

FAMILY MATTERS

IN THE FOURTH CIRCUIT COURT

VOLUME 2 | ISSUE 7 | APRIL 1, 2025

UPDATES AND
ANNOUNCEMENTS
FOR THE FOURTH
CIRCUIT COURT

Lessons from the Cherry Blossoms

Just steps outside of the Courthouse are dozens of trees which sit dormant for 11 out of the 12 months of the year. However, in this and every spring season, they bloom dainty, pink petals that fill the walkways surrounding Nashville's Public Square and other areas of the city. For the few weeks they are in bloom, we get to appreciate not just their beauty, but also the lessons they teach us.

While cherry blossoms are symbolic of life and spring's rebirth, their fleeting beauty also reminds us that life is short, and it's important to take time to appreciate the world around us and to appreciate one another.

Many members of our bar have faced significant losses and life changing events recently, both personally and with their clients. We think about the precious moments and memories they are now savoring as they process their shock and grief. Unlike the cherry blossoms, none of us know when our season or that of a loved one may end. We want to remind you that your relationships and the time you have with others matter. We encourage you to take time to cultivate and strengthen those relationships, whether it be with your significant other, children, parents, siblings, other family members, friends and even your colleagues. Maybe love a little deeper, speak a little kinder, play a little nicer, give more grace, and cherish every moment. It's the memories we have and leave behind that give our lives meaning and make a difference in the lives of others.



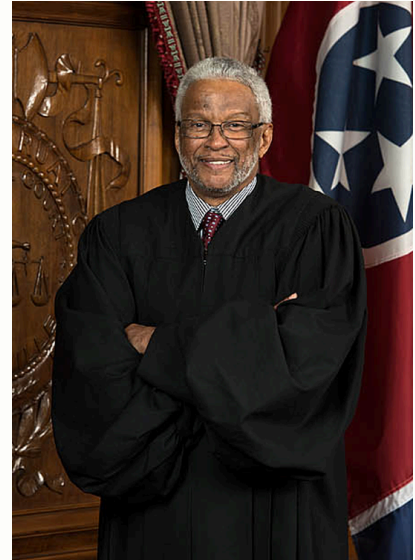
So, as you admire the beauty of the cherry blossoms for just a few more days, take time to reflect on what we can learn and embrace from their fleeting beauty.



Judge Richard H. Dinkins Middle School

Nashville Metro Public Schools announced on March 26, 2025, that Brick Church Middle School will be renamed in honor of the late Judge Richard H. Dinkins, the first Black judge on the Tennessee Court of Appeals. Judge Dinkins is remembered for his pivotal work as lead attorney on Nashville school desegregation cases. The Fourth Circuit is thankful for the leadership, integrity, and justice he generously brought to the bench, bar, and Nashville community. You may find more information on this honor here:

https://www.mnps.org/news/featured-stories/school_renamed_for_judge_richard_dinkins.



Law Day with the Fourth Circuit!

Judge Williams is pleased to invite all recent bar takers, last year law students, and recent law school graduates to a special Law Day event with the Fourth Circuit Court on May 1st. This is an opportunity for emerging lawyers to tour the courthouse, hear ID and Default final hearings, meet other judges, and even get sworn in!

Attorneys: If you and your clients are willing to schedule a final ID divorce or Default hearing on May 1st so that attendees may witness some in-person hearings, please email RebekahLHaralson@jjsnashville.gov. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

If you know someone who may be interested in attending, feel free to share this event. For more information, view the flyer on the next page or email RebekahLHaralson@jjsnashville.gov. You may also click the following link: **Law Day Registration** or scan the QR code below:





LAW DAY

**In The Fourth Circuit Court
Hosted by Judge Stephanie J. Williams**

Just took the Bar? Last year of law school? You're invited!
**A Soon-To-Be Lawyer's Introduction
to the Fourth Circuit Court**

- Experience Final Divorce Hearings
- Meet the Fourth Circuit Court Staff and Other Judges in the Courthouse
- Tour the Historic Metro Courthouse
- Learn About Practicing Family Law and how to be on Appointment Lists in the Fourth Circuit Court

**+ Swearing-In
Ceremony for New
Attorneys!**

Breakfast and lunch provided

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025

8 a.m. — 3 p.m.*

**Detailed agenda will be sent to registrants in April*

**SCAN THE QR CODE
TO REGISTER AND
LEARN MORE:**



1 Public Square, Suite 607
Nashville, TN 37201
(615) 862-5910




Chamber Rule Spotlight: Proposed Order Requirements


Rule VI(B)(1), Page 10: Requirements for Proposed Orders

1. All proposed orders shall include the following:

- a. The title of the order which reflects the nature of the order (e.g., Order on Motion for Pendente Lite Support, Order for Default Judgment and to Set, Order to Set Final Contested Hearing, Order to Waive Parenting Seminar and Mediation, Order on Motion to Compel Mediation, etc.). *Under no circumstance should the order just be titled “Order.”*
- b. An opening paragraph which states the following:
 - i. Pleading(s) that was addressed in the hearing.
 - ii. The date the pleading was filed.
 - iii. The date of the hearing.
 - iv. The attorneys and parties who were present at the hearing.
 - v. The name of the Judge or Special Master that heard the matter.
- c. Relevant findings of the Court.
- d. Clear language reflecting the Court’s orders from the hearing. Do not add to the Court’s ruling.
- e. **A date and signature line for the Judge.**
- f. **If signing an order with permission of opposing counsel, the order must still be sent to the opposing counsel and a Certificate of Service reflecting the same.**

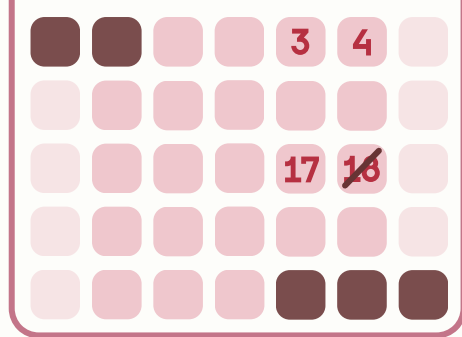


**Please ensure there is a date and signature line for the Judge,
including Certificate of Service to opposing counsel where required
on all proposed orders.**



Calendar

S M T W Th F S



April

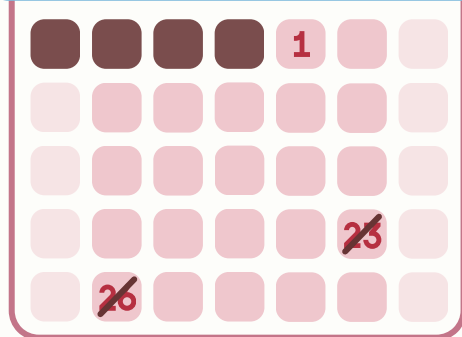
4/3: Status Conference Docket Only, No Other Hearings

4/4: No Motion Docket

4/17: Status Conference Docket

4/18: Office Closed for Good Friday Holiday

S M T W Th F S



May

5/1: Law Day with the Fourth Circuit Court

5/23: No Motion Docket, Office Open

5/26: Office Closed for Memorial Day Holiday

For a complete view of our regularly scheduled dockets and available Court dates, please see the calendar page on our website by clicking [here: Website Calendar](#) or by scanning the QR code:



Share

Feel free to share this newsletter with anyone who may be of interest. You may also email RebekahLHaralson@jnsnashville.gov to be added to the mailing list!

Additionally, you may view this and all previous newsletters on our website by clicking this link: [Updates and Announcements](#) or by scanning the QR code:

