

*Annual Report of
the Tennessee
Judiciary*

*Fiscal Year
2003-2004*

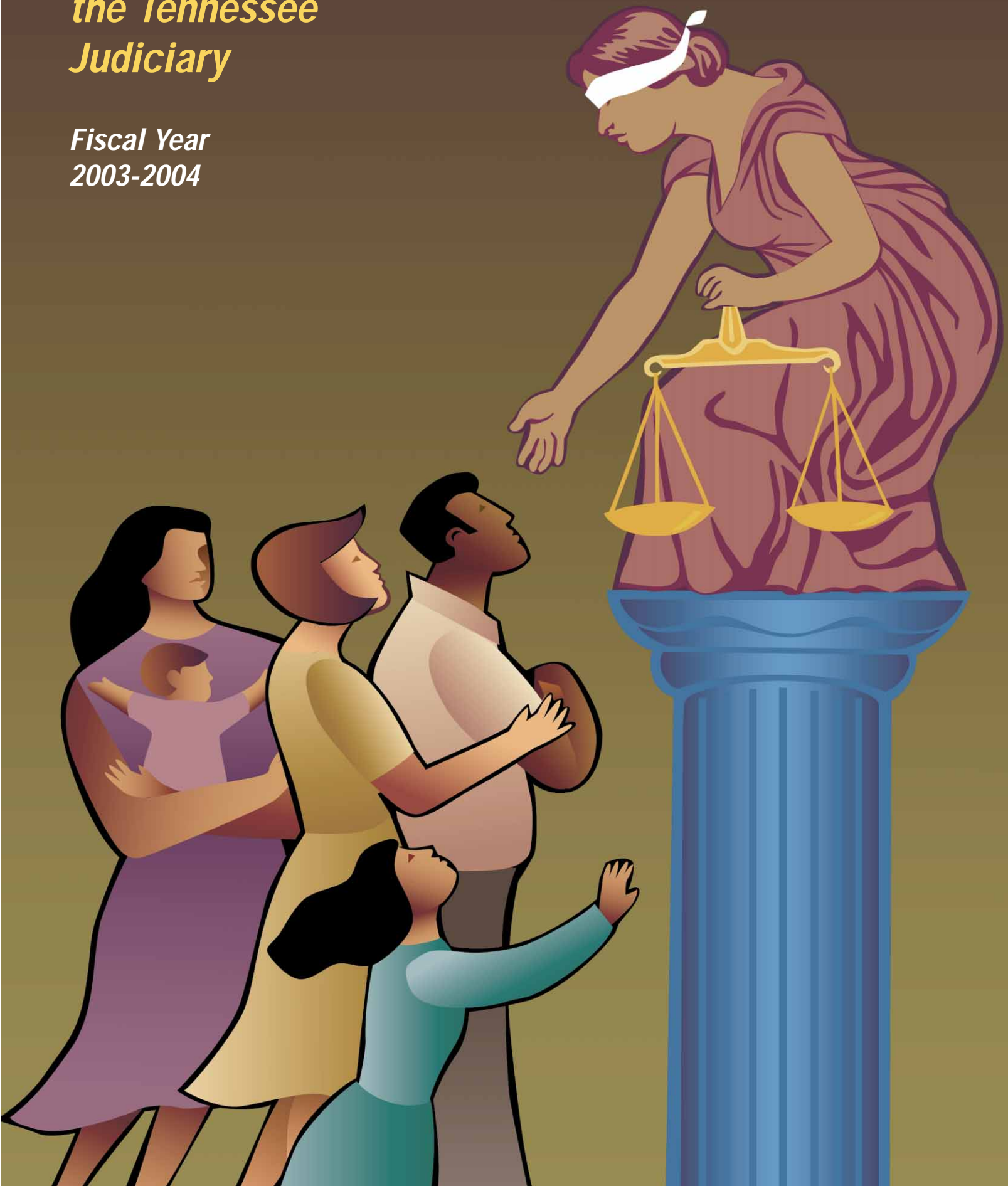


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Message from the Chief Justice and Administrative Director

Dear Fellow Tennesseans,

You may have noticed that Lady Justice has a new look as she appears on the cover of this “Annual Report of the Tennessee Judiciary.” Rather than holding the Scales of Justice in one hand and her traditional sword in the other, she is reaching out toward a family. This graphic illustrates how the justice system in Tennessee is reaching out and offering a helping hand to some pro se – or self-represented – litigants with family law issues and limited resources.



Chief Justice
Frank F. Drowota, III

A working group of volunteers from across the state has been meeting over the past year to identify major barriers confronted by pro se litigants. In addition, the committee, co-chaired by University of Tennessee College of Law Professor Carl Pierce and Circuit Court Judge Jackie Schulten of the 11th Judicial District, is reviewing initiatives already in place in some other states and recommending how Tennessee can innovatively address problems commonly faced by pro se litigants.

The spark that ignited the pro se initiative was a grant the Administrative Office of the Courts applied for and received from the State Justice Institute. The \$20,000 federal grant, awarded in 2003, enabled the AOC to sponsor a pro se summit for judges,

lawyers, court clerks, pro se litigants and court personnel from across Tennessee. The inaugural event was a tremendous success, energizing participants and equipping them to assist pro se litigants in their communities.

This is only the beginning in Tennessee. We are moving steadily, deliberately and thoughtfully toward a justice system that is equally accessible to pro se and counseled litigants.

Since then, the AOC has received additional grant funds totaling more than \$280,000 for programs to assist pro se litigants. These grants have been awarded to nine agencies throughout the state and are improving access to justice for many Tennesseans who otherwise might not receive needed information and assistance.

This is only the beginning in Tennessee. We are moving steadily, deliberately and thoughtfully toward a justice system that is equally accessible to pro se and counseled litigants.

We will keep you informed about the work of our pro se volunteers and resulting changes. This active group includes judges, lawyers and others committed to equal justice. The members are enthusiastic about their mission, and the result of their efforts in partnership with the judicial branch, will improve the justice system for all Tennesseans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank F. Drowota, III".

Frank F. Drowota, III

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Connie Clark".

Connie Clark

Pro Se Initiatives Helping Ensure Equal Justice

Until recently, a little girl from Anderson County never had hugged her father or played with her two half-siblings. But, thanks in part to the work of Community Mediation Services (CMS) of Anderson County and an Access and Visitation Grant provided through the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), 4-year-old Leia (not her real name) is experiencing those important relationships on a regular basis.

“The mother, Laurie, and father, Kahil, (not their real names) had lived together for several months, but broke up at the time of Leia’s birth,” said CMS Executive Director Anne Sides. “Laurie was young and overwhelmed at being a mother . . . Kahil tried repeatedly to see his daughter, but Laurie’s family threatened him and warned him not to ever make any contact with Laurie or Leia. Eventually, Kahil gave up his efforts . . .”

Access and Visitation Grants

In 2003, CMS was among nine agencies statewide chosen to receive grants aimed at improving access to justice for pro se - or self-represented - litigants. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), using grant funds, awarded a total of more than \$280,000 based on applicants’ written proposals. The money was earmarked to help Tennesseans with family law legal issues, but without resources to hire private legal counsel.

The first round of grants was part of a larger effort to assist pro se litigants. A working group of volunteers, co-chaired by University of Tennessee College of Law Professor Carl Pierce and Circuit Court Judge Jackie Schulten of the 11th Judicial District, has been meeting to determine what changes can reasonably be made to help litigants who are self-represented. The work of the group also includes gathering and studying pro se initiatives from other states, creating uniform family law forms and delving into pro se-related ethical issues for judges, court clerks and others in the legal system. The pro se committee’s efforts and the grants awarded through the AOC, including new grantees and awards in 2004, are the beginnings of a continuing judicial system commitment to ensure equal access to courts.

The immediate beneficiaries of the pro se movement are families across the state. For example, in Anderson County, CMS is using a grant award to provide mediation of visitation issues between never-married couples to establish a schedule for the noncustodial parent, Sides said.



“The program recognizes that children need a predictable schedule and a safe and healthy relationship with both parents,” she said. “Trained volunteer mediators work in pairs to provide mediation services in community-provided facilities throughout the county.”

