

Big Announcement...

We are pleased to announce a new and exciting initiative that will benefit anyone who frequents the Fourth Circuit Court.

Welcome to the ***Family Matters Rewards Program!*** This is unlike any program a US court has implemented, and it has YOU in mind. Whether you are an attorney or litigant, you are eligible to sign up for the program. Registrants will be asked to download the program’s app, where points will be tracked and rewards redeemed.

You will earn points by showing up to court early, attending Fourth Circuit CLEs, filing orders on time (the earlier you file, the more points you will rack up), sending the Court courtesy copies, and more. Rewards are divided into a tier system, which is outlined below. As you continue earning points, you have the opportunity to advance your level. ***Please note: This list is not exhaustive. More rewards will be added. Stay tuned!***

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Judge Judy Level (Bronze Status)



- Instagram Story birthday shoutout.
- Having trouble with a client? Judge Williams will set them straight during a hearing of your choosing.
- Reserved seating for the motion docket. Violators will be escorted out.
- Personal shoutout in the newsletter with a heartfelt quote from Judge Williams herself.
- VIP access to the Fourth Circuit Conference Room before the Friday Dockets. Better Wi-Fi, premium snacks, monthly massage therapist.
- Don’t have a witness for a Default final hearing? The Court will provide one!



Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg Level (Silver Status)



Everything above PLUS:

- Instagram feed birthday post.
- Having trouble with your opposing counsel? Judge Williams will set them straight during a hearing of your choosing.
- Sit as Judge for one (1) motion docket (robe not included)
- Unlimited time on your motion or trial. (You better hope the opposing side doesn't rack up reward points.)
- Attend all your motions on Zoom for one (1) year!
- Judge Williams will perform a CeCe Winans cover song house concert for you and your friends (or staff).
- Ronnell Griffin will come to your place of work to consult on office management and gatekeeping.

Attorney Lutie Lytle Level (Gold Status)



Everything above PLUS:

- Judge Williams will automatically grant one (1) motion of your choosing (pick wisely!)
- David Martin will serve as your personal bodyguard for one (1) day. Want to seem more important than you really are? This is your chance!
- Sit as Judge for one (1) motion docket (personalized robe included)
- Create your own Chamber Rule. Will automatically expire after one (1) year.
- One (1) year of free parking in the Judges' lot.
- Judge Williams home visits! Tired of commuting through traffic to the courthouse? Our Gold Status members are eligible for Judge to conduct trials in the comfort of their own home or office.
- CeCe Winans will perform a Judge Williams cover song house concert for you and your friends (or staff).

Information on how to download this new app will be provided at the end of this month.

Start getting excited—amazing rewards are coming your way!

p.s. Happy April Fool's Day!



Spring Cleaning: Throwing out the Myth of “Backlog”

This season of renewal offers a timely opportunity to address a common misconception regarding court efficiency. While “backlog” is often used as a general descriptor for family court caseloads, it does not accurately reflect the status of our Court.



Through intentional case management practices, including monthly status conference dockets designed to monitor and advance pending cases, we have made significant progress in reducing inactive matters. From January 2025 to March 2026, the number of pending cases decreased from 2,776 to 1,024 (which includes new filings during that time period).

In addition, the Court continues to hear motions and schedule hearings in a timely manner, with cases regularly being set for trial within 2-3 months as they become ready in accordance with procedural requirements.

If you believe you are experiencing an unusual delay in setting a matter for trial or final hearing due specifically to court calendar availability (and not due to factors such as service, discovery, or other case-related requirements that may cause delays), we encourage you to bring this to our attention at your earliest convenience.

Lunch and Learn Lives On

Thank you to all who participated in last month’s “Lunch” and Learn featuring OurFamilyWizard. We received great feedback following the event as many, including the Court, found it to be very helpful and informative. We will continue to provide similar informational sessions in the future to highlight resources that are available to courts, litigants, attorneys, and anyone who is involved in domestic court matters. We welcome any suggestions you may have for websites, apps, and other resources that are of benefit.

Our next virtual Lunch and Learn will be on April 30th, 2026, featuring Soberlink! Please keep an eye on your inbox and social media for more details on registration within the next week.



Setting a Case for Trial: Discovery



Prior to setting a contested matter for a trial, all parties MUST have completed discovery. This should be stated in the Certificate of Readiness which shall be filed before obtaining trial dates. Only updates and supplements to served discovery may be completed after the matter is set for final hearing and no less than 45 days before the first trial date.


Please refer to *Chamber Rule VIII: Discovery* on page 19 for information on discovery requirements. Additionally, *Chamber Rule XIII: Contested Final Hearings* on page 27 outlines all requirements for setting a case for final contested hearing in the Fourth Circuit Court.

You may view the Chamber Rules on our website's Resources tab by clicking here: [Chamber Rules](#) or by scanning the QR code:



Register to Vote!

May 5th, 2026 is Election Day!

 As many of you are already aware, state and county primary elections are coming up! May 5th is the official election day, however, early voting for Davidson County primaries run April 15th through the 30th. Many seats are up for election this year, including several in the judiciary and courts.

The deadline to register to vote is April 6th. If you are already a resident of Davidson County, registration is a quick process. To learn more about registering or solidifying your Davidson County residence to qualify to vote in this election, click on this link: [VOTE](#) or scan the QR code:



To view the ballot, click on this link: [Ballot](#) or scan the QR code:



Calendar

April

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					3	
				16		

4/3: Office Closed for Good Friday

4/16: Judge Williams' Status Conference Docket at 1 p.m. in Person or Via Zoom

Judge Williams' Dismissal Docket at 2:30 p.m.

May

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		5				
				21		
		19	20	21	22	
	25	26				

5/5: Election Day!

5/21: Judge Williams' Status Conference Docket at 1 p.m. in Person or Via Zoom

Judge Williams' Dismissal Docket at 2:30 p.m.

5/19–21, 26: ID Divorces by Waiver ONLY

5/22: No Motion Docket, Office Open

5/25: 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!



@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:

