



# 2015

Metropolitan General Sessions Court  
Nashville- Davidson County

# ANNUAL REPORT

2016 YTD



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 **"PEOPLE'S COURT"** 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 and the Court has been committed to meeting these challenges and the growing needs of Nashville. To help Nashville thrive and remain productive and resilient, the Court evolves with the city and continues to improve and grow with the people of Nashville as our priority.

Over the years the General Sessions Court has made many reforms to modernize Court procedures and improve efficiency. It operates eleven divisions in ten separate courtrooms with a demanding rotation docket schedule. There are four treatment courts (Cherished H.E.A.R.T.S., Drug Court, Mental Health Court and Veterans Court), Night Court and three specialty courts (Community Court, Domestic Violence Court and Environmental Court).

In 2015, I was elected to serve an additional term as presiding Judge to expire on September 1, 2016. I was honored to be chosen 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.

During my tenure, Mayor Barry approved a budget for a new courtroom and allocated \$3.1 million to the departments in the Justice A. A. Birch Building for needed renovations; a permanent statue of Justice A. A. Birch, Jr. was affixed in front of the Justice A. A. Birch Building and the G.S. Courts have received encouragement from the city to continue creating alternative court programs and systems. Over the last year, the General Sessions Music City Community Court (GSMCCC) implemented new initiatives for preventive and diversionary justice partnering with the TN Faith and Justice Alliance, a project of the TN Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission.

- Our Traffic School Education Department, in partnership with the GSMCCC, is working on implementation of Alive at 25 to be offered to MNPS twelfth graders before graduation.
- E-3 Series program for our G.S. Court Staff was launched. It focuses on quarterly sessions for Educational, Empowering, and Encouraging Moments.
- In Division X, Judge Casey Moreland launched a new

diversionary Treatment Court called, Cherished H.E.A.R.T.S focused on healing enslaved and repressed human trafficking survivors in Nashville, TN.

- In Division II, Judge Melissa Blackburn has applied to the State of TN for certification for both Mental Health Court and Veterans Court. That process is on-going.
- Team E, Judge Angelita Blackshear Dalton and the Domestic Violence Court Judges Gale Robinson and Judge Allegra Walker received the Outstanding Innovative D.V. Program Award from the Nashville Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

It gives me great pleasure to publish this sustainability report detailing our progress and accomplishments providing a record of the changes implemented by the Court comparing and highlighting its work in 2014 and 2015, with a year to date review of 2016 through August 31, 2016. A substantial part of the report is devoted to accounts of the main judicial activity of the General Sessions Court.

I would also like to take this opportunity to warmly thank my judicial colleagues in the eleven divisions and the entire staff of the General Sessions Court. 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,

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/	Felony Drug
Misdemeanor	Mental Health
Daily Orders of Protection	Treatment Court
Domestic Violence	

### 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

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### 2015/2016 General Sessions Court Report Credits

<b>Publisher:</b>	<b>Managing Editors:</b>	<b>Creative Direction</b>
Judge Rachel L. Bell	John B. Freeman Gina Fox Warner C. Hassell Angie Von Mann	<b>Layout &amp; Design:</b> David Jon Walker Rhealistic Design

#### Contributing Editors:

Warner C. Hassell, Judge Rachel L. Bell, Rachel R. Brown, Robert Green, John B. Freeman, Gina Fox, John Slate, Mark Winslow, Natalie Broadway and Carolyn Piphus

#### Source:

Criminal Justice Planning Office, Criminal & Civil Clerks Office

#### Composition Photos:

Gary Layda, Judge Rachel L. Bell, Angie Von Mann, Frederick Kilpatrick, Elizabeth Owens, Christie Bell and Natalie Broadway

#### Web Address:

[www.gscourt.nashville.gov](http://www.gscourt.nashville.gov)



# JUDGES & DIVISION STAFF



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



## **Judge Gale Robinson**

Division I—Suite 5100

Admin Assistant: Joyce Searcy  
Court Officer: Bobby Sory  
Court Officer: Hailey Wallace  
Dep. Crim. Court Clerk: Ryan Williams  
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: Lovie Hurt, Jr.  
Court Officer: James T. Searcy  
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: 615.862.3694  
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

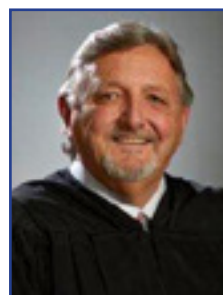
Admin. Assistant- Nikki Harris  
Court Officer: Bobby Smith  
Court Officer: Michael Allen  
Dep. Crim. Court Clerk:  
Sherry Lammers  
Phone: 615.880.3672  
Fax: 615.862.3674



## **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

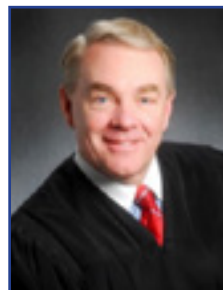
Admin. Assistant: Sutton Nelson  
Court Officer: Ronnie Crow  
Court Officer: Lyell Sloan  
Dep. Crim. Court Clerk: Scott Muller  
Phone: 615.862.5572  
Fax: 615.862.8305



## **Judge Rachel L. Bell**

Division VIII—Suite 4130

Admin. Assistant: Demarius Love  
Court Officer: Forrest Garrett  
Court Officer: Fredrick 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- Tamara 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:**

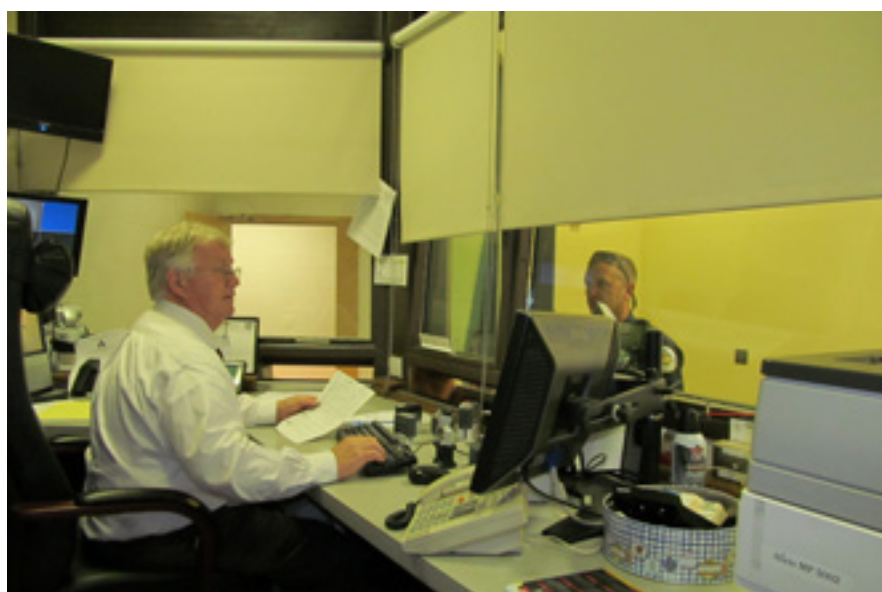
Thomas (Tee) Gorham  
Dan Masten  
Chelsea Nicholson  
Shelia Stevenson

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.



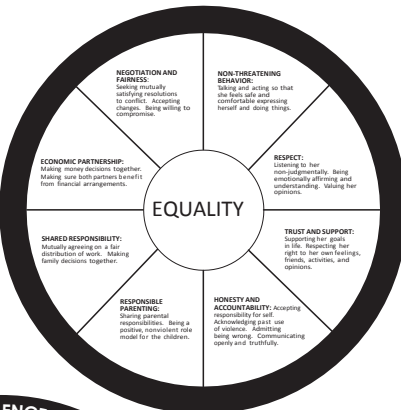
Pictured above: Commissioner Steve Holzapfel



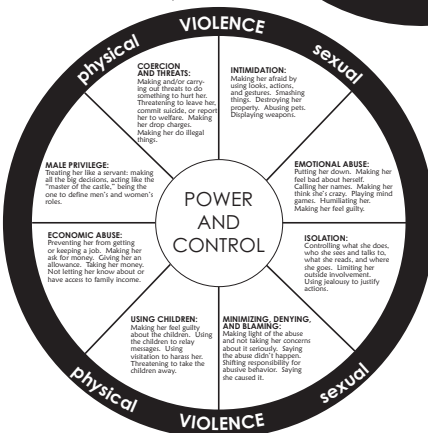
# SPECIALTY COURTS

## Domestic Violence Court

Wheel of Equality



Wheel of Power and Control



Credit: National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence

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 operation on September 2, 2014.

