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 Governor's Council for Judicial Appointments who, when there is a vacancy to be filled, accept applications from interested parties, interview the applicants, and then make a recommendation to the governor for consideration. This council was established by Executive Order No. 41 as a result of the constitutional amendment approved on November 4, 2014. Article VI, Section 3 of the Tennessee Constitution now states, in part, “Judges of the Supreme Court or any intermediate appellate court shall be appointed for a full term or to fill a vacancy by and at the discretion of the governor; shall be confirmed by the Legislature; and thereafter, shall be elected in a retention election by the qualified voters of the state.” 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
(615) 741-2681
TNcourts.gov

The Tennessee Supreme Court is the state’s highest court and the court of last resort. The Court typically meets in Jackson, Knoxville, and Nashville, as required by the state constitution. In addition, through its SCALES Project, the Court also hears arguments at local colleges and other schools several times a year.

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 the Court of Criminal Appeals when there is special need for a speedy decision. The Court also has appellate jurisdiction in cases involving state taxes and the right to hold public office, and it issues rulings on constitutional law. The Court reviews all cases in which the defendant has been sentenced to death.

Attorneys may present oral arguments before the Supreme Court. Unlike trials in lower courts, there are no witnesses, juries, or testimonies 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 federal constitutional issues can be appealed only to the U.S. Supreme Court, which may or may not agree to consider the appeals.

Supreme Court Justices
Pictured in the courtroom at the Supreme Court Building in Nashville are Justice Holly Kirby, Justice Cornelia A. Clark, Chief Justice Jeffrey S. Bivins, Justice Sharon G. Lee, and Justice Roger A. Page.
Judges of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and Court of Criminal Appeals are elected every eight years. The constitution requires that no more than two justices reside in any single grand division of the state.

Chief Justice Jeffrey S. Bivins
Supreme Court Building, Suite 321, 401 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219

Born 1960, Kingsport; married; two children; Independent Christian; Lynn View High School, 1978; B.A., magna cum laude, East Tennessee State University, 1982; J.D., Vanderbilt University School of Law, 1986; private practice, Boul, Cummings, Conners & Berry, Nashville, 1986–1995 and 2001–2005; assistant commissioner and general counsel, Tennessee Department of Personnel, 1996–1999 and 2000–2001; appointed to Circuit Court, 21st Judicial District, by Governor Don Sundquist, 1999; appointed to Circuit Court, 21st Judicial District, by Governor Phil Bredesen, 2005; elected 2006; former member: Tennessee Judicial Evaluation Commission; Tennessee Court of the Judiciary; and Tennessee Board of Judicial Conduct; member: John Marshall American Inn of Court; Harry Phillips American Inn of Court; American Bar Association; Tennessee Bar Association; Williamson County Bar Association; Tennessee Bar Foundation; American Bar Foundation; Nashville Bar Foundation; and Tennessee Judicial Conference (president-elect; co-chairman, compensation and retirement committee; member, executive committee); board member, Education Foundation of Williamson County; former County Commissioner, Williamson County; former member, Williamson County Library Board of Trustees; former softball coach and board member, Girls Softball Association of Franklin; appointed to Court of Criminal Appeals by Governor Bill Haslam August 2011; elected 2012; appointed to Tennessee Supreme Court by Governor Bill Haslam July 2014, elected Chief Justice in September 2016.

Justice Cornelia A. Clark
Supreme Court Building, Suite 318, 401 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219

Born 1950, Franklin; 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, 2008–2020 (vice chairman, 2012–2016); 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 chairman, 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 Institute for Justice, Inc.; American Academy of Judicial Education; and 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-chairman, inaugural steering committee); chairman, City of Franklin Charter Revision Committee, 2004; chairman, City of Franklin Land Use Plan Steering Committee,
2002–2003; previous member, Supreme Court Commissions on the Rules of Civil Procedure and Technology; inductee, Nashville YWCA Academy for Women of Achievement, 2010; SEABOTA Appellate Judge of the Year, 2010; Patrons Award, Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County, 2006; Liberty Bell Award, Williamson County Bar Association, 2005; appointed Circuit Judge, 21st Judicial District, October 1989; elected August 1990; reelected August 1998; appointed administrative director of the Tennessee Courts May 1999; appointed to Tennessee Supreme Court September 2005; elected August 2006; reelected August 2014; elected Chief Justice September 2010–September 2012.

Justice Holly Kirby
100 Peabody Place, Memphis, TN 38103

Born 1957, Memphis; married; two children; Presbyterian; Columbia Central High School, Columbia; B.S. in mechanical 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; Tennessee Court of the Judiciary (special panel), 1998–2012; Tennessee Board of Judicial Conduct, 2012–2014; Tennessee Judicial Conference executive committee, 2014–present; Tennessee Three Branches Institute; Council of State Governments (Juvenile Justice Forum, Interbranch Committee); University of Memphis School of Law Advisory Board; member: American Bar Association, Tennessee Bar Association, Memphis Bar Association, Tennessee Lawyers’ Association for Women, Memphis Association for Women Attorneys, and Federalist Society; fellow, American Bar Foundation; fellow, Tennessee Bar Foundation; fellow, Memphis Bar Foundation; University of Memphis Award for Outstanding Young Alumnus, 1996; University of Memphis College of Engineering Outstanding Alumnus, 2002; Association for Women Attorneys’ Marion Griffin-Frances Loring Award, 2015; Tennessee Justice Center Community Mother of the Year Award, 2015; appointed to Tennessee Court of Appeals in 1995 by Governor Don Sundquist (first woman ever to serve on Court of Appeals); won statewide retention elections in 1996, 1998, 2006, and 2014; appointed to Tennessee Supreme Court by Governor Bill Haslam (first University of Memphis graduate to serve on Tennessee Supreme Court), 2014; elected 2016.

Justice Sharon G. Lee
505 Main Street, Suite 236, Knoxville, TN 37902

Born 1953, Knoxville; 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, 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: 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 Clubs of the
Justice Roger A. Page

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

Born 1955, Henderson, Tenn.; married to Carol McCoy, Davidson County Chancery Court Judge; two sons, three grandchildren; Southern Baptist; graduate, Chester County High School, 1973; University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy, 1978, with Honors; J.D., University of Memphis, 1984, with High Honors; Law Review articles editor; law clerk, Honorable Julia Smith Gibbons, Western District of Tennessee, U.S. District Court, 1984–1985; private practice, Peterson, Young, Self & Asselin, Atlanta, Ga., 1985–1987, and Holmes, Rich, Sigler & Page, Jackson, Tenn., 1987–1992; Assistant Attorney General, 1992–1998; elected to Circuit Court, 26th Judicial District, 1998; reelected 2006; appointed to Court of Criminal Appeals by Governor Bill Haslam, December 2011; elected 2012; Tennessee Bar Association; Tennessee Bar Foundation; Tennessee Judicial Conference, executive committee member, legislative committee (co-chair), compensation and retirement committee, past chairperson of bench-bar committee; Tennessee Appellate Judge Performance Evaluation Commission, 2004–2009; Jackson/Madison County Bar Association; Howell Jackson American Inn of Court; Jackson Lions Club, member and past president; Dixie Youth baseball coach; Senior Olympics Softball, City Champions; appointed to the Tennessee Supreme Court by Governor Bill Haslam, 2016.

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 twelve 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 testimonies. Instead, attorneys present oral and written arguments.

Court of Appeals judges are elected on a “retain-replace” ballot every eight years.
Western Section

Kenny W. Armstrong
100 Peabody Place, Suite 1145, Memphis, TN 38103


Brandon O. Gibson
6 Highway 45 Bypass, Jackson, TN 38301


Arnold B. Goldin
100 Peabody Place, Suite 1155, Memphis, TN 38103

Born 1949, Richmond, Va.; married; two children; four grandchildren; Jewish; John Marshall High School, Richmond, Va., 1967; B.A., University of Virginia, 1971; J.D., Memphis State University (University of Memphis), 1974; private practice, 1974–2002; The Best Lawyers In America, 1995–Judicial Appointment; Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory: AV rating, 1986–present; member, Governor’s Commission on Tort Reform, 1986–1987; charter member, Tennessee...
Bar Foundation IOLTA Grant Review Commission, 1987–1989; member, Tennessee Supreme Court Commission On Dispute Resolution, 1992–1995; chair, Civil Justice Reform Act Advisory Group, United States District Court, Western District of Tennessee, 1995–1999; appointed to Chancery Court, 30th Judicial District by Governor Don Sundquist, 2002; elected August 2004 in countywide general election to fill unexpired term as Chancellor; reelected for full term in August 2006; recipient of 2004 Chancellor Charles A. Rond “Judge of The Year Award” presented by the Young Lawyers Division of the Memphis Bar Association; Tennessee Judicial Conference; American Inn of Court, Leo Bearman, Sr., Chapter, 2002–2006; fellow, Memphis Bar Foundation; appointed to Court of Appeals by Governor Bill Haslam in August 2013 for term beginning September 1, 2014; elected 2016.

J. Steven Stafford
100 Main Avenue North, Suite 4, Dyersburg, TN 38024


Middle Section

Andy D. Bennett
Supreme Court Building, Suite 218, 401 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219

Born 1957, Charlotte; married; one child; Methodist; Dickson County Senior High School, Dickson (valedictorian and Gold Medalist); B.A., cum laude, Vanderbilt University, 1979; J.D., Vanderbilt School of Law, 1982 (awarded the Weldon B. 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; member, Tennessee Historical Society; Tennessee Bar Association; Board of Directors, Tennessee Bicentennial Foundation, 1993–1997; Tennessee Supreme Court Commission on Dispute Resolution, 1992–1994; president, 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
Frank G. Clement, Jr.

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


Richard H. Dinkins

Supreme Court Building, Suite 208, 401 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219

W. Neal McBrayer
Supreme Court Building, Suite 204, 401 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219


Eastern Section

Thomas R. Frierson, II
505 Main Street, Suite 318, P.O. Box 444, Knoxville, TN 37902


John W. McClarty
633 Chestnut Street, Suite 1560, P.O. Box 11481, Chattanooga, TN 37450

Born 1948, Chattanooga; single; two sons, two stepdaughters; African Methodist Episcopal; Howard High School, Chattanooga, 1967; bachelor's degree with double majors in political science and history, Austin Peay State University, 1971; J.D. with honors, Southern University School of Law, 1976 (ranking No. 5 in his class); recognized as a Distinguished Legal Scholar by Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity; member, 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, 1976; private practice, associate, law office of Jerry Summers, 1976; opened sole practice in 1978; senior partner in McClarty & Williams with Walter F. Williams, 1980–1991; sole practice, 1991–January 2009; involved in excess of 5,000 civil and criminal cases during thirty-two 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; board certified civil trial specialist by the National Board of Trial Advocacy and 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; member, American Board of Trial Advocacy, 2008; fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers, 2009; fellow, Tennessee Bar Foundation, 2011; appointed by Governor Phil Bredesen as Judge of Tennessee Court of Appeals, Eastern Section (first African-American State Judge serving in East Tennessee), January 14, 2009; elected to Tennessee Court of Appeals, August 2010, on retention ballot (making him the first African American from East Tennessee to be elected to a statewide position); reelected for a full eight-year term on retention ballot in August 2014.

