



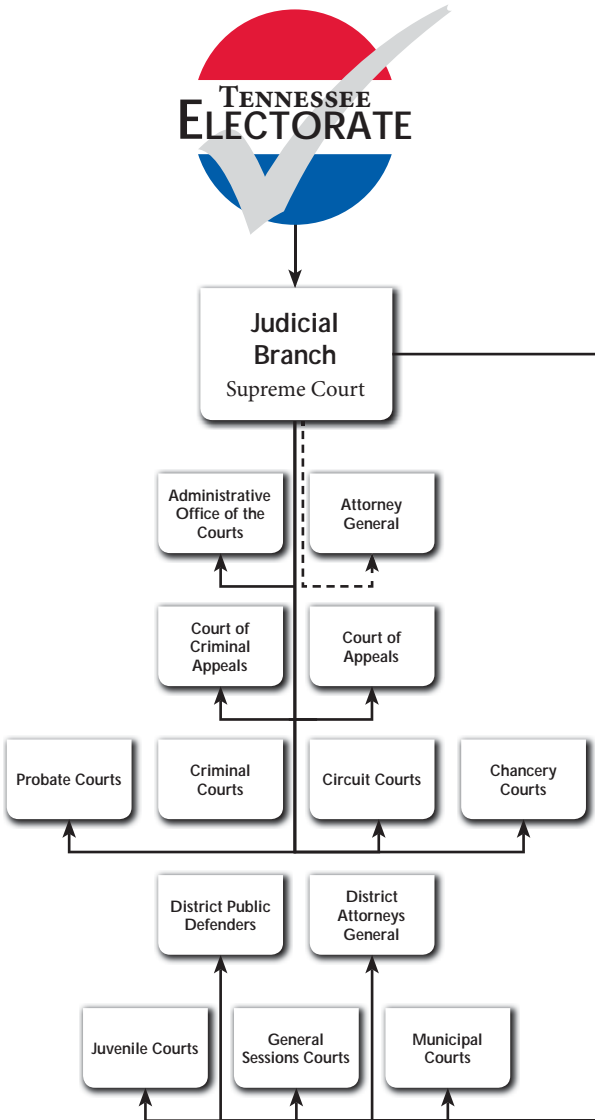
SUPREME COURT





# SECTION III

**Judicial Branch**



# Introduction

The judicial branch, one of the three basic divisions of state government, serves as a check on the powers of both the legislative and executive branches. With the power of judicial review, the courts may rule on the constitutionality of legislation passed by the General Assembly and consider the legality of administrative policies and regulations.

Tennessee’s judicial system is derived from the state constitution: “The judicial power of this state shall be vested in one Supreme Court and in such Circuit, Chancery, and other Inferior Courts as the Legislature shall from time to time, ordain and establish;...” (Article VI, Section 1, Constitution of the State of Tennessee).

Although not a part of the court system, the offices of the attorney general, district attorneys general and district public defenders are associated with the judicial branch of state government. The attorney general represents the interests of the state in litigation. The district attorneys serve as prosecuting counsel in criminal cases. Public defenders and court-appointed private attorneys represent indigent defendants.

The Supreme Court is the highest court in the state. The five justices are nominated by the Judicial Nominating Commission, appointed by the governor and retained by a “retain” or “replace” vote for eight-year terms. The majority of this court’s workload consists of cases appealed from lower state courts.

The Intermediate Appellate Courts—the Court of Appeals and Court of Criminal Appeals—hear civil and criminal cases appealed from the trial courts.

The state’s trial courts include Chancery, Criminal, Circuit and Probate Courts. Judges in these courts are chosen by popular election within their judicial districts.

The fourth level of courts in Tennessee is composed of the Courts of Limited Jurisdiction—General Sessions, Juvenile and Municipal Courts. These courts are funded by their respective counties.





# Tennessee Courts

## Supreme Court

401 Seventh Avenue North  
Nashville, TN 37219-1407  
(615) 741-2681  
[www.tncourts.gov](http://www.tncourts.gov)

The Tennessee Supreme Court is the state's highest court and the court of last resort. The court normally meets in Jackson, Knoxville, and Nashville, as required by the state constitution.

The five justices may accept appeals of civil and criminal cases from lower state courts. They also interpret the laws and Constitutions of Tennessee and the United States. The Supreme Court may assume jurisdiction over undecided cases in the Court of Appeals or Court of Criminal Appeals when there is special need for a speedy decision. The court also has appellate jurisdiction in cases involving state taxes, the right to hold public office, and issues of constitutional law.



Supreme Court Justices

Pictured in the courtroom at the Supreme Court Building in Nashville are (seated) Chief Justice Cornelia A. Clark and (standing left to right) Justices Janice M. Holder, William C. Koch, Jr., Gary R. Wade, and Sharon G. Lee.

Attorneys may present oral arguments before the Supreme Court. Unlike trials in lower courts, there are no witnesses, juries, or testimony in the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, or Court of Criminal Appeals. After the Supreme Court justices have heard oral arguments and reviewed the attorneys' written materials or briefs, they issue written decisions, called opinions. Tennessee Supreme Court opinions on constitutional issues can be appealed only to the U.S. Supreme Court, which may or may not agree to consider the appeals.

Judges of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and Court of Criminal Appeals are elected on a "retain-replace" ballot every eight years. When a vacancy occurs, the 17-member Judicial Nominating Commission interviews applicants and recommends three candidates to the governor, who appoints a new judge to serve until the next August general election. By state law, judges on the three courts must be evaluated every eight years. Results of the evaluations are published in newspapers across the state, to help voters decide whether the judges should be retained.

### **Chief Justice Cornelia A. Clark**

*318 Supreme Court Building, 401 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219*

Born September 15, 1950, Franklin, Tenn.; United Methodist; B.A., Vanderbilt University, 1971; M.A.T., Harvard University, 1972; J.D., Vanderbilt School of Law, 1979; Articles Editor and Editorial Board Member, *Vanderbilt Law Review*; Graduate, National Judicial College and New York University Appellate Judges Program; Private Practice, Farris, Warfield & Kanaday, 1979-1989; Board Member, United Methodist Publishing House, 2008 - ; Nashville Symphony Council; Brentwood Academy Advisory Board; Past Board Member, Lawyers Association for Women, Marion Griffin Chapter; Nashville Bar Association (Second Vice President); Williamson County Bar Association, Tennessee Bar Association, American Bar Association, Tennessee Lawyers Association for Women (founding member), National Association of Women Judges; American Judicature Society; Member of Nashville, Tennessee, and American Bar Foundations (Past Chair, Tennessee Bar Foundation); YWCA of Nashville and Middle Tennessee (Past President); Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee, Inc.; American Bar Association Commission on the American Jury 2004; Past Faculty Member, American Academy of Judicial Education, National Judicial College; Former Adjunct Professor, Vanderbilt University School of Law; Chairman, Tennessee Judicial Council, 2006-2010; Harry Phillips American Inn of Court; Tennessee John Marshall American Inn of Court; Dean, Tennessee Judicial Academy, 1997-1998; Board of Directors, Conference of State Court Administrators, 2004-2005; Vice President, Tennessee Judicial Conference, 1997-1998; Franklin Tomorrow, Inc. (Co-Chair, Inaugural Steering Committee); 2004 City of Franklin Charter Revision Committee (Chair); 2002-2003 City of Franklin Land Use Plan Steering Committee (Chair); Previous Member, Supreme Court Commissions on the Rules of Civil Procedure and Technology; 2010 Inductee, Nashville YWCA Academy for Women of Achievement; 2009 SEABOTA Appellate Judge of the Year; 2006 Patrons Award, Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County; 2005 Liberty Bell Award recipient from the Williamson County Bar Association; appointed Circuit Judge 21st Judicial District, October 1989; elected August 1990, re-elected August 1998; appointed Administrative Director of the Tennessee Courts, May 1999; appointed to Tennessee Supreme Court, September 2005; elected August 2006; elected Chief Justice, September 2010.

**Justice Janice M. Holder***50 Peabody Place, Suite 209, Memphis, TN 38103*

Born August 29, 1949, Canonsburg, Pa.; attended Allegheny College, 1967-1968; B.S., Summa Cum Laude, University of Pittsburgh, 1971; J.D., Duquesne University School of Law, 1975; Recent Decisions Editor, *Duquesne Law Review*, 1974-1975; Senior Law Clerk to Herbert P. Sorg, Chief Judge, U.S. District Court, Western District of Pennsylvania, 1975-1977; Memphis Bar Association (Secretary, 1993; Treasurer, 1994; Board of Directors, 1986-1987, 1993-1994); Editor, *Memphis Bar Forum*, 1987-1991; Chair, *Lawyers Helping Lawyers Committee*, 1987-1991; American Bar Association (Lawyer Impairment Project, Vice-Chair, 1987; Judicial Administration Division, 1994-present); Tennessee Bar Association (Tennessee Lawyers Concerned For Lawyers, Executive Committee, 1989-1998; House of Delegates, 1989-1991; Commission on Women and Minorities, 1992-1996; Commission Chair, 1994-1996); Association for Women Attorneys (Treasurer, 1989; Vice President, 1991); Tennessee Judicial Conference (Vice Chair, Pattern Jury Instructions Civil Committee, 1991-1997; Treasurer, 1993-1994; Executive Committee, 1993-1996); Tennessee Task Force Against Domestic Violence (State Coordinating Council, 1994-1996); American Inns of Court, Leo Bearman, Sr. American Inn of Court (Master of the Bench, 1995-1997, National Member, 1998-2000, Emeritus, 2001-present); National Association of Women Judges, 1995-present; Conference of Chief Justices, 2008-2011 (Second Vice President, 2010-2011); iCivics, 2010-present (State Chair for Tennessee, 2011-present); Tennessee Lawyers' Association for Women, Founding Member; Alliance for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Board of Directors, 1985-1994; Leadership Memphis, Class of 1993 (Co-Chair, Crime and Criminal Justice Day, 1995 and 1996); Midtown Mental Health Center, Board of Directors, Crisis Stabilization Unit, 1995-1997; Memphis Botanical Garden Foundation, Board of Trustees, 1995-2002; International Women's Forum, 1998-present; Kiwanis Club of Memphis, 2002-present; Memphis Council for International Visitors (Board of Directors, 2002-2009; Secretary, 2003-2005); Memphis Literacy Council, Volunteer Tutor, 2002-2005; member of the National Conference of Chief Justices Mass Tort Litigation Committee, 1992-1996; Silicone Gel Breast Implant Subcommittee, 1992-1996, Chair, 1996; Member, Tennessee Judicial Council, 1992-1996; appointed by the Tennessee Supreme Court as the West Tennessee Coordinating Judge of the Silicone Gel Breast Implant Cases, 1993; Recipient, Memphis Bar Association Sam A. Myar Award for Outstanding Service to the Legal Profession and to the Community, 1990; Divorce and Family Law Section of the Memphis Bar Association Judge of the Year, 1992; Memphis Bar Association's Chancellor Charles A. Rond Outstanding Jurist Award, 1992; Honorary Fellow, Tennessee Bar Association Young Lawyer Division, 1997; Fellow, Tennessee Bar Foundation, 1991 (Trustee, 1995-1999; Secretary, 1997-1999); American Bar Foundation, 1997; Memphis and Shelby County Bar Foundation, 2004; Association for Women Attorneys, Marion Griffin-Frances Loring Award, 1999; honored for exceptional support of the Tennessee Lawyers Assistance Program by the American Bar Association Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs, 1999; Honoree, Tennessee Lawyers Association for Women, 2006; Honoree, National Association of Women Judges, Southern Regional Conference honoring women leaders of state courts, 2007; St. Mark Baptist Church, Memphis, Tennessee, Community Service Award, 2008; Coalition for Mediation Awareness in Tennessee, Grayfred Gray Public Service Mediation Award, 2008; State of Tennessee House of Representatives, House Joint Resolution No. 1401, 2008; Jurist of the Year Award, Southeastern Region of the American Board of Trial Advocates, 2009; the W.J. Michael Cody Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award, Memphis Area Legal Services, 2009; honored in Shelby County, Tenn., at the "19th turns 90" Celebration



of the 90th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, 2010; Legacy Laureate, University of Pittsburgh, 2010; elected Circuit Court Judge, 30th Judicial District at Memphis, Division II, 1990; appointed, Supreme Court of Tennessee, December 1996, elected August 1998, re-elected 2006; elected Chief Justice, September 2008-August 2010.

### **Justice Gary R. Wade**

*505 Main Street, Suite 200, Knoxville, TN 37902*

Born May 31, 1948, Knox County, Tenn. Married; three children; four grandchildren; Methodist; B.S. University of Tennessee, 1970; J. D. University of Tennessee College of Law, 1973; private practice of law 1973-1987; Member, University of Tennessee Chancellor's Associates, 1988-1991; University of Tennessee College of Arts and Sciences Board of Visitors; University of Tennessee College of Law Dean's Circle; UT Development Council; Tennessee Bar Association, Past Member, House of Delegates and Board of Governors; American Bar Association, Convention Delegate; Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association; Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; American Inns of Court; Fellow, Tennessee Bar Foundation; Tennessee Sentencing Commission 1990-1994; Tennessee Judicial Conference, Executive Committee 1990-1997; President, Tennessee Judicial Conference, 1995-1996; President of Eta South Province, Phi Delta Theta Fraternity, 1990-1997; Past President of Sevierville Lions Club; Chairman of Sevier County Heart Association, 1984-1986; Recipient of 1987 American Heart Association Presidential Award; 1987 Key to the City of Sevierville; 1987 Sevierville Chamber of Commerce Award; Mountain Press Mover and Shaker of the Year, 1983-1985 and 1997; Gary R. Wade Boulevard, 1987; Mayor, City of Sevierville, 1977-1987; Honorary Chair, Boys & Girls Club of the Smoky Mountains 1996 Financial Campaign; Board of Directors, United Way of Greater Knoxville Campaign Cabinet, 1997; Board of Directors, Tennessee's Resource Valley; Friends of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Chairman Emeritus, President, 1993-2005, Board Chair 2005-2006; Leadership Knoxville Class of 1995-1996; Leadership Sevier Class of 1997; Leadership Sevier Board of Directors, President, 2001; Knoxville Zoological Gardens Board of Directors, 2000-2006, Vice Chair, 2002-2004, Chair, 2005-2006; 2004 Citizen of the Year, Sevierville Chamber of Commerce; Appellate Judge of the Year, American Board of Trial Advocates, 2004; Knoxville Bar Association Judicial Excellence Award, 2004; East Tennessee Regional Leadership Award, 2006; Walters State Community College Foundation Board of Trustees, President 2005-2006; Pellissippi State Technical Community College President's Associates; Board of Directors, East Tennessee Historical Society; 2007 United States Department of Interior Citizens Award for Exceptional Service; appointed to Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals, 1987; elected 1988; re-elected 1990 and 1998; Presiding Judge 1998-2006. Appointed to the Tennessee Supreme Court May 30, 2006; elected 2008.

### **Justice William C. Koch, Jr.**

*321 Supreme Court Building, 401 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219*

Born Sept. 12, 1947, Honolulu, Hawaii; Married; Episcopalian; B.A., Trinity College, Hartford, Conn., 1969; J.D., Vanderbilt University, 1972; LL.M., University of Virginia, 1996; American, Tennessee, and Nashville Bar Associations; American Inns of Court Foundation, Board of Trustees, 2000-2004, Secretary, 2004-2008, Leadership Council, 2008-present; Harry Phillips American Inn of Court, 1990-present; American Bar Association, Appellate Judges Conference, Executive Committee, 2008-2010; United Way of Metropolitan Nashville, Board of Trustees 1981-present), President (2003-2004); Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, Board of Trustees,

2005-present; Nashville Rotary Club, 2000-present; Tennessee Bar Foundation, 1993-present; Nashville Bar Foundation, 1993-present; American Judicature Society; Baptist Hospital Ethics Committee, 1994-2003; Baptist Hospital Institutional Review Committee, 1991-1994; Instructor in Constitutional Law, Nashville School of Law, 1997-present; Adjunct Instructor, Vanderbilt University School of Law, 1988-1995; Co-Chair, Tennessee Supreme Court Advisory Commission on Technology, 1997-2001; Assistant Attorney General, 1972-1976; Senior Assistant Attorney General, 1976-1977; Deputy Attorney General, 1977-1978; Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Personnel, 1979-1981; Counsel to Governor Lamar Alexander, 1981-1984; appointed to Court of Appeals in June 1984; elected in August 1984; re-elected in August 1990, 1998 and 2006; Presiding Judge, Middle Section of the Court of Appeals, 2003-2007; appointed to the Supreme Court in June 2007; elected in August 2008.

### **Justice Sharon G. Lee**

*505 Main Street, Suite 200, Knoxville, TN 37902*

Born December 8, 1953, Knoxville, Tenn.; two children; B.S., University of Tennessee, 1975; J.D., University of Tennessee College of Law, 1978; Graduate, New York University Appellate Judges Program; private practice, Madisonville, Tenn., 1978-2004; Former County Attorney for Monroe County, City Judge for Madisonville, City Attorney for Vonore and Madisonville; Rule 31 listed family mediator; Former Adjunct Faculty, University of Tennessee College of Law; Member of the Tennessee Bar Association (House of Delegates), American Bar Foundation, Tennessee Bar Foundation, Knoxville Bar Foundation, Tennessee Judicial Conference (Executive Committee), Tennessee Lawyers' Association for Women (Director), East Tennessee Lawyers' Association for Women (President), Monroe County Bar Association (President, Vice President and Secretary), National Association of Women Judges (Director), Knoxville Executive Women's Association (Secretary), Boys & Girls Club of Monroe Area (Board of Directors), YWCA Knoxville (Board of Directors), Sequoyah Birthplace Museum (Board of Directors), Tennessee College of Law, Alumni Advisory Council; Webb School of Knoxville Distinguished Alumni Award, Recipient of the Spotlight Award from the National Association of Women Judges, Spirit of Justice Award from the East Tennessee Lawyers Association for Women; Recognized as a Woman of Achievement by the Girl Scouts Council for the Southern Appalachians, Honoree of Tribute to Women by YWCA Knoxville, Co-author of Opening and Closing Arguments; appointed to Tennessee Court of Appeals, Eastern Section, June 4, 2004; elected August 2004; re-elected in August 2006; appointed to the Tennessee Supreme Court, October 2, 2008; elected August 2010.

## **Intermediate Appellate Courts**

### **Court of Appeals**

Created by the General Assembly in 1925, the Court of Appeals hears appeals in civil—or non-criminal—cases from trial courts and certain state boards and commissions. The court has 12 members who sit in panels of three in Jackson, Knoxville and Nashville. All decisions made by the Court of Appeals may be appealed, by permission, to the Tennessee Supreme Court. As in all three appellate courts, Court of Appeals hearings do not include witnesses, juries or testimony. Instead, attorneys present oral and written arguments.



Pictured above are (seated from left) David R. Farmer, Patricia J. Cottrell, Presiding Judge Herschel P. Franks, Alan E. Highers, and Charles D. Susano, Jr.; (standing from left) Holly M. Kirby, Richard H. Dinkins, Andy D. Bennett, John W. McClarty, Frank G. Clement, Jr., D. Michael Swiney, and J. Steven Stafford

Court of Appeals judges are elected on a “retain-replace” ballot every eight years. When a vacancy occurs on the intermediate appellate court, the 17-member Judicial Nominating Commission interviews applicants and recommends three candidates to the governor, who appoints a new judge to serve until the next August general election.

As with judges on the Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeals, members of the Court of Appeals must, by state law, be evaluated every eight years. Results of the evaluations are published in newspapers across the state to help voters decide whether the judges should be retained.

## Western Section

### Alan E. Highers

*Supreme Court Building, P.O. Box 909, Jackson, TN 38302*

Born July 5, 1937, Muskogee, Okla.; Married; two children; Church of Christ; A.A. and LL.D., Freed-Hardeman University; B.A., David Lipscomb University; J.D., University of Memphis School of Law; admitted to Bar, 1968; private practice, 1968-1973; Lecturer, University of Memphis School of Law, 1972; Recipient of Outstanding Alumnus of the Year Award by Freed-Hardeman University, 1977; Special Judge and Referee at Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County, 1973-1977; Circuit Court Judge in Memphis, 1977-1982; selected Judge of the Year by National Reciprocal and Family Support Enforcement Association (NRFSEA) in Washington, D.C., 1982; Faculty, National College of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Reno, Nev., 1980-1985; Tennessee Judicial Conference, Secretary, 1978-1979, Vice President, 1981-1982, President, 1984-1985, Member of Executive Committee for ten years; appointed to Court of Appeals, September 1982; elected August 1984; re-elected August 1990, 1998 and 2006; Presiding Judge, Court of Appeals, Western Section, November 2007-present.

### David R. Farmer

*Supreme Court Building, P.O. Box 909, Jackson, TN 38302*

Born Dec. 6, 1940, Springfield, Mo.; Married; two children; Methodist; B.B.A., University of Memphis, 1963; J.D., University of Memphis School of Law, 1966; admitted to Bar, 1966; Union

Carbide Corp., 1966-1968; private practice in Jackson, 1968-1986; President, Jackson-Madison County Bar Association, 1980; Tennessee Defense Lawyers Association, director, 1977-1980, Secretary Treasurer, 1983-1984, Vice President, 1985; Fellow, Tennessee Bar Foundation; Howell Edmunds Jackson American Inn of Court; Member of United States Army Reserve, 1966-1972; appointed to Court of Appeals 1986; elected 1986; re-elected 1990, 1998 and 2006.

### **Holly M. Kirby**

*5050 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN 38157*

Born in 1957, Memphis, Tenn.; Married, two children; Presbyterian; Graduate of Columbia Central High School, Columbia, Tenn.; B.S. in Engineering, University of Memphis, 1979 (Magna Cum Laude, Herff and Honors Alumni Scholarship); J.D., University of Memphis School of Law, 1982 (Herff Scholarship; Law Review, Notes Editor); admitted to bar in 1982; Law Clerk to the Honorable Harry W. Wellford, Sixth Circuit, U.S. Court of Appeals, 1982-1983; practiced law in Memphis, 1983-1995 (first female partner in law firm Burch, Porter & Johnson); Tennessee Appellate Court Nominating Commission, 1989-1994, Chairperson, 1994; Leo Bearman, Sr. American Inn of Court, 1995-1998; University of Memphis Award for Outstanding Young Alumna, 1996; University of Memphis College of Engineering Outstanding Alumnus, 2002; elected to Memphis Bar Foundation, 2007; appointed to Court of Appeals in 1995 by Governor Don Sundquist (first woman to serve on Court of Appeals); elected 1996; re-elected to eight-year terms in 1998 and 2006.

### **J. Steven Stafford**

*100 Main Avenue North, Suite 4, Dyersburg, TN 38024*

Born September 2, 1956, McKenzie, Tenn.; Married; two children; Baptist; B.S., University of Tennessee at Martin; J.D., Samford University Cumberland School of Law, 1983; admitted to the bar, 1983; practiced law in Dyersburg, 1983-1993; Dyersburg City Judge, 1988-1993; Dyer County Juvenile Judge, 1993-1994; First Harry S. Truman Scholar in Tennessee, 1977; President of the Dyer County Bar Association, 1987; Member of the Tennessee Bar Association; Member of the Tennessee Bar Association House of Delegates, 1991-1998; Member of the Tennessee Bar Association Board of Governors, 2002-2003; Member of the American Bar Association; Tennessee Judicial Conference President, 2002-2003; Tennessee Court of the Judiciary, Presiding Judge, 2004-2007; Dean of the Tennessee Judicial Academy, 1998-2009; Tennessee Bar Foundation Fellow, 1994; Chairman of the Board of Trustees, 2008-2009; Selected Judge of the Year by the Tennessee American Board of Trial Advocates, 2007; First Baptist Church, Dyersburg, Deacon; Selected Outstanding Young Tennessean by Tennessee Jaycees, 1996; University of Tennessee Board of Governors National Alumni Association, 1991-1992; University of Tennessee at Martin Alumni Council, 1988-1991; appointed Chancellor of the 29th Judicial District consisting of Dyer and Lake counties, June 1993; elected August 1994; re-elected August 1998 and 2006; appointed to the Court of Appeals, June 2008; elected August 2008.

---

## Middle Section

**Frank G. Clement, Jr.**

*215 Supreme Court Building, 401 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219*

Born 1949, Nashville, Tenn.; Married; one child; four stepchildren; three grandchildren; West End United Methodist Church; B.S.E., University of Memphis, 1972; president, Student Government Association, 1972; Governor Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature, 1972; 164th Military Airlift Group, Tennessee Air National Guard, 1968-1974; J.D., Nashville School of Law, 1979; President, Nashville Kiwanis Club, 1987-1988; Chair, Nashville Area Chapter and Tennessee Valley Blood Region, American Red Cross, 1989-1991; private practice of law, 1979-1995; Board of Directors, Nashville Bar Association, 1991-1995; President, Nashville Bar Association, 1995; Harry Phillips American Inn of Court, 1990-2001; Leadership Nashville, 1995; Fellow, Tennessee and Nashville Bar Foundations; Member, Tennessee and Nashville Bar Associations; Treasurer, Tennessee Trial Judges Association, 1997-2002; Chair, Tennessee Judicial Conference Convention, 1998; appointed in 1995 Judge of the Probate Court, 20th Judicial District; elected 1996 Judge of Division VII of the Circuit Court, 20th Judicial District, re-elected 1998; appointed to the Court of Appeals of Tennessee by Governor Phil Bredesen, September 2003; elected August 2004; re-elected August 2006; Board of Trustees, Nashville School of Law, 2006-present.

**Patricia J. Cottrell**

*203 Supreme Court Building, 401 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219*

Born January 15, 1947, in Memphis, Tenn.; one child; Graduate of East High School, Memphis, 1965, National Merit Scholar; B.S. with Honors, University of Tennessee, 1969; J.D., University of Tennessee College of Law with Honors, 1976; Tennessee Law Review; Assistant Attorney General, 1976-1978 and 1982-1984; Director, Public Law Institute, University of Tennessee College of Law, 1978-1979; Assistant Director, Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission, 1979-1981; Deputy Attorney General, 1984-1991; Director of Law, Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, 1991-1993; Chief Deputy Attorney General, 1993-1997; private practice of law in Nashville, 1997-1998; Judicial Conference; Nashville Bar Association; Nashville Bar Association Board of Directors, 2009; Nashville Bar Foundation; Tennessee Bar Foundation; Harry Phillips Inn, American Inns of Court, Executive Committee; Supreme Court Historical Society; Founding Member, Lawyers' Association for Women; Leadership Nashville, 1993-1994; Charter Revision Commission of Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, 1994-1998; Adjunct Faculty, Vanderbilt School of Law, 1999-2000; appointed to Court of Appeals November 1998; elected in 2000; re-elected to an eight-year term in 2006; Presiding Judge, Middle Section, Court of Appeals 2007-present.

**Andy D. Bennett**

*218 Supreme Court Building, 401 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219*

Born July 12, 1957, Charlotte, Tenn.; Married with one child; Methodist; Graduate of Dickson County Senior High School, Dickson, Tenn., Valedictorian and Gold Medalist; Vanderbilt University, B.A. Cum Laude, 1979; Vanderbilt University School of Law, J.D., 1982, awarded the Weldon White Prize for the best paper on a Tennessee subject; Assistant Attorney General, 1982-1986; Deputy Attorney General, 1986-1993; Associate Chief Deputy Attorney General, 1993-1997; Chief Deputy Attorney General, 1997-2007; Tennessee Historical Society; Tennessee



Bar Association; Tennessee Bicentennial Foundation Board of Directors, 1993-1997; Tennessee Supreme Court Commission on Dispute Resolution, 1992-1994; President of Tennessee Supreme Court Historical Society, 2005-2007; author of several legal and historical articles, including “The History of the Tennessee Attorney General’s Office” (Tennessee Bar Journal, 2000) and “Guarding FDR: A Tennessean’s Experience” (Tennessee Historical Quarterly, 2006); William M. Leech, Jr. Award for outstanding service to the Tennessee Attorney General’s Office, 1998; Marvin Award from the National Association of Attorneys General for “outstanding leadership, expertise and achievement in advancing the goals of the National Association of Attorneys General,” 2004; Tennessee Bar Foundation Fellow, 2001; appointed to the Tennessee Court of Appeals September 2007; elected August 2008.

### **Richard H. Dinkins**

*401 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219*

Born August 30, 1952, Nashville, Tenn.; Baptist; B.A., Denison University, Granville, Ohio, 1974; J.D., Vanderbilt University School of Law, Nashville, Tenn., 1977; Associate, Law Firm of the Honorable Avon N. Williams, Jr., 1977-1980; Partner, Williams and Dinkins, 1981-1999; Member, Dodson, Parker, Dinkins & Behm, P.C., 1999-2003; Member, American, National, and Nashville Bar Associations; member, Napier-Looby Bar Association, (Board of Directors, 1981-1983, Vice President, 1984, President, 1985); Former Cooperating Attorney, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund; Former Cooperating Attorney, Minority Business Enterprise Legal Defense and Educational Fund; Former Member, Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association Board of Governors; Member, Board of Directors, Nashville Bar Association 1988-1991; Former Member, Commercial Law Section, National Bar Association; Barrister, Harry Phillips Inn of Court 1990-2002, Master, 2005-present; Member, Board of Directors, Nashville Bar Association, 2006-2008; Fellow, Tennessee Bar Association Foundation; appointed Chancellor, Davidson County Chancery Court – Part IV, September 26, 2003; elected May 2004; re-elected August 2006; appointed to the Tennessee Court of Appeals, January 14, 2008; elected August 2008.

## **Eastern Section**

### **Herschel P. Franks**

*540 McCallie Avenue, Suite 562, Chattanooga, TN 37402*

Born May 28, 1930, Savannah, Tenn.; Married; one child; United Church of Christ; attended University of Tennessee at Martin; University of Maryland; University of Tennessee, LL.B.; Graduate of National Judicial College; President of Chattanooga Bar Association, 1968-1969; Member, American Bar Association, Chattanooga Bar Foundation and Tennessee Bar Foundation; Member, Chief Judges Association of Courts of Appeals; U.S. Air Force, 1950-1954; Recipient, TBA Justice Frank F. Drowota III Outstanding Judicial Service Award, 2009; Optimist Community Service Award, 1971; Foundation of Freedom Award by Chattanooga Bar Association, 1986; listed in Who’s Who in American Law; Who’s Who in America; private practice Harris, Moon, Meacham & Franks, 1959-1970; Chancellor, Third Chancery Division, 1970-1978; appointed to Court of Appeals May 1978; elected August 1978; re-elected August 1982, 1990, 1998 and 2006; Presiding Judge since 2004.

**Charles D. Susano, Jr.**

505 Main Street, P.O. Box 444, Knoxville, TN 37902

Born March 24, 1936, Knoxville, Tenn.; Married; three children; All Saints Roman Catholic Church; Bachelor of Philosophy in Commerce (Accounting), University of Notre Dame, 1958; U.S. Army, 1958-1960; J.D., University of Tennessee, 1963; Member, Order of the Coif; Tennessee Law Review; admitted to Bar, 1964; Law Clerk to Supreme Court, 1963-1964; Assistant District Attorney General, Knox County, 1967-1968; Chairman, Knox County Democratic Party, 1972-1974; Member, State Democratic Executive Committee, 1974-1982; practiced law in Knoxville, 1964-1994; appointed to Court of Appeals March 1994; elected August 1994; re-elected in August 1998 and August 2006; Fellow, American Bar Foundation and Tennessee Bar Foundation; Member, Advisory Board, Shepherd Center, Atlanta; Member, Advisory Commission to the Supreme Court on Rules of Practice and Procedure.

**D. Michael Swiney**

505 Main Street, Suite 200, P. O. Box 444, Knoxville, TN 37902

Born May 25, 1949, Sarasota, Fla.; Married; two children, Gabe and Eli; Church Street United Methodist Church; B.S., University of Tennessee, 1971; M.S., 1974, and J.D., 1978; Member, Order of the Coif; admitted to Bar, 1979; practiced law in Knoxville, 1979-1999; Adjunct Professor, University of Tennessee College of Law, 1997-2006; Hamilton Burnett Chapter, American Inns of Court, 1991-present; Tennessee Court of the Judiciary, 2003 to present; appointed to the Tennessee Court of Appeals, July 1999; elected 2000; re-elected 2006-2011.

**John W. McClarty**

633 Chestnut Street, Suite 1560; P.O. Box 11481, Chattanooga, TN 37450

Born June 5, 1948, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Single, two sons; two stepdaughters; African Methodist Episcopal; Graduate, Howard High School, Chattanooga, 1967; Bachelor Degree with Double Majors in Political Science and History, Austin Peay State University, 1971; Juris Doctor Degree with Honors, Southern University School of Law, 1976 (ranking No. 5 in his class); recognized as a Distinguished Legal Scholar by Delta Phi Law Fraternity; Member of the Law Review Staff serving as Articles Editor and was author of a comment, *Felony Murder Rule in Louisiana*, published Vol. I, No. II SULR; admitted to Tennessee Bar in 1976; entered private practice as Associate in Law Office of Jerry Summers, 1976; opened sole practice in 1978; Senior Partner in McClarty & Williams with Walter F. Williams from 1980-1991; sole practice from 1991-January 2009. Involved in excess of 5,000 civil and criminal cases during course of 32 years of practice; Who's Who in American Law, Fourth Edition, 1986; Martindale-Hubbell AV rating, 2001; Hearing Committee Member, Supreme Court Board of Professional Responsibility, 2001-2009; a Board Certified Civil Trial Specialist by the National Board of Trial Advocacy and a Certified Civil Trial Specialist by the Tennessee Commission on Continuing Legal Education and Specialization; appointed by Governor Phil Bredesen to serve as Board Member and later Chairman of the Tennessee Registry of Election Finance, May 2005-2007; selected for membership to American Board of Trial Advocacy in 2008; selected Fellow to American College of Trial Lawyers, 2009; Elected a Fellow to the Tennessee Bar Foundation, 2011; January 14, 2009, appointed by Governor Bredesen as Judge of Tennessee Court of Appeals Eastern Section (first African-American State Judge serving in East Tennessee), Elected to Tennessee Court of Appeals, August 2010, on Retention Ballot making him the first African-American from Tennessee to be elected to a statewide position.

## Court of Criminal Appeals

The Court of Criminal Appeals was created by the legislature in 1967 to hear trial court appeals in felony and misdemeanor cases, as well as post-conviction petitions. The Tennessee General Assembly increased the membership of the court from nine to 12 on Sept. 1, 1996. The members sit monthly in panels of three in Jackson, Knoxville and Nashville. They may also meet in other places as necessary.

All Court of Criminal Appeals decisions may be appealed to the state Supreme Court by permission, except in capital cases, except direct appeals which are appealed automatically. No witnesses, juries or testimonies are present in the Court of Criminal Appeals. Instead, attorneys present oral and written arguments.

Court of Criminal Appeals judges are elected on a “retain-replace” ballot every eight years. If a vacancy occurs on the court, the 17-member Judicial Nominating Commission recommends three candidates to the governor, who then appoints a new judge to serve until the next August general election. Members of the Court of Criminal Appeals must, by state law, be evaluated every eight years. Results of the evaluations are published in newspapers across the state to help voters decide whether the judges should be retained.

### Western Section

#### John Everett Williams

*115 Court Square, P.O. Box 88, Huntingdon, TN 38344*

Born November 11, 1953, Milan, Tenn.; one son; Methodist; Graduate, Huntingdon High School; B.S., (Criminal Justice), University of Tennessee at Martin; J.D., Cumberland School of Law, 1981; private practice, Williams & Williams Attorneys at Law, Huntingdon, Tenn., 1981-1998; Member, Tennessee Bar Association, Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association; Carroll County Bar Association, Past President, 1981-1984; Huntingdon Jaycees’ Outstanding Chairperson; Huntingdon Lion’s Club, Past President, 1991-1992; American Heart Association; American Cancer Society; American Red Cross; Carroll County Habitat for Humanity; Carroll County



Court of Criminal Appeals judges are (seated from left) Thomas T. Woodall, Jeffrey S. Bivins, Presiding Judge Joseph M. Tipton, Jerry Smith, and James Curwood Witt, Jr.; (standing from left) D. Kelly Thomas, Jr., Robert W. Wedemeyer, Norma McGee Ogle, John Everett Williams, Alan E. Glenn, J.C. McLin (deceased), and Camille R. McMullen.

Ducks Unlimited; Cumberland School of Law's Co-chairman Cordell Hull's Speakers' Forum and Director of Special Programs; appointed to Court of Criminal Appeals November 1998; elected to eight-year term August 2006.

### **Alan E. Glenn**

*5050 Poplar Avenue, Suite 1414, Memphis, TN 38157*

Born October 3, 1942, Chicago, Ill.; Married; one child; Montgomery Bell Academy; B.A., 1965, J.D., 1968, Vanderbilt University; Law Clerk, U.S. District Judge, Memphis; Assistant U.S. Attorney, 1970-1971; Assistant District Attorney General, 1971-1982; private practice, Memphis, 1982-1999; Instructor, Trial Advocacy, Harvard Law School, 1986-1999; Lecturer, National College of District Attorneys, 1982-1986; Arbitrator, American Arbitration Association, 1985-1999; Member, Board of Construction Advisors, American Arbitration Association, 1995-1999; President, National Ornamental Metal Museum, 1996-2005; President, Memphis Arts in the Park Festival, 1997-1998; Vice President, Theatre Memphis, 1995-1997; appointed to Court of Criminal Appeals, April 1999; elected in 2000 and again in 2006.

### **J.C. McLin (1947-2011)**

*5050 Poplar Avenue, 1400 White Station Tower, Memphis, TN 38157*

Born July 10, 1947, to Rev. Henry and Louise McLin, Trenton, Tenn.; Married, Mollie M. McLin; Ordained Minister; Graduate, Rosenwald High School, Trenton, Tenn.; A.A., Owen College, Memphis, Tenn., 1968; B.S., Lane College, Jackson, Tenn., 1969; M.S. Ed., University of Tennessee at Martin, 1971; J.D., University of Tennessee at Knoxville, 1974; admitted Tennessee Bar, May 1975; Graduate, National College of District Attorneys, Houston, Texas, 1979; The National Judicial College, Reno, Nev., 2001; Group Facilitator, The National Judicial College, Reno, Nev., 2004 and 2009; Memphis Area Legal Services, 1975; Assistant District Attorney, 30th Judicial District, 1975-1990; private practice 1990-1999; Criminal Court Judge, 30th Judicial District of Tennessee, 2000-2004; appointed to the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals, Western Division, September 2004; elected in 2006; Member, Memphis and Shelby County Bar Association; Tennessee Judicial Conference; Memphis Baptist Ministerial Association; Former Member of Lane College Board of Trustees; Founder, Information Assistance and Monitoring (I.A.M.) Program; Advisory Board Member, City of Memphis Second Chance Program.

J.C. McLin died of cancer on September 3, 2011.

### **Camille R. McMullen**

*5050 Poplar Avenue, White Station Tower, Suite 1416, Memphis, TN 38157*

Born February 23, 1971, Nashville, Tenn.; Married; two children; member, St. Andrews African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church, Memphis, Tenn.; Graduate, John Overton High School, Nashville, Tenn., (1989); B.S. in Political Science from Austin Peay State University, 1993 (Magna Cum Laude, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Honors Scholarships); J.D., University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 1996; received the following honors: Dean's List, McClure International Fellowship, Order of the Barristers, Ray Jenkins Trial Semi-Finalist; Clerk for the Republic of South Africa, post-apartheid; admitted, Tennessee Bar, 1997; Law Clerk to the Honorable Joe G. Riley, Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals, 1996-1997; Assistant District Attorney General with the Shelby County District Attorney General's Office, 1997-2001; Assistant United States Attorney with the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Tennessee, 2001-2008; member,

Tennessee, Memphis, and National Bar Associations; National Association of Women Judges, and the American Inns of Court, Memphis Bar Association Fellow; appointed, Court of Criminal Appeals, 2008 by Governor Phil Bredesen (first African-American woman to serve on Court of Criminal Appeals).

## Middle Section

### Jeffrey S. Bivins

*221 Supreme Court Building, 401 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219*

Born August 31, 1960, Kingsport, Tenn.; Married; two children; Independent Christian; Graduate of Lynn View High School, 1978; B.A., East Tennessee State University, 1982; J.D. Vanderbilt University School of Law, 1986; private practice, Boulton, Cummings, Conners & Berry, Nashville, TN, 1986-95; 2001-2005; Assistant Commissioner and General Counsel, Tennessee Department of Personnel, 1996-1999, 2000-2001; Appointed to Circuit Court, 21st Judicial District, 1999 by Gov. Don Sundquist; Appointed to Circuit Court, 21st Judicial District, 2005 by Gov. Phil Bredesen; Elected 2006; Tennessee Judicial Evaluation Commission; Tennessee Court of the Judiciary; John Marshall American Inns of Court; Williamson County Bar Association; Tennessee Bar Foundation; Nashville Bar Foundation; Tennessee Judicial Conference – Co-Chair of Compensation and Retirement Committee, Member of Executive Committee, Member of Criminal Pattern Jury Instructions Committee; Former County Commissioner for Williamson County; Former Member, Williamson County Library Board of Trustees; Former softball coach and board member of Girls Softball Association of Franklin; Appointed to Court of Criminal Appeals, August 2011 by Gov. Bill Haslam.

### Jerry L. Smith

*200 Supreme Court Building, 401 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219*

Born, December 9, 1953, Etowah, Tenn.; Episcopal; Graduate, McMinn Central High, 1971; B.A., University of Tennessee, 1975; J.D., University of Tennessee College of Law, 1978; private practice 1978-1980; Assistant Attorney General, 1980-1984; Deputy Attorney General, 1984-1995; Member of Tennessee Judicial Conference, Tennessee Bar Association, Nashville Bar Association; Attorney General's Designee to the Tennessee Sentencing Commission, 1986-1989; served on the Sixth Circuit Task Force on Capital Cases, 1987; President of the National Association of Extradition Officials, 1985-1986; Instructor in Criminal Law and Criminal Constitutional Law, Nashville School of Law, 2003-present; appointed to the Court of Criminal Appeals November 1995; elected 1996; re-elected to eight-year term, August 1998 and 2006.

### Thomas T. Woodall

*P.O. Box 1075, Dickson, TN 37056*

Born 1955, Nashville, Tenn.; two children; Presbyterian; Graduate, Battle Ground Academy; B.S., Tennessee Tech; J.D., University of Memphis; admitted to practice law in Tennessee, 1981; Member, Tennessee Court of the Judiciary, 2003-2011; Member of Tennessee and Dickson County Bar Associations; Tennessee Judicial Conference; First Presbyterian Church of Dickson; "City of Dickson 100 Years Celebration" Committee in 1999; Co-chair, Dickson County American Cancer Society Relay for Life Event in 2005; Former Chairman, Benton County, Tenn., Unit of American Heart Association; Former Member, Board of Directors of Dickson County Habitat for Humanity,



Inc. and Board of Directors of Dickson Help Center; Law Clerk for the Honorable Mark Walker, Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, 1981-1982, private practice of law, Shelby County, Tenn., 1982-1984; Assistant District Attorney General, 24th Judicial District, Huntingdon, Tenn., 1984-1990; private practice of law, Dickson, Tenn., 1990-November 1996; appointed to Court of Criminal Appeals, December 1996; elected to eight-year term August 1998; elected to eight-year term August 2006.

### **Robert W. Wedemeyer**

*220 Supreme Court Building, 401 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219*

Born May 23, 1951, Nashville, Tenn.; Married to Patricia Wedemeyer, professional harpist; three children, two stepchildren, four grandchildren; resides in Clarksville, Tenn.; Oak Ridge High School; B.A., Vanderbilt University, 1973; J.D., University of Memphis School of Law, 1976; private practice, Cunningham, Mitchell, Hicks & Wedemeyer, 1977-1984, Wedemeyer & Grimes, 1985-1990. Appointed to Circuit Court for the 19th Judicial District (Montgomery and Robertson counties) by Governor Ned R. McWherter, 1990. Elected in 1990 and re-elected in 1998. Appointed to the Court of Criminal Appeals by Governor Don Sundquist in 2000; elected in 2000; re-elected in 2006. Member of Criminal Jury Instructions Committee of Tennessee Judicial Conference, 1992-1998. Current Member of Bench/Bar Relations Committee of Tennessee Judicial Conference; Former Little League baseball coach, youth soccer coach, YMCA basketball coach; Past President of Montgomery County Chapter of American Red Cross; Member of Montgomery County Bar Association (President, 1981); Member of Robertson County Bar Association; Graduate of Leadership Clarksville, 1988.

## **Eastern Section**

### **Joseph M. Tipton**

*505 Main Street, Suite 200, Knoxville, TN 37902*

Born March 9, 1947, Birmingham, Ala.; Married; two children; Episcopal; graduate of Webb School of Knoxville, Distinguished Alumni Award, 2006; B.S., University of Tennessee at Knoxville, 1969; J.D., University of Tennessee College of Law, 1971; Order of the Coif; Phi Kappa Phi Honor Fraternity; Past President of Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; first recipient of TACDL's Outstanding Service Award; Member of Tennessee Bar Association; Former Delegate to TBA House of Delegates; Member, Knoxville Bar Association; Recipient of the 2006 KBA Dicta Award for outstanding writing; Member of Tennessee Judicial Conference; Former Adjunct Professor, UT College of Law, 1983-1992; Assistant Member of Tennessee Board of Law Examiners, 1981-1996; Member of the Hamilton Burnett American Inn of Court; appointed to Court of Criminal Appeals September 1990; elected August 1992; re-elected to eight-year term August 1998; re-elected to eight-year term August 2006; Presiding Judge of the Court since September 2006.

### **James Curwood Witt, Jr.**

*505 Main Street, Suite 356, Knoxville, TN 37902*

Born October 23, 1948, Knoxville, Tenn.; Married; four children; Methodist; Graduate, Madisonville High School, 1966; Associate Degree, Hiwassee College, 1968; Bachelor's Degree, Tennessee Wesleyan College, 1970; J.D., University of Tennessee College of Law, 1973; Order of the Coif; Tennessee Law Review; admitted to practice law in Tennessee, 1970; Member of Tennessee

and Monroe County Bar Associations; President, Monroe County Bar Association, 1977; Judge, Monroe County Juvenile Court, 1979-1982; Tennessee Council of Juvenile Court Judges, 1979-1982; Hearing Committee Member, Board of Professional Responsibility, 1986-1992; Member, Tennessee Judicial Council, 1980-1988; Chairman, Board of Trustees, Emory & Henry College, Tennessee Wesleyan College and Hiwassee College, 1987-1990; Member, Holston Conference (United Methodist Church) Board of Trustees, 1995; President, Boys & Girls Club of the Monroe Area, Tennessee Inc., 1996; Presenter, Phi Theta Kappa, Tennessee Regional Honors Institute, 1995; Member Tennessee Bar Foundation; Adjunct Professor of Law, U.T. College of Law; Faculty, Tennessee Judicial Academy; appointed to Court of Criminal Appeals January 1997; elected to eight-year term August 1998 and 2006.

