Supreme Court Appeals Pending Cases 10-04-15

1. Style American Heritage Apartments, Inc. v. The Hamilton County Water and Wastewater Treatment Authority, Hamilton County, Tennessee

2. Docket Number E2014-00302-SC-R11-CV

3. Lower Court Decision Link

https://www.tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/american heritage opinion final.pdf

4. Lower Court Summary

The plaintiff, American Heritage Apartments, Inc. ("American Heritage"), commenced this lawsuit to protest a monthly flat charge in the amount of \$8.00 per unit imposed by the defendant, The Hamilton County Water and Wastewater Authority ("the County WWTA"), on all of its sewer customers. The charge was instituted to fund a program designed to repair and refurbish private service laterals, defined as pieces of pipe that connect private property to the sewer lines. American Heritage sought declaratory judgment that the County WWTA, inter alia, had exceeded its authority by imposing an unjust and discriminatory charge. The County WWTA filed a motion to dismiss the complaint, which the trial court initially denied. Upon the County WWTA's amended motion to dismiss and motion for summary judgment, American Heritage's motion for partial summary judgment, and supplemental briefs submitted by both parties, the trial court granted summary judgment in favor of the County WWTA. The court found that because the Utility District Law of 1937, Tennessee Code Annotated §§ 7-82-101 to -804, provided an administrative procedure for contesting utility charges, no private right of action was available. The court further ruled that in the alternative, if a private right of action were allowed by this Court on appeal, American Heritage's complaint could be certified as a class action lawsuit. American Heritage has appealed. Having determined that the trial court erred by applying the Utility District Law of 1937 to a non-utility district water and wastewater treatment authority, we reverse the grant of summary judgment. We affirm the trial court's ruling regarding the class action certification

5. Status Heard 9/09/15 in Knoxville.

1. Style Donriel A. Borne v. Celadon Trucking Services, Inc.

2. Docket Number W2013-01949-SC-R11-CV

3. Lower Court Decision Link

http://www.tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/bornedonrielaopn.pdf

http://www.tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/bornedis.pdf

4. Lower Court Summary

Plaintiff was injured in an accident involving three tractor-trailer trucks. Plaintiff, who was driving a tractor-trailer, sued the other truck drivers and the trucking company owners of the vehicles. However, prior to trial, Plaintiff entered into an agreement with one of the trucking companies whereby Plaintiff and the agreeing defendant agreed to cooperate regarding the litigation and to

work together to expose the defenses asserted by the non-agreeing defendant. The jury returned an itemized verdict of \$3,705,000 for the Plaintiff against the non-agreeing defendant. The trial court denied the non-agreeing defendant's motion for a new trial, but it suggested a remittitur of \$1,605,000, for a total award of \$2,100,000. Plaintiff accepted the remittitur under protest and the non-agreeing defendant appealed to this Court. For the following reasons, we affirm in part and we reverse in part. Specifically, we affirm the physical pain and mental anguish and permanent injury awards as reduced by the trial court; we reverse the trial court's suggested remittitur of the loss of earning capacity award and we instead reinstate the jury verdict of \$1,455,000; and we further reduce the loss of enjoyment of life award to \$50,000. Thus, we approve a total award to Plaintiff of \$2,105,000.

5. Status

Application granted 12/18/14; Supplemental brief filed by Appellee 02/20/15; Supplemental brief filed by Appellant 02/24/15; Supplemental brief filed by Appellee 03/24/15; Appellee brief filed 06/11/15; Amicus brief filed 07/24/15; Amicus brief filed 08/05/15; TBH 11/05/15 in Memphis.

1. Style Ms. Bowen, et al. v. William E. Arnold, Jr., et al.

2. Docket Number M2015-00762-SC-R11-CV

3. Lower Court Decision Link

N/A

4. Lower Court Summary

Denial of Rule 9 Appeal

5. Status Application granted 09/22/15.

1. Style State v. Adrian Brown

2. Docket Number E2014-00673-SC-R11-CD

3. Lower Court Decision Link

http://www.tsc.state.tn.us/sites/default/files/brownaropn2.pdf

4. Lower Court Summary

The appellant, Adrian R. Brown, was convicted in 1995 of three counts of the sale of less than 0.5 grams of cocaine, a Class C felony, and one count of the sale of more than 0.5 grams of cocaine, a Class B felony. The appellant was given concurrent sentences of eight years' imprisonment for the Class B felony and six years' imprisonment for each Class C felony. The appellant entered the community corrections program, and he was recommended for a transfer to probation one year later. In October 2003, shortly before his eight-year sentence was set to expire, a violation of probation affidavit was completed. However, the petition for revocation of the appellant's probation was dismissed in 2005. The appellant now challenges his sentences as illegal, asserting that he did not receive the pretrial jail credits to which he was entitled. After a thorough review of the record, we conclude that the issue is moot, and accordingly, the trial court properly dismissed the appellant's motion to correct his sentence.

5. Status

Heard 9/10/15 in Knoxville.

1. Style In re Carrington H., et al.

2. Docket Number M2014-00453-SC-R11-PT

3. Lower Court Decision Link

http://tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/inrecarringtonh.opn .pdf

4. Lower Court Summary

This appeal arises from the termination of Mother's parental rights. After a five-year cycle of removal and failed reunification attempts, the juvenile court awarded temporary custody of the child to the State in 2009, and shortly thereafter, ordered that Mother have no visitation or contact with her child. The court later ratified a permanency plan, but nearly two years later, the Tennessee Department of Children's Services petitioned to terminate Mother's parental rights. Following a trial, the juvenile court entered an order terminating Mother's parental rights on the grounds of: (1) substantial noncompliance with the permanency plan; (2) persistence of the conditions that led to the child's removal; and (3) incompetency to adequately provide for the further care and supervision of the child. Mother appeals two of the three grounds for termination and the court's determination that termination was in the best interest of the child. We affirm.

5. Status Heard 05/28/15 at Girls State SCALES Project in Nashville.

1. Style The Chattanooga-Hamilton Co. Hospital Authority d/b/a Erlanger Health

Systems v. United Healthcare Plan of the River Valley, Inc. d/b/a

Americhoice and TN Attorney General

2. Docket Number M2013-00942-SC-R11-CV

3. Lower Court Decision Link

http://www.tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/erlangerhealthsystem.opn_.pdf

4. Lower Court Summary

Hospital filed an action against TennCare managed care organization ("MCO") for breach of contract and unjust enrichment when MCO refused to pay Hospital's standard charges for emergency services and follow-up care. Hospital was not part of MCO's "provider network" under the TennCare regulations and therefore was "non-contract" provider. MCO alleged Hospital was required to accept as payment the rate TennCare specified in its regulations. MCO filed motion for summary judgment, and the trial court dismissed the portion of the complaint to which the TennCare regulations may apply due to lack of subject matter jurisdiction. The trial court determined the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act ("UAPA") divested it of jurisdiction because Hospital did not first seek a declaratory order from the Bureau of TennCare regarding the applicability of its regulations to Hospital's dispute with MCO. Hospital appealed the dismissal of its claims, and we reverse. Because Hospital is not challenging applicability or validity of TennCare regulations, UAPA does not divest trial court of jurisdiction.

5. Status Heard 02/04/15 in Nashville.

1.	Style	State v. James Robert Christensen, Jr.
2.	Docket Number	W2014-00931-SC-R11-CD
3.	Lower Court Decision Link	http://tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/christensenjamesrobertjropn.pdf http://tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/christensen_dissent_0.pdf
4.	Lower Court Summary	Appellant, James Robert Christensen, Jr., stands convicted of resisting arrest, a Class B misdemeanor; promotion of methamphetamine manufacture, a Class D felony; initiation of methamphetamine manufacture, a Class B felony; and two counts of possession of a firearm during the commission of a dangerous felony, Class D felonies. He received an effective sentence of three years' incarceration followed by eight years suspended to supervised probation. On appeal, appellant contends that the trial court erred by denying his motion to suppress evidence and that the evidence was insufficient to sustain his convictions for two counts of possession of a firearm during the commission of a dangerous felony. Following our careful review, we affirm the judgments of the trial court.
5.	Status	Application granted 9/22/15; Appellant brief due 10/22/15.
1.	Style	Circle C Construction, LLC v. D. Sean Nilsen, et al.
2.	Docket Number	M2013-02330-SC-R11-CV
3.	Lower Court Decision Link	http://www.tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/circlec.const .opn .pdf
4.	Lower Court Summary	The issue in this case is whether a tolling agreement between the parties precludes the application of the savings statute set forth in Tenn. Code Ann. § 28-1-105(a). The Court of Appeals agreed with the trial court that the tolling agreement does preclude application of the savings statute and that the plaintiff's legal malpractice action is barred by the termination date established in the agreement.
5.	Status	Heard 9/09/15 in Knoxville.
1.	Style	State v. Lemaricus Devall Davidson
2.	Docket Number	E2013-00394-SC-DDT-DD
3.	Lower Court Decision Link	http://www.tsc.state.tn.us/sites/default/files/davidsonlemaricusdevallopn.pdf
4.	Lower Court Summary	The defendant, Lemaricus Devall Davidson, appealed the Knox County Criminal Court jury convictions of two counts of first degree murder, two counts of especially aggravated robbery, two counts of especially aggravated

kidnapping, three counts of aggravated rape, and one count of facilitation of aggravated rape that he received for his role in the January 2007 deaths of C.N. and C.C. The defendant claimed that: the trial court erred by refusing 2 to suppress evidence obtained during the searches of his residence, his statements to the police following his arrest, and evidence obtained during searches of his person; the trial court erred by admitting into evidence postmortem photographs of the victims; the trial court should have excluded testimony and evidence regarding fingerprint examination and ballistics testing; the trial court erred by permitting courtroom spectators to wear buttons emblazoned with photographs of the victims during the guilt phase; the State violated his constitutional rights by intercepting and examining privileged communications to and from his attorneys; structural constitutional error occasioned by the out-of-court behavior of the trial judge entitles him to a new trial; the second successor trial judge erred by concluding that he could fulfill the statutory duty of thirteenth-juror review; the evidence was insufficient to support his convictions; errors related to the presentment require dismissal of the charges; the trial court erred by permitting jurors to submit questions for the witnesses; the trial court erred by allowing spectators to remain in the courtroom while jurors reviewed the defendant's videotaped statement as part of their deliberations; the trial court should have dismissed the presentment due to constitutional deficiencies in the jury venire; the trial court erred by refusing to allow him to present evidence of the economic costs associated with the implementation of the death penalty; and the trial court erred by excusing those jurors who were not "death qualified." The defendant also raised a number of challenges to the death penalty in general and its application in this case specifically. Because the Criminal Court of Appeals concluded that no reversible error attended the convictions or sentences in this case and because, after a mandatory review, it believed that the sentences of death imposed in this case were not disproportionate, the court affirmed the judgments of the trial court. The court did detect, however, clerical errors that required the case be remanded for entry of corrected judgment forms.

5. Status

Appeal initiated 04/01/15; Appellant brief filed 06/15/15; State's brief filed 08/31/15; TBH Feb. 2016 in Nashville.

1. Style State v. William Whitlow Davis, Jr.

2. Docket Number E2013-02073-SC-R11-CD

3. Lower Court Decision Link

https://www.tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/daviswilliamwopn.pdf

4. Lower Court Summary

The defendant, William Whitlow Davis, Jr., pleaded guilty to first offense driving under the influence of an intoxicant with a blood alcohol level of .08 percent or more and reserved as a certified question the propriety of the vehicle stop leading to his arrest. Determining that the evidence does not preponderate against the trial court's findings in its order denying the motion to suppress, we affirm the judgment of the trial court.

5. Status Heard 9/09/15 in Knoxville.

1. Style State v. Willie Duncan

2. Docket Number W2013-02554-SC-R11-CD

3. Lower Court http://www.tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/duncanwillieopn.pdf
Decision Link

4. Lower Court Summary

Appellant, Willie Duncan, was convicted by a Shelby County jury of especially aggravated kidnapping, especially aggravated robbery, aggravated robbery, aggravated burglary, and employing a firearm during the commission of a dangerous felony. On appeal, Appellant raises several issues: 1) the indictment for the charge of employing a firearm during the commission of a dangerous felony is defective for failing to name the underlying felony; 2) the jury instructions on the charge of employing a firearm during the commission of a dangerous felony were improper; 3) the evidence presented at trial was insufficient to support the convictions; 4) a statement about Appellant's juvenile record requires a new trial under plain error review; 5) the trial court abused its discretion by imposing excessive sentences; and 6) the trial court abused its discretion by imposing partially consecutive sentences. Upon review of the record, we find that the evidence is sufficient to support Appellant's convictions, that the statement about Appellant's juvenile record does not constitute plain error, and that the trial court did not abuse its discretion in sentencing Appellant. However, we find that the indictment for employing a firearm during the commission of a dangerous felony is fatally flawed for failing to name the predicate felony. We also note a clerical error on the judgment form for the charge of aggravated robbery which requires remand for the entry of a corrected judgment. Therefore, we affirm the trial court's judgments in part, reverse and dismiss in part, and affirm and remand in part.

5. Status Application granted 02/13/15; Appellant brief filed 03/16/15; Appellee brief filed 05/12/15; TBH 11/04/15.

1. Style Adam Ellithorpe, et al. v. Janet Weismark

2. Docket Number M2014-00279-SC-R11-CV

3. Lower Court http://www.tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/ellithorpea.opn_.pdf Decision Link

4. Lower Court Summary

Parents and minor child brought this action against a licensed clinical social worker, alleging that the social worker provided counseling to the minor child in violation of a court order. The social worker moved to dismiss the complaint for failure to comply with the Tennessee Health Care Liability Act's procedural requirements. The trial court found that the complaint sounded in health care liability and accordingly dismissed it in its entirety. The Court of Appeals concluded that the trial court applied an improper standard in dismissing the complaint, vacated the judgment, and remanded for further proceedings.

5. Status Heard 06/03/15 in Nashville.

1. Style Rogelynn Emory v. Memphis City School Bd. of Educ., n/k/a Shelby Cnty. Bd.

of Educ.

2. Docket Number W2014-01293-SC-R11-CV

3. Lower Court

Decision Link http://tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/emoryrogelynnopn.pdf

4. Lower Court Summary

This is an appeal by a tenured teacher seeking relief for the school board's failure to comply with the procedures set forth in the Tennessee Teacher Tenure Act for her termination. After receiving notice of charges pending against her, the teacher demanded a hearing before the school board. Pursuant to the Tenure Act, the school board was required to conduct a hearing on the charges within thirty days of the teacher's demand. The school board failed to do so. The trial court held that because the delay did not affect the outcome of the hearing, the school board's failure to comply with the Tenure Act was harmless and the teacher was not entitled to relief. On appeal, we conclude that Ms. Emory is entitled to an award of back pay for the number of days over thirty that she was suspended without pay and without a hearing following her demand for a hearing. We therefore reverse the judgment of the trial court and remand the case for a calculation of the proper amount of damages to which the teacher is entitled.

5. Status Application Granted 9/18/15; Appellant brief due 10/18/15.

1. Style First Community Bank, N.A. v. First Tennessee Bank, N.A., et al.

2. Docket Number E2012-01422-SC-R11-CV

3. Lower Court

Decision Link

http://tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/firstcommbankopn.pdf

http://tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/communitybankopn.pdf

4. Lower Court Summary

Plaintiff brought this action against Defendants for fraud, constructive fraud, negligent misrepresentation, civil conspiracy, unjust enrichment, and violation of the Tennessee Securities Act, codified at Tennessee Code Annotated section 48-1-101, et seq. The claims arose out of the purchase of asset-backed securities that were later deemed unmarketable, causing a significant financial loss to Plaintiff. Defendants filed motions to dismiss pursuant to Rule 12.02(6), arguing that the claims were untimely, that Plaintiff failed to plead its claims with particularity, and that the losses were caused by general market conditions. Nonresident Defendants also objected to the court's personal jurisdiction. The trial court dismissed the complaint. Plaintiff appealed the dismissal to this court, and we affirmed the dismissal against Nonresident Defendants for lack of personal jurisdiction but reversed the dismissal for failure to state a claim as to the remaining defendants. In so holding, this court found that consideration of matters outside the pleadings pertaining to the running of the statute of limitations converted the motions to dismiss into one for summary judgment,

thereby requiring remand of the entire case for further discovery. The remaining defendants filed an application for permission to appeal. The Tennessee Supreme Court granted the application and remanded the case for "consideration of the trial court's alternative basis of dismissal of [the] complaint, i.e., the failure to state a cause of action or state a claim for which relief can be granted (other than on the basis of the running of the applicable statutes of limitations or repose)." Upon remand, we reverse the decision of the trial court.

5. Status Heard 05/06/15 in Knoxville.

1. Style Guy Hawkins v. Diana Le-Hawkins

2. Docket Number M2013-02068-SC-R11-CV

3. Lower Court
Decision Link http://www.tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/hawkinsg.opn_.pdf

4. Lower Court Summary

The principal issue in this appeal is whether a marital dissolution agreement the parties entered into while Wife's complaint for a legal separation was pending was enforceable in an action husband commenced for an absolute divorce six days after Wife voluntarily dismissed her complaint. In Husband's subsequent action, from which this appeal arises, Wife contested the divorce and challenged the validity of the MDA claiming it was not entered into in contemplation of Husband filing this action; she also contended it was invalid because Husband did not disclose all of his assets. The trial court found the MDA was valid because it was entered into without fraud or duress and with full knowledge of all the parties' assets, granted a divorce, and divided the marital estate pursuant to the MDA. Wife appeals, contending that the MDA does not comply with Tenn. Code Ann. § 36-4-103, which expressly directs that "a divorce may be granted on the grounds of irreconcilable differences where there has been a contest or denial, if a properly executed marital dissolution agreement is presented to the court." To constitute a properly executed marital dissolution agreement, an MDA must be entered into in compliance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 36-4-103(a)(2), which expressly requires, inter alia, that an MDA be entered into in regards to a pending divorce or in contemplation of one being filed. Wife claims that the MDA was entered into in regards to a legal separation, and not in contemplation of divorce. The language of the MDA clearly reveals that the parties expressly contemplated a divorce and that the agreement would be incorporated in any decree of divorce that may ensue. Moreover, the evidence does not preponderate against the trial court's finding that the parties entered into the MDA without fraud or duress and with full knowledge of the parties' assets; therefore, the MDA constitutes a properly executed marital dissolution agreement for purposes of this action and is a valid and binding agreement upon the parties. Accordingly, we affirm.

5. Status Heard 10/01/15 in Nashville.

1. Style State v. James Hawkins

2. Docket Number W2012-00412-SC-DDT-DD

3. Lower Court Decision Link

http://tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/hawkinsjamesdpopn.pdf

4. Lower Court Summary

Defendant, James Hawkins, appeals from his Shelby County Criminal Court jury convictions of premeditated first degree murder, see T.C.A. ' 39-13-202(a)(1); initiating a false report, see id. § 39-16-502, a Class D felony; and abuse of a corpse, see id. § 39-17-312, a Class E felony. The jury sentenced Defendant to death for the first degree murder conviction based upon its findings that the defendant was previously convicted of one (1) or more felonies whose statutory elements involve the use of violence to the person, see id. § 39-13-204(i)(2); and that the defendant knowingly mutilated the body of the victim after death, see id. § 39-13-204(i)(13); and that these aggravating circumstances outweighed any mitigating circumstances beyond a reasonable doubt. For the remaining felonies, the trial court imposed an effective sentence of 18 years' incarceration to be served consecutively to the death sentence. On appeal, Defendant alleges that (1) the trial court erred by denying Defendant's motion to suppress his statements given to the police; (2) the trial court erred by refusing to accept Defendant's guilty pleas to counts two and three of the indictment; (3) the trial court erred by admitting statements made by the victim through the victim's children, through Melvin Gaither, and through an application for order of protection; (4) the trial court erred by admitting evidence of other acts in violation of Tennessee Rule of Evidence 404(b); (5) the trial court erred by admitting photographs of bone fragments taken from the victim;(6) the trial court erred by admitting crime scene photographs that had not been provided during pretrial discovery; (7) the trial court erred by permitting improper closing argument by the State; (8) the evidence is insufficient to support Defendant's conviction of first degree murder; (9) the trial court erred by not requiring the State to provide discovery concerning an ongoing investigation of sexual abuse committed by Defendant's father against Defendant's sisters for use in the penalty phase of the trial; (10) the trial court erred by denying Defendant's special jury instruction request to charge the jury on the presumption that any sentence imposed for the first degree murder conviction would be carried out according to the laws of this State; (11) myriad aspects of Tennessee's death penalty statutes and procedure are unconstitutional in general and as applied to Defendant; (12) the trial court imposed an excessive sentence in both length and manner of service relative to the sentences for filing a false report and abuse of a corpse; and (13) the cumulative effect of these errors violated Defendant's right to due process. As an additional issue, Defendant alleges that the trial court erred by denying his petition for writ of error coram nobis. Following oral argument at the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at the University of Memphis and this court's full consideration, we affirm the judgments of the trial court.

5. Status Appeal initiated 9/25/15.

1. Style State v. Thomas Lee Hutchison

2. Docket Number E2012-02671-SC-R11-CD

3. Lower Court http://www.tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/hutchisonthomasleeopn_0.pdf
http://www.tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/hutchinsonthomasleeoon.pdf

4. Lower Court Summary

This case concerns the February 19, 2002 murder and robbery of the victim, Gary Lindsey. The victim was killed in appellant's home, and the police arrested appellant for the crime. On December 11, 2007, a Knox County grand jury indicted appellant for premeditated murder, murder in the perpetration of robbery, murder in the perpetration of theft, and especially aggravated robbery. Prior to trial, appellant moved the court, in separate pleadings, to suppress blood evidence taken from appellant without a warrant and to suppress all evidence seized from appellant's house during a warrantless search. The trial court denied both motions. On or around November 19, 2010, the State notified appellant that physical evidence in his case had been inadvertently destroyed by the Knoxville Police Department ("KPD"). Consequently, appellant moved the court to dismiss the indictment based on the destruction of evidence. The trial court heard appellant's motion to dismiss the indictment on February 25, 2011, and subsequently denied the motion. On May 27, 2011, appellant filed a motion requesting that the trial court reconsider the previously filed motions to suppress evidence. The trial court granted the motion to reconsider but ultimately denied the motions to suppress by written order filed July 13, 2011. The matter proceeded to trial on August 8, 2011, and the jury found appellant guilty of three counts of the lesser included offense of facilitation of first degree murder and one count of the lesser included offense of facilitation of especially aggravated robbery.

5. Status

Heard 05/27/15 at Boys State SCALES Project in Cookeville.

1. Style

State v. Rhakim Martin

2. Docket Number

W2013-02013-SC-R11-CD

3. Lower Court Decision Link

https://www.tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/martinrhakimopn.pdf

4. Lower Court Summary

The defendant, Rhakim Martin, was convicted by a Shelby County Criminal Court jury of carjacking, a Class B felony, and employment of a firearm during the commission of a dangerous felony, a Class C felony, and was sentenced to an effective term of sixteen years in the Tennessee Department of Correction. On appeal, he argues that: (1) his conviction for employing a firearm during a dangerous felony violates the terms of Tennessee Code Annotated section 39-17-1324(c) and the prohibitions against double jeopardy; (2) the failure to name the predicate felony in the indictment for employment of a firearm during the commission of a dangerous felony voids the conviction; (3) the trial court erred in denying his motion to suppress the victim's identification of him; (4) the evidence is insufficient to sustain his convictions; and (5) the trial court committed plain error by failing to charge the jury on possession of a firearm during the commission of a dangerous felony as a lesser included offense of employing a firearm during the commission of a dangerous felony. After review, we affirm the judgments of the trial court.

5. Status

Application granted 05/15/15; Appellant brief filed 06/16/15; Appellee's brief filed 07/14/15; Supplemental record filed 08/18/15; TBH 11/04/15 in Jackson.

1. Style State v. Kenneth McCormick

2. Docket Number M2013-02189-SC-R11-CD

3. Lower Court Decision Link

http://tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/revisedmccormick.pdf

4. Lower Court Summary

The defendant, Kenneth McCormick, was indicted for driving under the influence of an intoxicant (first offense), a Class A misdemeanor. The defendant moved to suppress the evidence against him on the basis that law enforcement lacked reasonable suspicion to effect the seizure of his parked vehicle through the activation of emergency lights. The trial court denied the motion to suppress, and the defendant was convicted after a jury trial. Because we conclude that the activation of the emergency lights was an exercise of the community caretaking function and did not constitute a seizure, we affirm the judgment of the trial

5. Status Application granted 09/25/15; Appellant brief due 10/25/15.

1. Style In re: Estate of Edward Stephen McRedmond

2. Docket Number M2013-02582-SC-R11-CV

3. Lower Court Decision Link

https://www.tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/mcredmondedwardstephenopn.pdf

4. Lower Court Summary

5.

This appeal involves a longstanding dispute among ten siblings with respect to a family business. After years of litigation, the parties agreed to dissolve the corporation that operated the family business and sell its assets. A receiver was appointed and authorized to sell the assets. The three defendant-siblings in this case placed the highest bid for the assets, and the trial court approved the sale to those three siblings. Prior to the closing of the sale, the three siblings formed a new corporation and assigned their right to purchase the assets to the newly formed corporation. Accordingly, at closing, the receiver conveyed the assets directly to the new corporation. The new corporation began conducting business just as the family business had done in the past. One of the plaintiff siblings formed another corporation and went into direct competition with the corporation that purchased the assets of the family business. The three individual siblings filed a counterclaim against the competing sibling, alleging intentional interference with business relations, breach of fiduciary duty, and that they lost the benefit of their bargain. They also sought injunctive relief against the competing sibling. Neither of the newly formed corporations was made a party to the proceedings. Following a three-day bench trial, the trial court awarded compensatory damages to each of the three siblings and entered a permanent injunction against the competing sibling. The competing sibling appeals the trial court's order on numerous grounds. For the following reasons, we reverse the trial court's order, vacate the injunction, and dismiss the counterclaim.

Status Heard 10/01/15 in Nashville.

1. Style The Metropolitan Government of Nashville-Davidson County, TN v. The Board of Zoning Appeals of Nashville and Davidson County, TN, et al. 2. Docket Number M2013-01283-SC-R11-CV 3. Lower Court Decision Link http://tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/metrov_cbs.opn_.pdf 4. Lower Court Summary Company which builds and manages billboards applied to the Metropolitan Department of Codes and Building Safety for permits to convert two static billboards to digital billboards. When the applications were denied by the Zoning Administrator, the company appealed to the Metropolitan Board of Zoning Appeals, which reversed the administrator's decision and granted the permits. The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County then filed a petition for a writ of certiorari seeking review of the Board's decision; the trial court dismissed the petition on the ground that the Metropolitan Government did not have standing to bring the proceeding. We reverse the decision and remand for further proceedings. 5. Status Heard 06/03/15 in Nashville. 1. Style Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. v. Carlton J. Ditto, et al. 2. Docket Number E2012-02292-SC-R11-CV 3. Lower Court **Decision Link** http://www.tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/dittoopn.pdf 4. Lower Court Summary This appeal involves the purchase of property at a tax sale. MERS filed suit against Purchaser to invalidate his purchase of property because it had not received notice of the sale even though it was listed as a beneficiary or nominee on the deed of trust. Purchaser claimed that MERS was not entitled to notice because MERS did not have an interest in the property. Purchaser also alleged that MERS failed to properly commence its lawsuit because it did not remit the proper funds pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated section 67-5-2504(c). The trial court refused to set aside the tax sale, holding that the applicable notice requirements were met and that Purchaser was the holder of legal title to the property. MERS appeals. We affirm the decision of the trial court. Heard 05/05/15 in Knoxville. 5. Status 1. Style Rashe Moore v. State

W2013-00674-SC-R11-PC

2.

Docket Number

3. Lower Court Decision Link

http://www.tsc.state.tn.us/sites/default/files/moorerasheopn.pdf

4. Lower Court Summary

In this post-conviction appeal, the Petitioner contends that he received the ineffective assistance of counsel at trial because trial counsel was deficient in failing to file a written motion requesting jury instructions on lesser-included offenses and that this failure resulted in prejudice because it precluded appellate review of the trial court's refusal to instruct the jury on any lesser-included offenses. After a review of the record and the applicable authorities, we reverse the judgment of the post-conviction court with respect to trial counsel'sfailure to file a written motion requesting an instruction on lesser-included offenses of especially aggravated kidnapping. We affirm the judgment in all other respects.

5. Status

Application granted 04/13/15; Appellant brief filed 05/21/15; Appellee brief filed 07/30/15; Appellant reply brief filed 08/25/15; TBH 11/04/15 in Jackson.

1. Style

Pervis Tyrone Payne v. State

2. Docket Number

W2013-01248-SC-R11-PD

3. Lower Court Decision Link

http://www.tsc.state.tn.us/sites/default/files/paynepervisopn.pdf http://www.tsc.state.tn.us/sites/default/files/paynepervisopndissent.pdf

4. Lower Court Summary

The Petitioner, Pervis Tyrone Payne, appeals from the Shelby County Criminal Court's denial of his petition for writ of error coram nobis in which he challenged his death sentence resulting from his 1988 convictions for first degree murder. On appeal, the Petitioner contends that he is entitled to coram nobis relief because he is intellectually disabled and, therefore, ineligible for the death penalty. We affirm the judgment of the trial court.

5. Status

Heard 09/30/15 at SCALES Project in Lebanon.

1. Style

Edward Martin v. Gregory Powers, et al.

2. Docket Number

M2014-00647-SC-R11-CV

3. Lower Court Decision Link

http://tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/martine.opn .pdf

4. Lower Court Summary

Holder of an automobile liability insurance policy brought suit to recover for injuries sustained after being struck by a driver in a rental vehicle. The policy holder also sought coverage under the uninsured motorist coverage provision of his policy. Insurance carrier filed answer denying coverage and moved for summary judgment, contending that the policyholder was not entitled to coverage because the vehicle involved in the incident was owned by a rental car agency and, consequently, his damages did not arise out of the ownership, maintenance or use of an uninsured motor vehicle as required by the policy. The

trial court held that the rental car agency was a self-insurer under Tennessee law and, consequently, the vehicle was not an "uninsured motor vehicle," and granted the carrier's motion. Policyholder appeals; finding no error, we affirm the judgment.

5. Status Application granted 08/13/15; Appellant brief filed 09/14/15; Appellee brief due 10/14/15.

1. Style State of Tennessee v. Jimmy Dale Qualls

2. Docket Number W2013-01440-SC-R11-CD

3. Lower Court **Decision Link**

http://www.tsc.state.tn.us/sites/default/files/quallsjimmydaleopn.pdf

4. Lower Court Summary

> The Defendant, Jimmy Dale Qualls, was convicted by a Hardeman County Circuit Court jury of thirty-seven counts of sexual battery by an authority figure, Class C felonies. See T.C.A. § 39-13-527 (2010). The trial court sentenced the Defendant as a Range I, standard offender to five years for each conviction and ordered partial consecutive sentences. The thirty-seven counts were separated into seven groups for sentencing purposes. Group A contained Counts 1 through 6, Group B contained Counts 7 and 8, Group C contained Counts 9 through 14, Group D contained Counts 15 though 20, Group E contained Counts 21 through 26, Group F contained Counts 27 through 32, and Group G contained Counts 33 to 37. The court ordered each group to run consecutively to each other, for an effective thirty-five-year sentence. The court further ordered the effective thirtyfive-year sentence. On appeal, he contends that the State failed to make a proper election of the offenses and that the evidence is insufficient to support his convictions. We conclude that the State failed to make an adequate election of the offenses, and we reverse the judgments of the trial court and remand the case for a new trial.

5. Status

Application granted 01/15/15; Appellant brief filed 02/23/15; Appellee brief filed 03/25/15; TBH 11/04/15 in Jackson.

1. Style Board of Professional Responsibility v. Connie Reguli

2. Docket Number M2015-00406-SC-R3-BP

3. Lower Court Decision Link N/A

4. Lower Court Summary

N/A

5. Status Heard 10/01/15 in Nashville.

1.	Style	State of Tennessee v. Corrin Kathleen Reynolds
2.	Docket Number	E2013-02309-SC-R11-CD
3.	Lower Court Decision Link	http://tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/reynoldscorrinopn2.pdf http://tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/reynoldscorrinkathleencon.pdf
4.	Lower Court Summary	Defendant, Corrin Kathleen Reynolds, was charged with several criminal offenses, including driving under the influence, after she was involved in a fatal car accident in Knox County. While Defendant was at the hospital being treated for her injuries, a blood sample was taken for law enforcement purposes. Defendant filed motions seeking to suppress the results of the blood analysis. After two hearings, the trial court granted Defendant's motion. The trial court and this Court granted the State's request to pursue an interlocutory appeal. After a thorough review of the record and applicable law, we determine that the record supports the trial court's conclusion that Defendant did not give actual consent to the contested blood draw. However, the record preponderates against the trial court's conclusion that Officer Strzelecki lacked probable cause to believe that Defendant had consumed alcohol. Therefore, we determine that the warrantless blood draw was proper under subsection (f)(1) of the implied consent statute because Defendant did not refuse the blood draw. Accordingly, Defendant's blood test results are not subject to suppression on the grounds argued; we reverse the trial court's grant of Defendant's motion to suppress and remand this matter for further proceedings.
5.	Status	Heard 09/30/15 at SCALES Project in Lebanon.
1.	Style	James D. R. Roberts, Jr. v. BPR
2.	Docket Number	M2015-01793-SC-R3-BP
3.	Lower Court Decision Link	N/A
4.	Lower Court Summary	N/A
5.	Status	Notice of Appeal filed 9/11/15.
1.	Style	Michelle Rye, et al. v. Women's Care Center of Memphis, MPLLC, et al.
2.	Docket Number	W2013-00804-SC-R11-CV
3.	Lower Court Decision Link	http://tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/ryemopn.pdf
4.	Lower Court Summary	This interlocutory appeal concerns the trial court's grant of partial summary judgment to the Defendant/Appellee medical providers on various issues. The

Plaintiff/Appellant couple filed a complaint for damages stemming from the medical providers' failure to administer a RhoGAM injection during wife's pregnancy. The couple alleged causes of action for compensatory damages associated with medical malpractice, negligent infliction of emotional distress, and disruption of family planning. The trial court granted summary judgment to the medical providers on the wife's claim for future medical expenses, husband's claim for negligent infliction of emotional distress, and the couple's claim for disruption of family planning. The trial court declined to grant summary judgment on wife's physical injury claim, her negligent infliction of emotional distress claim, and the claim that wife could present evidence of the disruption of her family planning as evidence in her negligent infliction of emotional distress claim. We reverse the trial court's grant of summary judgment on wife's claim for future medical expenses associated with future pregnancy and husband's claim for negligent infliction of emotional distress, which he may support with evidence concerning the disruption of the couple's family planning. The trial court's ruling is affirmed in all other respects. Affirmed in part, reversed in part, and remanded.

5. Status Heard 03/04/15 in Jackson.

1. Style State v. Linzey Danielle Smith

2. Docket Number M2013-02818-SC-R11-CD

3. Lower Court Decision Link

https://www.tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/smithlinzeydanielleopn.pdf https://www.tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/smithlinzeydis.pdf

4. Lower Court Summary

Defendant, Linzey Danielle Smith, entered a plea of guilty to the offense of driving while her blood or breath alcohol concentration was 0.08% or more (DUI) in violation of T.C.A. § 55-10-401(2), but explicitly reserved the right to appeal a certified question of law pursuant to Tenn. R. Crim. P. 37(b)(2)(A). The certified question of law limits this court to the following narrow issue: whether probable cause that Defendant had committed the Class C misdemeanor offense described in T.C.A. § 55-8-123(1) (a driver must maintain a vehicle entirely within a single lane "as nearly as practicable") authorized a stop of Defendant's vehicle by a state trooper or, alternatively, whether the trooper had reasonable suspicion, based on specific and articulable facts, that Defendant had committed or was about to commit the Class C misdemeanor offense set forth in T.C.A. § 55-8-123(1). Based upon the General Assembly's classification as a criminal offense the failure of a driver to maintain her vehicle totally within a single lane of traffic "as nearly as practicable" and guidance from our supreme court's decision in State v. Brotherton, 323 S.W.3d 866 (Tenn. 2010), we affirm the judgment of the trial court.

5. Status Heard

Heard 09/30/15 at SCALES Project in Lebanon.

1. Style State v. Michael Smith

2. Docket Number W2013-01190-SC-R11-CD

3.	Lower Court
	Decision Link

http://www.tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/smithmopn.pdf

4. Lower Court Summary

A Shelby County jury found the Defendant, Michael Smith, guilty of aggravated assault and evading arrest. The trial court sentenced the Defendant to ten years for the aggravated assault conviction and eleven months and twenty-nine daysfor the evading arrest conviction. The trial court ordered the sentences to run consecutively. The Defendant asserts that: (1) the trial court committed plain error by failing to compel an election in count one; (2) the indictment for aggravated assault fails to state an offense; (3) the trial court improperly allowed the victim to testify about the Defendant's prior bad acts; (4) the trial court improperly denied the Defendant's request for a mistrial after the State explored the Defendant's conviction and defense in an unrelated case; (5) the trial court committed plain error when it failed to compel the State to provide the trial court an audio recording of the victim's statement; (6) the trial court improperly instructed the jury on flight; (7) the trial court improperly ruled that the Defendant's prior convictions could be used for impeachment purposes should he testify at trial; (8) the evidence is insufficient to sustain his conviction for evading arrest; (9) the trial court abused its discretion when it denied the Defendant's request to sit at counsel table; and (10) his sentence is excessive. After a thorough review of the record and the applicable law, we affirm the trial court's judgments.

5. Status

Application granted 12/18/14; Appellant brief filed 01/26/15; Appellee brief filed 02/27/15; TBH 11/05/15 in Memphis.

med 02/27/13; 1BH 11/03/13 iii Wieinpins.

1. Style

Lea Ann Tatham v. Bridgestone Americas Holding, Inc. et al. (Kirby, J. n.p.)

2. Docket Number

W2013-02604-SC-R11-CV

3. Lower Court Decision Link

n/a

4. Lower Court Summary

Now pending before the Court is the application for an interlocutory appeal filed in this matter by Applicants Bridgestone Retail Operations, LLC and GITI Tire (USA) Ltd. on November 27, 2013, pursuant to Rule 9 of the Tennessee Rules of Appellate Procedure. Respondent Lea Ann Tatham filed a response in opposition to the application on December 9, 2013. Upon due consideration, the Court hereby denies the application. Costs of this matter are assessed to Applicants Bridgestone Retail Operations, LLC and Gill Tire (USA) Ltd. and their surety for which execution may issue, if necessary.

5. Status

Heard 01/08/15 in Knoxville.

1. Style

Starlink Logistics, Inc. v. ACC, LLC, et al.

2. Docket Number

M2014-00362-SC-R11-CV

3. Lower Court Decision Link

http://tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/starklinklogisticsv.acc_llcopn.pdf

4. Lower Court Summary

This appeal stems from an environmental dispute involving the Appellant, StarLink Logistics Inc. ("StarLink"), the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation ("TDEC"), and Appellee ACC, LLC ("ACC"). StarLink appeals the trial court's affirmance of an order of the Tennessee Solid Waste Disposal Control Board ("Board"), which had adopted a consent order entered into between TDEC and ACC. We affirm in part, and remand the case to the trial court for further remand to the Board for further proceedings consistent with this Opinion.

5. Status

Application granted 08/21/15; Appellant brief filed 9/21/15; Appellee brief due 10/21/15.

1. Style

The Tennesseean, et al. v. Metro Gov't of Nashville and Davidson Co., et al.

2. Docket Number

M2014-00524-SC-R11-CV

3. Lower Court Decision Link

http://tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/thetennesseanv.metropolitangov.opn .pdf

http://tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/thetennesseanv.metropolitangov.dissent.opn_.pdf

4. Lower Court Summary

Various media outlets made request under the Tennessee Public Records Act for access to records accumulated and maintained by the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department in the course of its investigation and prosecution of an alleged rape in a campus dormitory. When the request was refused, the outlets a filed petition in Chancery Court in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated § 10-7-505; the State of Tennessee, District Attorney General and alleged victim were permitted to intervene. The court held the required show cause hearing and, following an in camera inspection, granted petitioners access to four categories of records and documents. Petitioners, as well asthe Metropolitan Government and Intervenors appeal, raising numerous and various statutory and constitutional issues. We have determined that the records sought are currently exempt from disclosure due to the continuing police investigation and pending prosecution; accordingly, we reverse the judgment of the Chancery Court and dismiss the petition.

5. Status

Heard 05/28/15 at Girls State SCALES Project in Nashville.

1. Style Stephanie D. Turner v. Kevin Turner

2. Docket Number W2013-01833-SC-R11-CV

3. Lower Court Decision Link

http://www.tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/turnerkopn.pdf http://www.tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/turnerkcur.pdf

4. Lower Court

Summary

Father appealed the trial court's order setting aside its prior judgment terminating Mother's parental rights. After a hearing, the trial court ruled that Father's failure to comply with the statutory notice requirements rendered the termination judgment void. Discerning no error, Court of Appeals affirmed

5. Status Heard 06/02/15 in Nashville.

1. Style Vodafone Americas Holdings, Inc. v. Richard H. Roberts

2. Docket Number M2013-00947-SC-R11-CV

3. Lower Court Decision Link

http://www.tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/vodafoneopn.pdf http://www.tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/vodafonedissent.opn .pdf

4. Lower Court Summary

At issue in this case is the methodology by which multi-state taxpayers are to compute their liability for franchise and excise taxes to Tennessee and, specifically, the authority of the Commissioner of Revenue to require the taxpayers to use an apportionment methodology other than the standard cost of performance methodology codified in Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 67-4-2012 and 67-4-2110. Plaintiffs, taxpayers that provide wireless communication and data services within and without Tennessee, contend they are entitled to apportion their receipts (income) based upon Tennessee's standard apportionment formulas because the majority of their "earnings producing activities" occurred in a state other than Tennessee. The Commissioner of Revenue disagreed, insisting that Plaintiffs' approach, even if statistically correct and derived from the language of Tenn. Code Ann. § 67-4-2012(i)(2), fails to meet the higher goal of fairly representing the business Plaintiffs derive from Tennessee. For this reason the Commissioner, acting pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 67-4-2014(a), varied the standard formula requiring Plaintiffs to include "as Tennessee sales" its receipts from service provided to customers with Tennessee billing addresses. The trial court affirmed the decision. In this appeal, Plaintiffs contend the Commissioner does not have authority to impose a variance unless "unusual fact situations," which are unique to the particular taxpayers, produce "incongruous results" unintended by Tenn. Code Ann. § 67-4-2012; they also insist that no unusual fact situations exist and that no incongruous results occurred when the statutorily-mandated cost of performance methodology was applied. We have determined that the Commissioner acted within the scope of the discretion granted to him by the statutes and rules. Therefore, Court of Appeals affirmed the trial court's decision.

5. Status Heard 06/02/15 in Nashville.

1. Style In re: Robert Lee Vogel, BPR #23374 (Lee, C.J. n.p.)

2. Docket Number M2015-00350-SC-BAR-BP

3. Lower Court
Decision Link n/a

4.	Lower Court Summary	n/a
5.	Status	Heard 09/09/15 in Knoxville.
1.	Style	Paul J. Walwyn v. BPR
2.	Docket Number	M2015-00565-SC-R3-BP
3.	Lower Court Decision Link	n/a
4.	Lower Court Summary	n/a
5.	Status	Heard 10/01/15 in Nashville.
1.	Style	State v. Thomas William Whited
2.	Docket Number	E2013-02523-SC-R11-CD
3.	Lower Court Decision Link	http://tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/whitedopn 0.pdf
		http://tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/whitedthomasdis.pdf
4.	Lower Court Summary	The defendant, Thomas William Whited, was convicted of nine counts of especially aggravated sexual exploitation of a minor, a Class B felony; one count of attempted especially aggravated sexual exploitation of a minor, a Class C felony; thirteen counts of observation without consent, a Class A misdemeanor; and one count of attempted observation without consent, a Class B misdemeanor. The defendant received an effective sentence of twenty-two years. On appeal, the defendant argues that: (1) the evidence is insufficient to support a finding that the defendant used a minor in the production of material that included the minor engaging in "sexual activity"; (2) the trial court erred in refusing to provide the jury with his proposed special instructions; (3) the trial court erred in refusing to permit cross-examination of the victims at the sentencing hearing; and (4) the trial court erred in imposing consecutive sentencing. After a thorough review of the record, the briefs of the parties, and the applicable law, we affirm the judgment of the criminal court.
5.	Status	Application granted 9/22/15; Appellant brief due 10/22/15.
1.	Style	State v. Howard Hawk Willis
2.	Docket Number	E2012-01313-SC-DDT-DD
3.	Lower Court Decision Link	http://www.tsc.state.tn.us/sites/default/files/willishowardhawkopn.pdf

4. Lower Court Summary

A Washington County jury convicted appellant, Howard Hawk Willis, of two counts of premeditated first degree murder and one count of felony murder in the perpetration of a kidnapping. Following the penalty phase, the jury sentenced appellant to death on each conviction. The trial court merged the felony murder conviction into one of the convictions for premeditated first degree murder. On appeal, appellant asserts that: (1) the trial court erred in finding that appellant implicitly waived and forfeited his right to counsel and requiring him to proceed pro se at trial; (2) the trial court erred in denying appellant's motion to suppress his statements; (3) the searches of the residence and the storage unit were unconstitutional; (4) the trial court erred in denying appellant's multiple motions to continue the trial; (5) the trial court erred in staying appellant's funding and other privileges used in preparation for trial after this court granted an interlocutory appeal; (6) the evidence is insufficient to support the convictions; (7) the trial court erred in denying appellant's ex parte motions for expert services for a crime scene expert and a false confession expert; (8) the trial court failed to apply a higher standard of due process in all aspects of the case; (9) the trial court erred in admitting certain photographs; (10) the prosecutor made improper statements during closing arguments in both phases of the trial; (11) the trial court erred in instructing the jury during the guilt phase; (12) the aggravating circumstances upon which the State relied were not stated in the indictment; (13) the trial court erred in denying appellant's motion to preclude for-cause removal of jurors who were not death qualified; (14) Tennessee's death penalty statute is unconstitutional; (15) the trial court erred in failing to advise appellant with respect to his testimony during the penalty phase; (16) the trial court failed to make an adequate inquiry into appellant's competency to waive his right to present mitigating evidence; (17) the trial court erred in instructing the jury during the penalty phase; (18) the trial court erred in admitting victim impact evidence; (19) the proportionality review is unconstitutional; and (20) cumulative error warrants reversal. Following our thorough review, we affirm the judgments of the trial court.

5. Status Heard 10/01/15 in Nashville.

1. Style State v. James D. Wooden

2. Docket Number E2014-01069-SC-R11-CD

3. Lower Court Decision Link

https://www.tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/woodenjamesopn.pdf

4. Lower Court Summary

Appellant, James D. Wooden, appeals the trial court's summary denial of his motion to correct an illegal sentence, as permitted by Tennessee Rule of Criminal Procedure 36.1, for lack of jurisdiction because the sentences have already expired. Although the trial court had jurisdiction to consider the motion, we determine Appellant has failed to state a colorable claim entitling him to relief and, therefore, affirm the denial of the motion.

5. Status Heard 9/10/15 in Knoxville.