Charles D. Susano, Jr.
505 Main Street, P.O. Box 444, Knoxville, TN 37902


D. Michael Swiney
505 Main Street, Suite 325, P.O. Box 444, Knoxville, TN 37902


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 twelve on September 1, 1996. The members sit monthly in panels of three in Jackson, Knoxville, and Nashville. They may also meet in other locations as necessary.
All Court of Criminal Appeals decisions may be appealed to the Tennessee Supreme Court by permission, except in direct appeals of capital cases, 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 statewide ballot every eight years.

**Western Section**

**John Everett Williams**

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

Born 1953, Milan; one son; Methodist; Huntingdon High School; B.S. in criminal justice, University of Tennessee at Martin; J.D., Cumberland School of Law, 1981; private practice, Williams & Williams Attorneys at Law, Huntingdon, 1981–1998; member, Tennessee Bar Association; Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association; Carroll County Bar Association (past president, 1981–1984); Huntingdon Jaycees Outstanding Chairperson; Huntingdon Lions Club (past president, 1991–1992); American Heart Association; American Cancer Society; American Red Cross; Carroll County Habitat for Humanity; Carroll County 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 terms August 2006 and 2014.

**Alan E. Glenn**

5050 Poplar Avenue, Suite 1414, Memphis, TN 38157


Camille R. McMullen
5050 Poplar Avenue, Suite 1403, Memphis, TN 38157

Born 1971, Nashville; married; two children; St. Andrews African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church, Memphis; John Overton High School, Nashville, 1989; B.S., political science, 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, and Ray Jenkins Trial Semi-Finalist; clerk for the Republic of South Africa, post-apartheid; admitted to Tennessee Bar, 1997; law clerk to the Honorable Joe G. Riley, Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals, 1996–1997; Assistant District Attorney General, Shelby County, 1997–2001; Assistant United States Attorney, 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; American Inns of Court; fellow, Memphis Bar Association; appointed to Court of Criminal Appeals by Governor Phil Bredesen in 2008, becoming the first African-American woman to serve on the Court of Criminal Appeals.

J. Ross Dyer
5050 Poplar Avenue, Suite 1414, Memphis, TN 38157

Born 1973; married; one child; B.B.A. in business administration, minor in economics, Millsaps College; J.D., Cumberland School of Law; Assistant Attorney General, 1998–2007; Senior Counsel, Tennessee Attorney General's Office 2007–2014; Shelby County Attorney, 2014–2016; Board member, past chair, Christ Community Health Services; lay leader, congregational elder, past chair of board of trustees, Christ United Methodist Church; Tennessee Bar Association; Memphis Bar Association; appointed by Governor Bill Haslam, confirmed by state legislature, 2016; elected 2016.

Middle Section

Robert L. Holloway, Jr.
418 West Seventh Street, Columbia, TN 38401

Timothy Lee Easter

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


Thomas T. Woodall

103 Sylvis Street, Dickson, TN 37056

Born 1955, Nashville; two children; Presbyterian; Battle Ground Academy; B.S., Tennessee Technological University; J.D., University of Memphis; admitted to practice law in Tennessee, 1981; member, Tennessee Court of the Judiciary, 2003–2011; member, Tennessee and Dickson County Bar associations; Tennessee Judicial Conference; First Presbyterian Church of Dickson; “City of Dickson 100 Years Celebration” committee, 1999; co-chairman, Dickson County American Cancer Society Relay for Life event, 2005; former chairman, Benton County Unit of American Heart Association; former member, board of directors, Dickson County Habitat for Humanity, Inc.; board of directors, Dickson Help Center; law clerk for the Honorable Mark Walker, Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, 1981–1982; private practice, Shelby County, 1982–1984; Assistant District Attorney General, 24th Judicial District, Huntingdon, 1984–1990; private practice, Dickson, 1990–November 1996; appointed to Court of Criminal Appeals December 1996; elected to eight-year terms August 1998, 2006, and 2014.

Robert W. Wedemeyer

Supreme Court Building, Suite 211, 401 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219

Robert H. Montgomery, Jr.

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

Born 1953, Kingsport; married; one child; United Methodist; Dobyns-Bennett High School, Kingsport, 1971; B.A., Vanderbilt University, 1975; J.D., University of Tennessee College of Law, 1979; private practice, Kingsport, 1979–1985; Tennessee Unemployment Appeals Referee, 1985–1986; Assistant District Attorney General, Sullivan County, 2nd Judicial District, 1986–2006; elected 2006, Sullivan County Criminal Court Judge, 2nd Judicial District; appointed to the Court of Criminal Appeals, Eastern Section, by Governor Bill Haslam, 2013; elected 2016; Kingsport Bar Association; Tennessee Bar Association (former member of Board of Governors); Tennessee Bar Foundation; Tennessee Judicial Conference (member, executive committee; member, criminal pattern jury instructions committee); former member and chair, Kingsport Public Library Commission; former member and chair, Watauga Regional Library; former member and president, Kingsport Jaycees; former member and president, Tri-Cities Rotary Club.

James Curwood Witt, Jr.

505 Main Street, Suite 250, Knoxville, TN 37902


Norma McGee Ogle

505 Main Street, Suite 350, Knoxville, TN 37902

Born 1952, Lawrenceburg; married; one child; Methodist; 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: Tennessee Bar Association, Sevier County Bar Association, and 2014; member, Tennessee Bar Association, Nashville Bar Association, Robertson County Bar Association, and Montgomery County Bar Association (president, 1981); fellow, Nashville Bar Foundation; former little league baseball coach, youth soccer coach, and YMCA youth basketball coach; past president, Montgomery County Chapter of American Red Cross; graduate, Leadership Clarksville, 1988; served as deacon, elder, and stewardship chairman, First Presbyterian Church of Clarksville; former adjunct professor at Austin Peay State University, Clarksville; long-standing member of the National Commodore Club.