In Leia’s case, a judge had recommended visitation mediation after Kahil

“When Kahil and Laurie came to our office for an interview, they had not seen each other since their daughter’s birth. Kahil was angry and confused, as was Laurie. However, both reluctantly agreed to give mediation a try.”

“Visitation mediation agreements usually are concluded in one or two sessions; however, this case required five sessions of two plus hours each session. Laurie and Kahil needed a safe time and place to ask questions and to review events since the birth of their daughter. After Kahil had one supervised visitation with his daughter, the couple was able to create a visitation plan that provided regular, scheduled visitation for Leia and Kahil.”

**Anne Sides
Community Mediation Services of Anderson County
2003 AOC Access & Visitation Grant Recipient**

was ordered to pay child support for the daughter he had not known. Laurie and Kahil reluctantly, and without optimism, turned to CMS. The mediation was intense and difficult, but the result was that Leia now has a father in her life on a regular basis.

“This program is an excellent example of how a community can provide support for its children and their families,” Sides said. “Community support through volunteers and donated facilities provides easy access for those parents who most need services. Mediation provides a safe, confidential environment where parents can focus on their child’s best interest and can create a plan that will work for them.”

Programs launched by grantees also include a courthouse information and referral office and public education clinics operated by Community Legal Center (CLC) in Memphis. Meg Jones with the Memphis organization tells a story that “typifies what we are hearing from a lot of our pro se clients.”

“Mr. P is in his late 40s, on disability, with one minor child and earning less than \$900 a month,” she said. “He had been trying to get a divorce for two or three years, but had no money to hire an attorney. Finally, his mother gave him \$300 to buy divorce forms from the Internet. But, after he purchased them and filled them out, he discovered they were were the wrong forms and the divorce referee’s office couldn’t accept them.”

Jones said Mr. P is almost through the divorce process, thanks to help from the CLC pro se clinic.

“He is so thankful for the attorney who has helped him and says so each time he sees her,” Jones said.

Legal Aid Society of East Tennessee provides materials about divorce, co-parenting and support and offers workshops for litigants and referrals to mediators. Another grantee, the Memphis Bar Association, proposed a “Family Law Self-Help Center” as part of its website to include information and forms in English and Spanish. Southeast Legal Services in Hamilton County is using its award to prepare explanatory booklets for pro se litigants explaining the divorce process, mediation, parenting plans and other family law issues. Sumner County Juvenile Court is using a pool of attorneys to provide initial consultations for unrepresented clients who are unsure of their legal rights and the process. In Putnam County, Mediation Services is providing family plan mediation, filing assistance, filing fee assistance referrals and supervised visitations while Weakley County Juvenile Court is using its grant to provide information on how to petition the court for visitation and arranging supervised visitation in some cases.

The Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlands used the grant to start a new class for parents with custody and visitation legal issues. Services include assisting parents with paperwork and helping them understand the legal process.

“The number of people using the court system without benefit of legal counsel is increasing, not only in Tennessee, but across the nation. Attorneys continue to generously provide free and reduced price legal services, but they cannot completely fill the need.”

**Connie Clark
Administrative Director of the Courts**

“Child support enforcement attorneys assist countless parents across Tennessee in obtaining court ordered child support,” said Staff Attorney Christine Zellar-Church. “Many times the issue of visitation is raised at the child support hearings. The child support attorneys are prohibited by law from assisting in drafting visitation orders. The judges cannot assist in working out the terms of the order. So, there are no participants in the process to assist parents in working out visitation issues.”

Best Interest of the Children

She said the focus always is “on the best interests of the children.” An attorney teaches the classes, but is careful to give advice from the children’s points of view rather than that of the mother and father.

“The parents are given a workbook with forms for a visitation plan,” Zellar-Church said. “By the end of the class, each participant will have completed a first draft of the form. They receive instruction in how to determine what the best schedule might be, taking into consideration the children’s ages, their work schedules, their school and extracurricular time and other factors. Next, they learn about parental rights, including the current laws on relocation.”

After parents complete the class, they learn how to follow through on their proposed visitation plan, including filing it with the court.

“Most participants in this class are surprised to learn about parental rights. Many were excited upon learning that they were allowed to have lunch with their child at school, or that they had the right to know about and participate in their children’s activities,” she said. “There were several occasions where one parent came to the class and filed a proposed plan, and the next time the class was offered, the other parent came to the class to learn how to work out an agreement.”

Exploring Other Possibilities

The services being provided by grant recipients to assist pro se court users are only part of the solution, said Connie Clark, administrative director of the courts in Tennessee. In 2003, the AOC obtained a federal grant to host a pro se summit for judges, lawyers, court clerks, pro se litigants and court personnel to explore other options as well.

“The number of people using the court system without benefit of legal counsel is increasing, not only in Tennessee, but across the nation,” she said. “Attorneys continue to generously provide free and reduced price legal services, but they cannot completely fill the need.”

Courts, too, are reaching out to help. In the 18th Judicial District - Sumner County - some forms have been simplified and made available upon request. For example, a fill-in-the-blank pro se petition for a name change is available. Others include a one-page divorce form.

“Recently there has been an increase in pro se litigants filing for absolute divorce,” Chancellor Tom Gray said. “Forms obtained from the Internet or some other source almost always fail to meet legal requirements, so the court prepared a one-page form which is given to pro se litigants filing for absolute divorce.”

Resources on the Internet

The court system also has resources for self-represented litigants on its website at www.tsc.state.tn.us. A “Self Help” section includes links to agencies; legal forms; multi-lingual videos on basic rights, the rights of parents in abuse and neglect cases and how to obtain orders of protection; and informational publications. The court system website is updated on a regular basis with new material helpful to pro se litigants and others.

Another website - www.tennhelp.com - provides easy to find contact information for agencies across the state available to help with



issues relating to foster care and adoption, child abuse, other children's issues, clothing, disability services, domestic violence, drug or alcohol abuse, food, health, hotlines across the state, housing, immigration issues, unruly and delinquent youth, government and legal assistance, youth activities, mental health, money and employment, parenting and marriage, rape and sexual abuse and teen pregnancy. The Tennhelp website also received federal funds through the AOC to help defray the cost of translating information into Spanish.

"All of the pro se initiatives, and others we will put into place, are to ensure that there is equal access to the courts for everyone, whether they are self-represented or represented by counsel," Clark said. "Lady

Justice always is depicted wearing a blindfold, symbolizing that our system is available to all who need it, regardless of their circumstances."



Representatives of grant recipient organizations met at the AOC to share information on their pro se programs. Attendees included (from left) Christine Zellar-Church, Joni Thornton, Linda Mix and Tammy Reitz-Lewis.

"Just the Way Things Are"

In Tennessee, more than a million residents have incomes below 125.0 percent of federal poverty guidelines, according to figures from the 2000 United States Census. In 2003, the Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services contracted with the University of Tennessee College of Social Work Office of Research and Public Service to conduct a survey to determine the civil legal needs of the state's low-income population.

The 824 households, with 2,282 individuals, surveyed by telephone had an average of 3.3 civil legal problems during the year and nearly 70.0 percent faced one or more such problems during the previous year. Yet, fewer than 30.0 percent were aware of resources available to assist them with their legal problems. Issues described as "biggest" were those relating to housing and utilities, financial and consumer, health care, discrimination, employment, family relational, community services, government benefits, lawsuits and insurance, juvenile and immigration.

Of the 511 households identifying their "biggest" civil legal problems, 125 took no action to resolve them, including 17.6 percent who said that was "just the way things are."

"Our goal is for 'just the way things are' to be eliminated the next time such a survey is conducted," Clark said. "There are services and resources available now, but we need to expand them, identify and implement new ones and educate Tennesseans concerning their availability."



Chancellor Richard Ladd of the 2nd Judicial District and Linda Warren Seely with West Tennessee Legal Services were among panel members for a session on pro se initiatives at an educational conference for the state's trial and appellate judges. Ladd told his judicial colleagues he has been impressed with services provided to pro se litigants by Legal Aid of Upper East Tennessee in the region where he holds court.

Fiscal Year In Review

Court Rule Provision Deemed Unconstitutional

With a lawsuit as the catalyst, the Tennessee Supreme Court in February 2004 adopted a significant interim change to a court rule governing how complaints against lawyers are handled.

Supreme Court Rule 9 previously required that everyone involved in a complaint filed against an attorney keep confidential any allegations of misconduct. The prohibition, which also applied to clients who complained, was not lifted under the old rule unless the Board of Professional Responsibility determined that the attorney had violated rules of professional conduct.

The amended rule, prompted by *John Doe v. Jane Doe*, says, “nothing in these rules shall prohibit the complainant, respondent-attorney, or any witness from disclosing the existence or substance of a complaint or proceeding under these rules or from disclosing any documents or correspondence filed by, served on, or provided to that person.”

In the *Doe* decision, written by Justice William M. Barker, the court said the confidentiality requirement under Supreme Court Rule 9 was a violation of free speech rights under Article I, section 19 of the Tennessee Constitution and the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

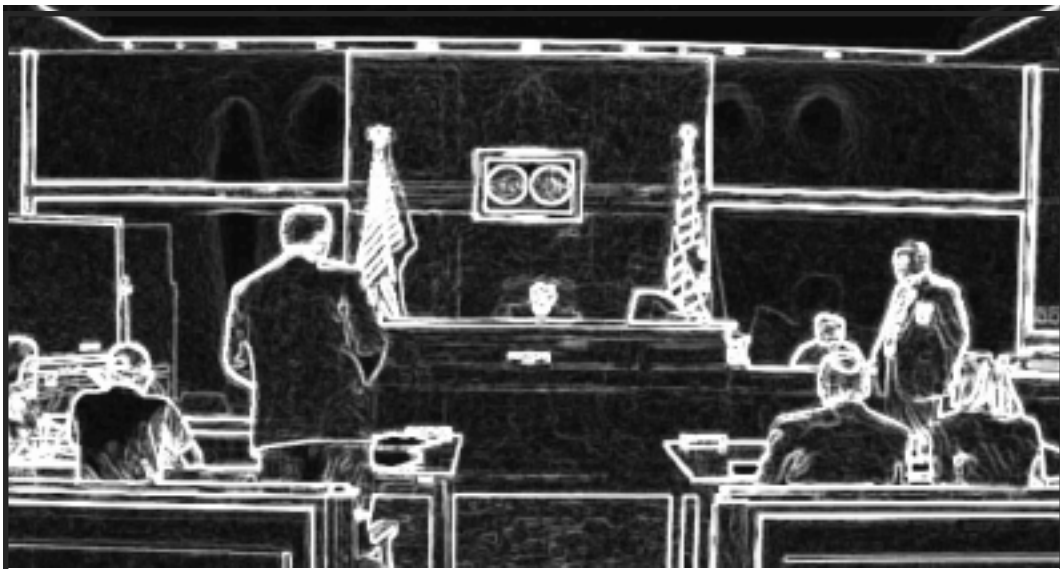
The court accepted comments on the interim rule through August 2, 2004, and considered them before adopting a permanent change.

Court Tightens Indigent Defense Payment Rule

A rule detailing how attorneys and experts, such as psychiatrists and investigators, are paid by the state in cases involving indigent defendants and others covered by the rule was tightened by the Tennessee Supreme Court. Amended Supreme Court Rule 13, which took effect July 1, 2004, also set out payment guidelines for foreign language court interpreters and translators.

The amended rule dealing with how court-appointed attorneys, experts and foreign language interpreters and translators are paid resulted from a months-long effort by the court to ensure that state funds are used efficiently. In addition to receiving public comments, the court conducted a hearing on the proposed changes before adopting them.

Under the new rule, judges hearing criminal cases are required to enter a court order after finding that a defendant is indigent. The change clarifies the court’s role when an indigent party waives the right to an attorney.



The rule makes it clear that only one state-paid attorney is allowed in non-capital cases and a higher in-court hourly rate will not be paid for time spent waiting for a case to be called or driving to and from a clerk’s office to file documents. Attorneys in non-capital cases are paid \$40 an hour for out-of-court preparation and \$50 an hour for time

spent in court. In capital cases, lead attorneys are paid \$100 an hour for in-court time and \$75 for out-of-court work. For co-counsel and post-conviction counsel, the rates are \$80 and \$60 an hour.

Changes also list expenses for which court-appointed attorneys are reimbursed and require documentation for the claims. Any expenses not listed in the rule require prior authorization by the judge and the administrative director of the courts.

For the first time, the rule sets hourly maximum rates that experts can charge the state, based on the type of service provided. For example, the maximum for medical doctors and psychiatrists is \$250 an hour and for investigators, \$50 an hour.

Rule 13 also sets hourly rates and guidelines for payment of foreign language interpreters and translators. The services may be authorized by judges in cases in which an indigent party has limited English proficiency and language may be a barrier to understanding and exercising legal rights.

Interpreters Provide Access to Justice

Foreign language court interpreters from across the state gathered in Nashville for two days in July 2004 to attend their first-ever educational conference sponsored by the Administrative Office of the Courts. Languages spoken by nearly 100 participants included Arabic, Vietnamese, Laotian, French, Thai, Bosnian, Serbian, Croatian, Russian, Farsi, Mandarin Chinese and Spanish.

“Interpreters are highly skilled professionals who fulfill an essential role in the administration of justice . . .”

Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 41

The AOC credentials foreign language court interpreters who successfully complete oral and written examinations and pass a criminal background check. The Tennessee Supreme Court adopted two rules in 2002 mandating proficiency and ethics standards for credentialed interpreters and requiring judges to use them when possible. A list of credentialed interpreters is available on the court system website at www.tsc.state.tn.us.

Children Benefit from Rule Change

A change in the Tennessee Rules of Appellate Procedure, effective July 1, 2004, established special procedures to expedite appeals in termination of parental rights proceedings. T.R.A.P. 8A, adopted by the Tennessee Supreme Court and ratified by the General Assembly, was designed to decrease the time children linger in foster homes waiting for adoptive families. The rule also allows for a timely decision when parents believe their rights have been violated.

The rule was crafted to provide a balance of parental rights and the need for early permanency for children.

Joining Forces to Attack Meth Crisis

Judges, law enforcement officials, medical professionals and advocates for children and crime victims were among more than 500 Tennesseans who attended the state’s first annual Methamphetamine Conference in December 2003. The Nashville event was sponsored, in part, by the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Tennessee had 1,253 meth lab sites cleaned up last year, the highest total in the nation for the third straight year.

**The Tennessean
August 8, 2004**

Issues ranging from Drug Endangered Children to HIV Risks Related to Meth Cases were discussed by panelists and speakers, including Gov. Phil Bredesen. The conference included court-related issues such as Foster Care and Meth and Prosecution Strategies and medical issues of concern to judges handling meth cases.

TENNESSEE SUPREME COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

Judicial Branch Administration

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) has responsibility for an array of mandated and other duties relating to the administration of the Tennessee judicial system. These responsibilities range from preparing the budget (see page 10) and handling payroll and benefits for nearly 650 employees across the state - including appellate, trial and senior judges - to developing and implementing a complex court automation system, known as TnCIS (Tennessee Court Information System).

Cornelia A. Clark - Director
Elizabeth Sykes - Deputy Director
511 Union Street, Suite 600
Nashville, TN 37219
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The AOC staff also strives to anticipate and address future needs in the court system while handling the day-to-day responsibilities. Data used in trying to foresee and meet judicial system needs is collected and compiled by the AOC. The office processes approximately 575,000 records annually and compiles statistics from courts across the state.

Education and Outreach

Along with trying to predict and prepare for the future, the AOC provides wide-ranging support services for judges and other judicial branch personnel, as well as overseeing outreach and education programs.

A project initiated in 1995 by the Supreme Court and coordinated by the AOC has touched approximately 13,000 students across the state. SCALES, an acronym for the Supreme Court Advancing Legal Education for Students, gives students and their teachers a first-hand look at Supreme Court oral arguments in their communities.

The same AOC staff members who are responsible for SCALES also put together more than 10 educational conferences every year for judges, clerks and others involved in the administration of justice.

Day-to-Day Responsibilities

But, not all of the AOC's work is as visible as SCALES and judicial conferences. For example, the list of approved mediators for court-annexed Alternative Dispute Resolution is maintained, as are rosters of qualified capital case attorneys and credentialed foreign language court interpreters. The office also trains judges, lawyers, Foster Care Review Boards and others who deal with abused and neglected children in state custody.

Another time-consuming responsibility is administration of the state's indigent defense fund. Each year, staff members individually review more than 66,000 claims filed by attorneys and experts before payments are made.

Court reporter contracts are managed by the AOC, which also is responsible for oversight of all leases for Supreme Court buildings and individual offices for judges statewide. Support services include providing judges and their staffs with supplies and equipment; providing computer maintenance and training; maintaining law libraries; collecting local rules of practice; processing requests for judge designations; and administering the senior judge program. The office also staffs and supports dozens of boards and commissions and keeps the legislature updated on activity and trends in the judicial system.

This is just a sampling of AOC responsibilities. Dozens of others are handled routinely by the office, such as producing about 50 publications and reports, maintaining the court system website - www.tsc.state.tn.us - and providing information, upon request, to legislators concerning potential costs or other impact of proposed legislation.

Judicial Department Budget 0.39 Percent of Total

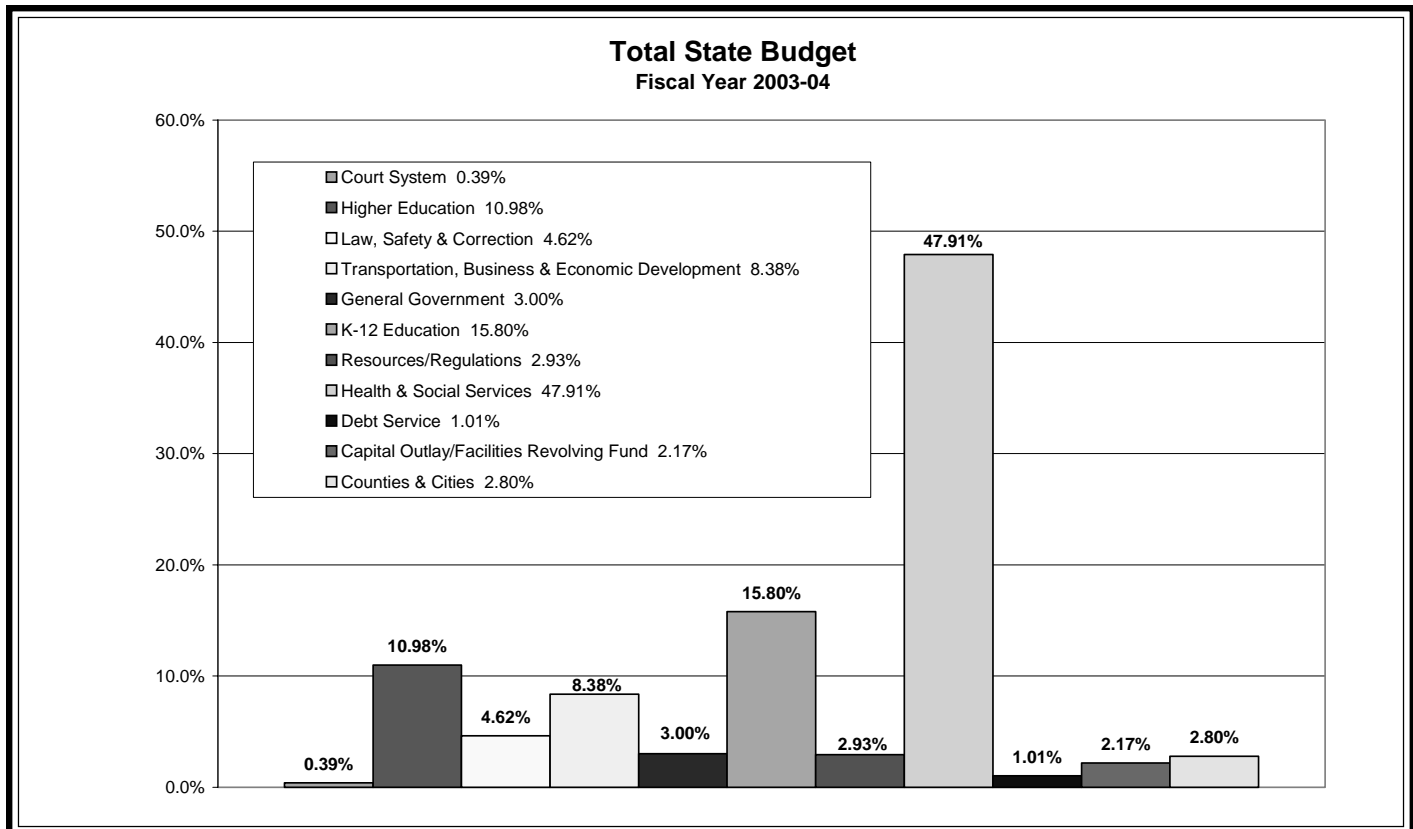
The Judicial Department budget for fiscal year 2003-2004 was \$92,434,900, with total expenditures of \$88,534,624. The budget for courts and related services was 0.39 percent of the total state budget (see graph below). Nearly half of judicial branch expenditures - \$43,613,760 - was for appellate and trial courts across the state. The second largest single expenditure was \$17,896,454 for criminal indigent defense, including \$2,826,388 for capital cases. The budget also provided funds for Supreme Court buildings, child support referees, guardians ad litem, the civil legal representation fund, transcripts, law libraries, educational conferences for judges and clerks, the Administrative Office of the Courts, judicial programs commissions, the Appellate Court Clerk's Offices, the Board of Law Examiners, the Board of Professional Responsibility, The Tennessee Lawyers' Assistance Program, the Tennessee Commission on Continuing Legal Education and the Lawyers Fund for Client Protection.

Expenditures from the indigent defense fund:

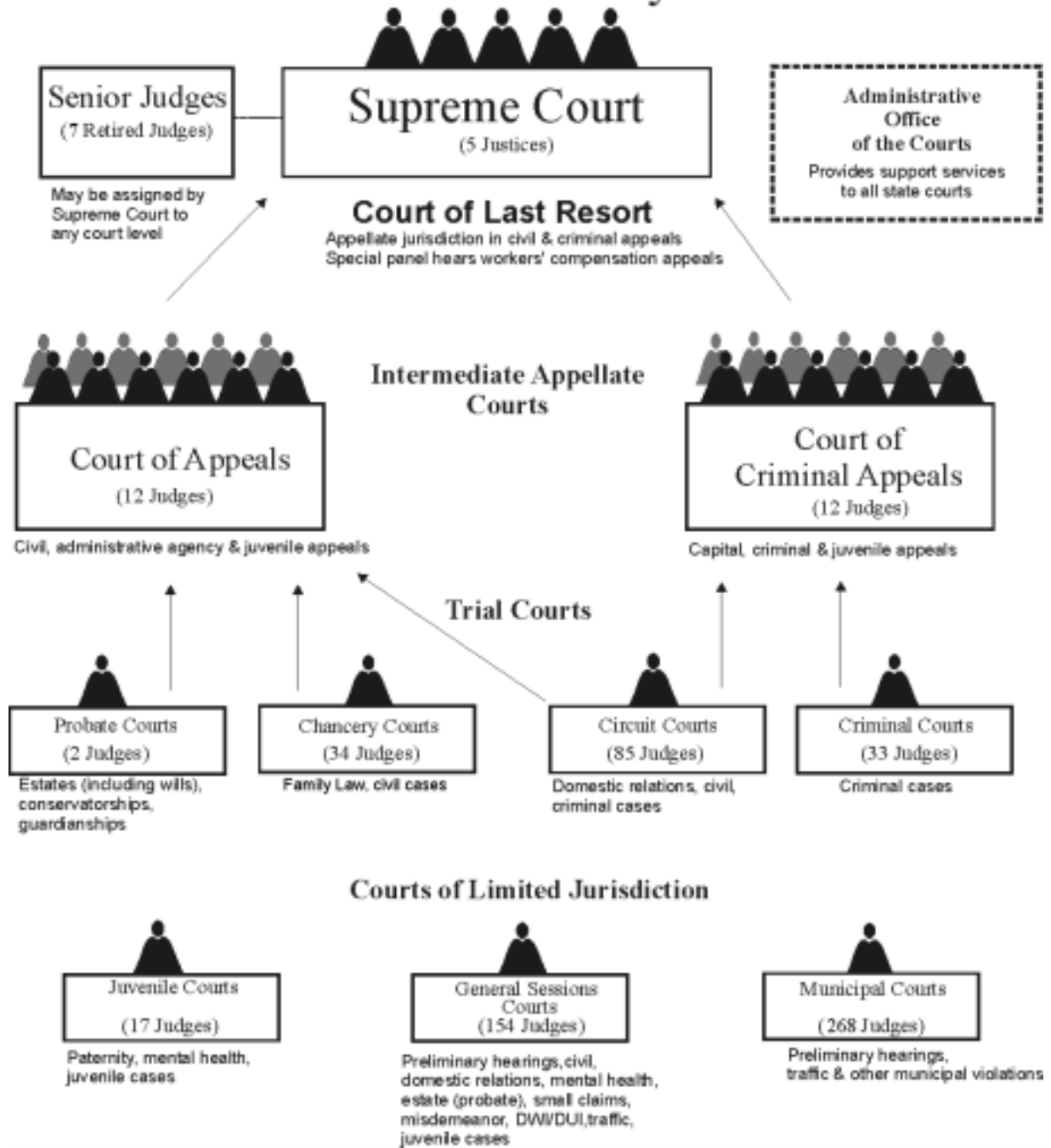
Fiscal Year 2003-2004	\$17,896,454
Fiscal Year 2002-2003	\$16,897,986
Fiscal Year 2001-2002	\$14,987,665
Fiscal Year 2000-2001	\$12,877,960
Fiscal Year 1999-2000	\$12,878,170

Expenditures from the indigent defense fund for capital cases:

Fiscal Year 2003-2004	\$2,826,388
Fiscal Year 2002-2003	\$3,649,471
Fiscal Year 2001-2002	\$3,014,000
Fiscal Year 2000-2001	\$2,719,636
Fiscal Year 1999-2000	\$3,234,723



Tennessee Judicial System



Tennessee Courts

Supreme Court

The **TENNESSEE SUPREME COURT** is the state's highest court and may accept appeals of civil and criminal cases from lower state courts. The five justices also interpret the laws and Constitutions of Tennessee and the United States.

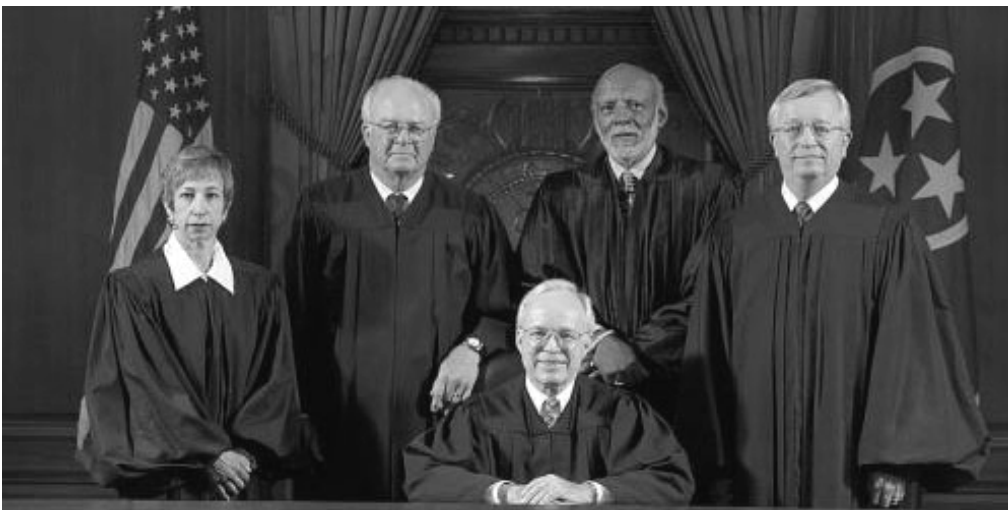
The Supreme Court may assume jurisdiction over undecided cases in the Court of Appeals or Court of Criminal Appeals when there is special need for a speedy decision. The court also has appellate jurisdiction in cases involving state taxes, the right to hold public office and issues of constitutional law. Appeals to the Supreme Court are discretionary except in death penalty cases. The court is required by law to review those cases on direct appeal.

Attorneys may present oral arguments before the Supreme Court. Oral arguments also are heard in the two intermediate appellate courts - the Court of Appeals and the Court of Criminal Appeals. After Supreme Court justices have heard oral arguments, if arguments are presented, and reviewed attorneys' briefs and records in the cases, they issue their written opinions. Only opinions on federal constitutional issues can be appealed to the federal courts, which may or may not agree to consider the appeals.

The Supreme Court also has administrative responsibilities relating to the entire court system and adopts rules to ensure that the judicial branch functions efficiently, effectively and fairly. Rules of the court can be found on the court system website at www.tsc.state.tn.us.

Judges of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals and Court of Criminal Appeals are elected on a "yes-no" ballot every eight years. When a vacancy occurs the 17-member Judicial Selection 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 are published in newspapers across the state to help voters decide whether judges should be retained.



As required by the state Constitution, the five members of the Tennessee Supreme Court normally hear cases in Nashville, Jackson and Knoxville. Pictured in the courtroom at the Supreme Court Building in Nashville are (from left) Justice Janice M. Holder of Memphis; Justice E. Riley Anderson of Knoxville; Chief Justice Frank F. Drowota, III, of Nashville; Justice Adolpho A. Birch, Jr., of Nashville; and Justice William M. Barker of Chattanooga. The five justices of the Supreme Court sit "en banc," or as a whole, to hear oral arguments.

Intermediate Appellate Courts

The **COURT OF APPEALS**, created by the General Assembly in 1925, hears appeals in civil — or noncriminal — cases from trial courts and certain state boards and commissions. Members of the Court of Appeals are appointed and elected under the same system as the Tennessee Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeals. The method of judicial selection is legislatively established for all three appellate courts.

The **COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS**, created by the General Assembly in 1967, hears trial court appeals in felony and misdemeanor cases, as well as post-conviction petitions. State law requires the Court of Criminal Appeals to review all death sentences. If a capital case conviction and sentence are affirmed by the Court of Criminal Appeals, there is an automatic review by the state Supreme Court.

All other Court of Appeals and Court of Criminal Appeals decisions may be appealed, by permission, to the state Supreme Court. Each of the intermediate appellate courts has 12 members, who normally sit in panels of three in Jackson, Knoxville and Nashville. They may also meet in other places as necessary.

“Justice is justly represented blind, because she sees no difference in the parties concerned. She has but one Scale and Weight, for rich and poor, great and small. Her sentence is not guided by the person, but the cause. The impartial judge in judgment, knows nothing but the law: The prince no more than the peasant, his kindred than a stranger.”

-William Penn
Fruits of Solitude, 1682



Court of Appeals judges pictured are (from left, front row) Charles Susano, W. Frank Crawford, Houston Goddard, William Koch, Jr., (from left, back row) Holly Kirby, Herschel P. Franks, Allen E. Highers, Michael D. Swiney, William Cain, David R. Farmer, Patricia J. Cottrell and Frank Clement, Jr. Judge Goddard died on April 2, 2004, and was succeeded on the court by Judge Sharon Gail Lee, appointed June 2, 2004.



Court of Criminal Appeals judges are (from left, front row) David G. Hayes, Joseph M. Tipton, Gary R. Wade, David H. Welles, Jerry Smith, (from left, back row) Alan E. Glenn, Norma McGee Ogle, James Curwood Witt, Jr., Joe Riley, Thomas Woodall, John Everett Williams and Robert W. Wedemeyer. Judge Riley retired on July 15, 2004, and was succeeded by J.C. McLin, appointed Sept. 8, 2004.

Marble Plaques Bear Names of Appellate Judges

The names of 213 Tennessee appellate court judges who served since 1796 when the state was founded are etched in gold on donated imported black marble plaques hanging in the foyer of the Nashville Supreme Court Building and in the courtroom at the Historic Post Office and Courthouse Building in Knoxville.