### **Norma McGee Ogle**

*505 Main Street, Suite 350, Knoxville, TN 37902*

Born September 9, 1952, Lawrenceburg, Tenn.; Married; one child; Methodist; Graduate of Loretto High School; B.S., University of Tennessee, 1974; J.D., University of Tennessee College of Law, 1977; admitted to practice law in Tennessee, 1977; Member of Tennessee Bar Association, Sevier County Bar Association, Knoxville Bar Association; Tennessee Human Rights Commission, Commissioner and Chairperson, 1995-1998; State of Tennessee Local Planning Advisory Board Member, 1997-1998; Sevier County Board of Education Member and Chairperson, 1982-1994; Advisory Board Member, Walters State Community College, 1997-present; Pigeon Forge City Attorney, 1990-1998; Pittman Center City Attorney, Sevier County Library Foundation; Memphis Area Legal Services, 1977-1979; private practice of law, 1979-1998. Appointed to Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals in 1998; elected in 2000; re-elected in 2006.

### **D. Kelly Thomas, Jr.**

*505 Main Street, Suite 334, Knoxville, TN 37902*

Born February 17, 1952. Maryville, Tenn.; Married; Graduate of Maryville High School; B.A., University of Tennessee, 1974; J.D., University of Tennessee, 1977; admitted to Tennessee Bar in 1978; Partner in Thomas & Thomas, 1978-1987; Associate, Thomas & Cunningham, 1987-1990; elected Circuit Court Judge, 5th Judicial District, Division II, 1990; re-elected 1998 and 2006; appointed Court of Criminal Appeals Judge, Eastern Section, 2006; Past President, Blount County Bar Association; Faculty Member of The National Judicial College, University of Nevada, Reno, 1994-1999; East Tennessee Representative, State-Federal Judicial County Board of Directors, 1992; President, Tennessee Trial Judges Association, 1996-1998; Tennessee Judicial Conference Executive Committee, 1995-1996; Ethics Instructor at Tennessee General Sessions Judges Conference, Tennessee Court Clerks Association Conference, Tennessee Juvenile Association Conference, 1996, 1997 and 2000; East Tennessee Director, Tennessee Judicial Conference Executive Committee, appointed in 2002; President, Tennessee Judicial Conference, 2007; Founding Member, Board of Directors, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Blount County; Member, Boys & Girls Club of Blount County Board of Directors; Blount County Food Pantry Board of Directors.

## Senior Judges

**Jon Kerry Blackwood**

**Walter C. Kurtz**

**Donald Paul Harris**

Senior judges are appointed by the Tennessee Supreme Court to serve two- or four-year terms. The retired trial or appellate court judges may be assigned on a temporary basis to any state court.

## Administrative Office of the Courts

511 Union Street  
Suite 600  
Nashville, TN 37219  
(615) 741-2687

### Elizabeth Sykes, Administrative Director

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) provides support to the Tennessee Supreme Court and the entire state court system. The director, appointed by the Supreme Court, is the administrative officer for the courts and oversees the AOC. Duties of the office include preparing the court system's annual budget; providing judicial education, law libraries, computers, other equipment, training, and technical support for judges and other court personnel; assisting judges with case assignments; administering payroll accounts for the court system; conducting orientation for new judges; administering the official state criminal court reporters system; providing assistance to judicial committees; compiling data; and disbursing funds to court-appointed attorneys representing indigent defendants.



## Appellate Court Clerks

Mike Catalano, Appellate Court Clerk  
Joanne Newsome, Chief Deputy Clerk, Knoxville  
Janice Rawls, Chief Deputy Clerk, Nashville  
Susan Turner, Chief Deputy Clerk, Jackson

### Michael Catalano

The Office of the Appellate Court Clerk is responsible for filing documents submitted by the parties with cases on appeal. The division where a case originates controls where the parties file their appeals. In capital cases where all appeals have been exhausted and where the execution date has been set, all papers submitted in the Supreme Court are filed in the Middle Division.

In addition to cases on appeal, all Rules of Court, petitions for public response altering or amending the Rules of Court, and Supreme Court opinions are filed in the Middle Division. This division is responsible



for matters before the Court of the Judiciary, Board of Law Examiners, Board of Professional Responsibility and certified questions of law from federal courts.

The clerk of the appellate courts is appointed by the Supreme Court for a six-year term and is based in Nashville, the Middle Division. The appellate court clerk oversees the offices in Knoxville, Nashville and Jackson. Each office also has a chief deputy clerk.

## Trial Court Clerks

Trial court clerks are responsible for maintaining dockets and records and handling administrative matters in their courts. The clerks also serve as judicial system goodwill ambassadors since they have daily interaction with the public.

Circuit Court clerks, elected in each county for four-year terms, also serve as General Sessions Court clerks in counties without designated General Sessions Court clerks. Clerks also are elected in counties with Probate and Criminal Courts. Each Chancery Court is served by a clerk and master who is appointed by the Chancery Court judge for a six-year term.

## State Trial Courts

Tennessee’s 95 counties are divided into 31 judicial districts. Within each district are circuit courts and chancery courts as provided by the state Constitution. Some districts also have legislatively established criminal courts and probate courts. Judges of these courts are elected to eight-year terms.

Circuit Courts are courts of general jurisdiction in Tennessee. Circuit judges hear civil and criminal cases and appeals of decisions from City, Juvenile, Municipal, and General Sessions courts. The jurisdiction of Circuit Courts often overlaps that of the Chancery Courts.

Chancery Courts are a good example of the court system’s English heritage. These traditional equity courts are based on the English system in which the chancellor acted as the “King’s conscience.” Chancellors may, by law and tradition, modify the application of strict legal rules and adapt the relief given to the circumstances of individual cases.

Criminal Courts are established by the General Assembly in areas where they are justified by heavy caseloads. In addition to having jurisdiction over criminal cases, Criminal Court judges hear misdemeanor appeals from lower courts and certain appeals from juvenile courts. In districts without Criminal Courts, criminal cases are handled at the trial level by Circuit Court judges.

Probate Courts are created by the legislature and given exclusive jurisdiction over probate of wills and administration of estates. These courts also handle conservatorships and guardianships.

## Trial Court Judges By Judicial District

<b>District 1</b> .....	(Carter, Johnson, Unicoi, and Washington Counties)
Chancellor .....	G. Richard Johnson
Circuit Court Judges .....	Thomas J. Seeley, Jr. (Part I) Jean A. Stanley (Part II)
Criminal Court Judges .....	Robert E. “Bob” Cupp (Part I) Lynn W. Brown (Part II)











**District 30** ..... (Shelby County)

Chancellors..... Walter L. Evans (Part I)  
Arnold B. Goldin (Part II)  
Kenny Armstrong (Part III)

Circuit Court Judges ..... John R. McCarroll, Jr. (Division I)  
James F. Russell (Division II)  
Karen R. Williams (Division III)  
Gina C. Higgins (Division IV)  
Kay S. Robilio (Division V)  
Jerry Stokes (Division VI)  
Donna M. Fields (Division VII)  
Robert Samuel “Bob” Weiss (Division VIII)  
Robert L. Childers (Division IX)

Criminal Court Judges ..... Paula L. Skahan (Division I)  
W. Otis Higgs, Jr. (Division II)  
J. Robert “Bobby” Carter, Jr. (Division III)  
Carolyn Wade Blackett (Division IV)  
James M. Lammey, Jr. (Division V)  
John T. Fowlkes, Jr. (Division VI)  
Lee V. Coffee (Division VII)  
Chris Craft (Division VIII)  
W. Mark Ward (Division IX)  
James C. Beasley, Jr. (Division X)

Probate Court Judges ..... Robert Benham (Division I)  
Karen D. Webster (Division II)

**District 31** ..... (Van Buren and Warren Counties)

Circuit & Chancery Court ..... Judge Larry B. Stanley, Jr.

## Courts of Limited Jurisdiction

General Sessions Court jurisdiction varies from county to county based on state laws and private acts. Every county is served by the court which hears civil and criminal cases. Civil jurisdiction is restricted to specific monetary limits and types of actions. Criminal jurisdiction is limited to preliminary hearings in felony cases and misdemeanor trials in which a defendant waives the right to a grand jury investigation and trial by jury in Circuit or Criminal Court. General Sessions judges also serve as juvenile judges except in counties in which the legislature has established separate Juvenile Courts. General Sessions judges are elected to eight-year terms.

Juvenile Court jurisdiction is vested in General Sessions Courts except in those counties in which the law establishes Juvenile Courts. Juvenile Courts have exclusive jurisdiction in proceedings involving minors alleged to be delinquent, unruly, dependent, and neglected. Juvenile Courts also have concurrent jurisdiction with Circuit, Chancery, and Probate Courts in some areas.

Municipal Court, also known as city court, has jurisdiction in cases involving violations of city ordinances. Jurisdiction varies widely by city.







**Robert E. Cooper, Jr.**  
*Attorney General and Reporter*

# Office of the Attorney General and Reporter

425 Fifth Avenue North  
Nashville, TN 37243-3400

(615) 741-3491

*tn.gov/attorneygeneral*

**Robert E. Cooper, Jr., Attorney General and Reporter**

## Introduction

The Office of 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 officers and agencies of the state in civil litigation before state and federal courts and the Claims Commission. The attorney general prosecutes all criminal cases in the appellate courts and exercises original prosecutorial powers in limited areas. He also has the authority to institute civil actions for consumer fraud, environmental enforcement, and antitrust violations as well as ouster proceedings of public officials. In addition to courtroom duties, the attorney general provides legal advice to state departments and agencies and the General Assembly. Published opinions of the attorney general on legal issues are rendered to state officials upon request. The attorney general also reviews all administrative regulations and many state contracts, deeds, and leases. 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, solicitor general, and chief policy deputy. The chief deputy coordinates and supervises the work of the office, including review of substantive work and general management of the office. The solicitor general reviews opinions before submission to the attorney general and supervises and coordinates the appellate work of the office. The chief policy deputy supervises special projects, oversees legislative matters and external communications, and coordinates multistate policy initiatives with the National Association of Attorneys General.

