

A black and white photograph of the Metropolitan General Sessions Court building, a large, multi-story structure with many windows and a prominent entrance. A statue is visible on the right side of the building.

2014

Metropolitan General Sessions Court
Nashville-Davidson County

2015 YTD



ANNUAL REPORT



Presiding Judge Rachel L. Bell

METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE-DAVIDSON COUNTY



Judge Rachel L. Bell

A Message from the Presiding Judge

The Metropolitan General Sessions Court of Nashville- Davidson County is known as the **"COURT OF FIRST RESORT"** and solving problems for the city is a fundamental part of our judicial system and the backbone of our culture. We live in a world where many people face real challenges. For the past 78 years since 1937, the Davidson County General Sessions Court has been committed to meeting these challenges and the growing needs of Nashville. To help Nashville thrive as the **"IT CITY"** and remain productive and resilient, the Court evolves with the city and continues to improve and grow every day.

Over the years the General Sessions Court has made many reforms to modernize Court procedures and improve efficiency. The General Sessions Court operates eleven (11) divisions in ten (10) separate courtrooms with a demanding rotation docket schedule. There are three (3) Treatment Courts (Drug Court, Mental Health Court and Veterans Court), Night Court and two (2) Specialty Courts (Environmental Court and Domestic Violence Court).

In 2014, under the leadership of then Presiding Judge Bill Higgins collaborating with the D.A., P.D., Criminal and Civil Clerk's offices and our Court Administration, a new docket system was constructed for implementation. Judges Dalton, Robinson and Moreland worked tirelessly on the creation of a TEAM system to help launch the "new" Domestic Violence court that started on September 1, 2014.

The reigns were passed to me on September 1, 2014 and I was honored to be "elected" by my peers to continue the progress we have made toward having the best system for the administration of justice in the State of Tennessee.

Since that time, we have implemented a new TEAM docket system with the creation of the "new" Domestic Violence Specialty court, revamped our website making it more user friendly, hosted a luncheon to honor our Veteran employees, and held a Tour of the **"COURT OF FIRST RESORT"** for our council members to see the continued progress in efficiency.

This past year, eight members of our bench (Judges Bell, Dalton, Holt, Higgins, Turner, Robinson, Moreland, and Mondelli) were re-elected by the voters of Davidson

County, and three of our members (Judges Eisenstein, Dumas and Evans) retired allowing for three new Judges to join membership with the Court (Judges Blackburn, Jones, and Walker).

It gives me great pleasure to publish this sustainability report detailing our progress and accomplishments. This report provides a record of the changes implemented by the Court highlighting its work in 2014 through May 2015. A substantial part of the report is devoted to succinct but exhaustive accounts of the main judicial activity of the General Sessions Court. Statistics for each court and departments supplement and illustrate the analysis relating to the hard work completed at the Justice A.A. Birch Building.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to warmly thank my judicial colleagues in the eleven divisions, their Administrative Assistants and Court Officers, our Specialty and Treatment Courts directors and staff, including the General Sessions Court Administration, Security Officers, Judicial Commissioners', Probation Department and the Traffic Safety Education Department because the success of our Court is tied directly to the outstanding work carried out by our staff and their exceptional commitment to team work and excellence.

Truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rachel L. Bell".

Judge Rachel L. Bell



GENERAL SESSIONS COURT

Court Jurisdiction, The Dockets & Teams

The Metropolitan General Sessions Court of Nashville-Davidson County serves as a very important “spoke in the wheel” as the basic foundation in the local justice system. It is a high volume limited jurisdiction Court that hears civil, misdemeanor, felony, traffic, environmental, and metropolitan ordinance violations. This court is served by eleven (11) judges that are elected to an eight (8) year term. There are also five (5) law-trained judicial commissioners that handle probable cause hearings in the issuance of a criminal warrant and one (1) referee that handles environmental cases and other non-traffic metro ordinance violations. For a majority of the citizens, this level of Court will be their only encounter with the state’s justice system. The list below shows the area of law under the court’s jurisdiction.

Criminal – Cases in which the applicable penalty is no more than 11 months, 29 days; Preliminary Hearing; Amount and conditions of all appearance bonds; Forfeiture of property used in commission of crime; Issuance of search warrants.

Civil – Civil warrants with a jurisdictional limit of \$25,000 and monetary jurisdiction is unlimited in detainer actions; Orders of Protection; Mental Health (involuntary Committal); Tuberculosis Treatment (Non-Compliance).

Environmental – Animal control. Housing code violations; Building code violations.

Metro Ordinance – Traffic law violations; All other county ordinance violations.

The following is a general overview of the docket system handled by the court:

Criminal Bond	Environmental
Felony/Misdemeanor	Emergency Committals
Daily Traffic	Special Committals
Daily Civil	State Traffic
Daily Driver License/ Misdemeanor	Felony Drug
Daily Orders of Protection	Mental Health
Domestic Violence	Treatment Court

2014 RESTRUCTURE OF DOCKET SYSTEM AND TEAM CREATION

TEAM A- Judge Bill Higgins and Aaron Holt
TEAM B- Judge Rachel L. Bell and Allegra Walker
TEAM C- Judge Melissa Blackburn and Lynda Jones
TEAM D- Judge Michael Mondelli and Dianne Turner
TEAM E- Judge Angelita Dalton and Gale Robinson
TEAM F- Judge Casey Moreland

