

# **METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT NASHVILLE-DAVIDSON COUNTY**



## **GENERAL SESSIONS COURT**

### **FISCAL REPORT**

July 1, 2018—June 30, 2019

# FISCAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2018 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2019

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## The Internet

Information regarding all services of the General Sessions Court can be found on-line at

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

For information regarding civil cases, the address is

[circuitclerk.nashville.gov](http://circuitclerk.nashville.gov).

For information regarding criminal matters, the address is

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

From there, you can link to such topics as court dockets, judges' schedules, local rules, fees and downloadable forms.



## Nashville-Davidson County General Sessions Court

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

Phone: (615) 862-8317

## Recovery Court

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

Phone: (615) 862-4241

## Mental Health & Veterans Court

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

Phone: (615) 862-8320

## Night Court Magistrate's Office

Criminal Justice Annex Building  
512 1st Avenue North  
P.O. Box 196300  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

Phone: (615) 862-8304

## Court Language Interpretations

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

Phone: (615) 862-8335

## Traffic Safety Education Department

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

Phone: (615) 862-8345

## Probation Department

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

Phone: (615) 862-8380

Front Cover Photo:  
courtesy of Gary Layda

**WEB ADDRESS:**

**WWW.GSCOURT.NASHVILLE.GOV**



## OTHER RELATED DEPARTMENTS

Traffic Violations Bureau	(615) 862-5222
Criminal Court Clerk's Office	(615) 862-5601
Civil Court Clerk's Office	(615) 862-5195
Metro Environmental Court	(615) 862-6195
Codes Warrant Docket	(615) 862-6195
Codes Citation Docket	(615) 862-5222
Sheriff's Department	(615) 862-8170
District Attorney General's Office	(615) 862-5500
Public Defender's Office	(615) 862-5730



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

# Court Jurisdiction

The Metropolitan General Sessions Court of Nashville-Davison 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 11 judges that are elected to an eight year term. There are also 5 full time, 5 power shift and 6 part time law-trained judicial Magistrates, that handle the probable cause hearings in the issuance of a criminal warrant and 1 referee that handles the 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. Consequently, it has been frequently described as “the court of first resort.” 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 and Building code violations.
- **Metro Ordinance**—Traffic law violations; All other county ordinance violations.

Caseload Overview	FY 2018	FY 2019
Criminal Warrants/Citations	76,714	49,833
Traffic—Metro/State	68,104	38,176
Judicial Committals	9,364	9,984
Civil	42,676	48,342
Orders of Protection	4,226	3,521
Metro & Environmental	6,882	5,349
<b>Totals</b>	<b>207,966</b>	<b>155,205</b>

Source: Criminal Justice Planning Office, Criminal & Civil Clerk’s Offices

## CREDITS

Published by the  
Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County General Sessions Court  
Administration Office  
408 2nd Avenue North, P.O. Box 196300, Suite 1140  
Nashville, TN 37219

### Contributors

Judge Melissa Blackburn, Judge Rachel L. Bell, Judge Ana L. Escobar, Warner Hassell, Robert Green, Mark Winslow, Angie Von Mann, Brad Freeman and Criminal/Civil Court Clerk’s Office, Metro Criminal Justice Planning Office

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Gary Layda and Michael Bunch

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Warner Hassell, Gina Fox, Angie Von Mann

### Layout/Design

Judge Melissa Blackburn, Warner Hassell and Brad Freeman



Photo: Statue of Justice A.A. Birch

# The Dockets

The Metropolitan General Sessions Court system is committed to excellence in administering justice and is a contributing partner working toward a safe and vital community in Nashville-Davidson County. The Court handles a vast array of cases such as traffic offenses, preliminary hearings on felony and misdemeanor cases, mental health, various alcohol and drug related cases and civil related cases up to \$25,000. It is estimated that the General Sessions Court system processed cases representing almost 200,000 litigants in FY 2019. The following is a general overview of the docket system handled by the Court:

- \* Criminal Bond
- \* Felony/Misdemeanor
- \* Daily Traffic
- \* Daily Civil
- \* Daily Driver License/ Misdemeanor
- \* Daily Orders of Protection
- \* Domestic Violence
- \* Environmental
- \* Emergency Committals
- \* Special Committals
- \* State Traffic
- \* Felony Drug
- \* Mental Health / Veterans Court
- \* Recovery Court
- \* Community Court
- \* Cherished Hearts

WEB ADDRESS:  
WWW.GSCOURT.NASHVILLE.GOV



# General Sessions Court Judges



Judge Gale Robinson  
Division I



Judge Melissa Blackburn  
Division II—**Presiding**



## Administrative Staff

Joyce Searcy

Division I  
Suite 5100  
Phone: (615) 862-5571

Katie Torrence

Division II  
Suite 3140  
Phone: (615) 880-3360

Ashley Matamoros

Division III  
Suite 3110  
Phone: (615) 880-3712

Margaret Nevils

Division IV  
Suite 4140  
Phone: (615) 880-3694

Samantha Hutton

Division V  
Suite 3120  
Phone: (615) 862-8312

Shalita Stadaker

Division VI  
Suite 4150  
Phone: (615) 862-8326

Ryan Hager

Division VII  
Suite 3130  
Phone: (615) 862-8313

Christa Abernathy

Division VIII  
Suite 4130  
Phone: (615) 862-8341

Nikki Harris

Division IX  
Suite 4110  
Phone: (615) 880-3672

Vanessa Trotter

Division X  
Suite 4100  
Phone: (615) 862-5572

Tamara Lowin

Division XI  
Suite 3150  
Phone: (615) 880-3683



Judge Ana L. Escobar  
Division III



Judge Allegra Walker  
Division IV



Judge Dianne Turner  
Division V



Judge Michael F. Mondelli  
Division VI



Judge William E. Higgins  
Division VII



Judge Rachel L. Bell  
Division VIII



Judge Lynda Jones  
Division IX



Judge Sam Coleman  
Division X



Judge John Aaron Holt  
Division XI

Central Address for All Judges: Justice A.A. Birch Building,  
408 2nd Ave. N., P.O. Box 196300, Nashville, TN 37219

# Mental Health Court

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. During the past year, 229 people were evaluated by Mental Health Court specialists to determine their eligibility for the program with 62 new participants admitted. For the 2019 Fiscal Year, 88% of successful program graduates did no re-offend and did not return to involvement with the criminal justice system.

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 Berry 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.

**Judge**—Melissa Blackburn, Division II (2)

## Administrative Assistant:

Katie Torrence

## Director:

Mark Winslow

## Assistant Director:

Patricia Breeding

## Administrative Assistant:

Cynthia Nelson

## Client Service Specialists

Erica Gehle

Derek DeSha

Mary Grace Capps

Samantha Keeling

Valerie Fisher

## Court Officers:

Lovie Hurt Jr.

Pat Stockdale

## Mental Health Court

Referral Assessments: 229

New Cases Accepted: 62

Program Graduates: 25



# Veterans Court

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. During the past year, forty-two Veterans were evaluated by Veterans Court specialists and thirty-six were admitted into the program.

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. For the 2019 Fiscal Year, 92% of Veterans Court program graduates did no re-offend.

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.

Beginning in Fiscal Year 2017 and continuing in 2020, 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 funding. As a result of this support, 52 new Veterans are receiving the assistance they need to return to life as a productive citizen.

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.

## Serving:

**ALL Armed Forces**



## Veterans Court

Referral Assessments: 47

New Cases Accepted: 33

Program Graduates: 24





## Recovery Court

The Davidson County Misdemeanor Recovery Court, created in 2009, is for legally involved individuals suffering from substance use disorder who are seeking recovery for a minimum of 12-24 months. Recovery Court was created to provide free services to participants while under court supervision for criminal offenses. The Honorable Judge Gale Robinson, General Sessions Court Probation Department, Tennessee Recovery Foundation, Public Defenders Office, District Attorney's Office, and numerous partner agencies make up the support system for the Recovery Court. Funded by Davidson County Metropolitan Government and the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services through the Tennessee Recovery Foundation, the court provides many services needed for positive reintegration into the community.