## Robert E. Cooper, Jr.

Attorney General and Reporter

Born January 19, 1957, Chattanooga, Tenn.; 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, Tenn., 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: Tennessee Bar Association, Nashville Bar Association, American Bar Association, Tennessee Bar Foundation, Nashville Bar Foundation, National Association of Attorneys General, Southern Region of Attorneys General; Appointed Attorney General and Reporter, November 2006.

## Divisions

The Office of the Attorney General is divided into eighteen divisions.

**Administrative Division:** Ruth A. Thompson, Deputy. The Administrative Division is the internal support division of the office. Its responsibilities include hiring, budget and fiscal matters, purchasing, information systems, library services, personnel, facilities management, and records management.

**Bankruptcy Division:** Kathryn Behm Celauro, Deputy. The Bankruptcy Division represents state agencies in bankruptcy courts across the country. Specifically, it represents the state's interest by filing proofs of claims and administrative claims in bankruptcy cases where a state entity is owed a debt.

**Civil Litigation and State Services Division:** Kevin Steiling, Deputy. This division represents the state's various educational agencies and institutions and deals with state purchasing and personnel matters. It represents the state in employment and construction litigation along with reviewing state contracts.

**Civil Rights and Claims Division:** Kimberly J. Dean, Deputy. This division defends tort and workers' compensation actions filed against all departments and agencies of state government. The division also defends state employees of various departments sued in civil rights actions for money damages.

**Consumer Advocate and Protection Division:** Cynthia E. Kinser (Mills), Deputy. This division consists of two teams: Consumer Advocate and Consumer Protection. The Consumer Protection team protects consumers and businesses from unfair and deceptive trade practices, enforces state and federal antitrust laws, and enforces the Unauthorized Practice of Law statutes. The Consumer Advocate team represents the interests of Tennessee consumers of public utilities services.

**Criminal Justice Division:** Amy L. Tarkington, Deputy. The Criminal Justice Division handles all direct and post-conviction appeals from criminal judgments. The division defends criminal judgments in habeas corpus proceedings in both the trial and appellate courts. The division also handles capital cases on appellate review in both the state and federal courts.

**Environmental Division:** Barry Turner, Deputy. This division enforces civil environmental protection laws regarding clean air, clean water, hazardous waste, and other areas. The division also gives advice to and reviews regulations for the Department of Environment and Conservation and represents the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

**Financial Division:** Gina J. Barham, Deputy. The Financial Division provides legal services for much of the State's business-related activities such as investments of the State Treasury and the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System. The division represents a number of agencies handling issues of government financing, banking, and insurance regulation.

**General Civil Division:** Dianne Stamey Dycus, Deputy. The General Civil Division handles a wide variety of civil matters representing a number of state departments, boards and agencies including the Departments of Children’s Services, Human Services, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Labor and Workforce Development, Agriculture, Tourism, Veterans Affairs, and Military.

**Health Care Division:** Linda A. Ross, Deputy. The Health Care Division primarily provides legal advice and representation to the Bureau of TennCare and the Department of Health and its health-related boards such as the Board of Dentistry, the Board of Medical Examiners, the Board of Nursing, and the Board of Optometry along with the Health Services Development Agency.

**Law Enforcement and Special Prosecutions Division:** Michael A. Meyer, Deputy. This division handles criminal prosecution enforcement cases such as securities fraud and environmental law violations in addition to assisting the state’s district attorneys in similar prosecutions. The division also handles some civil enforcement matters such as forfeitures.

**Medicaid Fraud and Integrity Division:** Peter Coughlan, Deputy. This division works with TennCare, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, and the Office of Inspector General in combating medical provider fraud in the TennCare/Medicaid program.

**Office of the Solicitor General:** Bill Young, Solicitor General. This office oversees all appellate litigation practice in the Tennessee Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Court of Criminal Appeals, the United State Supreme Court, and the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. The office also oversees all published opinions issued by the Attorney General.

**Public Interest Division:** Janet M. Kleinfelter, Deputy. This division carries out the office’s statutory duty to oversee the operation of nonprofit entities on behalf of Tennesseans. The division also handles charitable oversight and charitable solicitations as well as issues involving open meetings, public records, and campaigns and elections.

**Real Property and Transportation Division:** Larry Teague, Deputy. This division represents the state of Tennessee in land acquisition for all purposes. Most of the work performed by the division involves the Tennessee Department of Transportation. In addition to Nashville, the Real Property Division has regional offices in Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Jackson.

**Special Litigation Division:** Steven A. Hart, Special Counsel. Collections Unit: Vincent Williams, Deputy. This division handles special litigation and assists other divisions in litigation matters. The Collections Unit collects penalties and other debts owed to state departments and agencies.

**Tax Division:** Charles L. Lewis, Deputy. The Tax Division represents the Department of Revenue in all matters related to collecting taxes. It also represents a wide variety of other agencies including the Board of Professional Responsibility, the Board of Law Examiners, the Commission on Continuing Legal Education, the Tennessee Regulatory Authority, the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System, and many of the regulatory boards of the Department of Commerce and Insurance.

**Tobacco Enforcement Division:** John H. Sinclair, Jr., Deputy. The Tobacco Enforcement Division enforces the provisions of the 1998 Master Settlement Agreement and handles other tobacco-related matters.

## Staff

### Lucy Honey Haynes

#### *Chief Deputy Attorney General*

Native of Fayetteville, Tenn.; B.S., Middle Tennessee State University, 1969; J.D., Vanderbilt University School of Law, 1972; Staff Attorney, Legal Services of Nashville, 1973-1974; private practice, Dyersburg, Tenn., 1974-1981; Staff Attorney, Assistant Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Labor, 1981-1987; Managing Attorney, Attorney General's Office, 1987-1992; Deputy Director of Law for the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, 1992-1993; Deputy Attorney General, 1993-1997; Associate Chief Deputy 1997-2007; Appointed Chief Deputy Attorney General, January 2008.



### Lawrence Harrington

#### *Chief Policy Deputy*

Native of Jackson, Tenn.; B.A., Middle Tennessee State University, 1974; J.D., Vanderbilt Law School, 1979; Law Clerk, U.S. District Court, Middle District of Tennessee, 1981-82; Senior Staff and Counsel, U.S. Congressman, Senator Al Gore and DSCC, 1982-1990; private practice, 1991-1995; United States Executive Director and Alternate, Board of Executive Directors, Inter-American Development Bank/Inter-American Investment Corporation, Multi-lateral Investment Fund, 1995-2001; U.S. Treasury Exceptional Service Award, 2001; Public Policy Scholar, Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, 2002; private practice/consulting, 2002-2004; Representative, Inter-American Development Bank, 2004-2008; Adjunct Professor, Belmont University MBA program, 2008; Adjoint Faculty, Vanderbilt University, 2009-2013; appointed Chief Policy Deputy, March 2008.



### Bill Young

#### *Solicitor General*

Native of Clarksville, Tenn.; B.A. (Cum Laude), Vanderbilt University, 1977; J.D., Vanderbilt University School of Law, 1981; Law Clerk, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Nashville, 1981-1984; private practice, Washington, D.C., and Nashville, Tenn., 1984-1985; Staff Attorney, FDIC, Nashville, Tenn., 1985-1986; Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office, 1986-1991; Senior Counsel, 1991-1995; Deputy Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance, 1995-1998; President, Hospital Alliance of Tennessee, 1999-2000; General Counsel, Tennessee Hospital Association, Nashville, 2000-2001; Counsel, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, 2001-2002; General Counsel, BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, Chattanooga, 2002-2011; appointed Solicitor General, September 2011.





**Leigh Ann Apple Jones**  
Chief of Staff



**Gina J. Barham**  
Deputy



**Kathryn Behm Celauro**  
Deputy



**Peter M. Coughlan**  
Deputy



**Kimberly J. Dean**  
Deputy



**Dianne Stamey Dycus**  
Deputy



**Steven A. Hart**  
Special Counsel



**Cynthia E. Kinser (Mills)**  
Deputy



**Janet M. Kleinfelder**  
Deputy



**Charles L. Lewis**  
Deputy



**Michael A. Meyer**  
Deputy



**Linda A. Ross**  
Deputy



**John H. Sinclair, Jr.**  
Deputy



**Kevin Steiling**  
Deputy



**Amy L. Tarkington**  
Deputy



**Larry Teague**  
Deputy





Ruth A. Thompson  
Deputy



Barry Turner  
Deputy



L. Vincent Williams  
Deputy

### Associate Solicitors General

Gordon W. Smith

Joseph F. Whalen

### Associate Deputy Attorneys General

Martha A. Campbell

Jennifer L. Smith

### Senior Counsel

Shayna R. Abrams  
Jay C. Ballard  
George Steven Bell, III  
Mary M. Bers  
John H. Bledsoe  
George G. Boyte, Jr.  
Leslie Ann Bridges  
Vance L. Broemel  
Stephen R. Butler  
H. Phillip Carnes  
Brent C. Cherry  
Phyllis A. Childs  
Marvin E. Clements, Jr.  
George H. Coffin, Jr.  
Arthur Crownover, II  
John W. Dalton  
Martha S. Davis  
Meredith DeVault  
Victor J. Domen, Jr.  
J. Ross Dyer  
David H. Findley  
Mary S. Foust

Mark A. Fulks  
Gill Robert Geldreich  
M. Amanda Govan  
Roger D. Hamby  
Gina Baker Hantel  
William S. Hargiss  
Sarah Ann Hiestand  
Jeffrey L. Hill  
Phillip R. Hilliard  
Sohnia W. Hong  
Mark A. Hudson  
C. Scott Jackson  
William E. James  
Warren Anthony Jasper  
R. Stephen Jobe  
Dawn M. Jordan  
Laura T. Kidwell  
Mary Ellen Knack  
Michael B. Leftwich  
Pamela S. Lorch  
Rebecca Lyford  
William J. Marett, Jr.