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Judges	4
Night Court	
Judicial Commissioners	6
Specialty Courts	
Domestic Violence Court	
Environmental Court	7
Statistical Reports	8
Treatment Courts	
Drug Court	10
Mental Health Court	11
Veterans Court	11
Probation Department	12
Traffic Safety Education Department	13
Court Administration Office	14
Judge & Staff Recognition	15
Former G.S. Judges 1937 to date	
Employees 20- 40+ Years of Service	
2014/2015 Judges & Staff Retired	
2014/2015 In Memoriam	

2014/2015 General Sessions Court Report Credits

Publisher:	Managing Editors:	Creative, Layout & Design Editor:
Judge Rachel L. Bell	John B. Freeman, Gina Fox, Warner C. Hassell, Angie Von Mann	David Jon Walker Rhealistic Design

Contributing Editors:

Warner C. Hassell, Judge Rachel L. Bell, Robert Green,
Gina Fox, John Slate, Steve Murff, Natalie Broadway, Carolyn Piphus

Cover & Back Page:

David Jon Walker, Rhealistic.com

Composition Photos:

Gary Layda, Dipti Vaidya, Judge Rachel L. Bell,
Demarius Love, Michael Reas, Angie Von Mann, Amber Johnson

Web Address:

www.gscourt.nashville.gov

JUDGES & DIVISION STAFF



From Left to Right: Judge Gale Robinson, Judge Angelita Blackshear-Dalton, Judge Casey Moreland, Judge Melissa Blackburn, Judge Michael F. Mondelli, (Presiding Judge Rachel L. Bell, seated) Judge John Aaron Holt, Judge Dianne Turner, Judge Lynda Jones, Judge William E. (Bill) Higgins, Judge Allegra Walker.



Judge Gale Robinson

Division I—Suite 5100

Admin. Assistant: Joyce Searcy
Court Officer: Herschel Watson
Court Officer: Adam Robertson
Dep. Crim. Court Clerk: Matt Smith
Phone: 615.862.5571
Fax: 615.862.8342



Judge Angelita Blackshear-Dalton

Division III—Suite 3110

Admin. Assistant: Sharon Adams
Court Officer: Darren Bracey
Court Officer: George Thompson
Dep. Crim. Court Clerk:
Mary McKinnie
Phone: 615.880.3712
Fax: 615.880.3713



Judge Melissa Blackburn

Division II—Suite 3140

Admin. Assistant: Kathleen Cullen
Court Officer: Jason Martin
Court Officer: Lovie Hurt Jr.
Dep. Crim. Court Clerk:
Brent Downing
Phone: 615.880.3360
Fax: 615.862.8329



Judge Allegra Walker

Division IV—Suite 4140

Admin. Assistant: Margaret Easley
Court Officer: Karen Bright
Court Officer: Sean Page
Dep. Crim. Court Clerk: Matt Du
Phone (615) 880-3694
Fax (615) 880-3613

JUDGES & DIVISION STAFF



Judge Dianne Turner

Division V—Suite 3120

Admin. Assistant: Samantha Hutton
Court Officer: Lynn Pitts
Court Officer: Marc Nelson
Dep. Crim. Court Clerk: Mike Walker
Phone: 615.862.8312
Fax: 615.862.8350



Central Address for All Judges:

Justice A. A. Birch Building
408 2nd Ave. North
P.O. Box 196300
Nashville, TN 37219



Judge Michael F. Mondelli

Division VI—Suite 4150

Admin. Assistant: Shalita Stadaker
Court Officer: David Thompson
Court Officer: Greg Jett
Dep. Crim. Court Clerk:
Kenneth Taylor
Phone: 615.862.8326
Fax: 615.862.8368



Judge Lynda Jones

Division IX—Suite 4110

Admin. Assistant- Nikki Harris
Court Officer: Bobby Smith
Court Officer: Kendall Pinson
Dep. Crim. Court Clerk:
Sherry Lammers
Phone: 615.880.3672
Fax: 615.880.3674



Judge William E. Higgins

Division VII—Suite 3130

Admin. Assistant: Ryan Hagar
Court Officer: Dan Gargus
Court Officer: Stanley Frank
Dep. Crim. Court Clerk:
James Bradford
Phone: 615.862.8313
Fax: 615.862.8308



Judge Casey E. Moreland

Division X—Suite 4100

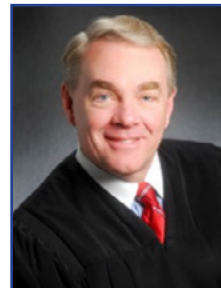
Admin. Assistant: Sutton Nelson
Court Officer: Ronnie Crow
Court Officer: Lyell Sloan
Dep. Crim. Court Clerk:
Matt Lockridge
Phone: 615.862.5572
Fax: 615.862.8305



Judge Rachel L. Bell

Division VIII—Suite 4130

Admin. Assistant: Demarius Love
Court Officer: Forrest Garrett
Court Officer: Frederick Kilpatrick
Dep. Crim. Court Clerk:
Carlos DeLeon
Phone: 615.862.8341
Fax: 615.862.8343



Judge John Aaron Holt

Division XI—Suite 3150

Admin. Assistant- Tamera Lowin
Court Officer- Christene Coode
Court Officer- Lori Funk
Dep. Crim. Court Clerk: Joey Torrence
Phone: 615.880.3683
Fax: 615.880.3659

NIGHT COURT

Night Court & Judicial Commissioners



Presiding
Commissioner
Carolyn Piphus



Commissioner
Bruce Kessler



Commissioner
Thomas Nelson



Commissioner
Steve Holzapfel



Commissioner
Evan Harris

Part-Time Night Court Judicial Commissioners:

Joshua Brand
Thomas Gorham
Laurie Jewett
Charles Walker

Five judicial commissioners—each possessing the qualifications of a judge—comprise what is known collectively as “Night Court,” a viable and productive extension of the General Sessions Court. The identifying label is derived from the fact that the commissioners preside over proceedings that take place after normal business hours. But it is misleading in that the panel is actually on duty 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, serving a broad range of functions relevant to the criminal justice process.

In addition to their other job responsibilities, the commissioners:

- Conduct probable cause hearings, issue warrants and set bail bonds in criminal cases
- Determine probable cause for judicial committals from county psychiatric facilities
- Issue Ex Parte Orders of Protection, as well as warrants for violations of such orders
- Issue property seizure warrants upon probable cause
- Issue search warrants upon probable cause

Each commissioner is appointed by the court for a one-year term that dictates seven-day work weeks and alternating eight-hour work shifts with no annual leave, sick time or holiday leave time.

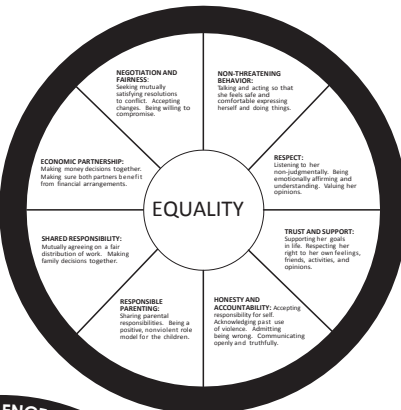


Pictured above: Commissioner Steve Holzapfel

SPECIALTY COURTS

Domestic Violence Court

Wheel of Equality

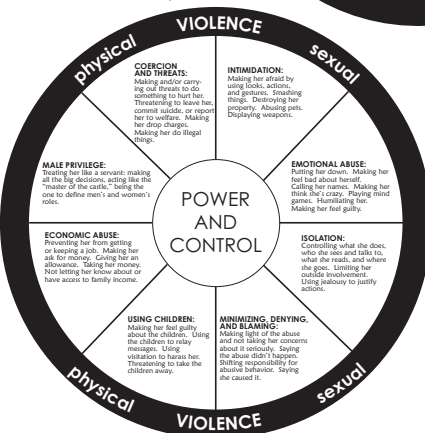


In response to a city-wide Domestic Violence Safety Assessment, the Davidson County General Sessions Court's docket structure was reorganized in 2014 to allow for a dedicated Domestic Violence Court. While the Court has been hearing cases involving Domestic Violence with Judge Gale Robinson presiding over such dockets for more than 24 years, the current docket structure provides an efficient and timely processing of cases involving domestic violence, and simplifies the court process for all parties involved.

All Orders of Protection and criminal cases involving domestic violence in the General Sessions Court are docketed in the dedicated Domestic Violence Court which operates daily in Courtroom 4B of the Justice A.A. Birch Building. The three (3) judges assigned to preside over the dedicated Domestic Violence Court on a rotating basis are Judges Angelita Dalton, Gale Robinson and Allegra Walker. The Criminal Court Deputy Clerk for Domestic Violence preparation is Jeff Crafton.

The dedicated Domestic Violence Court began operating on September 2, 2014, and since that time has heard more than 15,755 orders of protection and criminal cases.

Wheel of Power and Control



Credit: National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence

Environmental Court



Referee Jim Todd

When disputes arise over the enforcement of the Davidson County Metropolitan code of laws and regulations they are brought to the Environmental Court a division of the General Sessions Court. This docket was created in 2001 to address Metro Code violations pertaining to

buildings, trash, debris in neighborhoods and business sites. This court also enforces leash law violations, nuisance complaints about dog barking, and at large or vicious dogs.

Defendants found guilty of violations of the Metro Code of Laws are liable for court costs and can be subject to fines of \$50 per day for every day the property remains

in violation. The court may also order the defendant to spend time in jail for a maximum of ten days.

Once a warrant has been served, the defendant is responsible for all costs, including any fines. The Codes Department cannot waive court costs, assessed fines or release any liens assessed by the courts to recover these costs.

The court meets each Wednesday with two (2) dockets at 1:00 pm and 2:30 pm in courtroom 5D at the Justice A.A. Birch Building (408 2nd Ave. North). The 1:00 pm docket handles environmental, police and animal control violations and environmental warrants are addressed at 2:30 p.m. The court is presided by current General Sessions Court Division IV- Judge Allegra Walker and Referee Jim Todd who was appointed in 2007 by then Division IV- Judge Gloria Dumas.

STATISTICAL REPORTS

2014 Annual Report (January 1, 2014 thru December 31, 2014)
2015- YTD Reports (January 1, 2015 -May 2015)

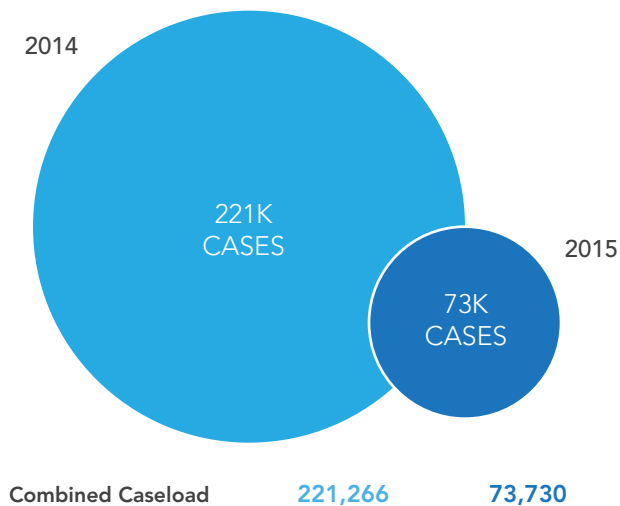
GENERAL SESSIONS COURT ACTIVITY

	2014	2015-YTD
Warrants & Summons Issued	45,681	15,030
Conditions of Release/Orders	63,084	20,706
Emergency Committals	9,223	3,047
Mittimus for Appearance	66,804	21,533
Ex Parte Orders of Protection	3,698	1,219
Parole Violations	270	109
Order of Protection Violations	732	250
Property Seizure Hearings	981	357
Search Warrants	704	321



CASE LOAD OVERVIEW

	2014	2015-YTD
Criminal- Warrants/Citations	93,677	30,341
Traffic-Metro/State	79,029	22,200
Judicial Committals	9,223	3,047
Civil	32,371	15,777
Orders of Protection	3,698	1,219
Metro & Environmental	3,268	1,146



PROBATION DEPARTMENT

	2014	2015-YTD
Total New Cases Opened	5,406	2,124
Probation	5,027	1,978
Multiple DUI Bond	345	135
GPS/EM/SCRAM	34	11
Total Active Caseload – YTD	3551	
Total Outstanding (unserved)	4415	
Probation Violation Warrants – YTD		

Average Probation Officer Caseload: 2014 = 208; 2015 = 135

Total Completions	4,864	1,699
Probation	4,511	1,563
Multiple DUI Bond	320	131
GPS/EM/SCRAM	33	5

Revocations/Transfers	953	350
Revoked to Alternative Programs	191	29
Revoked & Incarcerated	690	285
Revoked- Time Served	72	4

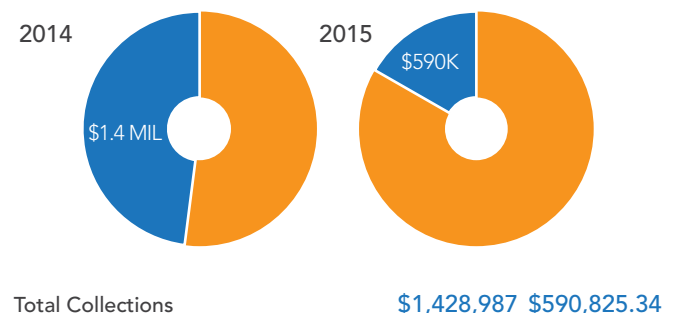
Drug Tests Administered	34,707	7,029
Percentage Positive	27%	30%

Public Service Work Hours Performed: 2014 = 32,337; 2015 = 7,874

Drug Test Fees Collected	\$2,779	\$265
GPS/EM/SCRAM Fees Collected	\$12,087	\$4,585.75

[2014 ** Tax Dollars Saved \$121,165 / 2015-YTD ** Tax Dollars Saved \$29,480]

Restitution Collected	\$269,554	\$98,035.02
Probation Supervision Fees Collected	\$1,144,565	\$487,939.57

