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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GENERAL SESSIONS COURT JUDGE FEATURED BY TENNESSEE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF COURTS FOR SUCCESS OF COMMUNITY COURT THAT SERVED OVER 250 AT EXPUNGEMENT CLINIC

Judge Rachel L. Bell launched the General Sessions Music City Community Court in 2012 to focus on preventive and diversionary justice.

Nashville, Tenn. (August 15, 2016) – The General Sessions Court of Metropolitan Nashville & Davidson County is pleased to congratulate Judge Rachel L. Bell (Division VIII) on the recent feature of the Music City Community Court that held an expungement clinic in early August.

“A court that goes out into the community is a phenomenal effort to provide preventive and diversionary justice,” said Warner Hassell, General Sessions Court Administrator. “Our judicial team develops innovative means to serve the community and ensure access for all.”

The event was overwhelmingly successful, held at New Covenant Christian Church, in north Nashville, with people arriving five hours before it began receiving individuals interested in the pro-bono services provided.

“Serving the community is one of the main reasons I developed the Music City Community Court,” said Judge Rachel Bell, General Sessions Court – Division VIII. “Bringing justice and court dockets on Saturday into the communities we serve is one step that helps our city build relationships with people and provide access to justice simultaneously.”

Additional general sessions court officials that attended, and provided services, included **Judge Melissa Blackburn** and **Judge Lynda Jones**. **Criminal Court Clerk Howard Gentry**, **Assistant District Attorney Katie Ladefoged**, **Administrative Office of the Courts Pro Bono Coordinator Patricia Mills** and **Amber Floyd**, a senior associate attorney at **Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs, LLP** in Memphis, the pro bono attorney volunteer coordinator for the General Sessions Music City Community Court, was also in attendance.

The TN Administrative Office of Courts featured the General Sessions Music City Community Court expungement clinic on its website with a full article. It can be found here: <https://www.tncourts.gov/news/2016/08/10/davidson-county-general-sessions-expungement-clinic-brings-court-community>



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