Elizabeth P. McCarter  
Stephen B. McCloud  
William McCormick, Jr.  
Cynthia L. Paduch  
Joe C. Peel  
Janie C. Porter  
Jeremy E. Pypier  
Heather Cairns Ross  
Sara E. Sedgwick  
Sue A. Sheldon  
Carolyn U. Smith  
T. Leigh Thomas  
Terry D. Tucker  
Renee W. Turner  
Ann Louise Vix  
Eugenie B. Whitesell  
Michael B. Willey  
Rachel E. Willis  
Stuart F. Wilson-Patton

## Assistant Attorneys General

Lindsey Owusu Appiah  
 Joshua Davis Baker  
 Kellena Baker  
 Rebekah A. Baker  
 Benjamin A. Ball  
 Nicholas G. Barca  
 John J. Baroni  
 Stephanie A. Bergmeyer  
 Frank Borger-Gilligan  
 Jennifer L. Brenner  
 Melissa Brodhag  
 Brad H. Buchanan  
 Wilson S. Buntin  
 Bruce M. Butler  
 Michael L. DeLisle  
 Caitlin Elizabeth Doty  
 Deshea Faughn  
 James D. Foster  
 Adam B. Futrell  
 James E. Gaylord  
 Marcie E. Greene

Timothy P. Harlan  
 Rachel West Harmon  
 Brant Harrell  
 Lindsay K. Haynes  
 Gregory W. Holt  
 Cameron L. Hyder  
 Allison C. Jennings  
 Lauren S. Lamberth  
 Sophia S. Lee  
 Clarence E. Lutz  
 Michael Markham  
 Nathan H. Mauer  
 Laura L. McCloud  
 Mary E. McCullohs  
 Ryan L. McGehee  
 Troy A. McPeak  
 Gregory O. Nies  
 Jennifer E. Peacock  
 James Lee Pope  
 R. Mitchell Porcello  
 Leslie E. Price

Brian J. Ramming  
 Carolyn S. Reed  
 Alexander Stuart Rieger  
 Olha N. M. Rybakoff  
 Michelle Safer  
 Lyndsay F. Sanders  
 Joe Shirley  
 Andrew Hamilton Smith  
 Nicholas W. Spangler  
 Lindsay Paduch Stempel  
 Scott Crawford  
 Sutherland  
 Clark B. Thornton  
 William A. Tillner  
 Talmage M. Watts  
 Benjamin A. Whitehouse  
 Jonathan Wike  
 Lacy Wilber  
 Katherine M. Winter  
 Jeffrey D. Zentner

## In Memoriam

### Michael E. Moore

*Solicitor General 1993 to 2010*

Michael E. Moore served as Solicitor General from 1993 until his death on November 14, 2010. General Moore was a brilliant and principled lawyer under whose leadership the Tennessee Solicitor General's office was recognized nationally. We are gratified by General Moore's service to this Office and the State of Tennessee.





# District Attorneys General Conference

226 Capitol Boulevard Building, Suite 800  
Nashville, TN 37243  
(615) 741-1696

**James W. Kirby, Executive Director**

## Introduction

The Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference was created by the General Assembly in 1961 to provide for a more prompt and efficient administration of justice in the courts of this state. It is comprised of the district attorneys general from the state's 31 judicial districts. The district attorneys general are elected for a term of eight years and are responsible for the prosecution of criminal cases on behalf of the state.

The Office of the Executive Director, which was created in 1972, serves as the central administrative office for the District Attorneys General Conference. The office is responsible for budgeting, accounting, payroll, personnel, property management, and the administration of all fiscal matters pertaining to the district attorneys general and their staff. Other duties include providing law libraries to each district attorney's office, coordinating prosecution efforts, developing and implementing training programs, and providing automation support. This office is also responsible for maintaining liaison between the district attorneys general and other governmental agencies, including the courts, the General Assembly, the executive branch, and the Office of the Attorney General and Reporter.

The executive director is elected by the district attorneys general for a term of four years and serves as a member of the Tennessee Judicial Council.

## James W. Kirby

Executive Director to the District Attorneys General Conference

Born March 16, 1947, Louisville, Ky.; Macon County High School; B.S., Middle Tennessee State University, 1969; J.D., Nashville School of Law; Administrator, Tennessee Crime Lab, 1972-1976; Assistant District Attorney, 23rd District, 1976-1990; Senior District Attorney, 23rd District, 1990-1997; Deputy District Attorney, 23rd District, 1997-1999; Member, Tennessee Judicial Council; Member, Tennessee Bureau of Identification Nominating Commission; Vice President, National Association of Prosecutor Coordinators, 2006-2007; President, National Association of Prosecutor Coordinators, 2007-2008; Board of Directors, National District Attorneys Association, 2007-2008; Appointed Executive Director to District Attorneys General Conference, 1999.



# Staff

**Guy R. Jones**  
Deputy Executive Director

**Casey Murphree**  
Director, Information Services

**Nancy White**  
Director, Fiscal Services

**Lurene Sanders**  
State Child Support Coordinator

**Laurie Steen**  
Director, Personnel Services

**Sue Jones**  
State Victim/Witness Coordinator

**Mary Tom Hudgens**  
Director, Education and Training

## District Attorneys General

<b>Judicial District</b>	<b>Name</b>
1st	Anthony Clark
2nd	Barry P. Staubus
3rd	C. Berkeley Bell
4th	Jimmy Dunn
5th	Mike Flynn
6th	Randall Nichols
7th	Dave Clark
8th	William Paul Phillips
9th	Russell Johnson
10th	Steve Bebb
11th	William H. Cox, III
12th	J. Michael Taylor
13th	Randall York
14th	Mickey Layne
15th	Tom P. Thompson
16th	William C. Whitesell
17th	Charles Crawford
18th	Lawrence Ray Whitley
19th	John W. Carney
20th	Victor S. Johnson, III
21st	Kim Helper
22nd	Mike Bottoms
23rd	Dan Alsobrooks
24th	Hansel McCadams
25th	D. Michael Dunavant
26th	Jerry Woodall
27th	Thomas Thomas

28th ..... Garry Brown  
29th ..... Phillip Bivens  
30th ..... Amy P. Weirich  
31st ..... Lisa Zavogiannis



Judicial Branch





# District Public Defenders Conference

211 Seventh Avenue North, Suite 320  
Nashville, TN 37219-1821  
(615) 741-5562

**Jeffrey S. Henry, Executive Director**

## Introduction

District Public Defenders fulfill the state's obligation under the U.S. Constitution to provide a lawyer to persons accused of crimes who cannot afford a lawyer. District Public Defenders are attorneys elected in each judicial district who serve, as appointed by the courts, to represent indigent persons facing deprivation of liberty in criminal matters. The statewide system of public defenders was created by the General Assembly in 1989 as an alternative to the practice of court-appointed private attorneys.

The Office of the Executive Director serves as the central administrative office for 29 of the District Public Defenders' offices. The executive director is responsible for budgeting, payroll, purchasing, personnel, and administration of all fiscal matters pertaining to the operation of District Public Defender offices. Other duties include coordinating defense efforts of the various District Public Defenders, development of training programs, and maintaining liaison with various state government agencies.

The executive director is elected by the District Public Defenders for a four-year term and serves as a member of the judicial planning groups as specified in the code.

## Jeffrey S. Henry

Executive Director to the District Public Defenders Conference

Born 1946; Married; two children; elementary and secondary education, Murfreesboro City and Rutherford County Schools; Middle Tennessee State University; B.S., Liberal Arts, University of Tennessee, 1968; J.D., University of Tennessee College of Law, 1971; Active Duty Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Army, 1971-1975; Assistant District Attorney, 1976-1980; private practice of law, 1980-1989; Legal Counsel, Tennessee National Guard, 1989-1997; Lieutenant Colonel (Retired), Tennessee Army National Guard; Assistant District Public Defender, 1998-2001; Director of Research and Training, Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference, 2001-2005; Elected Executive Director of Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference by the District Public Defenders, June 2005, Re-elected 2008; Member: Tennessee Bar Association, Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, National Legal Aid and Defender Association, and Tennessee Judicial



Council (2005-2010); Life Member, Tennessee National Guard Association and National Guard Association of the United States.

## Staff

Paige Edwards  
 Research and Training Director

Kathy Hartman

Fiscal Services Director

Maria Anderson  
 Personnel Director

## District Public Defenders

<b>Judicial District</b>	<b>Name</b>
1st	Jeff Kelly
2nd	Stephen M. Wallace
3rd	Greg W. Eichelman
4th	Edward C. Miller
5th	Mack Garner
6th	Mark E. Stephens
7th	Tom Marshall
8th	Martha Yoakum
9th	Joe H. Walker
10th	Richard Hughes, Jr.
11th	Ardena J. Garth
12th	Jeff Harmon
13th	David N. Brady
14th	B. Campbell Smoot
15th	Comer L. Donnell
16th	Gerald Lynn Melton
17th	Donna L. Hargrove
18th	David Allen Doyle
19th	Roger E. Nell
20th	Dawn Deaner
21st	Vanessa Pettigrew Bryan
22nd	Claudia Jack
23rd	William B. "Jake" Lockert, III
24th	Guy T. Wilkinson
25th	Gary F. Antrican
26th	George Morton Googe
27th	Joseph P. Atnip
28th	Tom W. Crider
29th	James E. Lanier
30th	Stephen Bush
31st	Dan T. Bryant