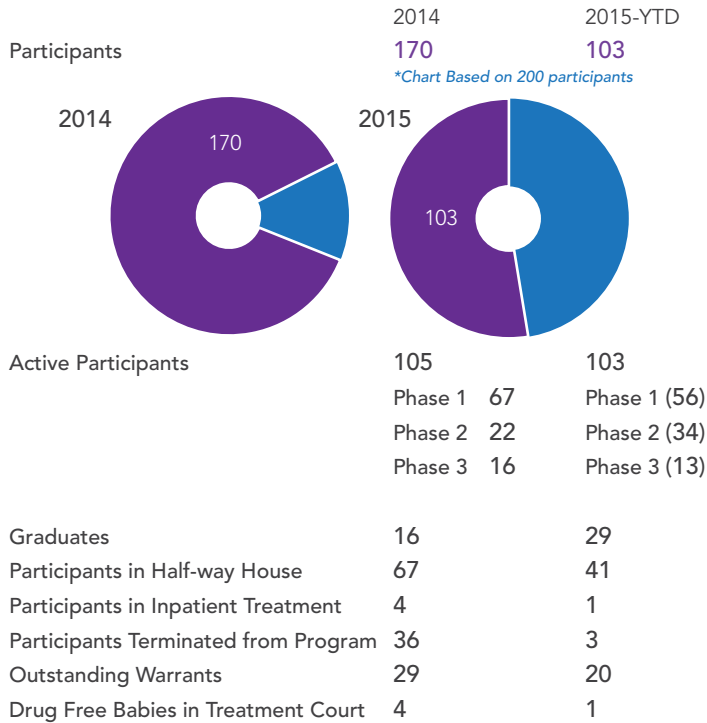


*Chart Based on \$3 Million total

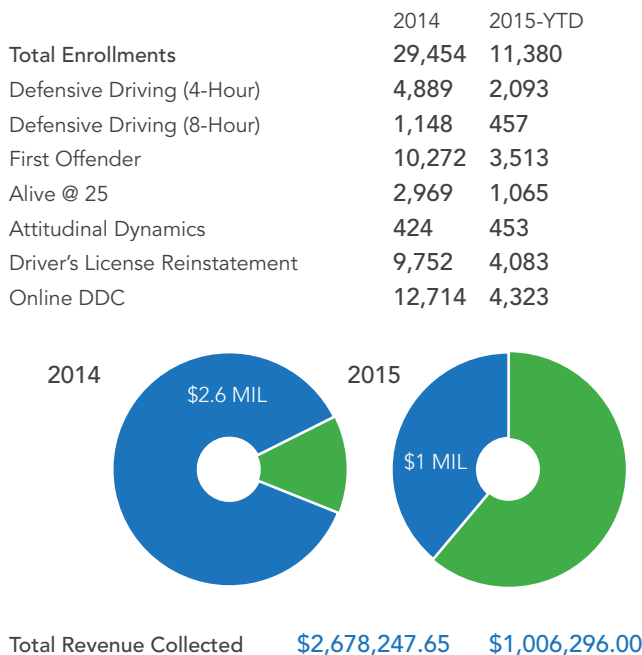
STATISTICAL REPORTS

2014 Annual Report (January 1, 2014 thru December 31, 2014)
2015- YTD Reports (January 1, 2015 -May 2015)

DRUG TREATMENT COURT



TRAFFIC SAFETY EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



MENTAL HEALTH & VETERANS TREATMENT COURT [2015-YTD]

Participant Accountability

	Mental	Veterans
Active Participants:	216	56
Incarceration Costs Savings:	\$2,916,000**	\$756,000**
Cases Heard/Status Hearings:	1,829	534

Sanctions Issued:

Contempt Time Served:	420 Days	190
Probation Violations Processed:	67	19
Probation Revoked and Incarcerated:	7	10
Probation Revoked and Time Served:	5	9
Drug Screens Administered:	987	563
Percentage Positive:	33%	21%

Case Processing

Case Status upon Diversion:

Unadjudicated:	58%	40%
Probated:	11%	27%
Probation Transfers:	16%	25%
Stay of Execution:	15%	8%
State Trial Court Probation Transfers:	16	8
Average Time from Arrest to Referral:	96 Hours	72 Hours
Average Time from Referral to Admission:	31 Hours	26 Hours
Average Length of Diversion to M.H. or Vet. Court:	11 Months and 29 Days	
Community Service Hours Completed:	654	110
Restitution Collected:	\$2,980.00	\$980.00

Case Retention/Exit Categories

Successful Completions/Graduation:	36	6
Administrative Closures:	9	13
Voluntary Withdrawals:	3	6
Transfers back to Generalized Probation:	2	5
Failure to Complete/Termination:	11	10

Aftercare/Post Exit Transitions

Post Programmatic Completion Recidivism:	8%	0%
(Post Graduation)		

** The average cost per day to house a "Special Needs" inmate per the 2012 State Comptroller's Report (Average Cost of \$75.00 per day at an average incarceration of 180 days without Mental Health Court diversion)

TREATMENT COURTS

Drug Court



Drug Treatment Court
Program Director
Natalie N. Broadway

Drug Court Staff and Providers

Julia Armstrong
Candis Batey
Nan Casey
Jonathan Cassity
Joseph "Joe" Dabbs
Barbara Freeman
Theresa Fuqua
Randi Hess
John Metilor
Lyn Noland
Amy Rich
Valerie Webb
Anita Wilson



Judge Casey Moreland being presented with a resolution from Senator Thelma Harper at the May 2015 Graduation for his 12 yrs of Community Service with Drug Treatment Court.

Drawing on a concept that brought national acclaim at the local criminal court level, the General Sessions Court instituted a special docket for drug offenders in October 2003. The General Sessions Treatment Court was recognized as 1 of 12 State Certified Drug Courts in the State of Tennessee in 2009. Judge Casey Moreland, who gave birth to the idea, presides over the "Drug Treatment Court" every Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. in Courtroom 4D of the Justice A.A. Birch Building. It is then that those who have substance abuse addictions and have been arrested for nonviolent offenses are given opportunities to participate in a three-phase supervised rehabilitation program. Participants who are seeking assistance for their recovery voluntarily agree to be enrolled into his treatment program.

Since its inception, the number of those opting for the treatment program has grown significantly to over 100 participants. The court offers an intensive and lengthy program, requiring from 12-18 months to successfully complete. Participants are required to attend treatment services at least three times a week, substance abuse monitoring up to four times a week and transitional housing residency while taking classes in anger management, life skills and job readiness. Classes also are offered to those who desire to earn their GED diplomas. There are two rules that a participant must agree to while in our treatment court-**Be Honest and Stay Clean.**

In order to continue to fund and provide treatment services for treatment court participants, Judge Moreland formed a non-profit organization in 2009 named **Davidson County Drug Court Foundation**. Through his non-profit he formed the Court Foundation Center (CFC), where most treatment court participants receive their outpatient treatment counseling services. Both men and women groups are facilitated by qualified staff consisting of Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors, Clinical Social Workers, Certified Peer Support Staff and interns that are supervised by Tennessee Qualified Clinical Supervisors.

For more information regarding Judge Moreland's nonprofit organization, **Davidson County Drug Court Foundation** please visit our website at www.gsdrugcourtfoundation.org



Judge Casey Moreland, Drug Court staff, providers and participants at a community service project.

