - \$2,465	DEFENDANT
11C-1467	BREACH OF CONTRACT	2	PLAINTIFF \$25,000 + TREBLE DAMAGES	N/A	
07C-2900	WORKERS' COMPT RECON	8	PLAINTIFF IMPROPERLY TERMINATED	N/A	
12C-894	TRAFFIC APPEAL	8	PLAINTIFF / GS JUDG AFFIRMED	N/A	
12C-3389	WORKERS' COMP	2	PLAINTIFF \$83,947	N/A	
11C-3820	WORKERS' COMP	5	LIABILITY FOUND AGAINST DEFENDANT	N/A	
12C-3820	CERT. & SUPERSEDEAS	8	PLAINTIFF \$5,911	N/A	

SPECIALLY SET TRIALS (JURY & NON-JURY)

CASE	TYPE	COURT	CIRCUIT JUDGMENT	DATE OF TRIAL	JURY OR NON-JURY
2012-B-1307	CRIMINAL - DUI	5	GUILTY, 1ST OFFENSE	2-5-13	UNKNOWN
11C-2428	DETAINDER (GS APPEAL)	8	PLAINTIFF / VOIDED LEASE	2-13-13	NON-JURY

**USE CASELINK TO ACCESS MORE DETAILED INFORMATION
ABOUT THESE CASES AND THOUSANDS MORE**

DEPARTMENTS BY THE NUMBER

February 2013

CIRCUIT COURT

	FEB	YTD
New Civil Cases Filed.....	203	420
Jury Demand.....	92	182
Non-Jury.....	111	238
New Divorce Cases Filed	226	408
Domestic Petitions Filed	199	521
New Adoption Petitions	16	23
Civil Cases Concluded.....	224	468
Jury Demand.....	152	306
Non-Jury	72	162
Divorce Cases Concluded	205	408
Domestic Petitions Concluded	143	338

GENERAL SESSIONS CIVIL

	FEB	YTD
Total New Cases Filed	3,688	7,934
Civil Warrants	1,903	3,872
Detainer Warrants	851	2,013
Recovery Warrants.....	32	58
Pet for Order of Protection.....	229	517
Emergency Committals	657	1,445
Other.....	16	29
Executions Issued.....	3,417	7,701
Garnishment Payments.....	3,941	8,837
Judgments Collected.....	\$954,462	\$2,015,074

PROBATE COURT

	FEB	YTD
Total New Cases Filed	192	407
Total Cases Closed	128	301
Probate Will	87	198
Probate Will for Muniment of Title.....	7	13
Letters of Administration.....	26	64
Small Estate Affidavits.....	39	69
Conservatorship.....	13	33
Guardianship of Minor.....	3	4
Name Change	10	14
Trust Matters.....	2	3
Other Miscellaneous	5	9

TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS BUREAU

	FEB	YTD
Total Traffic Violations.....	9,528	20,296
Moving Citations	6,547	13,388
Parking Citations.....	2,981	6,908
Environmental Citations.....	121	300
Total Fines Collected	\$480,322	\$881,458
Nullifications.....	689	1,361
Nullification Fees Collected	\$8,271	\$16,330
*Credit Card Payments	3,949	7,801

Supreme Court Clarifies Procedures Governing Workers' Compensation Settlements Approved By The Department of Labor

The Tennessee Supreme Court has ruled in *Christopher Furlough v. Sperion Atlantic Workforce, LLC*, that when the Tennessee Department of Labor approves a workers' compensation settlement and accepts the statistical data form submitted along with the settlement, a court may not later find that the statistical data form is incomplete and set aside the settlement on that basis. The Supreme Court held that when the Department accepts a statistical data form, courts must defer to the Department's determination that the form satisfies the statutory requirement of "fully completed." The Court also clarified the procedures for appealing a Department-approved settlement and for attempting to set aside a Department-approved settlement. For a copy of the opinion in this case, visit www.TNCourts.gov.

Supreme Court Rule Change Requires Electronic Filing of Compensation Claims

The Tennessee Supreme Court has issued an Order that will require electronic submission of all interpreter invoices as well as compensation claims for attorneys representing indigent clients. The Order changes several existing Supreme Court rules effective July 1, 2013, and requires that "all claims for attorney compensation and expenses shall be submitted utilizing the system established by the AOC for electronic submission." The Administrative Office of the Courts began development of the electronic filing system in 2010. Users have been phased in over several years and the system has been used on a routine basis since early 2012. The Order and complete text of the changes can be viewed at www.TNCourts.gov.

FEBRUARY 2013



AUTO ACCIDENT

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

CONTRACT

	FEB	YTD
Total Cases Tried	2	7
Plaintiff Verdicts	1	4
Defendant Verdicts	1	3
Other/Under Adv	0	0

HEALTH CARE LIABILITY

	FEB	YTD
Total Cases Tried	0	0
Plaintiff Verdicts	0	0
Defendant Verdicts	0	0
Other/Under Adv/Hung	0	0

MISCELLANEOUS

	FEB	YTD
Total Cases Tried	9	16
Plaintiff Verdicts	7	11
Defendant Verdicts	2	5
Other/Under Adv	0	0

Rooker Report Reaches a Milestone

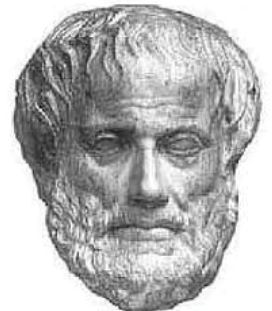


With the issuance of this, our 241st consecutive edition of the Rooker Report, we celebrate the conclusion of 20 years as a monthly publication. Since our first edition in February of 1993, we have strived to be a relevant and reliable source of information for our readership which includes those inside and outside the courthouse and legal community. Archived back issues of the Rooker Report (available on our website at <http://circuitclerk.nashville.gov>) remain popular to this day as a unique history of this office in particular and the Nashville legal and courthouse scene in general. Although we have evolved over the years from typewritten sheets of paper to a digital online format utilizing state of the art graphic design, as we embark on our 21st year of publication, we will strive to continue our tradition of being relevant, informative and entertaining as we bring our readers legal and judicial news, feature stories and, of course, statistical data related to cases filed in our office.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.

—Aristotle



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