## 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.

# SPECIALTY COURTS

## Music City Community Court



Judge Rachel L. Bell



The General Sessions Music City Community Court, Division VIII (8) was founded by Judge Rachel L. Bell in 2012. Since its inception, the court has piloted several community initiatives focused on preventive and diversionary justice focused on the concept, that "Justice does not stop at the courthouse steps" and charged to do all it can to help break the playground to prison pipeline and restore/ rehabilitate lives.

### **DIVERSIONARY JUSTICE (to rehabilitate and restore offenders)**

Judge Bell in partnership with the Metropolitan Sheriff's Office, speaks to inmates in the women and men pods at the Correctional Development Center (CDC) during the *Healing Journeys*, *SAVE* and *New Avenues* classes providing uplifting messages focused on putting mistakes behind you and starting a new life with a new mind-set upon re-entry back into society.

**Saturday Dockets** were created by Judge Bell to provide access to justice right on the spot every 4-6 weeks in various locations around Nashville, Davidson County.

- The **Community Service Work** projects provide access to justice so that after offenders are complete with the work, they are given credit

immediately and do not have to come back to court on a return docket to show proof of compliance with an agreed order or guilty under-advisement plea.

- The **Expungement Clinic** and **Indigency Dockets** assist offenders with the ability to file a motion on the spot to be heard by the court. If declared indigent court cost and fines are waived providing the ability to proceed with filing out expungement applications to clear a criminal record of cases that were dismissed with or without cost.

### **PREVENTIVE JUSTICE (to break down the playground to prison pipeline)**

**R.E.A.C.H. (Reaching Every Aspiring Child's Horizon)**  
6 week summer literacy program offered to MNPS rising 1st- 4th graders

### **FUTURE**

Internships offered to MNPS for rising 5th-12th graders during school breaks (fall and spring breaks 11th-12th graders, summer breaks 5th-12th graders)

### **Alive at 25**

Offered to MNPS 12th grade students to discuss road rules and the reality of being involved in the court system. The students learn about the wide range of sentences that can be imposed for traffic infractions, careless behaviors, and the civil liability of at-fault auto crashes. \*\* In 2016, Judge Bell was trained and certified by the National Safety Council to teach driver safety training programs.



Expungement Clinic at New Covenant Christian Church (DOC)- Aug. 2016



# A TRIBUTE TO JUSTICE A. A. BIRCH, JR.

On, August 27, 2016 the Justice A. A. Birch Jr. building was re-dedicated and a statue was unveiled in front of the courthouse square to honor his lifetime of achievements. The committee was spearheaded by our General Sessions Court Presiding Judge Rachel L. Bell. However several others put in long tireless hours as well. Including but not limited to; Committee Chairpersons; Judge Casey Moreland, Judge Philip Smith, Judge Monte D. Watkins, Bryan Lewis, Esq. Committee Co-Chairs: Judge Melissa Blackburn, Judge Lynda Jones, Howard Gentry, Davidson County Criminal Court Clerk. Committee Members: Dwayne L. Bell, Sr. Alfred Degrafinreid II, Gina Fox, Frederick Douglas Kilpatrick, Richard Rooker, Circuit Court Clerk, James Weaver, Esq. Nancy Vincent, Esq. Nothing of this magnitude is done without committee partners and this endeavor was no different. The statue was sculpted by world renowned artist, Brian Hanlon.

After the re-dedication and the statue unveiling the Birch Building was turned into an event space for the very first time and the evening was magnificent. The food was tasty and the music was great!! There were over 150 persons in attendance for the grand affair to celebrate a great man for a great cause.



# STATISTICAL REPORTS

2014/2015 Comparison (January 1, 2014 thru December 31, 2015)  
2016- YTD Reports (January 1, 2016 -July 31,2016)

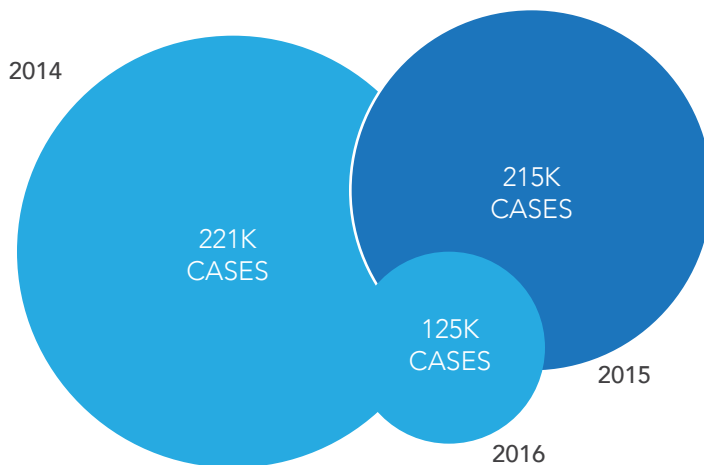
## GENERAL SESSIONS COURT ACTIVITY

	2014	2015	2016-YTD
<b>Warrants &amp; Summons Issued</b>	<b>45,681</b>	<b>46,188</b>	<b>26,624</b>
Conditions of Release/Orders	63,084	63,269	37,013
Emergency Committals	9,223	9,114	5,447
Mittimus for Appearance	66,804	67,500	38,495
Ex Parte Orders of Protection	3,698	4,156	2,402
Parole Violations	270	293	163
Order of Protection Violations	732	871	515
Property Seizure Hearings	981	788	419
Search Warrants	704	829	505



## CASE LOAD OVERVIEW

	2014	2015	2016-YTD
Criminal- Warrants/Citations	93,677	90,670	52,090
Traffic-Metro/State	79,029	69,006	39,639
Judicial Committals	9,223	9,114	5,447
Civil	32,371	39,387	23,036
Orders of Protection	3,698	4,156	2,402
Metro & Environmental	3,268	3,622	2,876



Combined Caseload **221,266** **215,941** **125,490**

## PROBATION DEPARTMENT

	2014	2015	2016-YTD
<b>Total New Cases Opened</b>	<b>5,406</b>	<b>4,669</b>	<b>2,634</b>
Probation	5,027	4,307	2,440
Cherished H.E.A.R.T.S.	---	20	20
Multiple DUI Bond	345	314	152
GPS/EM/SCRAM	34	28	3
<b>Average Probation Officer Caseload</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>165</b>
<b>Total Completions</b>	<b>4,864</b>	<b>3,730</b>	<b>1,894</b>
Probation	4,511	3,385	1,701
Cherished H.E.A.R.T.S.	---	0	1 (8/23/2016)
Multiple DUI Bond	320	328	184
GPS/EM/SCRAM	33	17	0
<b>Revocations/Transfers</b>	<b>953</b>	<b>992</b>	<b>538</b>
Revoked to Alternative Programs	191	210	99
Revoked & Incarcerated	690	746	422
Revoked- Time Served	72	36	17

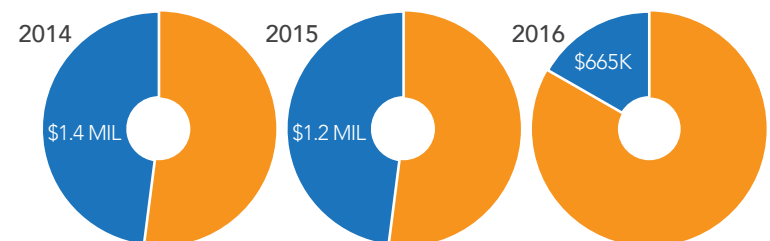
<b>Drug Tests Administered</b>	<b>34,707</b>	<b>38,561</b>	<b>20,383</b>
Percentage Positive	27%	28%	27%

<b>Public Service Work Hours Performed</b>	<b>32,337</b>	<b>33,334</b>	<b>18,623</b>
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<b>Drug Test Fees Collected</b>	<b>\$2,779</b>	<b>\$145</b>	<b>\$20</b>
<b>GPS/EM/SCRAM Fees Collected</b>	<b>\$12,087</b>	<b>\$13,969</b>	<b>\$11,183</b>

2014 \*\* Tax Dollars Saved by use of SCRAM/GPS \$121,165  
2015 \*\* Tax Dollars Saved by use of SCRAM/GPS \$146,325  
2016 (YTD)\*\* Tax Dollars Saved by use of SCRAM/GPS \$151,725

