SHELBY COUNTY
COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS
SHELBY COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 140 ADAMS AVENUE, ROOM 110
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38103-2018

LONNIE B. THOMPSON
JUDGE OF DIVISION VI

July 13, 2009

Honorable Deidre Malone
Chairwoman
Shelby County Board of Commissioners
160 North Main, Ste. 425
Memphis, Tn. 38103

Dear Chairwoman Malone:

I want to thank you for taking the time to meet with Judge Potter and I on Thursday, July 9, 2009. I appreciate your willingness to hear and consider our request to restore funding to our budget account used for training related travel purposes. Attached is the information you requested at that meeting which will give you some insight into the funding needs of our Court.

I would like to take this opportunity to again point out that our attendance of the Tennessee General Sessions Judges Conference is not only statutorily mandated, it is statutorily mandated for the cost of attendance to be provided out of the County general fund. Although we must attend the Tennessee General Sessions Judges Conference per said statute, this conference does not always provide a wide variety of courses specific to General Sessions Civil Court. The reason for this is that in the majority of Tennessee counties, the General Sessions Judges have both Civil and Criminal Jurisdiction and the courts are not split as is the case in Shelby County. In the other counties, the Criminal docket comprises most of the cases handled, again, not so in Shelby County. Also, Shelby County has several specialized Courts, where other Tennessee counties do not; specifically the Environmental Court, the Drug Court, the Domestic Violence Court, as well as the Emergency Mental Commitments heard by the General Sessions Civil Court Judges three times per week. The Memphis Bar Association Bench Bar Conference offers excellent training and educational opportunities specific to our Courts. I have listed some of the courses offered at the Bench Bar for the past three conferences in the attached information.

The Judges of the General Sessions Civil Courts are respectfully requesting that the County Commission increase the travel budget to **$16,200.00** or six (6) Judges at **$2,700.00 per Judge**. We feel this amount is necessary and vital to ensure that the

Judges of Shelby County are adequately up to date and abreast of changing laws and legal issues affecting our court and community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further information.

Sincerely,

Lonnie Thompson

Judge Lonnie B. Thompson

General Sessions Civil Court Judges

FY 09-10 Funding
Account Number 6467 – Training Related Travel:

$7,000.00 6 Judges at $1167.00 per Judge

FY 08-09 Funding
Account Number 6467 –Training Related Travel

$14,000.00 6 Judges at $2333.00 per Judge

Amount needed per Judge to attend the **mandatory** Tennessee General Sessions Judges Conference and the Memphis Bar Association Bench Bar Conference:

$16,200.00 6 Judges at $2,700.00 per Judge

Memphis Bar Association
Bench Bar Conference
Course Listing

2009 Bench Bar Conference:

Fair Debt Collection
Bankruptcy and It's Impact On Other Areas
Legislative Updates
Supreme Court Decisions
Tortious Interference with Business Contracts

2008 Bench Bar Conference:

E Discovery
The Sub-Prime Mortgage Fallout (Judge Gardner, General Sessions Civil Court Div. 2 was a presenter)
Effective Communication Between the Bench and the Bar (Judge Loyce L. Ryan of General Sessions Criminal Court Div. 15 was a presenter)
Legislative Update

2007 Bench Bar Conference:

E Discovery
Forensic Experts In Civil and Criminal Cases
The 21st Century Courtroom and Law Office
Legislative Updates
Litigation in Commercial Real Estate Transactions
Mediation
Civil Action: Why Nice Lawyers Don't Always Finish Last