



A Message from Richard Rooker on Celebrating 23 Years of Publication

February 2015 marks the Rooker Report's 23rd year of publication. We aim to provide you with relevant, up-to-date information about the Nashville legal and judicial systems in every Rooker Report. We are continuously looking for ways to improve how we communicate with the citizens of Davidson County, and archived issues of the Rooker Report can be accessed 24/7 on [our website](#). We look forward to bringing you the latest information and serving Davidson County.

Tennessee Law Schools Land Spots on 'Best Of' Lists

The [University of Memphis School of Law](#) made the National Jurist's list of 33 schools in the country deemed to be the best law schools for bar exam preparation. The [University of Tennessee College of Law](#) was one of 86 law schools rated best for practical training.

Napier-Looby Extends Praise, Presents Awards

The [Napier-Looby Bar Foundation](#) of Nashville recently celebrated its 11th annual Barristers' Banquet and Awards program. Foundation President William Stover presented the Justice A. A. Birch Outstanding Service Award to Judge Allegra Walker and Nashville lawyer Luther Wright. Judge Kelvin Jones received the J.C. Napier Trailblazer Award, and Susan Short Jones received the Z. Alexander Looby Lifetime Achievement Award. New fellows were also introduced at the event. These include General Sessions Judge Rachel Bell, Charles Bone, Gordon Bonnyman, Dewey

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Obama Budget Sets \$181.5M Budget for Nashville Courthouse

President Barack Obama announced a federal budget that includes \$181.5 million to build a new courthouse in downtown Nashville. [The Nashville Business Journal](#) reports this



provision means Nashville is close to receiving a new home for the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, as Nashville’s officials have pursued a new courthouse since 1992. Sen. Lamar Alexander, a key player on the Senate’s Appropriations Committee, has pledged to “work to make sure [the courthouse] is finally funded this year.”

Court: Post Trial Communication with Jurors Permitted

The Tennessee Supreme Court adopted an amended [Comment to Supreme Court Rule 8, RPC 3.5\(c\)](#) to clarify that attorneys are allowed to communicate with prospective jurors after the jury has been discharged, “unless the communication is prohibited by law or a court order entered in the case or by a federal court rule...”

Bill Could Raise Hourly Rate for Court Appointed Counsel

[Senate Bill 1009](#), a bill to increase the rate for court appointed attorneys to \$100 per hour, and [House Bill 1025](#) were introduced with bipartisan sponsorship in both houses. The proposal would enact the first increase in the hourly rate for these attorneys since 1994. Sen. Lee Harris, D-Memphis and Sen. Steve Dickerson, R-Nashville sponsored the bill in the Senate, and Rep. Mike Stewart, D-Nashville, Rep. Andy Farmer, R-Sevierville and Rep. Darren Jernigan, D-Old Hickory sponsored the bill in the House.

January 2015 Circuit Court

