



ROOKER

SEPTEMBER 2020

REPORT

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CIRCUIT COURT CLERK'S OFFICE OF METRO NASHVILLE-DAVIDSON COUNTY

METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE-DAVIDSON COUNTY GENERAL SESSIONS COURT PRESS RELEASE

Warner C. Hassell Set to Retire as Metropolitan General Sessions Court Administrator

Court Clerk Executive Director Kyle Sowell to Succeed Him

Long time Court Administrator for the Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County General Session Court, Warner C. Hassell, has announced his upcoming retirement to be effective October 1, 2020. He leaves this post as the Chief Administrative Officer for the Court after an illustrious career that spanned 34 years.

During his tenure Hassell saw the Court grow from 9 judges to 11 judges and managed an annual budget that increased from \$2 million to \$12.5 million dollars. Overall, Hassell had the opportunity to work for 30 different judges and 20 different presiding judges.

"I am glad to have had the honor of serving the Metro Nashville General Sessions Court which is often referred to as the People's Court since it is the justice system's local limited jurisdiction court where most of our community first come into contact with a court of law involving civil, criminal or traffic matters," said Hassell. "I am most proud, however, of the staff of the Court Administration Office who are dedicated to supporting the Court's daily operations before, during and after each day's court sessions."

Some of his career highlights include the initial planning and implementation of Metro's Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) which is an indispensable tool for the Metro justice partners in tracking criminal cases and case history. Hassell also worked closely with court consultants in the design and planning of the Justice A.A. Birch Building since the General Sessions Court is the anchor tenant. As a result of a study of Metro's Night Court Magistrate system conducted pursuant to a U.S. Department of Justice grant written by Hassell, additional Magistrate Judges were approved by the Metro Government resulting in more expediency and efficiency in the initial criminal intake process.

As a successor to Hassell, the General Sessions Court Judges have chosen attorney Kyle Sowell, an 18 year veteran of the Davidson County Circuit Court Clerk's Office. In commenting on their selection, Presiding Judge Sam Coleman said, "With this pick, I am convinced we will have a smooth transition and the courts will remain strong. I am delighted that our body has selected a great candidate to assist us in carrying on our judicial duties and mission."

During his tenure with the Clerk's Office, Sowell served as Chief Clerk of the Probate Court, Public Information Director, Chief Clerk of the General Sessions Civil Division and most recently as Executive Director of the General Sessions Civil Division. Prior to joining the Clerk's Office as an administrator, Sowell practiced law in a variety of capacities, most notably as an Assistant State Attorney General in the Tennessee Attorney General's Office.

"I am honored to have been given this opportunity by the General Sessions Judges and look forward to serving the needs of the Court and maintaining the high standards set by my predecessor," said Sowell.

CASE	TYPE	COURT	CIRCUIT JUDGMENT	GEN. SESSIONS JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
Week of August 10, Non-Jury					
19C-1138	AUTO	8	PLAINTIFF \$41,179.20, COSTS TO DEFENDANT	N/A	N/A
20C-444	GSA - METRO	6	PLAINTIFF \$50 FINE, COSTS TO DEFENDANT	N/A	N/A
20C-444	GSA - METRO	8	PLAINTIFF DISMISSED, COSTS TO DEFENDANT	N/A	N/A
20C-746	GSA - DETAINER	6	PLAINTIFF \$8,799.37 + ATTY FEES DEFENDANT TO VACATE NO LATER THAN 11:59 PM 08.31.20	PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT
20C-687	BREACH OF CONTRACT	8	PLAINTIFF \$92,950.00 + ATTY FEES (TBD), COSTS TO DEFENDANT	N/A	N/A
Week of August 31, Non-Jury					
19C-1263	GSA - SWORN ACCT	6	PLAINTIFF \$7,364.12 (5.25% DAILY INT. RATE FROM 05.14.19-08.31.20)	PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT
15C-1241	DISCRIMINATION HOSTILE WORK ENVIRONMENT	6	PLAINTIFF \$397,449.96 + ATTY FEES (TBD) + COSTS	N/A	N/A
19C-2275	FRAUD, LIBEL, ETC.	6	UNDER SEAL	N/A	N/A
Specially Set, Non-Jury					
20C-282	GSA- AUTO	5	PLAINTIFF \$9,363.78	PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT
20C-1365	RESTORATION OF CITIZENSHIP	5	ALL RELIEF GRANTED	N/A	N/A

AUTO ACCIDENT

	AUG	YTD
Total Cases Tried	2	19
Plaintiff Verdicts	2	13
Defendant Verdicts	0	5
Other/Under Adv	0	1
Jury Trials	0	13
Non-Jury Trials	2	6
Appeal from G.S.	1	5
Plaintiff Verd.	1	2
Def. Verdict	0	2
Other/None	0	1

CONTRACT

	AUG	YTD
Total Cases Tried	2	12
Plaintiff Verdicts	2	9
Defendant Verdicts	0	3
Other/Under Adv	0	0
Jury Trials	0	1
Non-Jury Trials	2	11
Appeal from G.S.	1	4
Plaintiff Verd.	1	4
Def. Verdict	0	0
Other/None	0	0

CIRCUIT COURT TRIALS BY CASE TYPE

HEALTH CARE LIABILITY

	YTD
Total Cases Tried	0
Plaintiff Verdicts	0
Defendant Verdicts	0
Other/Under Adv	0
Jury Trials	0
Non-Jury Trials	0
Appeal from G.S.	0
Plaintiff Verd.	0
Def. Verdict	0
Other/None	0

MISCELLANEOUS

	AUG	YTD
Total Cases Tried	6	25
Plaintiff Verdicts	6	17
Defendant Verdicts	0	6
Other/Under Adv	0	2
Jury Trials	0	1
Non-Jury Trials	6	23
Appeal from G.S.	3	13
Plaintiff Verd.	3	9
Def. Verdict	0	4
Other/None	0	0

DEPARTMENTS BY THE NUMBERS

CIRCUIT COURT

	AUG	YTD
New Civil Cases Filed.....	209	1,614
Jury Demand.....	141	1,119
Non-Jury.....	68	495
New Divorce Cases Filed	172	1,301
Domestic Petitions Filed	12	59
Orders of Protection Filed.....	71	544
Orders of Prot. Granted.....	31	186
Orders of Prot. Dismissed.....	77	464
Judicial Committals Filed.....	24	228
New Adoption Petitions	14	68
Civil Cases Concluded.....	194	1,517
Jury Demand.....	140	1,221
Non-Jury	54	296
Divorce Cases Concluded	196	1,388
Domestic Petitions Concluded	7	124

GENERAL SESSIONS-CIVIL

	AUG	YTD
Total New Cases Filed	1,792	23,406
Civil Warrants	1,445	12,022
Detainer Warrants	326	3,924
Recovery Warrants.....	20	115
Pet for Order of Protection.....	302	2,098
Orders Granted.....	49	451
Orders Dismissed.....	186	1,420
Emergency Committals.....	832	6,250
Immediate Possession.....	1	11
Sue & Attach.....	0	3
Petitions to Interplead.....	0	2
Counterclaims.....	9	46
Distress Warrants.....	5	77
Executions Issued.....	3,743	21,782
Garnishment Payments	3,214	26,251
Judgments Collected.....	\$930,365	\$7,382,733

PROBATE COURT

	AUG	YTD
Total New Cases Filed	205	1,475
Total Cases Closed	181	1,318
Probate Will	66	538
Probate Will for Muniment of Title	9	63
Letters of Administration.....	45	275
Small Estate Affidavits.....	43	265
Conservatorship.....	28	233
Guardianship of Minor.....	2	14
Name Change	6	51
Trust Matters.....	4	15
Other Miscellaneous	2	20

TRAFFIC VIOLATION BUREAU

	AUG	YTD
Total Traffic Violations	3,949	32,066
Moving Citations	1,541	12,412
Parking Citations.....	2,408	19,654
Environmental Citations	60	542
Civil Misdemeanor Citations.....	148	195
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Total Fines Collected	\$107,542	\$1,018,401
Nullifications.....	38	837
Nullification Fees Collected	\$456	\$6,988
*Credit Card Payments	1,391	16,563

CIRCUIT COURT
615-862-5181

GENERAL SESSIONS-CIVIL
615-862-5195

PROBATE
615-862-5980

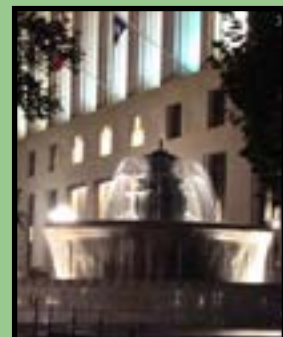
TRAFFIC VIOLATION BUREAU
615-862-5222

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SEPTEMBER 2020

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Richard R. Rooker Circuit Court Clerk
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