



# General Sessions Music City Community Court, Division VIII (8)

Est. 2012 - 1<sup>st</sup> in the State - Nashville, Davidson Co., TN

2021-2022 Annual Report

"Justice does **NOT** stop at the courthouse steps." ®



## Judge Rachel L. Bell,

Founder & Presiding Judge

Since its inception in 2012, the Court has a mission centered to create programs focused on preventative, restorative and diversionary justice. Its vision is to do all it can to break the playground to prison pipeline; to restore and rehabilitate lives by using its power and resources to move the needle for marginalized people.

## RESTORE

Saturday Dockets:  
Community Service Work Return Docket  
Expungement & Legal Clinic  
Pro Se Indigency Docket

### Re-Entry Court for Returning Citizens

Since 2012, we have assisted **15,487 participants** with the necessary steps to gain access to getting their records expunged, restoring their right to vote, reinstating their drivers license, adequate housing and quality wage jobs.



### Expungement/Legal Clinic & Resource Fairs

[2021-2022]  
Participants: 93

Since 2014, we have hosted **33 clinics**, serving **2,260 participants**.



### Indigency Motion Docket

[2021-2022]  
Participants: 1,296  
Cases: 9,120

Since 2015, we have reviewed **74,936 cases** to help **11,956 participants** and waived **\$8,407,137.94** in court costs, fines, and fees.



### Saturday Community Service Return Docket

[2021-2022] Participants: 37  
Hours Worked: 148  
Taxpayer Money Saved: \$3,851

Since 2013, **1,271 participants** have served **6,162 hours** to save tax payers **\$133,509.02**

## C.A.R.E.

## 2021-2022

Creating Avenues for Restoration & Empowerment  
Diversionary Court for Ages 18-30

The C.A.R.E. Diversionary Court launched in 2020 and works to emphasize the ways crime harms relationships in the community and brings together the people most impacted by the crime to resolve it. Offenders ages 18-30 are still forming their cognitive ability and usually entering the criminal justice system for the first time. Participants are given a second chance and the ability to restore the victim and be held accountable. Successful participants receive individualized case management and after completion of the 4 Phase Program their charges are dismissed and expunged.

## ASPIRE

6-12 month aftercare program designed to assist C.A.R.E. graduates with mentorship and guidance in collaboration with other providers and resources to ensure sustainability in their individualized success.

Visit us at <https://gscourt.nashville.gov/community-court/> or on [f @musiccitycommunitycourt/](https://www.facebook.com/musiccitycommunitycourt/)



Pictured above are two of our three C.A.R.E. graduates from this year. Their smiles come from a sense of accomplishment and that they no longer have a criminal record hindering them from accomplishing their goals. About his time with the CARE program, one graduate said, "I'm grateful you guys have been with me. I'm back eating regular. I'm sleeping regularly. I'm just happy, not depressed. Everything is coming to me, even job opportunities."



**MDHA Settlement Sessions: Partnering with MDHA & Legal Aid**  
The Music City Community Court was already in partnership talks with MDHA before the pandemic hit Nashville. But as federal aid began to run out in early 2022, the need became more urgent. Judge Rachel Bell partnered with MDHA and Legal Aid to help MDHA residents that were behind on their rent come to a repayment arrangement that was affordable for them and also keep them housed. MDHA has agreed to not file for evictions as long as residents continue to work with them and the MCCC to get caught up.



**L.E.G.A.C.Y. HRDC** [2021-2022]  
Participants: 2,138  
Cases: 1,700

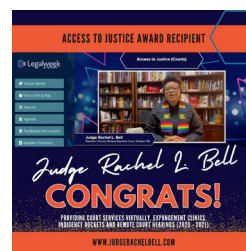
Since February of 2021, the L.E.G.A.C.Y. Housing Resource Diversionary Court, in partnership with the MAC HOPE Program and United Way's CARES grant funding, has **settled more than 1,400 cases** by receiving federal funds to the tune of **\$15,569,203.29** into the hands of landlords to help Nashville tenants keep a roof over their heads during this crisis. The L.E.G.A.C.Y. HRDC also has a program to help move tenants to marketplace rent and become a 1<sup>st</sup> time homebuyer.

**Awards**



Justice Janice M. Holder Award

TN Human Rights Commission  
2021 Human Rights Outstanding Service Award



LegalTech Access to Justice Award

NAACP Legacy Award



**General Sessions Court, Division VIII (8)**

Metropolitan Nashville & Davidson County

**Judge Rachel L. Bell**

July 1, 2021 - June 31, 2022  
Annual Statistical Report

"Ringing the BELL for Justice | Case at a Time"

**18,872**  
Criminal Cases



**200,753** Total Cases Since 2012  
Misdemeanor | Felony

**3,473**  
Civil Cases



**31,226** Total Cases Since 2012  
Eviction | Debt Collection  
Personal Injury

**502**  
Mental Health  
Committal Cases



**5,043** Total Cases Since 2012  
MTMHI | Vanderbilt  
Parthenon | Skyline

**300** Traffic Cases  
Tickets | Citations

**9,098** Total Cases Since 2012