<b>Restitution Collected</b>	<b>\$269, 554</b>	<b>\$206,845</b>	<b>\$114, 059</b>
<b>Probation Supervision Fees Collected</b>	<b>\$1,144,565</b>	<b>\$1,006,982</b>	<b>\$540,344</b>



Total Collections **\$1,428,987** **\$1,227,941** **\$665,606**

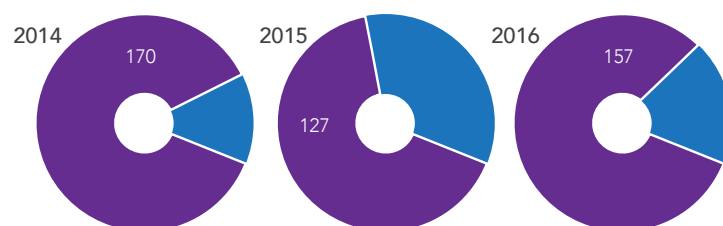
\*Chart Based on \$3 Million total

# STATISTICAL REPORTS

2014/2015 Comparison (January 1, 2014 thru December 31, 2015)  
2016- YTD Reports (January 1, 2016 -July 31,2016)

## DRUG TREATMENT COURT

Participants 2014 **170** 2015 **127** 2016-YTD **157**  
\*Chart Based on 200 participants

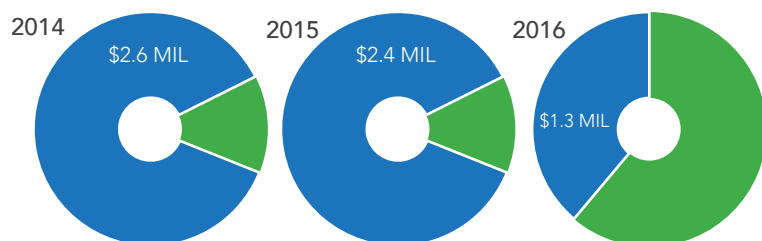


Active Participants	105	117	153
Discharged Participants	36	86	122
Gender Breakdown *			
Female	----	47	46
Male	----	80	74
Race Breakdown *			
African American	-----	24	25
Multi-racial	-----	3	1
Native Hawaiian - or Other Pacific Islander	----	0	1
White	-----	62	87
Other Race	-----	0	6
Graduates	16	44	36
Total Graduates since 2003-			288
Total Drug Free Babies Born since 2003-			26

\*(new data 2015/2016)

## TRAFFIC SAFETY EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

	2014 (T)	2015(T)	2016 (YTD)
Total Enrollments	29,454	28,720	13,534
Defensive Driving (4-Hour)	4,889	6,929	3,904
Defensive Driving (8-Hour)	1,148	2,676	1,230
First Offender	10,272	8,832	4,221
Alive @ 25	2,969	2,674	1,030
Attitudinal Dynamics	424	1,003	547
Driver's License Reinstatement	9,752	6,606	2,602
Online DDC/FOT	12,714	10,994	6,328



Total Revenue Collected **\$2,678,247.65** **\$2,453,611.96** **\$1,398,240.51**

\*Chart Based on \$3 Million total

## MUSIC CITY COMMUNITY COURT

2014 2015 2016 (YTD)

### Saturday Dockets

Expungement/ Indigency			
Docket Participants	201	247	452
Community Service			
Work Hours Performed	1,520	1,900	552

### Preventive Justice Programs

R.E.A.C.H. graduates	---	---	27
FUTURE Internships	23	31	25
Alive at 25 (MNPS)			
Graduates	---	---	15



FUTURE Summer 2016 Internship Students with Mayor Megan Barry and Judge Rachel L. Bell



Community Beautification Project in Bordeaux, Spring 2016

Music City Community Court Preventive Justice Programs

**FUTURE**  
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

**alive**  
AT 25

**REACH**  
Reaching, Empowering, Aspiring, Child's Horizon



# TREATMENT COURTS

## Drug Court



Judge Casey Moreland



Drug Treatment Court  
Program Director  
Natalie N. Broadway

### Drug Court Staff and Providers

Julia Armstrong	John Metilor
Candis Batey	Lyn Noland
Kim Campbell	Amy Rich
Nan Casey	Deb Smith
Joseph Dabbs	Ron Smith
Barbara Freeman	Matt Usry
Theresa Fuqua	Karen Vancamp
Leah Gunter	Valerie Webb
Brett Harleston	Anita Wilson
Randi Hess	Chasity Woods
Emily Lauzon	Robert Yates

In October of 2003, Judge Casey Moreland created a specialized docket for drug and alcohol offenders who were interested in recovery. Judge Moreland presides over the General Sessions Treatment Court and his "Drug Court" was recognized as 1 of the 12 State Certified Drug Courts in the State of Tennessee in 2009. This specialized docket occurs 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.

Those participants who are opting to enter the treatment program have grown significantly to over 100 participants since the first year. The court offers an intensive and lengthy program, requiring from 12-18 months to successfully complete. Participants are court supervised and receive case management services. They are required to attend treatment services at least three times a week, attend 12-step meetings, obtain a sponsor, live in transitional housing residency, be randomly drug screened, and maintain employment. Classes also are offered to those who desire to earn GED diplomas and driving record validations. 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.

Judge Moreland who now serves on the Tennessee Recovery Court Advisory Committee is very committed to serving his community and providing enhanced services that will meet the needs of those individuals with substance abuse and mental health disorders who are engaged in the criminal justice system.

For more information regarding Judge Moreland's non-profit organization, **Davidson County Drug Court Foundation** please visit our website at [www.gsdrugcourtfoundation.org](http://www.gsdrugcourtfoundation.org)

### Partnerships and Affiliated Agencies

Davidson County Drug Court Foundation Board of Directors, Court Foundation Center (CFC), District Attorney General, Public Defender, Davidson County Sheriff Dept., Davidson County Probation Dept., Mental Health Cooperative, Avertest, Ana's House, Phases Transitional Housing, Recovery Community Inc. (RCI), Samaritan Recovery Community, Re-entry, Safe Harbor, Buffalo Valley, The Next Door, Grace House (Nashville), Grace House (Memphis), Serenity House

# TREATMENT COURTS

## Drug Court



Pictured, Judge Casey Moreland and Drug Court staff

### COURT FOUNDATION CENTER (CFC)

Under the leadership of Judge Casey Moreland and the Davidson County Drug Court Foundation Board of Directors, the Court Foundation Center (CFC) celebrated its grand opening on August 27, 2015. Since then CFC has expanded and 1026 sq ft has been added to the location. The additional space will be designated as our men's IOP class, in addition to available space for other treatment services.

The Davidson County Drug Court Foundation has funded CFC since June 2012 and is the off-site facility that provides treatment services for most of the drug court participants. With the expansion of the new space it will allow Drug Court to meet the growing needs of our clients and have the best treatment possible. Currently, CFC serves 140 drug court clients receiving treatment services for both men and women Intensive Outpatient counseling (IOP), Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT), Relapse Prevention, After-Care groups, and Yoga classes from qualified staff members.

Judge Moreland states, "Drug Court had difficulty finding an IOP that we could develop a close working relationship. After discussions with the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse we decided to develop our own program. The good people at the State have been very helpful. We started with one part-time counselor, now the Treatment Director, Nan Casey has added two Drug and Alcohol Counselors, Anita Wilson and Joe Dabbs and four part-time counselors. The thanks and credit goes

to the Davidson County Drug Court Foundation who saw the need and fulfilled it".

### Community Service/Graduations

Our clients work very hard on their recovery but they also serve in their community and have fun outings such as white water rafting. Our clients have participated in outreach projects such as the Mayor Megan Barry's citywide Community Spring Clean initiative, Restoring the Madison Little League ball park, and volunteering their time in building a child's playground who was suffering with Cancer. Engaging in community service projects allows the client to build positive relationships, enforces team-work and gives back to their respective community.

Once the client completes all requirements of the General Sessions Treatment Court, the treatment team coordinates a graduation ceremony to celebrate those who have successfully completed all three phases. The treatment team works very hard to ensure that it's a very special event because we understand that in most cases this may be the only life occurrence that one has completed and achieved.

All graduations are open to the public and the graduate is able to invite their friends and family to support them as they receive their certificate of completion. Our past key-note speakers have been Former NFL Player Chris Sanders, District Attorney General Glenn Funk, Council Member At Large, Erica Gilmore. All guests are able to fellowship after the ceremony and are served light refreshments.

# TREATMENT COURTS

## Cherished H.E.A.R.T.S.

Healing Enslaved and  
Repressed Trafficking Survivors

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING INTERVENTION COURT



In February 2016 Judge Moreland along with Assistant District Attorneys Tammy Meade and Deb Smith, under the leadership of District Attorney General Glenn Funk, created an innovative intervention court titled **Cherished H.E.A.R.T.S.** This court was created in response to a clear social issue where victims of human trafficking were caught in a criminal cycle due to their traumatic experiences, criminal records and, for some, substance abuse disorder. This court is open to all women, men and transgendered victims of human trafficking and is one of the few trafficking courts in the country. The program is voluntary and runs 6 to twelve months as a deferred plea. When the victim completes the program successfully their charge may be dismissed and expunged at no expense.

**Cherished H.E.A.R.T.S.** is partnered with the Davidson County Drug Court Foundation, End Slavery Tennessee and the General Sessions Probation Department. The Davidson County Drug Court Foundation and End Slavery Tennessee provide safe housing, substance abuse treatment and support, trauma and mental health counseling, medical treatment, assistance in receiving government aid, and employment assistance. Lauren Berens and Terena Moore from the General Sessions Probation Department provide the supervision of program compliance and help coordinate court requirements and sanctions. Additionally, **End Slavery Tennessee** provides clothing, bedding, toiletries and food and coordinates with the TBI should the victim decide to prosecute their trafficker.

In phase one of the program victims attend court weekly and complete any substance abuse and mental health treatment. In phase two, victims attend court bi-weekly and gain employment while continuing their road to recovery and healing. In phase two victims also move toward independent living and continue mental health treatment and their substance abuse recovery.

As of July 2016, just five months following its inception, **Cherished H.E.A.R.T.S.** has screened thirty-two victims for the court and the first graduation was held on August 23, 2016.

**Cherished Hearts Launch Press Conference-** Left to Right, Assistant District Attorney, Tammy Meade, Judge Casey Moreland, Mayor Megan Barry, District Attorney Glenn Funk, Presiding Judge Rachel L. Bell, CFC Board President and Attorney Bryan Lewis.





# TREATMENT COURTS

## Mental Health Court



Mental Health & Veterans Court Program Director  
Mark Winslow

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.

For Fiscal Year 2017, Mayor Megan Barry included two new positions to be funded by the Metropolitan Government of Nashville-Davidson County in her budget proposal to the Metro Council. The Council approved these new positions, allowing the Mental Health Court to expand its scope of services and increase the number of Nashvillians served per year.

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.

## Veterans Court

*"Serving All US Military Forces"*



In 2014 Davidson County was awarded a three-year implementation 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. 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.

For Fiscal Year 2017, the State of Tennessee included funding

of Veterans Courts in the annual budget. The Davidson County Veterans Court was fortunate to be one of the courts selected to receive a portion of the state's new funding.

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.

### Mental Health and Veterans Court Staff

Trish Breeding  
Derek DeSha  
Erica Gehle  
Miller Kelly Hunt  
Cynthia Nelson  
Brittany Sain  
Ashley Seibert



Pictured, Speaker of the House, Beth Harwell and Judge Melissa Blackburn with Veterans Court Graduates

# PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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



Probation Director  
Robert Green

### The Probation Department staff:

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

The General Sessions Probation Department has the responsibility of supervising over 8,000 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), Drug & Alcohol Testing (Avertest), Ignition Interlock and multiple agency databases to assist in managing our offender population.

The supervision of Domestic Violence (DV) offenders remained an important focus for our department. In addition to supervision, our DV Probation Officers participate in the Nashville-Davidson County High Risk Intervention Panel (HRIP). The HRIP is a multi-disciplinary team that works to identify high-risk domestic violence cases and create individualized intervention plans that incorporate the entire domestic violence response system, with the goals of increasing victim safety and holding offenders accountable.

In February 2016 the Human Trafficking Intervention Court was created under the name, Cherished H.E.A.R.T.S. The role of this court is to intervene into the lives of victims of human trafficking. Victims of trafficking are caught in a behavioral cycle driven to their traumatic experiences, substance abuse, chronic unemployment, unstable housing, and lack of positive support all leading them into the General Sessions Court due to criminal actions. This court is open to all women, men and transgendered victims and is one of the few Human Trafficking courts in the United States. The program is voluntary and runs six to 12 months. When the victim successfully completes the program, their criminal offenses may be dismissed and expunged at no expense. Two Probation Officers are assigned to this Court and conduct initial assessments and provide ongoing supervision. Both officers received specialized training in human trafficking and work within the multi-disciplinary team in managing this population.

The cooperation of several private treatment providers allowed us to begin providing free substance abuse assessments to our offender population. 514 free assessments were completed with 397 referred to treatment. Annually, we refer thousands to programs for 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.

# TRAFFIC SAFETY EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

## Best Performance and Driver's License Reinstatement



Traffic Safety Education Department Director  
John Slate

As the Justice A.A. Birch Building opened in 2006, the Traffic School had finished a major transition and was able to deploy a new software interface called Online Traffic School or OTS. The Traffic School could process enrollments 24/7/365 for Metro. The public's response was astounding. In the 10 years following that the traffic school has been located at the Justice A.A. Birch Building, there were 351,182 enrollments from which the Traffic School collected \$27,373,233.79 in fees, an average of \$2.7 million per year.



Debora Hersman, National Safety Council President and CEO, with John Slate, General Sessions Court Traffic Safety Education Department staff and General Sessions Court Judges



Judge Bell presented certificates of completion for the Alive at 25 graduating seniors from Whites Creek Comprehensive High School. A preventive justice program in partnership with the G. S. Music City Community Court.

## Online Enrollments

2015 was the ninth full year for the online Traffic School classes. Since 2006 114,342 persons enrolled in First Offender Online and 50,165 in DDC4.

## Customer Service

Over the last 3 years administrative staff has been trained as instructors, with five instructors also trained as administrative service officers. Diversifying and condensing duties allows flexibility with a way to quickly respond to class need changes and enrollment referral patterns from the courts. Conjoining the duties facilitates the sharing of information and a consistency in which policy is disseminated.

## News

Just this past year the OTS software was upgraded to send queries and receive class placement information from the new Traffic Violations Bureau Information System (TVIS) via a web service deployed in February 2016 by the Circuit Clerk's office.

*"The General Sessions Traffic School has proved to be a model program for Courts nationwide,"* said Debora Hersman, National Safety Council President, CEO and former NTSB Administrator under President Barack Obama, during a personal presentation to General Sessions Court in 2015, while visiting Nashville to honor the School.

In 2016, Division VIII, Judge Rachel L. Bell became an instructor and noted the first Judge certified by the National Safety Council to teach "Alive at 25".

## 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  
Gloria Bishop  
John Bowers

Alexander Caicedo  
Jacqueline Cabrera  
Wayne Curry

Ron Elliot  
Shannon Hodge  
Terry McRee

Jacquelyn Parks  
Dr. Christopher Perry  
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 FY2016 \$10,774,200
- 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: (T) 14,154      2016 (YTD): 6,340

## Language Interpretations

### In Court interpretations scheduled:

	2014(T)	2015(T)	2016(YTD)
Total number scheduled	9335	10941	5927
Spanish Interpretation	8915	10574	5707
Received via email	388	276	200
Averaging per month	778	912	494



National Association of Court Management



Assistant Security  
Officer Coordinator  
Lt. Chris Edmondson

### Courtroom Security Officers

Joseph Farnsworth  
Leviticus L. Gray  
William Neal Hargrove  
Matthew O. Jones  
Jared A. King  
Jason L. Stack  
William T. Stevenson



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

## 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 7/1/2016)

### 20+

Sharon Adams  
Kenneth Connell  
Dan Gargus  
Forrest Garrett  
Wm. Hal Gibbs  
Samantha Hutton  
Greg Jett  
Maria Schaffner  
Chris Sharp  
John Slate  
Melanie Taylor  
David Thompson  
Angie Von Mann  
Carolyn Piphus

### 25+

Darren Bracey  
Joe Brady  
Terena Hutton Moore  
Schley Sadler

### 30+

Gina Fox  
Warner Hassell  
Shalita Stadaker  
Cindy Cossey Thompson

### 35+

Laurel Howell  
Mic Wallace  
Herschel Watson

### 40+

Joyce Searcy

## Staff Retired

Herschel Watson (35+ years)

## In Memoriam

Gene Baker



## 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



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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