



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

[Click here](#) to access Sept. 2013 departments by the number, trials by case type and trial verdict results.

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**SEPTEMBER 2013
DEPARTMENTS BY THE NUMBER**

Numbers Are For September 2013

CIRCUIT COURT		GENERAL SESSIONS CIVIL	
SEP	YTD	SEP	YTD
New Civil Cases Filed.....	157	1,780	
Jury Demand.....	72	796	
Non-Jury.....	85	984	
New Divorce Cases Filed.....	165	1,730	
Domestic Petitions Filed.....	178	2,867	
New Adoption Petitions.....	10	109	
Civil Cases Concluded.....	194	2,898	
Jury Demand.....	127	1,281	
Non-Jury.....	57	797	
Divorce Cases Concluded.....	177	2,861	
Domestic Petitions Concluded.....	184	2,881	
Total New Cases Filed.....	3,631	34,388	
Civil Warrants.....	1,511	16,297	
Detainer Warrants.....	1,112	8,686	
Recovery Warrants.....	23	198	
Pat for Order of Protection.....	310	2,619	
Emergency Commitals.....	687	6,263	
Other.....	33	215	
Executions Issued.....	3,352	34,082	
Carrollment Payments.....	4,596	57,844	
Judgments Collected.....	\$936,895	\$8,976,653	

PROBATE COURT		TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS BUREAU	
SEP	YTD	SEP	YTD
Total New Cases Filed.....	157	1,611	
Total Cases Closed.....	237	1,817	
Probate Will.....	72	746	
Probate Will for Manumit of Title.....	5	58	
Letters of Administration.....	21	233	
Small Estate Affidavits.....	17	258	
Conservatorship.....	14	163	
Guardianship of Minor.....	5	25	
Name Change.....	7	64	
Trust Matters.....	7	19	
Other Miscellaneous.....	5	45	
Total Traffic Violations.....	10,319	96,030	
Moving Citations.....	5,962	58,204	
Parking Citations.....	4,252	37,826	
Environmental Citations.....	103	987	
Total Fines Collected.....	\$376,619	\$3,697,332	
Notification Fees Collected.....	\$66	\$6,497	
Notification Fees Collected.....	\$6,794	\$65,950	
*Credit Card Payments.....	5,321	44,285	

CIRCUIT COURT TRIALS BY TYPE OF CASE

AUTO ACCIDENT		CONTRACT		MISCELLANEOUS	
SEP	YTD	SEP	YTD	SEP	YTD
Total Cases Tried.....	5	32	3	18	12
Plaintiff Verdicts.....	3	28	2	30	56
Defendant Verdicts.....	2	4	1	0	0
Other/Under Adv.....	0	0	0	0	0
Jury Trials.....	3	28	2	1	1
Non-jury Trials.....	2	4	1	0	0
Verdicts In U.S.....	1	5	0	0	0
Plaintiff Verdict.....	0	0	0	0	0
Defendant Verdict.....	0	0	0	0	0
Other/None.....	0	0	0	0	0
Total Cases Tried.....	3	18	3	12	56
Plaintiff Verdicts.....	2	30	2	30	56
Defendant Verdicts.....	1	0	1	0	0
Other/Under Adv.....	0	0	0	0	0

HEALTH CARE LIABILITY	
SEP	YTD
Total Cases Tried.....	0
Plaintiff Verdicts.....	0
Defendant Verdicts.....	0
Other/Under Adv.....	0