D. Kelly Thomas, Jr.
505 Main Street, Suite 334, Knoxville, TN 37902


Senior Judges

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

William B. Acree, Jr.
Don R. Ash
Robert E. Lee Davies

Administrative Office of the Courts

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

Deborah Taylor Tate, Administrative Director

Born 1956, Columbia; hometown Murfreesboro; married; three children; B.S., University of Tennessee–Knoxville, 1977; J.D., University of Tennessee College of Law, 1980; Vanderbilt University Law School, 1979–1980; law clerk, assistant legal counsel, and senior policy advisor to Governor Lamar Alexander and Governor Don Sundquist; director, Health Facilities Commission; director and chairman, Tennessee Regulatory Authority; co-chair, NARUC Washington Action;
liaison, Title 33 Commission and Juvenile Justice Commission; director, Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy State and Local Policy Center; Rule 31–approved civil mediator; guardian ad litem and co-founder, Renewal House; president, CASA; fellow, Nashville Bar Foundation; adjunct lecturer, Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, Belmont University, and Lipscomb University; executive in residence, Andrews Institute on Public Policy; adjunct senior fellow, Free State Foundation; co-chair, National Healthy Media Commission, International Girls in ICT, International Women’s Forum, and Women Corporate Directors; board of directors, HealthStream, Inc.; Leadership Nashville, Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, Common Sense Media (National), Multicultural Media Telecom Internet Council (D.C.); Centerstone of TN; Centerstone Research Institute; two-time appointee by President George W. Bush to the Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C.; U.S. Rep. to the World Radio Communications Conference; U.S. Bilateral negotiator for communications; Special Laureate and Special Envoy to the International Telecommunications Union, Geneva; recognized as National Policymaker by the National Cable Association, National Broadcasters, Boy Scouts, and Common Sense Media; Mary Harriman Award, Association of Junior Leagues International; appointed Director of the AOC January 2015.

Appellate Court Clerks

Jim Hivner, Appellate Court Clerk
Joanne Newsome, Chief Deputy Clerk, Knoxville
Lisa Marsh, Chief Deputy Clerk, Nashville
Nancy A. Acred, Chief Deputy Clerk, Jackson

Jim Hivner

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 Board of Judicial Conduct, 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. The office is based in Nashville, which is in 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 are also 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 judges for a six-year term.

State Trial Courts

Tennessee's ninety-five counties are divided into thirty-one 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 courts of equity that are based on the English system in which the chancellor acted as the “King’s conscience.” A chancellor, the judge who presides over chancery courts, may modify the application of strict legal rules and adapt relief to the circumstances of individual cases. Chancery Courts handle a variety of issues including lawsuits, contract disputes, application for injunctions, and name changes. A number of matters, such as divorces, adoptions, and workers’ compensation, can be heard in either chancery or circuit court.

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

1st Judicial District ...........................................(Carter, Johnson, Unicoi, and Washington) John C. Rambo*
Chancery Court .................................................. James Edwin Lauderback (Part I)
.................................................. Jean A. Stanley (Part II)
Circuit Court ....................................................... Lisa Nidiffer Rice (Part I)
....................................................... Stacy L. Street (Part II)
2nd Judicial District
Chancery Court ................................................. E. G. Moody*
Circuit Court ............................................. John S. McLellan, III (Part I)
                                      William K. "Bill" Rogers (Part II)
Criminal Court ........................................... James F. Goodwin

3rd Judicial District  ........................................ (Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, and Hawkins)
Chancery Court ........................................... Douglas T. Jenkins
Circuit Court ............................................. Alex E. Pearson (Part I)
                                      Thomas J. Wright (Part II)*
                                      Beth Boniface (Part III)
Criminal Court ............................................. John F. Dugger, Jr.

4th Judicial District  ........................................ (Cocke, Grainger, Jefferson, and Sevier)
Chancery Court ........................................... Telford E. Forgety, Jr.*
Circuit Court ............................................. Carter S. Moore (Part I)
                                      Richard Robert Vance (Part II)
                                      Rex Henry Ogle (Part III)
                                      O. Duane Slone (Part IV)

5th Judicial District  ........................................ (Blount)
Chancery Court ........................................... Telford E. Forgety, Jr.*
Circuit Court ............................................. Tammy Harrington (Part I)
                                      David R. Duggan (Part II)*

6th Judicial District  ........................................ (Knox)
Chancery Court ........................................... John F. Weaver (Part I)
                                      Clarence E. Pridemore, Jr. (Part II)
                                      Michael W. Moyers (Part III)
Circuit Court ............................................. Kristi Davis (Division I)*
                                      William T. Ailor (Division II)
                                      Deborah C. Stevens (Division III)
                                      Greg McMillan (Division IV)
Criminal Court ............................................. Steven W. Sword (Division I)
                                      Bobby Ray McGee (Division II)
                                      G. Scott Green (Division III)

7th Judicial District  ........................................ (Anderson)
Chancery Court ........................................... Nichole Cantrell
Circuit Court ............................................. Donald R. Elledge*

8th Judicial District  ........................................ (Campbell, Claiborne, Fentress, Scott, and Union)
Chancery Court ........................................... Elizabeth C. Asbury*
Circuit Court ............................................. John McAfee
Criminal Court ............................................. E. Shayne Sexton
9th Judicial District .................................................. (Loudon, Meigs, Morgan, and Roane)
Chancery Court ......................................................... Frank V. Williams, III*
Circuit Court .......................................................... Mike Pemberton
Criminal Court .......................................................... Jeff Wicks

10th Judicial District .................................................. (Bradley, McMinn, Monroe, and Polk)
Chancery Court .......................................................... Jerri S. Bryant
Circuit Court .......................................................... Larry H. Puckett (Part I)
J. Michael Sharp (Part II)
Andrew M. Freiberg (Part III)
Criminal Court .......................................................... Sandra N. Donaghy*

