

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

Happy Father's Day to the incredible fathers and father figures in our court. Whether you're a single dad, a working dad, a stay-at-home dad, a grandfather, a teacher, or someone stepping into a fatherly role—your presence matters deeply. Our court sees firsthand the profound impact father figures have on the lives of children, offering stability, wisdom, and of course, dad jokes.

To all of you who show up every day with dedication and love: thank you. Your commitment does not go unnoticed.

We also hold space today for those grieving fathers who have passed on. Let this Father's Day be a reminder of them and their love.

This Father's Day we are especially thankful for the fathers that work in our court. David, James, and Jonathan—your leadership, kindness, and example mean the world to your families and your work family. Below you will find their best fatherly advice and dad jokes:



David and his grandson.

David's Advice

Always remember you were born 100% ready to be loved. You don't need to be more or less of anything for the right person to love you.

David's Dad Joke

Why did the chicken cross the road?
BeCAWS

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Jonathan with his wife
and two kids.

Jonathan's Advice

Sometimes, you have to do the right thing even if people are telling you not to. And remember: I love you and I'm proud of you!

Jonathan's Dad Joke

Why are spiders so smart?
Because they find everything on the web!



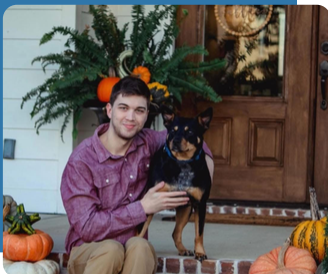
James with his wife
and two kids.

James's Advice

Patience is a virtue and remember to always do your best.

James's Dad Joke

What did the blanket say when it fell off the bed?
"Oh sheets!"



Grey and Ollie.

And we must remember all the fathers to furry friends, you matter too! Our Staff Attorney, Grey Hollowell, is a great example in the way he cares for his dog, Ollie.

We are so grateful for the fathers on our staff who make a huge difference in their families' lives and ours!

Happy Father's Day from the Fourth Circuit Court!

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE CLERK



Recently, Judge Williams and Judge Robinson had the privilege of meeting with Circuit Court Clerk Joseph P. Day to discuss their respective journeys to judge. This conversation also covered the importance of domestic courts as a means to serve the families and children of Davidson County.

To watch the video, you may click on the following link: [Conversations with the Clerk](#) or scan the QR code:



SWEARING IN NEW ATTORNEYS



Judge Williams recently had the honor of swearing in two new members of the Tennessee Bar. Ryann Freemon and Cory Bradfield are both former Nashville School of Law students of Judge Williams' and just recently passed the Bar Exam. Congratulations to Attorney Freemon and Attorney Bradfield, we are proud of you!



Attorney Ryann Freemon



Attorney Cory Bradfield

If you would like to be sworn in by Judge Williams, please email RonnellGriffin@jnsnashville.gov to schedule.

SUMMER INTERNS

We are pleased to welcome two new interns, Sarah White and Isabella Amonette, to our team this summer! Please give them a warm welcome if you see them.



Sarah, a rising 2L at Samford University Cumberland School of Law, joined us on May 28th and will assist our staff in drafting Status Conference Orders for pending divorce cases and researching current issues related to our court. Additionally, she will gain practical experience by witnessing trials and our recurring dockets.

Isabella is a rising senior at UTK and joined us for the first week of June. She provided daily assistance to our office and was a tremendous help in generating Status Conference Orders.



UPDATED OP CASE BRIEF



In our April 16, 2025 newsletter, we presented a Case Brief on an order of protection case we had recently heard. In that case, one spouse had applied for and obtained an *ex parte* order of protection against the other spouse. But, before the hearing on the *ex parte* Order of Protection, one of the spouses filed for divorce.

Later, this Court conducted a hearing on the *ex parte* Order of Protection and extended it for one year. Before that one year elapsed, the Petitioner filed a Motion to extend the Order of Protection pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated section 36-3-603.

Section 36-3-603 provides that if there is an order of protection in place between married persons and one of those persons files for divorce against the other person, the order of protection shall remain in effect until it is modified, dissolved, or made a part of the divorce decree.

Because this Court interpreted section 36-3-603 to apply even when an *ex parte* order of protection is in place—as long as the *ex parte* order of protection is later extended after a hearing on the merits—it granted the Petitioner’s Motion and extended the Order of Protection. The Respondent then filed a Motion for a Rule 9 Interlocutory Appeal by Permission, arguing, in part, that section 36-3-603 does not apply when only an *ex parte* order of protection is in place when a complaint for divorce is filed.

After this Court found that this was an issue that had not been clearly addressed by Tennessee’s appellate courts, it granted the Respondent’s Motion for an Interlocutory Appeal by Permission.

In the previous newsletter, we informed you that the Tennessee Court of Appeals had denied the Respondent’s Request for an Interlocutory Appeal and that the Respondent had filed a request for a Rule 11 Appeal by Permission with the Tennessee Supreme Court.



A few weeks ago, we learned that the Tennessee Supreme Court denied the Respondent’s Request for an Appeal by Permission. We will continue to monitor any case law that addresses this issue in the future. For now, we will continue to apply 36-3-603 to *ex parte* orders of protection as set forth above.





CHAMBER RULE SPOTLIGHT: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ORDERS

Rule VI (B)(2-6), Page 11: General Requirements for Proposed Orders

Please ensure all proposed Orders include these requirements and those set forth in Rule VI (B)(1) before filing. Most rejected filings are missing one of these requirements and will be asked to be resubmitted if so. Thank you!

2. All proposed final orders shall clearly state the Order is an adjudication of all pending matters (or the pending matter it fully adjudicates if other matters are still pending).
3. All proposed final orders shall assess court costs.
4. All proposed orders shall be filed with the Circuit Court Clerk within 10 days of the hearing and served simultaneously on the adverse party.
5. If a proposed order does not reflect it has been approved for entry by all parties, the adverse party shall have three (3) business days to notify Court staff of opposition to the order filed and to file a competing order. A competing order must be served and a PDF copy of the same shall be emailed to the Judicial Assistant at: ronnellgriffin@jnsnashville.gov no later than 5:00 p.m. on the third business day following the filing of the proposed order. If no notice of opposition is provided to the Court staff within the time prescribed above, the order will be submitted to the Judge for signature.
6. Deadlines reflected in proposed scheduling orders shall reflect a date certain (i.e., "January 15, 2025" rather than "60 days").

You may view our Chamber Rules on our website on the resources tab by clicking this link: [Resources](#) or by scanning this QR code:



CALENDAR

JUNE

S M T W Th F S

				19		
				26		
	30					

6/19: Office Closed for Juneteenth Holiday*

6/26: Judge Williams' Status Conference Docket at 1 p.m. in person or via Zoom

6/30: No Hearings, Office Open

**The Emancipation Proclamation, which freed "all persons held as slaves," became effective January 1, 1863. However, it could not be implemented in places still under Confederate control. As a result, in the westernmost*

Confederate state of Texas, enslaved people would not be free until over two years later on June 19, 1865, when some 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas and announced to some 250,000 enslaved black people in the state that they were free by executive decree. This day came to be known as "[Juneteenth](#)" and has been celebrated on June 19th each year thereafter. It is also referred to as the second Independence Day for the United States. Juneteenth was designated as a national holiday on June 17, 2021, and a state holiday in Tennessee on May 5, 2023.

JULY

S M T W Th F S

		1	2	3	4	
	7			10	11	
				17		

7/1--7/3: No Hearings, Office Open

7/4: Office Closed for July 4th Holiday

7/7: No Hearings, Office Open

7/10: No Show Cause or Contempt Hearings

7/11: No Motions, Office Open

7/17: Judge Williams' Status Conference Docket at 1 p.m. in person or via Zoom

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!



@JudgeStephanieJWilliams



Judge Stephanie J. Williams

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:

