

Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County General Sessions Court
Press Release



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-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-

**The Honorable Rachel L. Bell to serve as
Metropolitan Davidson County
General Sessions Court Presiding Judge**

The Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County General Sessions Court Judges have elected *Judge Rachel L. Bell* to preside over the Davidson County General Sessions Court effective September 1, 2014.



Current Presiding Judge

Bill Higgins, Senior Jurist among the General Sessions Judges states, "I have the utmost confidence in *Judge Bell*. I am satisfied that she has the ability and determination to continue the progress we have made toward having the best system for the administration of justice in the State of Tennessee." *Judge Bell* said that she was "honored" to be elected by her fellow judges to manage the court's business function. "I am also looking forward to overseeing the implementation of our Court's new docket system including the new Domestic Violence Court. This

is a major change to our docket system and should enhance the administration of justice for our community.”

Judge Bell, a native Nashvillian, was elected General Sessions Judge Division VIII (8) in 2012 to fill the unexpired term of the late Judge Leon Ruben and re-elected to an eight (8) year term of office earlier this month.

Prior to being elected to the bench in 2012, *Judge Bell* was in private practice with law offices in both North and West Nashville. At the young age of thirteen (13), *Judge Bell* was diagnosed with Type-I Diabetes and immediately decided to devote a part of her life to assisting and inspiring others facing challenges. After graduating from Hillsboro High School where she was a star basketball player, *Judge Bell* received a basketball scholarship to Auburn University. During her freshman season she participated on an SEC Championship team. *Judge Bell* finished her collegiate basketball career at the University of Memphis where she received her Bachelor of Science in Education. She graduated from law school at the University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law.

Dedicated to being a judge both on and off the bench, *Judge Bell* stays very busy giving of her time, talent, and assets by serving on several local and national boards, volunteering for high school mock trial competitions, adding interns to work at her office for up to six (6) weeks at a time, coaching basketball for kids ages 7-9, along with mentoring students in high school, college and graduate school.

Shortly, after taking the bench, *Judge Bell* adopted a portion of Highway 41A in Davidson County to establish the Judge Rachel L. Bell Beautification Project in which she participates along with community service workers and volunteers to pick up trash, paint retaining walls, bridges and landscape the area. *Judge Bell* created the Ring the BELL Foundation, Inc., a non-profit, that will be

promoting community awareness and providing resources to create positive change in the lives of others. Furthering her commitment to restorative justice, *Judge Bell* has also developed initiatives to reduce re-arrest rates by visiting with defendants in jail to encourage making better decisions upon their release back into society and created a journal writing program for her probationers with her trademarked quote “Control the Controllable” TM- Rachel L. Bell.

Judge Bell is a member of New Covenant Christian Church- Disciples of Christ, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.- Nashville Alumnae Chapter, Top Ladies of Distinction- (TLOD) Nashville Capitol City Chapter, Nashville City Club, Citizens, Nashville Bar Association, TN Stonewall Bar Association, Napier-Looby Bar Association, Tennessee Bar Association, Women in Numbers (WIN), CABLE, Davidson County- Democratic Women, Golfers Recognizing Opportunities for Women (GROW), Lawyers Association for Women (LAW), NAACP, Women’s Political Collaborative, National Bar Association Judicial Council, Tennessee General Sessions Judges Conference.