

Volume 2 | Issue 19 | November 14, 2025



## Happy Thanksgiving

Gratitude will never go out of style! Amidst chaos and hardship, reflecting on what you are thankful for is a necessary and wise practice. This Thanksgiving, our staff has taken a moment to give thanks. We encourage you to do the same as you celebrate the season.

**Bekah Haralson:** I am grateful for the amazing community of loving friends and family that surround me (and the amount of laughter we share).

**Dana Ballinger:** I am grateful to have a career that allows me to make a meaningful difference in the lives of families. I am also grateful to have such awesome coworkers.

**David Martin:** I am thankful for my wife, two girls, and grandbabies.

**Grey Hollowell:** I am thankful for my health, family, and friends.

**James Fields:** I'm thankful for a wonderful family. I'm also thankful for excellent health and the ability to work and serve as a metro employee in our great city of Nashville.

**Kristen Menke:** I'm grateful for the community of parents that surround my child and his group of friends and the way we support one another as parents to help all of our children win in life. It really does take a village, and I couldn't do it without mine. ❤️

**Ronnell Griffin:** I am thankful for God's grace over my life and my wonderful work family.

**Judge Williams:** I am thankful for the journey I am on—every step, every lesson, and every blessing that has brought me to where I am today. Gratitude helps me recognize that even in moments of challenge or uncertainty, there is growth taking place and strength being built. I am thankful for the people who support me (*shoutout to the amazing 4th Circuit team-oh...and my "momma!"*), inspire me (*shoutout to my kids and granddaughters*), and walk beside me (*shoutout to everyone reading this message*), as well as those who have come and gone (*shoutout to Judge Smith, Judge Kweller and my grandparents*), each leaving something valuable behind. I am grateful for the opportunities that have opened doors, for the experiences that have shaped my perspective, and for the simple, everyday moments of joy that often go unnoticed. Being thankful reminds me to slow down, breathe, and appreciate the beauty that exists in my life—both in the grand milestones and in the quiet, ordinary moments. It is through gratitude that I find peace, purpose, and a deeper appreciation for all that I have and all that is yet to come.”

# Home for the Holidays



November is National Adoption Month, a very fitting time of year to bring awareness to the importance of adoption in the lives of children. With the winter holidays just around the corner, the need for permanency is strikingly apparent. Consistency and stability are crucial for children and youth development and celebrating the holidays in a safe and stable home should be the reality for all children.

Permanency is crucial because it allows children to develop healthy, secure relationships which lead to optimal physical and emotional health. Lack of permanency often results in instability for a child. Instability such as frequent school and home changes and inconsistent caregiving have short-term impacts such as emotional dysregulation, poor school performance, and inability to make friends. Lack of permanency also has long-term impacts. As a child grows up and becomes an adult, it can impact their ability to feel safe and secure in new relationships, negatively impact their mental health and well-being, and can even take a toll on their physical health. Ensuring children have permanency is necessary, whether through adoption or other guardianship arrangements.

As Thanksgiving is less than two weeks away and Christmas not far after, the Fourth Circuit is especially thankful to all the attorneys who practice termination of parental rights and adoption cases and/or take appointments as *Guardian Ad Litem*s or parent attorneys in our Court. Your work in providing safe homes for children and upholding the fundamental rights of parents is invaluable.

On Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup> the Fourth Circuit is hosting Home for the Holidays. Not only is this a time to celebrate adoptions in Davidson County, but it is also a chance for our Court to say “Thank you” to the attorneys who take appointments (including appointments on contempt cases) in the Fourth Circuit. We hope you will join us for refreshments, music, and holiday cheer!

**See the flyer on the next page for more information.**



# Home

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# HOLIDAYS

*In the Fourth Circuit Court*

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2025**

**10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.**

*Join us as we celebrate adoptions and the people who make them possible!*

**We are open for a full day of adoptions and celebration - schedule yours TODAY!**

**Take appointments in our Court? Join us as we celebrate the work you do!**

*Drop in anytime*



**FAMILY MATTERS**  
COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT FUND

Early Black Friday Deal:

**OUR GIFT TO YOU!**

End of Year 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit CLE  
and Holiday Mix & Mingle

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH  
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

\$50, 2.75 CLE Credits Available

Scan for more info  
and to register:



*2026 PLANS*

*PRACTICE TIPS*

*UPDATES TO CHAMBER RULES*

*ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS*

*HIGH FUNCTIONING DEPRESSION  
PRESENTATION BY EMILY MOON, LPC*

Followed by a  
*HOLIDAY MIX & MINGLE\**

\*All drinks and food will be the responsibility  
of the ordering party.

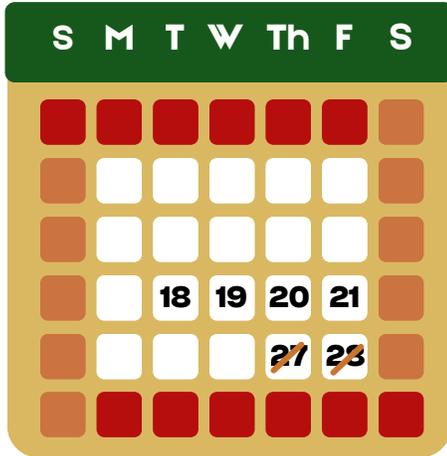
**TOP NOTE** ✨

@THE TOWNPLACE SUITES

505 3RD AVE N.

Virtual Appearance Option

# Calendar



## November

**11/18 + 19:** Two-Day Adoption CLE

**11/20:** Home for the Holidays

**11/21: Motion Docket in Courtroom 510**

**11/27 + 28:** Court Closed for Thanksgiving

*Please Note: The Motion Docket on November 21<sup>st</sup> will be heard in Courtroom 510. There will be signage on courtroom 607's doors to remind attorneys and litigants of the change.*



## December

**12/4:** Special Master's Case Management Docket at 9 a.m. Via Zoom, Judge Robinson's Retirement Reception at 2:30 p.m.

**12/15:** Final Adoption Docket of 2025

**12/17:** 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit End of year CLE and Holiday Mix & Mingle

**12/19:** Final Motion Docket of 2025

**12/22-1/2:** Court Closed for Winter Holidays\*

*\*OPs will be heard on 12/22 and 12/23*

## Share!



@JudgeStephanieJWilliams



Judge Stephanie J. Williams

Feel free to share this newsletter with anyone who may be interested. To be added to the mailing list, please email [RebekahLHaralson@jisnashville.gov](mailto:RebekahLHaralson@jisnashville.gov).

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:

