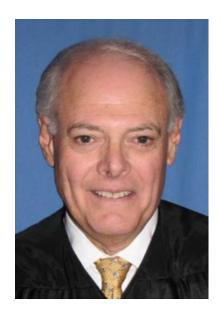


Judge Joe P. Binkley Jr. to Serve Fourth Consecutive Term as Presiding Judge

For the fourth year in a row, Judge Joe P. Binkley Jr. was chosen by his judicial colleagues to serve as presiding judge of the Davidson County Trial Courts.

"It's an honor to serve not only the community, but also my fellow judges in Davidson County," said Judge Binkley. "I am proud of our recent accomplishments to improve the flow of cases through our courts and expect similar continuous improvements."



As presiding judge, he is responsible for efficiently managing the operations of the 18 state trial courts within the 20th Judicial District.

Judge Binkley is currently the judge for the 5th Circuit for the 20th Judicial District, serving Davidson County, an office to which he was appointed in April 2008 by Governor Phil Bredesen and elected by popular vote in August 2008. His caseload predominantly includes civil cases.

He is a member of the Nashville and Tennessee Bar Associations and Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association. Judge Binkley is a Fellow of the Tennessee Bar Foundation and the Nashville Bar Association.

To review Metro's press release, click here.

Mayor Dean Pushes to Improve Domestic Violence



Mayor Dean announces goals and recommendations from Metro's Domestic Violence Safety Assessment. Photo credit:

NewsChannel5

Accountability

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and this month began with an announcement from Mayor Dean regarding a plan that better responds to the safety and accountability needs of domestic violence victims and their children.

After a recent Metro domestic violence report identified Tennessee as the third most

dangerous state for women, when it comes to being murdered by a man, Mayor Dean said that despite drops in other crimes, the city hasn't made enough progress in combating domestic violence.

In front of a city hall crowd, Mayor Dean explored the report, mentioned some of the changes that have already been set in motion and reviewed nine goals and recommendations, including:

- Shifting the burden of locking up abusers from victims to the criminal justice system.
- Prioritizing the use of paid advocates to assist victims throughout the process. Mayor Dean
 also announced a new domestic violence coordinator position—paid for by a state grant
 over the next three years—to carry out report initiatives.
- Standardizing procedures for handling domestic violence calls that would improve the gathering of evidence and help law enforcement officials identify repeat offenders.
- Aiming to keep victims better protected with a panel of police, prosecutors and counselors who will intervene in cases involving repeat allegations.
- and more.

Mayor Dean's goal is to reclaim the city's status as being on the forefront of combating domestic violence. To learn more about Metro's plan to close the safety gap for domestic violence victims, click here.

Metro Trial Courts Implement Caseload Reassignment Plan

Effective Oct. 28, Driving Under the Influence cases will take priority in a single court under an innovative plan implemented and approved by the Davidson County



Trial Courts.

The 18 trial court judges approved a plan that transfers first, second and third offense DUIs, as well as all other driver's license-related charges, to Second Circuit Court Judge Amanda McClendon. Previously, these cases

were assigned to a criminal court hearing a full docket, plus the DUI cases, with assistance from other criminal court judges.

"We can accomplish more with existing resources," said Presiding Judge Binkley. "Our strategy is to reassign DUI cases to one court to move them through the system more efficiently. This is a collaborative effort by the entire state trial court judiciary."

In addition to this change in procedure, a circuit court special master, with assistance from eight circuit court judges, will hear order of protection cases.

To read the full release, click here.

September 2013 Circuit Court Trial Report

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