Under the General Sessions Probation Department, Program Manager Lauren Berens, Probation Officers Terena Moore, Anya Logan, and Case Manager Lety Lozano supervise participants to ensure court-ordered requirements are met. Services provided include intensive substance abuse in/out-patient treatment, mental health services, medication assisted treatment, adult education classes and GED testing, housing and transportation assistance, drug and alcohol testing, and any other component in which our Probation Officers and the Treatment team can assist. Some participants that successfully complete the program may

have their charges expunged.

Recovery Court requires participants to complete five program phases. Each phase addresses specific participant needs to maintain sobriety and reintegrate into the community in a meaningful way. Participants in Recovery Court are frequently drug tested on a random basis and attend daily recovery meetings.

Recovery Court has several graduations each year signifying participants' preparedness to maintain their sobriety and independent living without the support of the Court. All graduating participants are welcome to return to the program to provide emotional support to current participants or seek assistance from the Court or our partnering agencies if care is needed.



## Environmental Court

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, and short term rental violations. 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 court 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 served in that capacity for 10 years through May, 2017. Judge Walker appointed John Manson to serve as Referee effective June, 2017. In September 2017, Judge Walker appointed Renard Hirsch to replace John Manson.



## Domestic Violence Court

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 and 4C 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 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.





## **C**HERISHED H.E.A.R.T.S. Healing Enslaved and Re- pressed Trafficking Survivors

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING INTERVENTION COURT

In February 2016 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 survivors 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 survivors of human trafficking and is one of the few trafficking courts in the country. The program is voluntary with a minimum of six months participation. When the survivor successfully completes the program, their offense(s) may be dismissed and expunged at no expense.

The Honorable Judge Ana L. Escobar presides over Cherished H.E.A.R.T.S. She has partnered with the Tennessee Recovery Foundation, End Slavery Tennessee, The Office of Family Safety and the General Sessions Probation Department. The Davidson County Drug Court Foundation and End Slavery Tennessee help provide safe housing, substance abuse treatment and support, trauma and mental health counseling, medical treatment, assistance in receiving government aid, and employ-

ment assistance all at no cost to the survivor. Melanie Taylor, the Program Manager, and the General Sessions Probation Department provide the supervision of program compliance and help coordinate court requirements, community partners, incentives and sanctions. Cherished H.E.A.R.T.S. is partnered with End Slavery Tennessee, the Davidson County Attorney General's Office, the Public Defender's Office, The Office of Family Safety, averhealth, Davidson County Criminal Court Clerk, RestStop, Mending Hearts, The Next Door, Renewal House and others to further support participants in the program.

While in Cherished H.E.A.R.T.S., survivors attend court regularly and complete substance abuse and mental health treatment as clinically recommended. Participants gain employment and receive assistance with physical health needs and any other needs identified are attempted to be met through our thorough case management. Consistent support is crucial to creating self-worth as survivors move toward a crime free and independent lifestyle.

#### FY 2019

Number of Drug Tests	% Positive
737	9

#### FY 2019

Candidates Screened for Cherished Hearts	41
Candidates Denied for Cherished Hearts	11
Candidates Accepted into Cherished Hearts	30
Cherished Hearts Graduates	2
Cherished Hearts Unsuccessful Terminations	18



Source: Gary Layda



The General Sessions Music City Community Court, Division VIII (8) (GSMCCC) was founded by Judge Rachel L. Bell in 2012.

Mission- To create initiatives focused on preventative, restorative and diversionary justice centered around the concept that, "Justice does NOT stop at the courthouse steps!!"™

Vision- Charged to do all it can to help break the playground to prison pipeline; to restore and rehabilitate lives by using its power and resources to move the needle to help marginalized people.