TREATMENT COURTS

Mental Health Court



Mental Health & Veterans Court
Program Director
Steven Murff

For more than ten years, the Davidson County Mental Health Court has provided crucial support and assistance to some of Nashville's most vulnerable citizens.

One of the first mental health courts established in the United States, the Davidson County Court has been on the leading edge of working with those in our community who are dealing with mental health challenges. Judge Melissa Blackburn presides over the court and oversees a

staff of specialists trained to address the particular needs of court participants.

Individuals participating in the specialized court program may be on probation or on a diversion program for criminal charges. Potential clients are screened by mental health professionals to determine their compatibility for the program and, if they

are accepted, the period of supervision typically lasts eleven months. More severe cases may remain within the program for a longer period of supervision. Court staff works on a routine basis to ensure compliance, assist in housing, monitor treatment for substance and alcohol abuse and provide medical services with a goal of establishing stability needed to be a contributing member of the community.

The court currently supervises more than two hundred participants, allowing them a fresh start and an opportunity to succeed in life.

When we consider difficulties with increased incarceration and the constraints budget reductions place on our justice and mental health systems, innovation in our approach is critical. The Davidson County Mental Health Court is meeting these challenges and providing a vital service to the community.

Mental Health Court Staff

Sheri Lozier-Bentley
Brittany Jones

Patricia Breeding
Cynthia Nelson

Veterans Court

"Serving All US Military Forces"



In 2014 Davidson County was awarded a three-year grant from the United States Department of Justice through the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. The purpose is to fund operation of a fully accredited specialty court tasked with serving Nashville's Veterans.

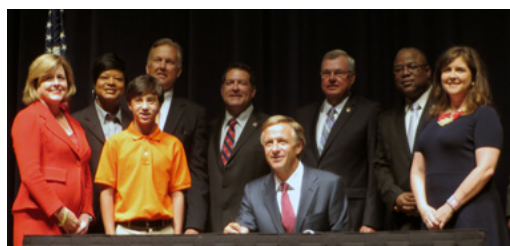
Veterans specialty courts originated in Buffalo, NY beginning in 2008. Since then, dozens of courts have been established across the United States to assist with the unique difficulties of our service veterans. Judge Melissa Blackburn of General Sessions, Division II presides over the court and supervises its operations.

Through a structured program administered by the court, eligible veterans can find stability and new purpose to be a contributor to the community. Benefits offered to assist veterans include mental health evaluation, alcohol/substance abuse assistance and supervision by client specialists assigned to work on their particular needs. Veterans agree to participate as a condition of probation or on a diversion program for criminal charges.

The court works in partnership with Metro and state government

agencies and mental health providers, as well as veterans outreach and advocacy groups. Together, they form a support system that gives eligible veterans an opportunity to address issues brought about by their military service.

In the new battlefields America faces, those in military service are exposed to warfare and experiences never previously encountered. Growing numbers of veterans returning from service face specific mental challenges as a result of fighting to defend our nation in an evolving and dangerous world. The methods by which we work to return them to full participation in society are crucial and the Davidson County Veterans Court is employing these new methods. It is the mission of the court to fulfill our nation's commitment to the men and women who chose to defend our way of life.



Veterans Court Staff

Mark Winslow
Kevin Cuchia

Judge Melissa Blackburn teams with State Rep. Dawn White and Sen. Mark Green in obtaining passage of the Criminal Justice Veterans Compensation Act of 2015 signed into legislation by Governor Bill Haslam which becomes effective July 1, 2015.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Probation, DUI Bond, GPS, Electronic Monitoring, and SCRAM



Probation Director
Robert Green

The Probation Department staff:

Alicia Aldridge	Jackie London
Lauren Berens	Leticia Lozano
Joe Brady	Prentiss Martin
Kenneth Connell	Terena Moore
Cindy Cossey	Johnetta Nelson
Dina Eller	Jennifer Norris
Rebecca Freeman	P.J. Postiglione
Theresa Fuqua	James S. Sadler
Hal Gibbs	Maria Schaffner
Robert Green	James Searcy
Michael Hannah	Chris Sharp
Nicole Haworth	Della Smith
Laurel Howell	Melanie Taylor
Tonya Howell	Jimmy Waggoner
Andrew Johnson	Mick Wallace
Cora Lewicki	Louis Washburn
Anthony Lipscomb	Scott Yates
Robin Lively	

The General Sessions Probation Department has the responsibility of supervising over 5,000 offenders annually. Supervision responsibilities entail working with offenders to change their behaviors and ensure compliance with the conditions of probation as ordered by the court. The Department's Leadership, Probation Officers, and Support Staff utilize current technologies such as Global Positioning Systems (GPS), Transdermal Alcohol Devices (SCRAM), Ignition Interlock and multiple agency databases to assist in managing our offender population.

Domestic Violence (DV) rose to the forefront in 2014 throughout the Metropolitan Government based upon the study, Nashville-Davidson County Domestic Violence Safety and Accountability Assessment. One of the many changes resulting from this study was the creation of a specialized General Sessions Domestic Violence Court. Our department responded by assigning five Probation Officers and one Probation Supervisor to manage the Domestic Violence caseload. These officers are only assigned offenders convicted of domestic violence or DV-related offenses. Specialized training was provided to these Probation Officers to increase our effectiveness in managing the DV population.

