



National Award Named for Civil Rights Attorney George Barrett

The Sidney Hillman Foundation, which historically recognizes journalists, announced the creation of the George Barrett national award, the Tennessean reports. Barrett, the late Nashville civil rights and labor attorney, started his career representing sit-in demonstrators. Barrett passed away in August after practicing law in Nashville for more than 50 years. Bryan Stevenson, founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Ala., will be the inaugural recipient.



Tennessee Supreme Court Affirms Inclusion of Lesser Offenses

The Court has held that a jury can be instructed to consider – and that a defendant can be convicted of – the less serious of criminal attempt, even if there is evidence that a charged crime was not only attempted but also completed, according to Chattanooga.com. This decision came via Jeremy Thorpe’s case, who was convicted on one count of criminal attempt to commit sexual battery. The appeals court upheld the conviction, and the Supreme Courts also found that lesser-included charges are allowed and a jury is free to find a defendant guilty of those offenses, whether or not they find him guilty of the actual crime.

Tennessee Youth Court Program Listed as One of Five 'Promising' Programs

The Tennessee Youth Court Program has been named as one of five promising programs operating in our state by Vanderbilt University's Center for Safe and Supportive Schools (S3). S3 highlighted the success of the evidence-based, peer-driven juvenile delinquency prevention and intervention program.



POLSINELLI

National Law Firm Polsinelli PC

Opens Nashville Office

Kansas-City based law firm Polsinelli PC, among the 100 largest law firms in the country, opened a Nashville office, according to the Nashville Business Journal. Nashville healthcare attorneys Bobby Guy and Robert Dempsey were hired to run the office. Polsinelli operates 21 offices throughout the country with more than 740 attorneys.

Tennessee Senate Passes on Judicial Confirmation Plan

The Tennessee Senate voted 4 yes, 1 no and 27 present not voting on adoption of a conference committee report on SB0001/HB0142 implementing appellate judge confirmation. Led by Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris, R-Memphis, the upper chamber action left the conference committee report on the desk for action next year as time ran out in the first year of a two-year legislative term. Members of the Senate stated reservations with voting for confirmation in a joint convention, believing it undermined the power of the Senate. Attorney General Herbert Slatery declared last month that the governor could continue to appoint appellate judges under present authority if no new statute was adopted. Creation of a trial court vacancy commission, appointed by the two speakers, which would nominate three lawyers to fill any vacancy on the trial bench, was also deferred by the Senate's action. The governor continues to have unfettered statutory power to make interim appointments pending the next election.

**March 2015 Circuit Court
Trial Report**

DEPARTMENTS BY THE NUMBERS

March 2015

[Click here](#) to access March 2015 departments by the number, trials by case type and trial verdict results.

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CIRCUIT COURT			GENERAL SESSIONS CIVIL		
	Current	YTD		Current	YTD
New Civil Cases Filed	208	567	Total New Cases Filed	3,673	10,272
Jury Demand	103	271	Civil Warrants	1,704	4,517
Non-Jury	105	296	Detainer Warrants	714	2,430
New Divorce Cases Filed	244	575	Recovery Warrants.....	44	84
Domestic Petitions Filed	142	353	Pet for Order of Protection.	354	910
Orders of Protection Filed	100	297	Emergency Commitments	845	2,289
Judicial Commitments Filed	19	70	Immediate Possession.....	3	4
New Adoption Petitions	7	27	Sue & Attach.....	0	2
Civil Cases Concluded	186	545	Petitions to Interplead.....	0	0
Jury Demand	137	359	Counterclaims.....	8	32
Non-Jury	49	186	Distress Warrants.....	1	4
Divorce Cases Concluded	181	466	Executions Issued	4,024	10,458
Domestic Petitions Concluded	85	228	Garnishment Payments	3,989	11,779
			Judgments Collected	\$1,024,260	\$2,925,378

PROBATE COURT			TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS BUREAU		
	Current	YTD		Current	YTD
Total New Cases Filed	216	546	Total Traffic Violations	8,940	25,814
Total Cases Closed	181	512	Moving Citations	5,236	15,009
Probate Will	98	246	Parking Citations	3,704	10,805
Probate Will for Muniment of Title	6	18	Environmental Citations	182	387
Letters of Administration	35	80	Total Fines Collected	\$375,337	\$1,116,720
Small Estate Affidavits	40	89	Nullifications	399	1,202
Conservatorship	16	60	Nullification Fees Collected	\$4,788	\$14,428
Guardianship of Minor	7	13	Credit Card Payments	5,338	15,512
Name Change	8	23			
Trust Matters	2	4			
Other Miscellaneous	4	13			

CIRCUIT COURT TRIALS BY CASE TYPE								
AUTO ACCIDENT	Curr	YTD	CONTRACT	Curr	YTD	MISCELLANEOUS	Curr	YTD
Total Cases Tried	2	7	Total Cases Tried	2	12	Total Cases Tried	4	12
Plaintiff Verdicts	1	5	Plaintiff Verdicts	2	8	Plaintiff Verdicts	4	10
Defendant Verdicts	1	2	Defendant Verdicts	0	2	Defendant Verdicts	0	2
Other/Under Adv	0	0	Other/Under Adv	0	2	Other/Under Adv	0	0
Jury Trials	2	7						
Non-Jury Trials	0	0						
Appeal from G.S.	1	1	HEALTH CARE LIABILITY					
Plaintiff Verdict	0	0	Total Cases Tried	0	1			
Defendant Verdict	1	1	Plaintiff Verdicts	0	0			
Other/None	0	0	Defendant Verdicts	0	1			
			Other/Under Adv/Hung	0	0			

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