-TIMELINE of initiatives created and number of Participants since the inception of GSMCCC –

2012- FUTURE Internship program was created for MNPS students during their school breaks and Judicial Clerkships for College and Law School Students. Since 2012, we have worked with 71 students. In this same year the "Control the Controllable"® journal writing program was established for offenders on probation.

2013- Judge Bell partnered with TDOT to Adopt-A-Highway in Bordeaux-North Nashville to create the Saturday Community Service Return Docket to 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 to show proof of compliance with an agreed order or guilty under advisement plea. Since 2013, we have worked with 1,098 participants, served 5,634 hours, and saved tax payers \$120,321.74 dedicated to public service.

2014- The Expungement Clinic; Indigency Docket & Resource Fair was created and moves around Davidson County in partnership with Howard Gentry and the Criminal Court Clerk's Office, every 4-6 weeks. This docket assists offenders with the ability to proceed with filing out petitions to clear their criminal record for cases that are eligible for expungement. Since 2014, we have hosted 22 clinics serving 1,676 participants and average 19-20 vendors providing services and resources to the community. Due to the continued efforts **the Criminal Court Clerks' numbers have increased in their yearly average since 2011, reporting 13,984 expungements to 34,041 expungements in 2018 and 20,759 expungements -2019 -August YTD; way ahead of last year's total.**

STATS- 2017 (Jan-Dec)  
Expungement Clinic Participants -391  
Pro Se Indigency Docket Participants/Cases-1,715/8,500  
CSW Participants/Hours-199/796  
CSW-Money (\$) Saved to Taxpayers- \$17,496.00

STATS- 2018 (Jan-Dec)  
Expungement Clinic Participants -373  
Pro Se Indigency Docket Participants/Cases-2,485/17,259  
CSW Participants/Hours-135/675  
CSW-Money (\$) Saved to Taxpayers- \$32,798.33

STATS- 2019-YTD- August, 31, 2019  
Expungement Clinic Participants - 245  
Pro Se Indigency Docket Participants/Cases-1,232/8,489  
CSW Participants/Hours-72/432  
CSW-Money (\$) Saved to Taxpayers- \$6,528.96

2015- Judge Bell took over the General Sessions Pro Se Indigency Docket and the dockets are scheduled on Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. every 2 weeks during the regular scheduled dockets and on Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. during our Expunge-ment Clinics. Since 2015, we have worked with 8,599 participants, reviewed 48,809 cases and waived over \$2,293,115.68 in court cost; fines and fees for those meeting the United States Department of Health & Human Services, Federal Poverty Guidelines that are utilized to determine Public Defender Eligibility. This allows individuals the opportunity to proceed with record expungement request; **driver's license reinstatement; access to housing and jobs.**

2016- Judge Bell partnered with the Bordeaux North Nashville Chamber of Commerce and the Ring the BELL Foundation to create R.E.A.C.H. (Reaching Every **Aspiring Child's Horizon**) a 6 week summer literacy program offered to MNPS rising 1st- 4th graders. Since, 2016 over 75 students have participated. Also in 2016, Judge Bell was trained and certified to teach Alive at 25 a National Safety Council Defensive Drivers Class for those aged 15-25. Since, 2016, Judge Bell has given 25 MNPS students a certificate of graduation.

2017- Community Forums were created to share knowledge and insight on steps taken in Davidson County working towards Criminal Justice Reform. This is an on-going effort.

2018- The GSMCCC was one of 5 courts in the United States that received \$200,000.00 from the Department of Justice in partnership with the Tennessee Supreme Court, Access to Justice Commission to work with the Bureau of Justice Assistance and receive Technical Assistance from the Center for Court Innovation to create the C.A.R.E. (Creating Avenues for Restoration & Empowerment) Diversionary Court for offenders/participants aged 18-26.

2019- GSMCCC created a partnership with Steering Clear for the Saturday, Community Service Return Docket. 46 individuals have participated YTD. This partnership will work together on a quarterly basis. The C.A.R.E Diversionary Court will launch this fall in Zip Code 37208 in Bordeaux- North Nashville to assist in reducing the criminal arrest rate listing Davidson County #1 in the United States of America.