The cooperation of several private treatment providers allowed us to begin providing free substance abuse assessments to our offender population. 522 free assessments were completed with approximately 80% attending outpatient treatment. Annually, we refer thousands to services for treatment due to substance abuse, mental health, and domestic violence behaviors. Success for those receiving services is dependent upon their ability to apply learned treatment concepts to everyday living.

2014 was a year marked by success in many areas:

- Probation Fee collections exceeded \$1 million for the 3rd consecutive year.
- Restitution collections to crime victims increased nearly 18%.
- Public Service Work completed by our offenders increased over 20%.
- The average Probation Officer caseload decreased nearly 15% due to improved caseload management practices.
- GPS and SCRAM use, as an alternative to incarceration, quadrupled resulting in over \$120,000 in savings to the tax payers of Davidson County.

TRAFFIC SAFETY EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Best Performance and Driver's License Reinstatement



Traffic Safety Education
Department Director
John Slate

The Traffic Safety Education Department remains one of the best operated programs in the country and is a model according to the National Safety Council's (NSC) court division. The Department is known to provide un-matched curriculums for both online and live classes nation-wide. For several consecutive years, the Department has been honored to win the National Safety Council award for the BEST ON-LINE and BEST DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE PERFORMANCE.

The main focus has been the "Driver's License Reinstatement Class" (DLRC). People who receive

state citations for "driving on revoked or suspended licenses" have their driving history analyzed and an individual plan devised to assist them with the often complicated reinstatement process.

Additionally, all the classes offered (Spanish & English Translation) by the Department are now regularly used as an "under advisement" agreement or an "agreed order of continuance" offered by the Assistant District Attorneys' (DA). Individuals completing these classes may avoid jail-time, provided no new arrests occur resulting in subsequent state citations for additional unlicensed driving offenses.

Online Enrollments

2014 was the eighth full year for the online Traffic School classes. 12,715 persons enrolled in traffic schools online, totaling \$1,080,775.

Customer Service

- The new "point-of-sale" process integrated into the traffic school software continues to be an asset by speeding up the length of time it takes to enroll at the counter. Reporting has vastly been improved and allows a fast and efficient searches, which can be documented for audit purposes.
- The "Interactive Voice Recognition" (IVR) System was launched in 2013. This new system allows customers to enroll in the traffic School with a debit or credit card without speaking directly to a school representative. This 24/7 phone system for enrollments, allows staff more time with customers who cannot resolve their issues without guidance.

News

In 2013, the National Safety Council (NSC) elected school staffer, MS. Shannon Hodge, to the "International Advisory Committee" (IAC) on which the General Sessions Traffic School has had a representative since 2005.

The committee meets multiple times yearly to update the various NSC "Defensive Driving" courses. Aside from members from all regions of the United States, the IAC now has members representing the U.S. Marines, U.S. Air Force, and as well as the countries of Argentina and the United Kingdom.

Classes

First Offender (FOT) – a four hour curriculum covering traffic safety rules and consequences, including laws on seat belts, child restraint, speeding, DUI and most commonly committed traffic offenses.

Alive at 25 (A25, 4hr.) – designed to reduce risk-taking behavior such as driving distracted among people 15-24 years of age utilizes embedded video and group discussions.

Defensive Driving-4 (DDC-4 hr.) – certified by the National Safety Council, this course teaches the importance of safety belts and other restraints, dangers of speeding, proper following distance and effects of alcohol and drugs.

Defensive Driving-8 (DDC-8 hr.) – a more intensive version of the 4-hour course with emphasis on preventing traffic deaths and injuries.

Attitudinal Dynamics of Driving (ADD, 8hr.) – an intense 8-hour curriculum in group format that addresses mental health and attitude as they affect the ability to safely operate a vehicle.

Drivers License Reinstatement Class (DLRC, 2hr.) – a tutorial class, utilizing the students own driving history and state reinstatement letter. The purpose of the class is to devise a viable plan of action for each student to follow for driver's license reinstatement. Ongoing counseling is offered for individuals with complex cases.

The State of Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security approve the standardized curriculums through the National Safety Council (NSC) and certifies our instructors and programs each year. The NSC curriculums are accepted in all 50 States and used by all branches of the military both in the U.S. and abroad.

Traffic School Education Department Staff:

Betty Bailey
Gene Baker
John Bowers

Gloria Bishop
Alexander Caicedo
Jackie Cabrera

Wayne Curry
Ron Elliott
Shannon Hodge

Terry McRee
Jacquelyn Parks
Christopher Perry

Joanne Treherne
Tammy Tune

COURT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE



Court Administrator
Warner C. Hassell



Assistant to the
Administrator
Gina Fox

According to the Metro Charter, the office of the court administrator assists the Presiding Judge with the improvement in the efficiency and operation of the Metropolitan General Sessions Court. These duties, include but are not limited to, the following: budget and fiscal management, personnel management, office automation management, manage multiple courtrooms' digital recording system, assist in resolving court facility issues, court interpretative services coordination, manage supplemental court security personnel, and preparation of the yearly annual report.



