

Judge's Corner



Our first annual State of the Court Address was held January 15, 2016 to reflect on my first sixteen months as Judge, as well as share my vision for the future of the Court.

As I mentioned during the Address, each of you is an integral part of this Court and your hard work does not go unnoticed. I am very proud of you and honored to be a part of this team. I am fully aware that daily you conduct your work fairly, efficiently, effectively, steadily and you are not afraid to go the extra mile to get the job done.

It is your work that is helping to progressively move this century old Court to the forefront of our nation's Juvenile Justice system. You are helping Juvenile Court of Memphis & Shelby County to become a model court in every sense of the word.

As we set to conquer new goals and cover new territory in 2016, remember teamwork is vital and essential to our continued success and impact on those we serve.

Again, my vision for 2016 is to accomplish three major goals:

Become a Trauma Informed Court, Implementation of New Docket/Immediate Order Systems, and Enhancement of the Court Speakers Bureau.

During the Address, I challenged you to help me make it happen. Let the challenge coin given to you serve as a daily reminder to continue to strive for success.

I wish you a very Happy New Year, and I look forward to the many accomplishments **WE** will attain this year!

"Change is inevitable. Change for the better is a full-time job."

Adlai E. Stevenson

Motivational Moment submitted by Yvonne James, Juvenile Court Clerk's Office.

Success Story

I nominate **Michelle Harris-Hunt** for a Success Story. She has worked very hard up the ranks in the detention center and is well respected and liked by the staff. She is willing to help even if it means leaving her office to assist with staff as well as detainees. I am so proud of Ms. Hunt's accomplishments and I was as happy for her as if it were happening to me when she received the Lieutenant's position with the Sheriff's Office/Juvenile. Ms. Hunt always has a listening ear and she may not give you the answer you want to hear but she will explain why...which so many people these days either just say "no" or lie. Trustworthy, ambitious, helper, counselor, etc... Ms. Hunt is all of these rolled into one hard working woman! She so deserves to be recognized in the Juvenile Court paper.



Story submitted by Vonda K. Bryant, Juvenile Detention/Sheriff's Office.

"You can do what you want to do, but you can't choose the consequences."

Wendell Guinn

Motivational Moment submitted by Bernard Williams, Children's Bureau.

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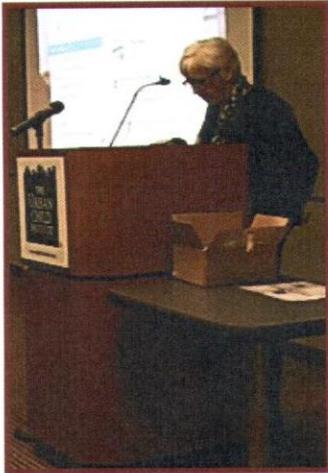
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Special points of interest:

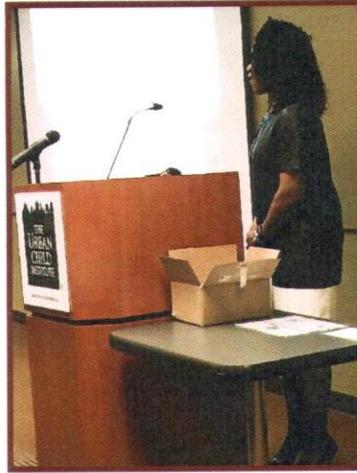
- 1st Annual State of the Court Address
- Motivational Moments
- Birthdays, Retirement/Welcome & Anniversary Dates
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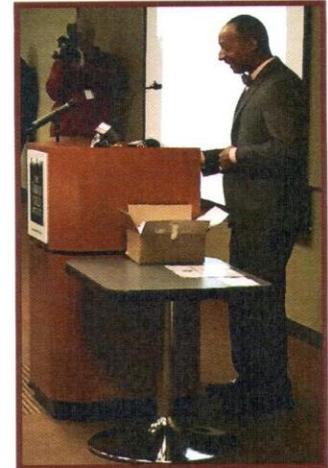
1st Annual State of the Court Address (January 15, 2016)



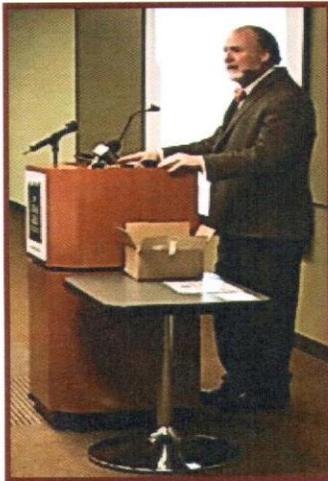
Court Chaplain Audrey Gonzalez provided the prayer.



Martha Rogers (Children's Bureau) provided the welcome.



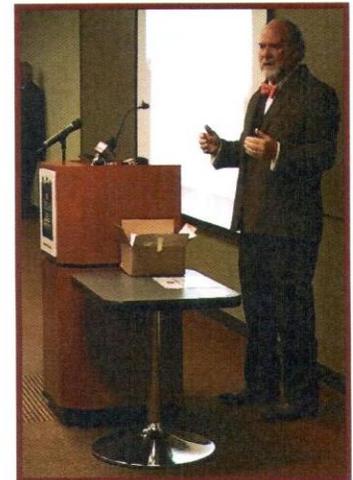
Court Director Gary Cummings introduced Judge Michael.



Judge Michael delivered the Address.



Juvenile Court Staff



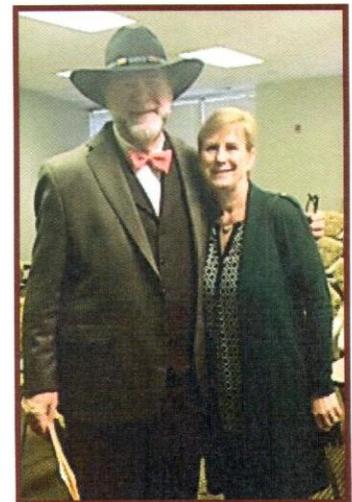
Judge Michael



Juvenile Court Staff



CAO Pam Skelton provided closing remarks.



Judge and Mrs. Michael



Congratulations



January 5, 2016, **Judge Dan H. Michael** appointed **Rev. Audrey Taylor Gonzalez** as the **Court Chaplain**. **Rev. Gonzalez** is one of the first women ordained to the priesthood in the Southern Cone of South America. She serves at Calvary Episcopal Church and is the chaplain for the North Main Precinct of Memphis Police Department. She also is the Committee Chairman for Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) and a Commissioner on the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY). For your convenience, Rev. Gonzalez may be reached at (901) 288-3756 if you would like to speak with her in confidence.



On December 29, 2015, **Patrice and Tyson Wills** were selected for Ashley's Military Family Recognition at the Grizzlies' basketball game against the Miami Heat. **Patrice Wills** has been active duty with the United States Air Force for 16 years and currently holds a rank of E-7, working in Public Health. **Tyson Wills** recently retired after serving 20 years with the United States Air Force as a contractor. It was a great honor and their families are extremely proud and grateful for their years of service and their commitment in protecting our Country.

Story and photo submitted by Kim Nelson (Judicial), sister of Patrice Wills.

Alvin Crook III was featured in the *Memphis Flyer's* article *20 < 30: The Class of 2016*. **Alvin** discussed his background and political aspirations. You may find the article in the January 21, 2016 edition/1404th issue or online at:

<http://www.memphisflyer.com/memphis/cover-feature/Category?oid=1104323>



Radio Appearance



Avis Allen (Youth Court) appeared as a featured guest on WLOK's 6:30pm talk show January 11, 2016. During the segment she provided an overview of the **Youth Court Program** and provided information on how students can become involved with the program.

Recipe: Winter Fruit Salad Recipe

Ingredients:

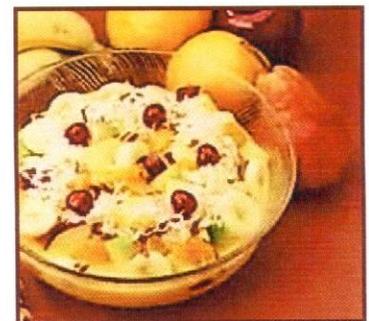
1 can (20 ounces) unsweetened pineapple chunks, 1 package (3 ounces) cook and serve vanilla pudding mix, 1 quart mixed fresh fruit chunks (apples, bananas, oranges, pears), 3/4 cup chopped pecans or walnuts, 1/3 cup flaked coconut, whipped topping (optional)

Directions:

1. Drain can of pineapple chunks, set juice and pineapples aside separately.

Directions (continued):

2. In a saucepan, combine pudding mix and reserved pineapple juice.
3. Cook and stir over medium heat until thickened. Transfer to a bowl and cool.
4. Fold in fruit, nuts, coconut and reserved pineapple chunks.
5. Chill until serving. Garnish with whipped topping if desired.



** Yields 6-8 servings*



Striving for Excellence



Nataki Oyeleye, Brittany Looney, Tonya Watson

Tonya Watson, Nataki Oyeleye and Brittany Looney represented Juvenile Court at the Memphis Council PTA meeting in December 2015. A letter of appreciation was received from Muriel Dotson, Memphis Council PTA regarding their involvement at the event:

“I would like to express my sincere appreciation to you. Your thoughtfulness and generosity has played a big part in promoting parental involvement with our local PTA and PTSA units. Your professional ability to engage our parents during the Memphis Council PTA Meet and Greet was heart-felt and has helped our parents recognize the importance of a partnership with our association. Thank you again for our continued support. We look forward to working with you and the staff at Juvenile Court in the future.”

Article and photo submitted by Pam Taylor, Volunteer Services Bureau.

“Many people are good at talking about what they are doing, but in fact do little. Others do a lot but don’t talk about it; they are the ones who make a community live.” Jean Vanier

Motivational Moment submitted by Yvonne James, Juvenile Court Clerk’s Office.

Happy Retirement Wishes & Welcome

Best Wishes for a Happy Retirement:

Jacqueline Miller

25+ Years of Service

Children’s Bureau

Best Wishes for a Happy Retirement:

Larry K. Scroggs

25+ Years of Service

Judicial/Administrative Services

Children’s Bureau Welcomes:

Lakeisa Martin

Manager A

Special Guest



Tony Allen of the **Memphis Grizzlies** recently visited the Juvenile Detention Center. To see photos and read about his visit go the following websites:

<http://xclusivememphis.com/grind-hard-nba-player-tony-allen-visits-memphis-juvenile-detention-center/> and <http://www.nba.com/grizzlies/photos/tony-allen-detention-center-160104>

Delta Sigma Theta

The Juvenile Court women of **Delta Sigma Theta Sorority** celebrated Founders Day together on January 13, 2016.



Jasmine Newsom (Judicial), Felicia Banks, Lakeisa Martin (Youth Services Bureau), Marquita Dudley (Administrative Services), Vonyale Montgomery (COMEC), Kimbrell Owens (JDAI), Lori Reece (Clerk's Office)

Happy Birthday, January Birthdays:

Rita Hall

David Walker

Lakeisa Martin

Harold Horne

Mitchell Morgan

Charles Alton

Martha Edwards

Garland Erguden

Mike Cianciola

Demetria Maxwell-Hughlett

January Anniversary Dates

Children's Bureau:

James Dupree, 27 years

Candice Brown, 3 years

Keisha Hardaway, 3 years

Youth Services Bureau:

Debbie Hunter, 23 years

Keisha Brown, 14 years

Satina Williams, 11 years

Administrative Services:

Shannon Caraway, 28 years

Odie Neely, 9 years

Judicial:

Terre Fratesi, 23 years

Child Support:

Audrey Gilliam, 18 years



Thank you for your hard work and dedicated service!

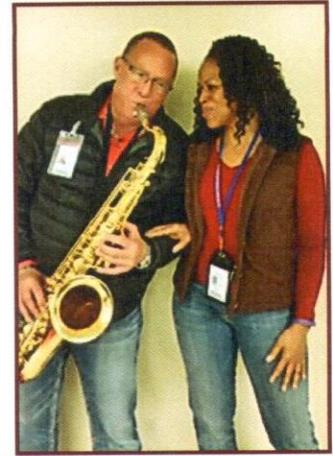
Court Holiday Celebrations (December 18, 2015)



Lakita Williams, Barbara Jackson, Ruby Jones, Deanna Stuckey (Children's Bureau) receive the Holiday Spirit Award.



James Dupree, Door Decoration Contest Winner with Barbara Jackson (Children's Bureau).



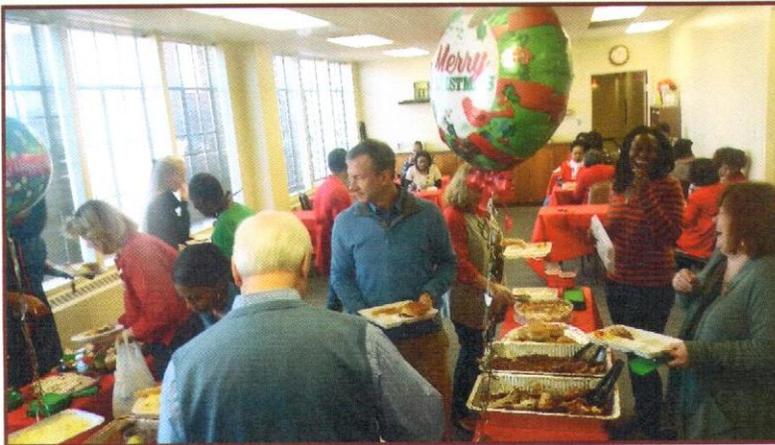
Mike Smith (Shelby County Schools/Hope Academy), Martha Rogers (Children's Bureau)



Mary Winston, Carl Cole (Administrative Services)



Brittany Looney, Olivia Campo, Nataki Oyeleye, Japonica Truitt, Pam Taylor, Kynia Crigler, Toni White, Tonya Watson (Volunteer Services Bureau) Secret Pal token exchange.



Administrative Services



Children's Bureau holiday luncheon decorations by Barbara Jackson.