PREVENTATIVE-RESTORATIVE-DIVERSIONARY JUSTICE



"R.E.A.C.H.ing to the FUTURE because we C.A.R.E."

#### -GSMCC DIVISION VIII (8) TEAM-

Judge Rachel L. Bell, **Division VIII (8), Presiding**  
Christa Abernathy, **Executive Administrative Assistant**  
Tamara Givens, **Judicial Court Officer/Outreach Coordinator**  
Andrew Dick, **Judicial Court Officer/Data Analyst**  
Maryam Abdullah, **Social Work Coordinator/Case Manager**  
Jackie London & Laurel Howell, **Probation/Case Managers**  
Carlos DeLeon, **Criminal Court Clerk, Deputy**  
Monica Johnson, **Courtroom Security**  
Keeda Haynes & Mario Knox, **Assistant Public Defenders**  
David Jones & Emily Todoran, **Assistant District Attorneys**



# Judicial Magistrates

Five judicial magistrates—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 Magistrates 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 magistrates:

- \* 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

Each magistrate is appointed by the court for a one-year term that dictates seven-day work weeks and alternating eight-hour work shifts.



**Magistrate**  
Bruce Kessler



**Magistrate**  
Carolyn Piphus



**Magistrate**  
John Manson



**Magistrate**  
Steve Holzapfel



**Magistrate**  
Evan Harris

## Night Court Activity

## FY 2017-18 FY 2018-19

Warrants & Summons Issued	40,690	33,577
Conditions of Release / Orders	58,219	49,181
Emergency Committals	9,364	9,984
Mittimus of Appearance	62,458	52,199
Ex Parte Orders of Protection	4,226	3,521
Parole Violations	252	177
Orders of Protection Violations	679	655
Property Seizure Hearings	624	452
Search Warrants	1,034	1,455

Source: Criminal Justice Planning Office, Criminal & Civil Clerk's Offices

## Night Court Magistrate's Office

512 1st Avenue North  
Nashville, TN 37219  
Phone: (615) 862-8304

## Power Shift Magistrates

Jeffery Daigle  
Chris Hofstetter  
Dan Masten  
Sheila Stevenson  
Marie Stacey

## Part-Time Magistrates

Umeka Foreman  
Edward Hastings  
Tim Lee  
Kyle Parks  
Nicholas Waite  
Harry Weddle

# Court Information Technology—Fiscal Year Report (July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019)

**Software Support:** Microsoft, Oracle, Adobe, Power Builder Custom Applications, Solar Winds and JAVS.

**Hardware Support:** Dell (Desktop/Laptop), CISCO, JAVS, RICOH Copier/Printer/Scanner/ Fax, Cell Phones and Tablets.

**Helpdesk Phone Number**

**(615) 880-3680**

Category	2018	2019
Phone Calls	1,071	944
Emails	3,415	3,848
Requests	405	482
Calls to I.T.S.	156	128
Calls to J.I.S.	361	73
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5,408</b>	<b>5,475</b>



**Brad Freeman**  
Information  
Systems Advisor



**Amber Johnson**  
I.S. Operations  
Technician II



**Court Administrator**  
Warner C. Hassell



**Assistant to the Administrator**  
Gina Fox

## Court Administration Office

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: daily operations, 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 annual report.