The Tennessee Supreme Court Historical Society, the Frist Foundation and other donors provided funds for the plaques, which were designed by state architect Mike Fitts. They were unveiled at a ceremony in December 2003 in Nashville and in November 2004 in Knoxville. Past and present appellate court judges attended the unveiling events.

Courts included on the plaques are the Supreme Court, with 77 members from 1835 to the present; the Court of Appeals with 60 members from 1925 to the present; the Superior Court of Law and Equity, with 12 members, including Andrew Jackson, from 1796 to 1809; the Court of Errors and Appeals, with 13 judges from 1810 to 1835; the Court of Chancery Appeals, with 4 judges from 1895 to 1907; the Court of Civil Appeals, with 14 judges from 1907 to 1925; and the Court of Criminal Appeals, with 35 judges from 1967 to the present.



Court of Criminal Appeals Presiding Judge Gary Wade (left) unveils a plaque as U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Martha Craig Daughtrey and Tennessee Supreme Court Justice William M. Barker look on. Judge Daughtrey previously served on the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals and the Tennessee Supreme Court.



Retired Supreme Court Justice William H.D. Fones, who served from 1973 until his retirement in 1990, spoke at the ceremony.



Chief Justice Frank F. Drowota, III, presented a certificate of appreciation to Dr. Thomas Frist for the Frist Foundation's contribution toward the marble plaques hanging in the Hall of Justice, or foyer, of the Nashville Supreme Court Building.

Message from the Tennessee Judicial Conference President

Circuit Court Judge John S. McLellan, III, of Kingsport took office as president of the Tennessee Judicial Conference in June 2004 for a one-year term. The conference is made up of the state's trial and appellate court judges.

***By Circuit Court Judge John S. McLellan, III
2nd Judicial District***

Members of the Tennessee Judicial Conference were honored again in June by Governor Phil Bredesen's keynote speech at the conference's luncheon in Nashville. We are all very appreciative of the governor's time and the sincere interest he has demonstrated through his appointments of highly qualified individuals to serve in the judiciary and his overall support.



Circuit Court Judge John McLellan of Kingsport (left), president of the Tennessee Judicial Conference, is congratulated by Circuit Court Judge Don Ash of Murfreesboro, the outgoing president. The conference includes all of the state's trial, appellate and senior judges.

Judge John Turnbull's coordination of our members' efforts to strengthen the relationship between the judicial and legislative branches of government has resulted in a better understanding of each others' concerns and needs and the resolution of issues in a responsible and professional manner.

Conference planners received positive feedback from judges and attorneys who attended the prayer breakfast at the June conference. By reason of the positive response, it is anticipated that the breakfast will become an important addition to the June conference schedule.

TJC members initiated several programs intended not only to improve the efficiency and professionalism of the judiciary, but also to assist judges and their families in the transition from bar to bench. The Tennessee Judicial Family Institute, under the guidance of Chancellor Thomas R. (Skip) Frierson, II, continues to grow as an important program. A very successful seminar was presented at the June conference participated in by judges and family members with frank discussions of issues they face. In view of the number of possible retirements from the bench in 2006, it is important that the Tennessee Judicial Family Institute continue to develop a mentoring program for judges and judicial spouses/partners, including participation with the Tennessee Judicial Academy, establishing on-line resources and TJC plenary sessions at the June conference.

SCALES and other outreach programs are educating Tennesseans about the court system and continue to be in high demand. Trial court outreach programs are taking place across the state and include mock trials and classroom presentations. These are invaluable for educating students about the court system and our jobs as judges.

Members of the Tennessee Judicial Conference can be very proud of Tennessee's court system and the performance of judges in the courtroom and in public service. My judicial colleagues are among the nation's most capable who work hard and are always mindful of improving the quality of justice. I am humbled and honored to serve as conference president.

Trial Judges by Judicial District



1st JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Carter, Johnson, Unicoi & Washington counties

CHANCERY COURT

G. Richard Johnson

CIRCUIT COURT

Thomas J. Seeley, Jr. (Part I)
Jean A. Stanley (Part II)

CRIMINAL COURT

Lynn W. Brown
Robert E. Cupp

2nd JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Sullivan County

CHANCERY COURT

Richard E. Ladd

CIRCUIT COURT

John S. McLellan, III (Part I)
R. Jerry Beck (Part II)

CRIMINAL COURT

Phyllis H. Miller

3rd JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Greene, Hamblen, Hancock & Hawkins counties

CHANCERY COURT

Thomas R. Frierson, II

CIRCUIT COURT

John K. Wilson (Part I)
Ben K. Wexler (Part II)
Kindall T. Lawson (Part III)

CRIMINAL COURT

James E. Beckner

4th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Cocke, Grainger, Jefferson & Sevier counties

CHANCERY COURT

Telford E. Forgety, Jr.

CIRCUIT COURT

Ben W. Hooper, II (Part I)
Richard Robert Vance (Part II)
Rex Henry Ogle (Part III)
O. Duane Slone (Part IV)

5th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Blount County

CHANCERY COURT

Telford E. Forgety, Jr.

CIRCUIT COURT

W. Dale Young (Part I)
D. Kelly Thomas, Jr. (Part II)

6th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Knox County

CHANCERY COURT

John F. Weaver (Part I)
Daryl R. Fansler (Part II)
Sharon J. Bell (Part III)

CIRCUIT COURT

Dale Workman (Division I)
Harold Wimberly, Jr. (Division II)
Wheeler A. Rosenbalm (Division III)
Bill Swann (Division IV)

CRIMINAL COURT

Richard R. Baumgartner (Division I)
Ray L. Jenkins (Division II)
Mary Beth Leibowitz (Division III)

7th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Anderson County

CHANCERY COURT

William E. Lantrip

CIRCUIT COURT

James B. Scott, Jr.

8th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Campbell, Claiborne, Fentress, Scott & Union counties

CHANCERY COURT

Billy Joe White

CIRCUIT COURT

Conrad Troutman, Jr. (retired 5-31-04)

John McAfee (elected 8-5-04)

CRIMINAL COURT

E. Shayne Sexton

9th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Loudon, Meigs, Morgan & Roane counties

CHANCERY COURT

Frank V. Williams, III

CIRCUIT COURT

Russell E. Simmons, Jr.

CRIMINAL COURT

E. Eugene Eblen

10th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Bradley, McMinn, Monroe & Polk counties

CHANCERY COURT

Jerri Bryant

CIRCUIT COURT

Larry H. Puckett (Part I)

John B. Hagler, Jr. (Part II)

Carroll Lee Ross (Part III)

CRIMINAL COURT

Robert Steven Bebb

11th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Hamilton County

CHANCERY COURT

W. Frank Brown, III (Part I)

Howell N. Peoples (Part II)

CIRCUIT COURT

Jacqueline E. Schulten (Division I)

Samuel H. Payne (Division II)

L. Marie Williams (Division III)

W. Neil Thomas, III (Division IV)

CRIMINAL COURT

Douglas A. Meyer (Division I)

Rebecca J. Stern (Division II)

Steve M. Bevil (Division III)

12th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Bledsoe, Franklin, Grundy, Marion, Rhea &

Sequatchie counties

CHANCERY COURT

Jeffrey Stewart

CIRCUIT COURT

Thomas W. (Rusty) Graham (Part I)

J. Curtis Smith (Part II)

Buddy D. Perry (Part III)

13th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Overton, Pickett,

Putnam & White counties

CHANCERY COURT

Vernon Neal

CIRCUIT COURT

John A. Turnbull (Part I)

John J. Maddux, Jr. (Part II)

CRIMINAL COURT

Leon C. Burns, Jr. (Division I)

Lillie Ann Sells (Division II)

14th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Coffee County

CIRCUIT COURT

L. Craig Johnson (Part I)

John Rollins (Part II)

15th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Jackson, Macon, Smith, Trousdale & Wilson counties

CHANCERY COURT

C. K. Smith

CIRCUIT COURT

Clara W. Byrd (Division I)

John D. Wootten, Jr. (Division II)

CRIMINAL COURT

James O. Bond

16th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Cannon & Rutherford counties

CHANCERY COURT

Robert E. Corlew, III

CIRCUIT COURT

Steve Daniel (Part I) (retired 8-31-04)

J. Mark Rogers (appointed 7-16-04)

James K. Clayton, Jr. (Part II)

Don R. Ash (Part III)

Royce Taylor (Part IV)

17th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Bedford, Lincoln, Marshall & Moore counties

CHANCERY COURT

James B. (J. B.) Cox

CIRCUIT COURT

William Charles Lee (Part I) (retired 12-31-04)

Lee Russell (Part II)

18th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Sumner County

CHANCERY COURT

Thomas E. Gray

CIRCUIT COURT

C. L. "Buck" Rogers

CRIMINAL COURT

Jane W. Wheatcraft

19th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Montgomery & Robertson counties

CHANCERY COURT

Carol Catalano (retired 12-31-04)

CIRCUIT COURT

Ross H. Hicks (Part I)

Mike Jones (Part II)

John H. Gasaway, III (Part III)

20th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Davidson County

CHANCERY COURT

Claudia Bonnyman (Part I)

Carol McCoy (Part II)

Ellen Hobbs Lyle (Part III)

Richard Dinkins (Part IV)

CIRCUIT COURT

Hamilton Gayden, Jr. (Division I)

Marietta M. Shipley (Division II)

Barbara N. Haynes (Division III)

Muriel Robinson (Division IV)

Walter C. Kurtz (Division V)

Thomas W. Brothers (Division VI)

David (Randy) Kennedy (Division VII)

Carol Soloman (Division VIII)

CRIMINAL COURT

Steve R. Dozier (Division I)

J. Randall Wyatt, Jr. (Division II)

Cheryl A. Blackburn (Division III)

Seth Norman (Division IV)

Monte Watkins (Division V)

Mark Fishburn (Division VI)

21st JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Hickman, Lewis, Perry & Williamson counties

CIRCUIT COURT

Russ Heldman (Division I)

Robert E. Lee Davies (Division II)

Donald P. Harris (Division III) (resigned 1-17-05)

Timothy Easter (Division IV)

22nd JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Giles, Lawrence, Maury & Wayne counties

CIRCUIT COURT

Jim T. Hamilton (Part I)

Robert Holloway (Part II)

Robert L. (Bob) Jones (Part III)

Stella Hargrove (Part IV)

23rd JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Cheatham, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys

& Stewart counties

CIRCUIT COURT

Robert E. Burch (Division I)

Leonard Martin (Division II)

George Sexton

24th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Benton, Carroll, Decatur, Hardin & Henry counties

CHANCERY COURT

Ron E. Harmon

CIRCUIT COURT

Charles Creed McGinley (Part I)

Julian P. Guinn (Part II)

25th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Fayette, Hardeman, Lauderdale, McNairy & Tipton counties

CHANCERY COURT

Dewey C. Whitenton (Part I)
Martha Brasfield (Part II)

CIRCUIT COURT

Jon Kerry Blackwood (Part I) (retired 12-31-04)
Joseph H. Walker, III (Part II)

26th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Chester, Henderson & Madison counties

CHANCERY COURT

James Butler

CIRCUIT COURT

Roy B. Morgan, Jr. (Division I)
Donald H. Allen (Division II)
Roger A. Page (Division III)

27th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Obion & Weakley counties

CHANCERY COURT

W. Michael Maloan

CIRCUIT COURT

William B. Acree, Jr.

28th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Crockett, Gibson & Haywood counties

CHANCERY COURT

George R. Ellis

CIRCUIT COURT

Clayburn Peeples

29th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Dyer & Lake counties

CHANCERY COURT

J. Steven Stafford (Part I)

CIRCUIT COURT

Russell Lee Moore, Jr. (Part I)

30th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Shelby County

CHANCERY COURT

Walter L. Evans (Part I)
Arnold Goldin (Part II)
D. J. Alissandratos (Part III)

CIRCUIT COURT

John R. McCarroll, Jr. (Division I)
James F. Russell (Division II)
Karen R. Williams (Division III)
Rita L. Stotts (Division IV)
Kay S. Robilio (Division V)
George H. Brown, Jr. (Division VI)
Robert A. Lanier (Division VII) (retired 12-31-03)
Donna M. Fields (appointed 3-5-04)
D'Army Bailey (Division VIII)
Robert L. Childers (Division IX)

CRIMINAL COURT

Bernie Weinman (Division I) (retired 9-1-04)
Paula L. Skahan (appointed 12-9-04)
W. Otis Higgs, Jr. (Division II)
John P. Colton, Jr. (Division III)
Carolyn Wade Blackett (Division IV)
Joseph B. Dailey (Division V)
W. Fred Axley (Division VI)
Arthur T. Bennett (Division VII)
Chris Craft (Division VIII)
J. C. McLin (Division IX) (appointed Court of Criminal Appeals 9-8-04)
W. Mark Ward (appointed 12-9-04)
James C. Beasley, Jr. (Division X)

PROBATE COURT

Donn Southern
Robert Benham

31st JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Van Buren & Warren counties

CIRCUIT COURT & CHANCELLOR

Larry B. Stanley, Jr.

Senior Judges

Senior judges are appointed by the Tennessee Supreme Court and may be assigned on a temporary basis to any state court.

Allen Wallace

William H. Inman

James L. Weatherford

J.S. (Steve) Daniel

Jerry Scott

Donald P. Harris (effective 01-17-05)

Jon Kerry Blackwood (effective 01-01-05)

General Sessions Court Judges By County

Anderson County

Don A. Layton
Ronald N. Murch

Bedford County

Charles L. Rich

Benton County

Clyde W. Watson

Bledsoe County

Howard L. Upchurch

Blount County

Hugh E. DeLozier, Jr. (Division 1)
William Terry Denton (Division 2)
William R. Brewer, Jr. (Division 3)

Bradley County

Andrew F. Bennett, Jr.
Carrell Van Deacon, Jr.

Campbell County

Joseph M. Ayers

Cannon County

Susan Melton

Carroll County

Larry J. Logan

Carter County

John W. Walton

Cheatham County

Phillip A. Maxey

Chester County

Larry F. McKenzie

Claiborne County

Robert M. Estep

Clay County

James D. White, Jr.

Cocke County

John A. Bell

Coffee County

Jere Ledsinger
Timothy R. Brock

Crockett County

Shannon A. Jones

Cumberland County

Steven C. Douglas

Davidson County

Gale B. Robinson (Division I)
Daniel Eisenstein (Division II)
William Joseph Faimon (Division III)
Gloria A. Dumas (Division IV)
John P. Brown (Division V)
Michael F. Mondelli (Division VI)
William Edward Higgins (Division VII)
Leon Ruben (Division VIII)
Sue McKnight Evans (Division IX)
Casey Moreland (Division X)
John Aaron Holt (Division XI)

Decatur County

Ricky L. Wood

DeKalb County

Bratten Hale Cook, III

Dickson County

Durwood G. Moore

Dyer County

Charles V. Moore

Fayette County

J. Weber McCraw

Fentress County

Paul Crouch

Franklin County

Thomas C. Faris

Gibson County

James Webb

Giles County

John P. Damron

Grainger County

Joe Wayne Wolfenbarger

Greene County

Thomas J. Wright

Grundy County

Earlene Y. Speer

Hamblen County

Herbert M. Bacon
Joyce Mills Ward

Hamilton County

Richard Holcomb(Division I)
O. Michael Carter (Division II)
Clarence E Shattuck, Jr. (Division III)
Ronald W. Durby (Division IV)
Robert L. Moon, Jr. (Division V)

Hancock County

Floyd W. (Bill) Rhea

Hardeman County

Charles "Chip" Cary

Hardin County

Daniel L. Smith

Hawkins County

David L. Brand

Haywood County

J. Roland Reid

Henderson County

Robert Stevie Beal

Henry County

Hansel J. McCadams

Hickman County

Samuel H. Smith

Houston County

Sidney Vinson

Humphreys County

Dan R. Bradley

Jackson County

Steven Cassetty

Jefferson County

Alfred B. Strand, Jr.

