SHELBY COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL COURT
SUITE 255 • 201 POPLAR AVENUE • MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38103

JUDGE LARRY E. POTTER

July 14, 2009

Chairman Deidre Malone
Shelby County Board of Commissioners
160 N. Main Street, Suite 425
Memphis, TN 38103-1827

Dear Chairman Malone,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to meet with you last week to discuss the General Sessions Criminal Court Judges' 2010 fiscal budget. My colleagues and I appreciate the time you took from your busy schedule to address our concerns. Attached please find the information that you requested at our meeting.

The General Sessions Criminal Court is requesting that the fund allocation for travel in the 2010 fiscal budget be equivalent to that of the General Sessions Civil Courts. These funds are necessary to meet the mandatory Continued Legal Education (CLE) required. The General Sessions Criminal Court consists of nine courts. Presently we have two specialty courts, Environmental Court and Drug Court and effective September 1, 2009 we will add the Domestic Violence Court. These three courts are unique and require more funding than the other six.

State law mandates that all General Sessions Judges must attend an annual conference. According to T.C.A 17-3-204 General Sessions Judges Conference a) It is the official duty of each member (Judge) of the conference to attend the annual meeting unless unable to do so because of physical incapacity. b) Each member shall be compensated for the member's actual expenses in attending the annual meeting. Such expenses shall be paid upon a verified statement of expenses being filed with the county executive by any member incurring such expenses. Expenses shall be paid by the trustee upon warrant of the county executive from the general fund of the county in which the member serves as judge.

The annual Tennessee General Sessions Judges Conference however is general in nature and fails to meet all of the needs of the Judges. Therefore, the Judges must attend other conferences to meet those requirements. The Memphis Bar Association's annual Bench

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Bar Conference offers excellent training and educational opportunities. In addition, the specialty courts of Shelby County have a unique need for additional educational opportunities in order to keep current in their specialty law.

Therefore, the Judges of the General Sessions Criminal Courts are requesting the County Commission increase the 2010 travel budget for our nine judges to $24,300. or $2,700. per Judge.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to bring this to your attention and request another meeting at your convenience to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Judge Larry E. Potter
Shelby County Environmental Court
General Sessions, Div XIV

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

Average 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