### Overview of Principal Services

Daily manage the Court's budget for FY 2019 of \$11,935,200 with a total of 155 court personnel review, oversee, and/or process various Metro Electronic Business system transactions:

- Over 1,500 payment transactions totaling over \$650,000
- Over 1,400 revenue transactions totaling over \$1.8 million
- Over 200 separate payroll, human resources, and employee benefit related transactions for over a \$8.7 million payroll

The estimated number of Metro government and court related emails received and acted upon by all services: Over 50,000

- The estimated number of total phone calls handled in 2018-19 by all services: Over 15,000
- Manage Master Calendar for all Courtrooms for special hearings/events: 198
- The number of web e-mails received from the public and acted upon: 280
- The number of General Services work orders submitted by the Court Administration office: 144

**Administrative Assistant**  
Angie Von Mann

**Office Support for Magistrates Night Court**  
Darrenn Varnado

## 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. For the fiscal year 2018-2019, the General Sessions Court's language interpreter coordinator scheduled 5,144. Total court interpretations with 4,756 of those requiring Spanish interpretations. That computes to an average of 429 court interpretations monthly. The predominant foreign languages involved include Spanish, Arabic, Vietnamese, Laotian, Korean, Chinese, Kurdish and Somalian.

The number of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodations made: 35

- \* 22 Criminal docket related
- \* 12 Civil and/or Traffic related
- \* 1 MTMHI



**Court Interpreter Coordinator**  
Delma Aguilar



### Our Address:

General Sessions Court  
Administration Office  
Justice A.A. Birch  
408 2nd Ave. N., Suite 1140  
P.O. Box 196300  
Nashville, TN 37219  
Phone: (615) 862-8317

## Court Security

Provide supplemental security in the public hallways and in courtrooms:

- \* Security related incidents: 10
- \* Medical related incidents: 7



**Security Officer Coordinator 2019**  
Sherman Cecil

**Assistant Security Officer Coordinator**  
Chris Edmondson

### Courtroom Security Officers

Joseph Farnsworth	Monica Johnson
John A. Kent	Jared A. King
Jason L. Stack	William T. Stevenson
Gabriel Santiago	Patrick Wood

### In-Court Security for Docketed Events Number of Litigants

	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019
Civil:	42,676	48,342
Criminal:	137,452	100,997
Traffic:	68,104	49,833
	248,232	199,172

WEB: [WWW.GSCOURT.NASHVILLE.GOV](http://WWW.GSCOURT.NASHVILLE.GOV)



**Robert Green**  
Director

# Traffic Safety Education Fiscal Year Report: 7/1/18—6/30/19

General Sessions Traffic Education - Robert Green, Director

## Performance

Nashville's Traffic Safety Education Program continues to outperform other municipalities. For calendar year 2018 the National Safety Council (NSC) recognized our agency with two prestigious awards.

1. **2018 Training Center of the Year Award Winner** for our **Defensive Driving Course (DDC) Online**
2. **2018 Training Center of the Year Multiple Program Award Winner** for the following programs:
  - Defensive Driving 4-hour Classroom (DDC-4)
  - Defensive Driving 8-hour Classroom (DDC-8)
  - Alive at 25
  - Attitudinal Dynamics of Driving
  - Chronic Offender
  - Defensive Driving Course (DDC) Online

These awards are not possible without the knowledge, dedication and professionalism of our hard-working staff.

### **Traffic School Education Department Staff:**

**Director** – Bob Green

**Supervisor** – Shannon Hodge

**Administrative Enrollment Staff** – Betty Bailey, Candy Catalan, Julia Kozeka, and Tammy Tune

**Traffic School Instructors** – Gloria Bishop, Laura Castillo, Wayne Curry, Ron Elliott, Jacqueline Parks, and Clarence Tangney

### **Gross revenues for FY 18/19**

\$1,198,147.00

<b>Total Enrollment s for FY 2018/2019</b>	<b>13,079</b>
Enrollments for Live Classes	6,940
Online Enrollments	6,139
<b>Enrollments by Class</b>	
Defensive Driving (4-Hour)	5,486
Defensive Driving (8-Hour)	1,123
First Offender	4,495
Alive @ 25 (4-Hour)	926
Attitudinal Dynamics Driving (8-Hour)	278
Drivers License Reinstatement	653
Chronic Offender (8-Hour)	118

### **Traffic School 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.)** – is 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.
- **Chronic Offender (COF8, 8hr.)** - an intense 8-hour workshop that looks at chronic behavior and addresses the thought process behind specific behaviors that lead to destructive and socially unacceptable patterns that create chronic citation and arrest histories.
- **Driver 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 approves the standardized curriculums through the National Safety Council (NSC) and certifies our programs and instructors. The NSC curriculums are accepted in all 50 States and used by all branches of the military both in the U.S. and abroad.