11th Judicial District .................................................. (Hamilton)
Chancery Court .......................................................... Pamela A. Fleenor (Part I)
Jeffrey M. Atherton (Part II)
Circuit Court .......................................................... J. B. Bennett (Division I)*
Jeff Hollingsworth (Division II)
L. Marie Williams (Division III)
Vacant
Criminal Court .......................................................... Barry A. Steelman (Division I)
Tom Greenholtz (Division II)
Don W. Poole (Division III)

12th Judicial District .................................................. (Bledsoe, Franklin, Grundy, Marion, Rhea, and Sequatchie)
Chancery Court .......................................................... Jeffrey F. Stewart*
Circuit Court .......................................................... Thomas W. “Rusty” Graham (Part I)
J. Curtis Smith (Part II)
Justin C. Angel (Part III)

13th Judicial District .................................................. (Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, and White)
Chancery Court .......................................................... Ronald Thurman
Circuit Court .......................................................... Amy V. Hollars (Part I)*
Jonathan Young (Part II)
Criminal Court .......................................................... Gary McKenzie (Part I)
David A. Patterson (Division II)

14th Judicial District .................................................. (Coffee)
Circuit Court .......................................................... L. Craig Johnson (Part I)
Vanessa Agee Jackson (Part II)*

15th Judicial District .................................................. (Jackson, Macon, Smith, Trousdale, and Wilson)
Chancery Court .......................................................... C. K. Smith*
Circuit Court .......................................................... Clara W. Byrd (Division I)
John D. Wootten, Jr. (Division II)
Criminal Court .......................................................... Brody Kane
16th Judicial District ....................................................... (Cannon and Rutherford)
Chancery Court .......................................................... Howard W. Wilson*
Circuit Court ............................................................. J. Mark Rogers (Division I)
                              David M. Bragg (Division II)
                              Vacant
                              Royce Taylor (Division IV)

17th Judicial District ..................................................... (Bedford, Lincoln, Marshall, and Moore)
Chancery Court .......................................................... James B. “J. B.” Cox*
Circuit Court ............................................................. Forest A. Durard, Jr. (Part I)
                              Franklin Lee Russell (Part II)

18th Judicial District ..................................................... (Sumner)
Chancery Court .......................................................... Louis W. Oliver, III
Circuit Court ............................................................. Joe Thompson*
Criminal Court ........................................................... Dee David Gay

19th Judicial District ..................................................... (Montgomery and Robertson)
Chancery Court .......................................................... Laurence M. “Larry” McMillan, Jr.
Circuit Court ............................................................. Ross H. Hicks (Part I)
                              Bill Goodman (Part II)*
                              Ted A. Crozier, Jr. (Part III)
                              Jill Bartee Ayers (Part IV)

20th Judicial District ..................................................... (Davidson)
Chancery Court .......................................................... Claudia Bonnyman (Part I)
                              William E. “Bill” Young (Part II)
                              Ellen Hobbs Lyle (Part III)
                              Russell T. Perkins (Part IV)
Circuit Court ............................................................. Hamilton V. Gayden, Jr. (Division I)
                              Amanda McClendon (Division II)
                              Phillip Robinson (Division III)
                              Philip E. Smith (Division IV)
                              Joe P. Binkley, Jr. (Division V)*
                              Thomas W. Brothers (Division VI)
                              David Randall “Randy” Kennedy (Division VII)
                              Kelvin D. Jones (Division VIII)
Criminal Court ........................................................... Steve R. Dozier (Division I)
                              Vacant
                              Cheryl A. Blackburn (Division III)
                              Seth W. Norman (Division IV)
                              Monte D. Watkins (Division V)
                              Mark J. Fishburn (Division VI)
21st Judicial District ........................................ (Hickman, Lewis, Perry, and Williamson)
Circuit Court ................................................. Woody Woodruff (Division I)*
James G. Martin, III (Division II)
Mike Binkley (Division III)
Deanna Bell Johnson (Division IV)

22nd Judicial District ........................................ (Giles, Lawrence, Maury, and Wayne)
Circuit Court .................................................. David Allen (Part I)
Russell Parkes (Part II)
Robert L. “Bob” Jones (Part III)
Stella L. Hargrove (Part IV)*

23rd Judicial District ........................................ (Cheatham, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys, and Stewart)
Circuit Court .................................................. David Wolfe (Division I)*
Larry J. Wallace (Division II)
Suzanne M. Lockert-Mash (Division III)

24th Judicial District ........................................ (Benton, Carroll, Decatur, Hardin, and Henry)
Chancery Court ............................................... Carma D. McGee*
Circuit Court .................................................. Charles Creed McGinley (Part I)
Donald E. Parish (Part II)

25th Judicial District ........................................ (Fayette, Hardeman, Lauderdale, McNairy, and Tipton)
Chancery Court ............................................... William C. Cole (Part I)*
Martha B. Brasfield (Part II)
Circuit Court .................................................. J. Weber McCraw (Part I)
Joe H. Walker, III (Part II)

26th Judicial District ........................................ (Chester, Henderson, and Madison)
Chancery Court ............................................... James F. Butler
Circuit Court .................................................. Roy B. Morgan, Jr. (Division I)
Donald H. Allen (Division II)
Kyle Atkins (Division III)*

27th Judicial District ........................................ (Obion and Weakley)
Chancery Court ............................................... W. Michael Maloan*
Circuit Court .................................................. Jeff Parham

28th Judicial District ........................................ (Crockett, Gibson, and Haywood)
Chancery Court ............................................... George R. Ellis
Circuit Court .................................................. Clayburn Peeples*

29th Judicial District ........................................ (Dyer and Lake)
Chancery Court ............................................... Tony A. Childress*
Circuit Court .................................................. Russell Lee Moore, Jr.
Courts of Limited Jurisdiction

General Sessions Court jurisdiction varies by 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 defendants waive 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.

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.
Introduction

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 officers and agencies of the state in civil litigation before state and federal courts and the Tennessee Claims Commission. The attorney general prosecutes all criminal cases in the appellate courts and exercises original prosecutorial powers in limited areas. He 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, agencies, and the General Assembly. Published opinions of the attorney general on legal issues are rendered to state officials upon request. The attorney general reviews all administrative regulations and many state contracts, deeds, and leases. 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 and solicitor general. The solicitor general supervises and coordinates the appellate work of the office and the preparation of the office's published opinions.

Herbert H. Slatery III
Attorney General and Reporter

Herbert H. Slatery III was sworn in as the Attorney General and Reporter for the state of Tennessee on October 1, 2014. He was appointed by the Supreme Court to serve an eight-year term.

Prior to his appointment as Attorney General and Reporter, General Slatery served as Counsel to Governor Bill Haslam from 2011–2014. In addition to providing legal advice to the Governor, he oversaw the process for judicial appointments, coordinated the legal affairs of the executive branch for the Governor, assisted in the development and implementation of legislation, and reviewed requests for executive clemency and extradition.

Before joining the Haslam Administration, General Slatery was in private practice in Knoxville with Egerton, McAfee, Armistead & Davis, P.C., for whom he served as president from 1998–2007 and chairman from 2008 through January 2011. He practiced in the areas of finance (both private
and local government), corporate governance, capital formation, real estate, and acquisitions and sales of businesses.

General Slatery is a Knoxville native. He holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Virginia and a law degree from the University of Tennessee. He and his wife, Cary, have two children, Frances and Harrison, and one granddaughter, Carter Elizabeth Slatery.

Executive Staff

**Paul C. Ney, Jr.**  
*Chief Deputy Attorney General*

The chief deputy coordinates and supervises the work of the office, including review of substantive work and general management of the office.


**Andrée Sophia Blumstein**  
*Solicitor General*

The Office of the Solicitor General oversees all appellate litigation practice in the Tennessee Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Court of Criminal Appeals, United States Supreme Court, and Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. The office also oversees all published opinions issued by the attorney general.

Jay Dickerson
Chief of Staff

The Chief of Staff manages administrative matters including talent management, organizational development, IT, fiscal, and facilities management.

B.A. in Economics, University of Tennessee, 1976; MBA, University of Tennessee, 1978. Thirty-five year career in the energy sector with El Paso Corporation in Houston, Washington, and Birmingham in a variety of senior leadership roles. Appointed Chief of Staff in October 2015. He and his wife, Jan, have children and grandchildren in Knoxville and Austin, Texas.

Sections and Divisions

Civil Justice Section. Dawn M. Jordan, Senior Deputy.

Civil Litigation and State Services Division. Jay Ballard, Deputy. The Civil Litigation and State Services 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. Stephanie Reevers, Deputy. The Civil Rights and Claims Division defends the State and its employees in federal civil rights actions and tort claims brought in all federal courts, state courts, and the Tennessee Claims Commission.

General Civil Division. Alex Rieger, 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, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Agriculture, Tourist Development, Veterans Services, and Military.

Criminal Justice Section. Amy Tarkington, Senior Deputy.

Criminal Appeals Division. Rachel Willis, Deputy. The Criminal Appeals Division handles all appellate matters involved in procuring and then defending criminal judgements in the State's appellate courts. Division attorneys are responsible for interlocutory, extraordinary, direct and post-conviction appeals, and for defending state criminal judgements in state habeas corpus proceedings in both the trial and appellate courts. The Division has a team of attorneys who work with the Governor's legal counsel and Department of Correction attorneys in dealing with extradition and detainer matters. Division attorneys also spend a great deal of time advising District Attorneys General and their assistants and helping them work through complex legal issues.

Federal Habeas Corpus Division. John Bledsoe, Deputy. The Federal Habeas Corpus Division defends Tennessee criminal judgments against collateral attacks in the federal courts. Since federal habeas corpus is the last stage in the three-tier process of appellate review for criminal judgments, division attorneys also handle end-stage capital litigation in death penalty cases.

Law Enforcement and Special Prosecutions Division. Scott Sutherland, Deputy. The Law Enforcement and Special Prosecutions Division handles criminal prosecutions over which this Office has original jurisdiction, such as in matters involving criminal acts by elected state judicial
officials, Securities Act violations, and violations of the State's Clean Water Act. Division attorneys also assist District Attorneys General, through cross-designation, in some complex financial or environmental prosecutions and other criminal prosecutions with the exception of cases involving crimes against the person. The division represents the State's interests in administrative appeals of civil forfeiture proceedings and represents several State agencies, including the Department of Safety and Homeland Security, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, and the Alcoholic Beverage Commission, in suits for declaratory and injunctive relief as well as in the appeals of these cases. Additionally, the division represents these agencies and district attorneys general in matters where subpoenas are served seeking official records.

**Economic & Regulatory Section. Linda Ross, Senior Deputy.**

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

**Financial Division. C. Scott Jackson, 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.

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

**Real Property and Transportation Division. George Boyte, Deputy.** The Real Property and Transportation Division represents the state 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.

**Public Protection Section. Leslie Ann Bridges, Senior Deputy.**

**Consumer Advocate and Protection Division. Jeff Hill, Deputy.** The Consumer Protection and Advocate Division consists of two teams. 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.

**Medicaid Fraud and Integrity Division. Tony Hullender, Deputy.** The Medicaid Fraud and Integrity 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.

