Warner C. Hassell Set to Retire as
Metropolitan General Sessions Court Administrator
Court Clerk Executive Director Kyle Sowell to Succeed Him

Long time Court Administrator for the Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County General Session Court, Warner C. Hassell, has announced his upcoming retirement to be effective September 19, 2020. He leaves this post as the Chief Administrative Officer for the Court after an illustrious career that spanned 34 years.

During his tenure Hassell saw the Court grow from 9 judges to 11 judges and managed an annual budget that increased from $2 million to $12.5 million dollars. Overall, Hassell had the opportunity to work for 30 different judges and 20 different presiding judges.

“I am glad to have had the honor of serving the Metro Nashville General Sessions Court which is often referred to as the People’s Court since it is the justice system’s local limited jurisdiction court where most of our community first come into contact with a court of law involving civil, criminal or traffic matters,” said Hassell. “I am most proud, however, of the staff of the Court Administration Office who are dedicated to supporting the Court’s daily operations before, during and after each day’s court sessions.”

Some of his career highlights include the initial planning and implementation of Metro’s Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) which is an indispensable tool for the Metro justice partners in tracking criminal cases and case history. Hassell also worked closely with court consultants in the design and planning of the Justice A.A. Birch Building since the General Sessions Court is the anchor tenant. As a result of a study of Metro’s Night Court Magistrate system conducted pursuant to a U.S. Department of Justice grant written by Hassell, additional Magistrate Judges were approved by the Metro Government resulting in more expediency and efficiency in the initial criminal intake process.

As a successor to Hassell, the General Sessions Court Judges have chosen attorney Kyle Sowell, an 18 year veteran of the Davidson County Circuit Court Clerk’s Office. In commenting on their selection, Presiding Judge Sam Coleman said, “With this pick, I am convinced we will have a smooth transition and the courts will remain strong. I am delighted that our body has selected a great candidate to assist us in carrying on our judicial duties and mission.”

During his tenure with the Clerk’s Office, Sowell served as Chief Clerk of the Probate Court, Public Information Director, Chief Clerk of the General Sessions Civil Division and most recently as Executive Director of the General Sessions Civil Division. Prior to joining the Clerk’s Office as an administrator, Sowell practiced law in a variety of capacities, most notably as an Assistant State Attorney General in the Tennessee Attorney General’s Office.

“I am honored to have been given this opportunity by the General Sessions Judges and look forward to serving the needs of the Court and maintaining the high standards set by my predecessor,” said Sowell.