



## Haslam Names Jeff Bivins to Supreme Court

Gov. Bill Haslam chose Criminal Appeals Court Judge Jeff Bivins to sit on the Tennessee Supreme Court, the [Nashville Post reports](#).

A Kingsport native and Vanderbilt Law graduate, Bivins practiced at Nashville's Boulton Cummings Conners & Berry before making his way onto the bench. He is replacing Justice William C. Koch Jr., who will retire July 15 to become dean of the Nashville School of Law.

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## Tennessee Small Estate Affidavit Increased to \$50,000

On April 29, Gov. Haslam signed into law the new Small Estate Affidavit, which qualifies estates that are less than \$50,000. Formerly only estates with less than \$25,000 qualified.

The Small Estate Affidavit is an abbreviated procedure that avoids the necessity of a formal probate administration and can be handled in a single court filing and appearance.

Click [here](#) to read the new law.

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## Inheritance Tax Amended To Raise Gross Amount of Small Estates

The house and senate passed HB2424 SB182, which annually raises the gross amount of a

The new law increases current inheritance tax provisions for decedents' estates from \$100,000 to \$1 million for decedents dying in 2014 and \$2 million for decedents dying in 2015.

Click [here](#) to read the full amendment.

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## Tennessee Bar Exam Results Now Available

On April 14, Tennessee Bar Association President Cindy Wyrick announced the successful candidates for the February bar exam, welcoming them to the practice of law and inviting them to join the Tennessee Bar Association.



The Tennessee Supreme Court will hold a swearing in ceremony in Nashville on June 3 for those who meet the final requirements for licensing. Tennessee Bar Association members will be on hand at the event to welcome the new admittees into the practice of law. New lawyers also will be invited to an open house at the bar center that day. The full list of successful candidates is available on the Tennessee Bar Association's website.

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## Report Shows 42% of Tennessee Attorneys Doing Pro Bono Work

According to the Tennessee Supreme Court's Access to Justice Commission's [2013 Pro Bono Report](#), approximately 42 percent of Tennessee licensed attorneys reported doing pro bono work.

These attorneys reported 672,976 total hours of service, with each attorney averaging 73.8 hours of service, well above the national average.

The report, along with the ATJ Commission Strategic Plan, provides an overview of pro bono and related civil legal services access issues in Tennessee.

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## House, Senate Approve Title 34 Amendment

On April 25, the House and Senate passed [Title 34](#), with a two-fold amendment. The bill allows the respondent to present evidence, including testimony or evidence from a physical and psychological examiner, and confront, upon cross-examination, witnesses.

Secondly, if the court grants a protective order, the order will not deny access to information regarding fees and expenses of the conservatorship.

The law goes into effect July 1.

## April 2014 Circuit Court Trial Report

[Click here](#) to access April 2014 departments by the number, trials by case type and trial verdict results.

For more detailed access about these cases and thousands more, [subscribe to CaseLink](#) by emailing [caselink@nashville.gov](mailto:caselink@nashville.gov).

DEPARTMENTS BY THE NUMBERS								
April 2014								
CIRCUIT COURT			GENERAL SESSIONS CIVIL					
	Current	YTD		Current	YTD			
New Civil Cases Filed	203	756	Total New Cases Filed	4,187	15,457			
Jury Demand	99	367	Civil Warrants	2,157	7,595			
Non-Jury	104	389	Detainer Warrants	906	3,481			
New Divorce Cases Filed	209	793	Recovery Warrants	9	56			
Domestic Petitions Filed	153	1,061	Pet for Order of Protection	307	1,126			
Orders of Protection Filed	99	99	Emergency Commitals	770	1,046			
Judicial Commitals Filed	24	24	Other	38	153			
New Adoption Petitions	9	44						
Civil Cases Concluded	211	833	Executions Issued	3,784	14,989			
Jury Demand	138	550	Garnishment Payments	4,451	16,822			
Non-Jury	73	283	Judgments Collected	\$1,008,896	\$4,003,408			
Divorce Cases Concluded	167	630						
Domestic Petitions Concluded	350	831						
PROBATE COURT			TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS BUREAU					
	Current	YTD		Current	YTD			
Total New Cases Filed	213	741	Total Traffic Violations	11,933	44,377			
Total Cases Closed	172	700	Moving Citations	2,334	26,694			
Probate Will	94	343	Parking Citations	4,399	17,683			
Probate Will for Maintenance of Title	8	35	Environmental Citations	85	421			
Letters of Administration	31	107	Total Fines Collected	\$390,163	\$1,690,459			
Small Estate Affidavits	41	124	Nullifications	467	2,130			
Conservatorship	19	72	Nullification Fees Collected	\$5,601	\$25,576			
Guardianship of Minor	3	6	Credit Card Payments	5,699	21,796			
Name Change	12	32						
Trust Matters	3	9						
Other Miscellaneous	2	13						
CIRCUIT COURT TRIALS BY CASE TYPE								
AUTO ACCIDENT	Current	YTD	CONTRACT	Current	YTD	MISCELLANEOUS	Current	YTD
Total Cases Tried	7	11	Total Cases Tried	2	17	Total Cases Tried	5	27
Plaintiff Verdicts	3	5	Plaintiff Verdicts	1	11	Plaintiff Verdicts	0	31
Defendant Verdicts	2	2	Defendant Verdicts	0	4	Defendant Verdicts	3	7
Other/Under Adv	0	0	Other/Under Adv	1	2	Other/Under Adv	2	5
Jury Trials	6	9						
Non-Jury Trials	1	2						
Appeal from G.S.	0	0	HEALTH CARE LIABILITY					
Plaintiff Verdict	0	0	Total Cases Tried	0	0			
Defendant Verdict	0	0	Plaintiff Verdicts	0	0			
Other/None	0	0	Defendant Verdicts	0	0			
			Other/Under Adv/Hung	0	0			