**Public Interest Division. Janet M. Kleinfelter, Deputy.** The Public Interest Division carries out the office's statutory duty to oversee the operation of nonprofit entities on behalf of Tennesseans. The division handles charitable oversight and charitable solicitations as well as issues involving open meetings, public records, and campaigns and elections. The False Claims team handles non-Medicaid false claims matters.

**Revenue Section. Kathryn Behm Celauro, Senior Deputy.**

**Bankruptcy Division. Gill Geldreich, 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 in which a state entity is owed a debt. The division also collects penalties and other debts owed to state departments and agencies.
**Tax Division.** Charles L. Lewis, Deputy. The Tax Division defends the Department of Revenue in suits challenging tax assessments or seeking refunds. It also represents the State Board of Equalization in its role in administering property taxes. In addition to these tax matters, the division represents most of the regulatory boards in the Department of Commerce and Insurance, the Supreme Court boards governing the legal profession, the Tennessee Public Utility Commission, and the business functions of the Secretary of State.

**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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leslie Ann Bridges</td>
<td>Senior Deputy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathryn Behm Celauro</td>
<td>Senior Deputy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dawn M. Jordan</td>
<td>Senior Deputy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linda A. Ross</td>
<td>Senior Deputy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy L. Tarkington</td>
<td>Senior Deputy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jay Ballard</td>
<td>Deputy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Bledsoe</td>
<td>Deputy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Boyte</td>
<td>Deputy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Associate Solicitors General

Jennifer L. Smith
Joseph F. Whalen

Special Assistant to Solicitor General and Attorney General

Sarah Campbell

Assistant Solicitor General

Jonathan D. Shaub

Special Counsel

Katherine Dix
Steven A. Hart
Michael A. Meyer
James R. Newsom, III
Carolyn E. Reed

Senior Counsel

Shayna R. Abrams
Benjamin A. Ball
Nicholas G. Barca
Jennifer L. Brenner
Melissa Brodhag
Vance L. Broemel
Brad H. Buchanan
Wilson S. Buntin
Bruce M. Butler
Stephen R. Butler
Brent C. Cherry
Phyllis A. Childs
Marvin E. Clements, Jr.
John W. Dalton
Victor J. Domen, Jr.
David H. Findley
Mary S. Foust
James E. Gaylord
M. Amanda Govan
Gina Baker Hantel
Brant Harrell
Sarah Ann Hiestand

Sohnia W. Hong
William E. James
R. Stephen Jobe
Laura T. Kidwell
Mary Ellen Knack
Lauren S. Lamberth
Sophia S. Lee
Pamela S. Lorch
Michael Markham
Elizabeth P. McCarter
Laura L. McCloud
William McCormick, Jr.
Mary E. McCullohs
Cynthia L. Paduch
Jennifer E. Peacock
R. Mitchell Porcello
Janie C. Porter
Leslie E. Price
Heather Cairns Ross
Olha N. M. Rybakoff
Sara E. Sedgwick
Sue A. Sheldon

Carolyn U. Smith
Ruth A. Thompson
Clark B. Thornton
Terry D. Tucker
Renee W. Turner
Talmage M. Watts
Eugenie B. Whitesell
Jonathan N. Wike
Michael B. Willey
Stuart F. Wilson-Patton
Assistant Attorneys General

Joseph Ahillen                  Kelly M. Horejs                  Brian J. Ramming
Thomas J. Aumann               Wayne M. Irvin                   Katherine Redding
Kathryn A. Baker                Matthew D. Janssen               M. Todd Ridley
Philip Bangle                  Peako A. Jenkins                 Joanna C. Roberts
Stephanie A. Bergmeyer         Taylor W. Jenkins                Margaret O. Rowland
Nicholas S. Bolduc              Kierstin Jodway                  Torrey E. Samson
Meredith W. Bowen              Amanda S. Jordan                 Brooke K. Schiferle
Benjamin Travis Brown          Ryan A. Lee                      Matthew A. Schultz
David N. Burn                   Sung Jae Lim                    Erin Shackelford
Andrew B. Campbell             Colleen E. Mallea                 Timothy R. Simonds
E. Ashley Carter               Jaclyn L. McAndrew               Lindsay H. Sisco
Nathan O’Neil Casey            Hannah McCann                    Caitlin Smith
Ronald Coleman                 John David McDowell               Nicholas White Spangler
Andrew C. Coulam               Erin Frankrone Merrick            Karen H. Stachowski
Jordan K. Crews                 Ann Marie Mikkelsen             Michael Stahl
Charlotte Davis                Laura E. Miller                  James P. Urban
Richard D. Douglas             Robert Mitchell                  Emily Beth Vann
Matthew R. Dowty               Meghan Murphy                    Alexander C. Vey
William Michael Evans          John Peter Murrey                 Richard Vaughn
Eric Andrew Fuller             Jessica Myers                     Anna Waller
William Derek Green            Rachel A. Newton                 Jonathan H. Wardle
Kelley L. Groover              Sara Ohlman                      Thomas Austin Watkins
Jared A. Hagler                 Courtney N. Orr                  Daniel P. Whitaker
Katherine M. Harper            Austin S. Payne                  Robert W. Wilson
Lorrie N. Hayes                Brian A. Pierce                  Jeffrey D. Zentner
Zachary T. Hinkle              Michael C. Polovich
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 composed of the district attorneys general from the state’s thirty-one 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.

Jerry Estes

Executive Director to the District Attorneys General Conference

Born youngest of six children, Sweetwater, 1951; married; two adult children; Methodist. Sweetwater High School, national president Future Business Leaders of America. University of Tennessee at Knoxville, president Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity, named Torchbearer, highest honor given a UT-K senior. Received BS in Agri-business with honors in 1973, and JD from UT College of Law in 1976. Admitted to the bar in the State of Tennessee, federal courts for the Eastern District of Tennessee, and the United States Supreme Court. Began practice in Athens in 1976, served as McMinn County School Board attorney, City of Niota attorney, and was engaged in the general practice of law, which included indigent defense and criminal practice. Elected District Attorney General for Bradley, McMinn, Monroe, and Polk counties in 1982, making him the youngest District Attorney in Tennessee at that time. He was reelected in each subsequent election, the last without opposition, and served in that position for 24 years until he did not seek reelection in 2006. Founded law firm in Athens in 2007 focusing on property, estate planning, probate, civil litigation, and business law. Left private...
practice to become executive director of the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference in 2016. Estes has served the District Attorneys General Conference as president 1996–1998, vice-president 1995–1996, secretary-treasurer 1994–1995, Public Education Committee 2005–2006, Ethics Committee 2000–2003, Executive Committee 1983–1984, 1988–1989, and 2001–2002, Computer Committee 1985, Child Sexual Abuse Task Force 1984; the Tennessee Bar Association; Board of Governors 1996–1998, Task Force on Drug and Alcohol Abuse 1985; and the National District Attorney Association: Tennessee Director, Board of Directors 2002–2006, Victim Services Committee co-chair 2002–2004. Has held past memberships in the National Crime Victims Law Institute at Lewis & Clark Law School; International Association of Prosecutors; and American Bar Association, McMinn/Meigs Bar Association. He is a Tennessee Bar Foundation Fellow. Estes has been consultant to the California Department of Corrections for the National Institute of Corrections; consultant to the U.S. Forest Service; the only state prosecutor in the United States to serve on the FBI National Steering Committee for Regional Computer Forensic Laboratories; one of only five U.S. prosecutors asked by the Justice Department to write a guide for crime scene investigations; one of only two U.S. prosecutors invited to attend Information Technology Study Group; cross designated as special prosecutor in federal court; and prosecuted four cases in which juries gave a death sentence. During his career, Estes has helped establish a community corrections program, drug court, child advocacy center, and two victim assistance centers, as well as involvement in numerous community enhancement organizations. In June 2015, he was elected executive director of the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference for one year in an unexpired four-year term. In June 2016, he was reelected to a full four-year term.

Staff

Guy R. Jones
Deputy Executive Director

Nancy White
Director, Fiscal Services

Casey Murphree
Director, Information Services

Laurie Steen
Director, Personnel Services

Bertha Graves
State Child Support Coordinator

Sherri Harper
Director, Education and Training

Burney Durham
Director of Legal Services

District Attorneys General

Judicial District ................................................................. Name
1st................................................................. Anthony Clark
2nd................................................................. Barry P. Staubus
3rd................................................................. Dan Armstrong
4th................................................................. Jimmy Dunn
5th................................................................. Mike Flynn
6th................................................................. Charme Allen
7th ................................................................. Dave Clark
8th ................................................................. Jared Effler
9th ................................................................. Russell Johnson
10th ................................................................. Steve Crump
11th ................................................................. Neal Pinkston
12th ................................................................. J. Michael Taylor
13th ................................................................. Bryant Dunaway
14th ................................................................. Craig Northcott
15th ................................................................. Tom P. Thompson, Jr.
16th ................................................................. Jennings Jones
17th ................................................................. Robert Carter
18th ................................................................. Lawrence Ray Whitley
19th ................................................................. John W. Carney
20th ................................................................. Glenn Funk
21st ................................................................. Kim Helper
22nd ............................................................... Brent Cooper
23rd ................................................................. Ray Crouch
24th ................................................................. Matt Stowe
25th ................................................................. Mark E. Davidson
26th ................................................................. Jody S. Pickens
27th ................................................................. Thomas Thomas
28th ................................................................. Garry Brown
29th ................................................................. Phillip Bivens
30th ................................................................. Amy P. Weirich
31st ................................................................. Lisa Zavogiannis
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 one. District Public Defenders are attorneys elected in each judicial district who are 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 executive director’s office is the central administrative office for twenty-nine of the District Public Defenders offices. The executive director handles 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, developing 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 statute.

Patrick G. Frogge

Executive Director to the District Public Defenders Conference

Staff

Suanne Bone  
Assistant Executive Director

Kathy Hartman  
Fiscal Director

Tammy Rather  
Personnel Director

Kirk Yoquelet  
Research Director/Staff Attorney

District Public Defenders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Judicial District</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Jeff Kelly</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Stephen M. Wallace</td>
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<td>3rd</td>
<td>Greg W. Eichelman</td>
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<td>4th</td>
<td>Edward C. Miller</td>
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<td>5th</td>
<td>Mack Garner</td>
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<td>6th</td>
<td>Mark E. Stephens</td>
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<td>7th</td>
<td>Tom Marshall</td>
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<td>8th</td>
<td>Leif Ericson Jeffers</td>
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<td>9th</td>
<td>Kim R. Nelson</td>
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<td>10th</td>
<td>Richard Hughes, Jr.</td>
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<td>Steven E. Smith</td>
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<td>Jeff Harmon</td>
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<td>Craig D. Fickling</td>
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<td>Gerald Lynn Melton</td>
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<td>Roger E. Nell</td>
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<td>Claudia Jack</td>
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<td>23rd</td>
<td>William B. “Jake” Lockert III</td>
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<td>24th</td>
<td>Robert “Tas” Gardner</td>
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<td>25th</td>
<td>Bo Burk</td>
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<td>George Morton Googe</td>
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<td>Joseph P. Atnip</td>
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<td>Tom W. Crider</td>
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<td>James E. Lanier</td>
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<td>30th</td>
<td>Stephen Bush</td>
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<tr>
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<td>John P. Partin</td>
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Tennessee Blue Book District Public Defenders Conference