



## **Black History Month: A Reflection from Judge Williams**

### **Recognizing Attorney Lutie Lytle**

As we enter into Black History Month, I feel it is important that we reflect on those who paved the way for each of us. For me, one of those individuals was Lutie Lytle. Attorney Lytle was a child of former slaves who worked to become the first black woman to earn a law degree in the South and, in 1897, was the first



**Attorney Lutie Lytle  
1875-1955**

woman admitted to the Tennessee bar. She was driven by a desire to improve the conditions of black people as citizens and to give black people access to the legal field. I recognize that I am able to be in this role thanks to people like Attorney Lytle. I am so thankful for her work and perseverance in the face of so much opposition.

**-Judge Stephanie J. Williams**

For more information about Lutie Lytle, visit <https://www.tba.org/index.cfm?pg=LawBlog&blAction=showEntry&blogEntry=32259> or scan the QR code below:



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## Spring and Summer Decision Making Dos and Don'ts

Can you feel that ice and cold melting away? Warmer days will be here before you know it!

We understand that this time of year comes with big decisions for parents, whether it's planning for spring break, summer vacation, summer camps, graduations, weddings, or even choosing where child(ren) will attend school for the 2025-26 school year. With so many choices ahead, preparation is key.

To help make the process smoother, here are some essential Dos and Don'ts to keep in mind as these decisions are made in cases where there is currently no Order of the Court addressing the same:

### DO

- ✓ Determine all options for vacation time, school decisions, camps, etc.
- ✓ Parents, discuss these options with the other parent.
- ✓ Attorneys, discuss these options with your client.
- ✓ Seek Court approval in instances where an agreement is not reached **BEFORE** solidifying plans.
- ✓ Keep the child(ren)'s best interest at the center of all conversations.

### DON'T

- ✗ Solidify plans (buy plane tickets, enroll in schools, camps, etc.) before an agreement is reached or permission from the Court has been granted.
- ✗ Neglect the parenting plan when making decisions.
- ✗ Ignore child(ren)'s best interest.



**The Court entertains motions to address these matters, pending the final hearing in a case, on Fridays each week. Please consult the Court's website for available motion dates.**

# Chamber Rule Spotlight: Remote Testimony



## Rule XVIII, Page 34: Remote Testimony

**“All requests for remote testimony of a party or witness will be considered in accordance with Rule 43.01 of the Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure.”**



When one or more parties or witnesses would like to be heard remotely *for any reason*, a **Motion to be Heard Remotely must be filed in accordance with Rule 43.01 of the Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure.** *This may result in continuances or delays in hearings so please be sure to account for this time when filing.*

Once the Court has granted permission to appear remotely, a link to participate remotely will be sent to all interested parties. If no link is received within 24 hours of the hearing, please email [RebekahLHaralson@jnsnashville.gov](mailto:RebekahLHaralson@jnsnashville.gov) with the docket number and the date/time of the hearing.

### Exception to the Rule

Motions scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on the Friday Final Motion Docket automatically have the option to appear virtually via Zoom. Participation via Zoom may take place using the following link: **Friday Motion Docket Zoom Link** or by scanning the QR code to the right:



Further instructions on Zoom appearances can be found by clicking here: **Friday Motion Zoom Instructions** or by scanning the QR code to the right:



**You may view the entire Chamber Rules on our website by clicking here: [Chamber Rules](#) or by scanning the QR code below:**





## Thank You, Cailin!



Last week, our staff braved the cold to support the Manny's House of Pizza Pop Up, enjoyed some delicious pizza rolls, and said goodbye to our winterim intern, Cailin Rork.

We are so grateful for all the help she provided our Court these past three weeks. The Fourth Circuit is excited to see all that Cailin will accomplish!

## The Domestic Bar is Growing!



Recently, Judge Williams had the privilege of swearing in Attorney Missy Rolseth! Congratulations to Attorney Rolseth on this well-deserved accomplishment—your hardwork has truly paid off. Since the start of her term, Judge Williams has had the honor of swearing in four attorneys. She is grateful for the opportunity to play a role in these attorneys' journeys.

## Share

Our Updates and Announcements are for everyone! Please feel free to share with your staff, clients, and anyone else who may have an interest. Anyone who would like to be added to the email list may contact Bekah Haralson at: [RebekahLHaralson@jnsnashville.gov](mailto:RebekahLHaralson@jnsnashville.gov).



# Calendar

Check out the list below for changes to our regularly scheduled dockets and Court closures:

S M T W Th F S

	<del>17</del>			20		

## February

**2/17:** Office Closed for President's Day.

**2/20:** Special Status Docket for pending termination and adoption cases.

S M T W Th F S

		4		6		
	24	25	26	27		

## March

**3/4:** ID Divorces with Appearance Waiver Only.

**3/6:** No Pro Se Divorce Docket.

**Judicial Conference is March 24th--March 27th. The Court will limit hearings on those dates as follows:**

**3/24:** No Adoption Docket.

**3/25:** ID Divorces with Appearance Waiver Only.

**3/26:** ID Divorces with Appearance Waiver Only.

**3/27:** ID Divorces with Appearance Waiver and Pro Se Divorce Docket Only.

S M T W Th F S

				3		
					<del>18</del>	

## April

**4/3:** Status Conference Docket Only.

**4/18:** Court Closed for Good Friday 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:

