



ROBERT E. COOPER JR.
Attorney General and Reporter

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND REPORTER

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Robert E. Cooper Jr., Attorney General and Reporter

The Office of the Attorney General and Reporter is established by Article VI, Section 5 of the Tennessee Constitution. The attorney general is appointed by the justices of the Tennessee Supreme Court for an eight-year term.

The attorney general is the chief legal officer of the state. Through his staff, he represents the interests of the state in a variety of areas. Officers and agencies of the state are represented by the attorney general in all civil litigation before state and federal courts. The attorney general prosecutes all criminal cases in the appellate courts and exercises original prosecutorial powers in the areas of securities and state contract fraud. He also has the authority to institute ouster proceedings and civil actions for antitrust violations, consumer fraud, and environmental enforcement. In addition to courtroom duties, the attorney general provides legal advice to state departments and agencies and the General Assembly. Formal opinions of the attorney general on legal issues are rendered to state officials upon request. The attorney general also approves all administrative regulations and leases as to form and legality. Finally, in the exercise of his reporter function, the attorney general reports the opinions of the Tennessee Supreme Court and Court of Appeals.

The attorney general is assisted by a chief deputy who is responsible for coordinating and supervising the work of the office, including review of substantive work, general management of the office and participation in policy formation. The attorney general is also assisted by the solicitor general who is responsible for review of opinions before submission to the attorney general and supervision and coordination of the appellate work of the office.

Organizationally, the office of the attorney general is divided into sixteen divisions headed by their respective deputies.

Robert E. Cooper Jr.

Attorney General and Reporter

Born January 19, 1957, Chattanooga, TN; Presbyterian; B.A., magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Princeton University; 1979; J.D., Yale University, 1983; Reporter, *Raleigh (N.C.) Times*, 1979-1980; law clerk for U.S. District Judge Louis F. Oberdorfer, Washington, D.C., 1983-1984; private practice, Bass, Berry & Sims, PLC, Nashville, TN 1984-2003; Vanderbilt University Law School, Adjunct Professor since 1998; Legal Counsel to Governor Phil Bredesen, 2003-2006; Tennessee Board of Law Examiners, Member 2002-2006, Assistant Bar Examiner 1994-2001; Charter Revision Commission of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Member 2000-2006, Chair 2002-2006; member of Tennessee Bar Association, Nashville Bar Association, American Bar Association, Tennessee Bar Foundation, National Association of Attorneys General, Southern Region of Attorneys General; appointed Attorney General and Reporter, November 2006.

Administrative Division: Lucy Honey Haynes, Associate Chief Deputy. This division handles administrative and fiscal matters for the office.

Antitrust Division: Dennis Garvey, Deputy. This division enforces state and federal antitrust laws on behalf of the state.

Bankruptcy Division: Kathy Celauro, Deputy. This division works with all state agencies to protect the state's interest by filing proofs of claim and administrative claims against debtors in bankruptcy.

Civil Litigation and State Services Division: Kevin Steiling, Deputy. This division represents the state's various educational agencies and institutions, the departments of General Services, Personnel, the Civil Service Commission, the Human Rights Commission, and the State Building Commission.

Civil Rights and Claims Division: Kimberly J. Dean, Deputy. This division represents the Department of Correction, the Board of Claims, and the Defense Counsel Commission. It is responsible for the defense of most civil rights suits and claims filed against the state heard by the Tennessee Claims Commission.

Consumer Advocate and Protection Division: Cynthia Kinser, Deputy. This division may intervene to represent the public interest in matters pending before the Tennessee Regulatory Authority. It also represents the Division of Consumer Affairs in investigations and litigation and handles unauthorized practice of law.

Criminal Division: Amy L. Tarkington, Deputy. This division handles all appeals from state criminal convictions and habeas corpus actions filed on behalf of inmates and interstate rendition.

Environmental Division: Barry Turner, Deputy. This division enforces environmental protection laws.

Financial Division: Gina J. Barham, Deputy. This division handles issues of government financing and represents the departments of Financial Institutions, Finance and Administration, and Commerce and Insurance.

General Civil Division: Dianne Dycus, Deputy. This division represents the departments of Human Services, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, Labor, Agriculture, and Employment Security. It also represents the Tennessee Housing Development Agency, the Fire Marshal's Office, and the Department of Military.

Health Care Division: Linda A. Ross, Deputy. This division represents the Department of Health, TennCare, the Health Facilities Commission, and Health Related Boards.

Law Enforcement & Special Prosecution Division: Michael Meyer, Deputy. This division is responsible for the prosecution of civil and criminal enforcement cases in the areas of securities fraud, environmental law, official corruption, and related white-collar fraud. The division represents the Alcoholic Beverage Commission and other law enforcement related agencies.

Real Property and Transportation Division: Larry Teague, Deputy. This division represents the Department of Transportation generally, and represents the state of Tennessee in land acquisition for all purposes.

Special Litigation Division: Steven A. Hart, Special Counsel. This division handles special litigation and assists other divisions in litigation matters.

Tax Division: Charles L. Lewis, Deputy. This division represents the Department of Revenue, the Tennessee Regulatory Authority, the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System, and the regulatory boards of the Department of Commerce and Insurance.

Tobacco Division: Russell T. Perkins, Deputy. This division enforces the 1998 Master Settlement Agreement and handles tobacco related matters.

Andy D. Bennett*

Chief Deputy Attorney General

Born Charlotte, TN. Married; one child; B.A., Vanderbilt University, 1979; J.D., Vanderbilt School of Law, 1982; assistant attorney general, 1982-86; deputy attorney general, 1986-93; associate chief deputy, 1993-97; appointed chief deputy, December 1997. Tennessee Bicentennial Foundation Board of Directors, 1993-97; Tennessee Supreme Court Historical Society Board of Directors, 1999 to present, President 2005-2007; Tennessee Bar Foundation member, 2001; National Association of Attorneys General Marvin Award recipient, 2004.

**Michael E. Moore**

Solicitor General

Born February 8, 1950, in Leominster, MA. A.B., (summa cum laude with high distinction), Dartmouth College, 1972; J.D., Stanford University, 1975; private practice, Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis, Nashville, TN, 1979-85, 1987-93; director of law for the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, 1985-87; appointed solicitor general, December 1993.



**Lucy Honey
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Associate Chief Deputy



**Leigh Ann
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Chief of Staff



Gina J. Barham

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Kathy Celauro

Deputy



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*Andy D. Bennett was appointed to the Tennessee Court of Appeals on September 18, 2007.



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