**Member:** The American Society for Public Administration (ASPA)



#### **Address:**

Justice A.A. Birch Building,  
408 2nd Avenue North, Suite 1170,  
P.O. Box 196300, Nashville, TN 37219  
**Phone:** (615) 862-8345

**Member:** The National Safety Council & NSC International Advisory Committee







**Robert Green**  
Director

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

Written by: Robert Green, Director

## Fiscal Year July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 Probation Department Annual Report

The General Sessions Probation Department has the responsibility of supervising 3,000 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, programs utilizing best practices, and multiple agency databases to assist in managing our offender population.

The supervision of Domestic Violence (DV) offenders is 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.

### Probation Department Staff:

- \* **Probation Director** – Bob Green
- \* **Probation Supervisors** – Cindy Cossey and Johnetta Nelson
- \* **Recovery Court & Cherished Hearts Program Manager** – Lauren Berens
- \* **Probation & Specialty Court Support Staff** – Laura Castillo, Jennifer Norris, Lety Lozano, and Tammy Tune
- \* **Multiple Offense DUI Bond Probation Officers** – Kenneth Connell and Theresa Fuqua
- \* **Probation Officers** – Joe Brady, Becky Freeman, Michael Hannah, Laurel Howell, Robin Lively, Anya Logan, Prentiss Martin, Luis Meneses-Villalobos, Terena Moore, Chris Perry, LouEllen Pickard, PJ Postiglione, Alesia Putman, Calvin Ridgell, Katherine Rowden, Schley Sadler, Maria Schaffner, Chris Sharp, Melanie Taylor, Johnny Velasco and Jimmy Waggoner

Two of the four General Sessions specialty court programs are an integral part of the Probation Department. Recovery Court and the Human Trafficking Intervention Court, known as Cherished H.E.A.R.T.S are led by Program Manager Lauren Berens. Supervision within these two specialty court programs differs from regular probation in three areas.

1. Detailed risk/needs assessments are utilized to identify the risk of re-offending and the criminogenic needs of each person on supervision. Probation and Treatment staff works intensively with High Risk/High Need participants to focus on services and interventions to reduce the risk and meet participant's needs.
2. Specialty Court Participants meet face-to-face with Probation Officers on a regular basis. These meetings are the cornerstone in establishing trust and gaining a comprehensive understanding of the individual.
3. Home and employment visits are conducted by Probation Staff. These visits help to tell the story of the effectiveness of the program in changing the lives of the participants.

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

**Phone:** (615) 862-8380

- \* **Staff that Retired this Fiscal Year** – Hal Gibbs (Probation Officer), Anthony Lipscomb (Probation Officer), and Mick Wallace (Supervisor)

For more information about the General Sessions Court Probation Department, please visit:

<https://gscourtprobation.nashville.gov/>

### **Financial and Court-Ordered Public Service Work Hours Information**

Victim Restitution Collected - \$185,468  
Probation Supervision Fees Collected - \$579,847  
Court-Ordered Public Service Work Hours – 8,342

Prepared by: Bob Green, Director  
General Sessions Court Probation Department

<u>New Cases</u>		<u>Successful Completions</u>		
Probation	2,574	Probation	2,082	
DUI Bond	233	DUI Bond	233	
<b>Total 2,807</b>		<b>Total Completions</b>		<b>2,315</b>
<u>Revocations/Transfers</u>	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Drug Testing Program</u>	<u>Tests Per Program</u>	<u>% Positive</u>
Revoked to Alternative Programs	50	Probation	14,836	36%
Transferred to Alternative Programs	60	DUI Bond	3,878	30%
Unsuccessful Terminations	584	<b>Total</b>		<b>18,714 33%</b>
<b>Total 694</b>		<b>Average</b>		