Administrative
Assistant
Angie Von Mann



Information Systems
Application Analyst II
John Freeman

Administrative Office

Overview of Principal Services:

- Daily manage the Court's budget for FY2015 \$10,775,100
- Review and oversee supplemental security in all G.S. courtrooms
- Manage the Master Calendar for all courtrooms for special hearings and events
- Manage all General Service work orders
- Manage all ADA accommodations needed for litigants



Information
Technology Service
Rep. Amber Johnson



Security Officer
Coordinator
Capt. Donnie Dixon

Technology Report

Information Services handled the following requests for the year:

2014: (T) 10,913 2015 (YTD): 6,967

Language Interpretations

In Court interpretations scheduled:	2014	2015
Total number scheduled	9335	4350
Spanish Interpretation	8915	4217
Received via email	388	246
Averaging per month	778	870



Assistant Security
Officer Coordinator
Lt. Chris Edmondson

Courtroom Security Officers

Leviticus L. Gray
William Neal Hargrove
Matthew O. Jones
Jared A. King
Shawn L. Malone
Gregory Scott Muller
Jason L. Stack
William T. Stevenson
Franklin B. Taylor



National Association of Court Management



Court Interpreter
Coordinator Delma
Aguilar

Language Interpretations

Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 41 was promulgated to assist the courts in providing equal access to participants who have limited ability to speak or understand the English language. It is the responsibility of the court to determine whether a participant in a legal proceeding has limited ability to understand and communicate in English.

JUDGE AND STAFF RECOGNITION

2014 Annual Report
2015- YTD Reports

Former General Sessions Court Judges

Judge Trigg Moore	1937
Judge John Draper	1937
Judge Frank Wade	1937
Judge Brown Taylor	1937
Judge Andrew Doyle	1946
Judge Henry Todd	1946
Judge W. K. Cook	1951
Judge Herbert Moses	1951
Judge Dennis Summers	1955
Judge M. Van Zicarelli	1956
Judge Allen Cornelius	1958
Judge Daniel Boone	1958
Judge John Boone	1962
Judge Thomas Steele	1963
Judge Samuel Galloway	1965
Judge Donald Washburn	1965
Judge Joe Loser	1966
Judge John Lynch	1966
Judge J.F. Doty	1966
Judge A.A. Birch Jr.	1968
Judge E. Gale Robinson	1968
Judge Webber Earthman	1972
Judge Leslie Mondelli	1972
Judge Robert Murphy	1973
Judge Hamilton Gayden	1974
Judge Randall Wyatt	1974
Judge John Nixon	1978
Judge Robert Sutton	1978
Judge Leon Ruben	1981
Judge William Faimon	1982

Judge Barbara Haynes	1982
Judge John Brown	1982
Judge H. Philip Sadler	1987
Judge Penny Harrington	1990
Judge Sue McKnight Evans	1996
Judge Mark Fishburn	1998
Judge Gloria Dumas	1998
Judge Andrei Lee	2003
Judge Dan Eisenstein	2004
Judge Michael Jameson	2011

Employees Years of Service (as of 7/1/2015)

20+

Joe Brady
Kenneth Connell
Dan Gargus
Wm. Hal Gibbs
Samantha Hutton
Greg Jett
Terena Hutton Moore
Schley Sadler
Maria Schaffner
Chris Sharp
John Slate
Melanie Taylor
David Thompson
Angie Von Mann

25+

Darren Bracey
Warner Hassell
Shalita Stadaker

30+

Gina Fox
Cindy Cossey Thompson

35+

Laurel Howell
Mic Wallace
Herschel Watson

40+

Joyce Searcy

Staff Retired

Sandra Campbell (25+ years)
Jonathan Scott Hurley
Delores Jackson
William Jordan
Richard Norris (30+ years)
Gail Scott (30+ years)
Commissioner Howard Taradash (25+ years)
Louis Washburn (30+ years)
Dinah Williams (30+ years)

Judges Retired

Judge Gloria Dumas
Judge Dan Eisenstein
Judge Sue McKnight Evans

In Memoriam

Terry Peaks (20+ Years)
Karen Sutherly (30+ Years)



2014/2015 YTD

Metropolitan General Sessions Court Nashville-Davidson County

ANNUAL REPORT

Metropolitan General Sessions Court (615) 862-8317

Justice A.A. Birch Building
408 2nd Ave. North, P.O. Box 196300, Suite 1140
Nashville, TN 37219

Drug Treatment Court (615) 862-4241

Justice A.A. Birch Building
408 2nd Ave. North, Suite 4100
P.O. Box 196300, Nashville, TN 37219

Mental Health & Veterans Treatment Court (615) 862-8320

Ben West Building
100 James Robertson Parkway, Suite 100
P.O. Box 196300, Nashville, TN 37219

Night Court Commissioner's Office (615) 862-8304

200 James Robertson Parkway, Suite 10
P.O. Box 196300, Nashville, TN 37219

Probation Department (615) 862-8380

Ben West Building
100 James Robertson Parkway, Suite 10
P.O. Box 196300, Nashville, TN 37219

Traffic Safety Education Department (615) 862-8345

Justice A.A. Birch Building
408 2nd Ave. North, Suite 1130
P.O. Box 196300, Nashville, TN 37219

OTHER RELATED DEPARTMENTS

Court Appearance (615) 862-7624

Language Interpretations (615) 862-8335

Traffic Violations Bureau (615) 862-5222

Mayor's Office (615) 862-6000

Criminal Court Clerk's Office (615) 862-5601

Civil Court Clerk's Office (615) 862-5195

Metro Environmental Court (615) 862-5219

Sheriff's Department (615) 862-8170

District Attorney General's Office (615) 862-5500

Public Defender's Office (615) 862-5730

[→ BACK TO CONTENTS](#)



To request an ADA accommodation,
please call (615) 862-5199

Published by:
Metropolitan General Sessions Court
408 2nd Avenue North,
P.O. Box 196300, Suite 1140
Nashville, TN 37219