Johnson County

William Bliss Hawkins

Knox County

Chuck Cerny, Jr. (Division I)
Geoffrey P. Emery (Division II)
Bobby Ray McGee (Division III)
Brenda J. Waggoner (Division IV)
Tony W. Stansberry (Division V)

Lake County

Danny Goodman, Jr.

Lauderdale County

Janice C. Craig

Lawrence County

Patricia McGuire

Lewis County

Billy W. Townsend

Lincoln County

Charles Crawford

Loudon County

William H. Russell

Macon County

Ken Witcher, Jr.

Madison County

Christy R. Little
Hugh H. Harvey, Jr.

Marion County

J. Clifford Layne

Marshall County

Steve Bowden

Maury County

George Logan Lovell
J. Lee Bailey, III
Bobby Sands

McMinn County

James F. Watson

McNairy County

Bob G. Gray

Meigs County

Jayne Johnston-Crowley

Monroe County

Edwin Cyrus Harris

Montgomery County

Jack Hestle
Ray Grimes
Wayne C. Shelton

Moore County

Terry Gregory

Morgan County

Michael A. Davis

Obion County

Raymond Morris

Overton County

John R. Officer

Perry County

Clovis Parnell

Pickett County

Ronnie Zachary

Polk County

Billy D. Baliles

Putnam County

John P. Hudson
Nolan R. Goolsby

Rhea County

James W. McKenzie

Roane County

Dennis W. Humphrey
Thomas A. Austin

Robertson County

Max D. Fagan

Rutherford County

Ben Hall McFarlin, Jr.
David Loughry

Scott County

James L. Cotton, Jr.

Sequatchie County

L. Thomas Austin

Sevier County

Dwight E. Stokes
Jeff D. Rader

Shelby County

Lynn Cobb (Division 1)
Phyllis B. Gardner (Division 2)
John A. Donald (Division 3)
Russell B. Sugarmon, Jr. (Division 4)
Betty Thomas Moore (Division 5)
Lonnie Thompson (Division 6)
Ann Lucas Pugh (Division 7)
Tim James Dwyer (Division 8)
Joyce Broffitt (Division 9)
Anthony Johnson (Division 10)
Mischelle Alexander-Best (Division 11)
Gwen Rooks (Division 12)
Louis J. Montesi, Jr. (Division 13)
Larry E. Potter (Division 14)
Loyce Lambert Ryan (Division 15)

Smith County

Mose Jackie Preston

Stewart County

Gueary Andrew Brigham

Sullivan County

J. Klyne Lauderback (Division 1)
Steven Hal Jones (Division 2)
Duane S. Snodgrass (Division 3)
W.A. (Bill) Watson (Division 4)

Sumner County

Barry R. Brown
James Hunter

Tipton County

William A. Peeler

Trousdale County

Kenny Linville

Unicoi County

David R. Shults

Union County

Darryl W. Edmondson

Warren County

Larry G. Ross

Washington County

John L. Kiener
Robert Lincoln

Wayne County

James Yeiser Ross

Weakley County

Thomas L. Moore, Jr.

White & Van Buren counties

Sam Benningfield

Williamson County

Alfred L. Nations
Lonnie R. Hoover

Wilson County

Barry Tatum (Division 1)
Robert P. Hamilton (Division 2)

Offices of the Appellate & Trial Court Clerks



Dana Effler (left) and Davidson County Criminal Court Clerk David Torrence.



Bill Riggs with the office of Davidson County Circuit Court Clerk Richard Rooker.

Michael Catalano
Appellate Court Clerk (effective Jan. 1, 2004)
Janice Rawls
Chief Deputy Clerk
401 7th Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37219-1407
Susan Turner
Chief Deputy Clerk
P.O. Box 909
Jackson, TN 38302-0909
Frankie Holt
Chief Deputy Clerk
P. O. Box 444
Knoxville, TN 37901-0444

Appellate and 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 day-to-day 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.

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

In addition to cases on appeal, the Middle Division is where all Rules of Court are filed, and where matters before the Court of the Judiciary, Board of Law Examiners, Board of Professional Responsibility and certified questions of law from federal courts are heard. Also any petition for public response altering or amending the rules is filed in the Middle Division.

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.

Anderson County
Circuit Court Clerk
Barry Pelizzari
Clerk and Master
Steve Queener

Bedford County
Circuit Court Clerk
Thomas A. Smith
Clerk and Master
Patricia Finney

Benton County
Circuit Court Clerk
Terry Hudson
Clerk and Master
Tim Burrus

Bledsoe County
Circuit Court Clerk
Jamey Roberson
Clerk and Master
Greg Forgey

Blount County
Circuit Court Clerk
Tom Hatcher
Clerk and Master
James A. Carroll

Bradley County
Circuit Court Clerk
Pam D. Mull
Clerk and Master
Carl Shrewsbury

Campbell County
Circuit Court Clerk
Bobby Vann
Clerk and Master
Bill Archer

Cannon County
Circuit Court Clerk
Robert Davenport
Clerk and Master
Harold Patrick

Carroll County
Circuit Court Clerk
Paul Newmon
Clerk and Master
Kenneth Todd

Carter County
Circuit Court Clerk
John Paul Mathis
Clerk and Master
Charlotte McKeehan

Cheatham County
Circuit Court Clerk
Julie Womack
Clerk and Master
Pamela Jenkins

Chester County
Circuit Court Clerk
Keith Frye
Clerk and Master
Cornelia Hall

Claiborne County
Circuit Court Clerk
Billy Ray Cheek
Clerk and Master
Thomas O. Shumate

Clay County
Circuit Court Clerk
Peggy Ballard
Clerk and Master
Corrinne McLerran

Cocke County
Circuit Court Clerk
Peggy Lane
Clerk and Master
Craig Wild
General Sessions Court Clerk
Frankie Cody

Coffee County
Circuit Court Clerk
Heather Duncan
Clerk and Master
Charlotte V. Broyles

Crockett County
Circuit Court Clerk
Kim Kail
Clerk and Master
Betty Johnson

Cumberland County
Circuit Court Clerk
Larry Sherrill
Clerk and Master
Sue Tollett

Davidson County
Circuit/Probate Court Clerk
Richard R. Rooker
Clerk and Master
Cristi Scott
Criminal Court Clerk
David Torrence
Juvenile Court Clerk
Vic Lineweaver

Decatur County
Circuit Court Clerk
Danny Tanner
Clerk and Master
Elizabeth J. Carpenter

DeKalb County
Circuit Court Clerk
Katherine Pack
Clerk and Master
Debra Malone

Dickson County
Circuit Court Clerk
Pam Myatt
Clerk and Master
Nancy Miller
General Sessions Court Clerk
Barbara Spann

Dyer County
Circuit Court Clerk
Tom T. J. Jones
Clerk and Master
John H. Hoff

Fayette County
Circuit Court Clerk
Jimmie German
Clerk and Master
Barbara Walls

Fentress County
Circuit Court Clerk
W. Frank Smith
Clerk and Master
Kathryn T. Robbins

Franklin County
Circuit Court Clerk
Nancy Silvertooth
Clerk and Master
Brenda Clark

Gibson County
Clerk and Master
Wanda Brown
Circuit Court Clerk
Janice Jones
Clerk and Master
Lois Lockhart
Juvenile Court Clerk
Lee Hayes

Giles County
Circuit Court Clerk
Crystal Greene
Clerk and Master
Merry B. Sigmon

Grainger County
Circuit Court Clerk
Rhonda Reagan
Clerk and Master
Vickie B. Greenlee

Greene County
Circuit Court Clerk
Gail Jeffers
Clerk and Master
Kay Armstrong

Grundy County
Circuit Court Clerk
Marcia Bess
Clerk and Master
Phyllis Dent

Hamblen County
Circuit Court Clerk
Kathy Mullins
Clerk and Master
Kathy Jones-Terry

Hamilton County
Circuit Court Clerk
Paula Thompson
Clerk and Master
S. Lee Akers
Criminal Court Clerk
Gwen Tidwell
Juvenile Court Clerk
Ron Swaford

Hancock County
Circuit Court Clerk
Bill McMurray
Clerk and Master
Scott Collins

Hardeman County
Circuit Court Clerk
Linda K. Fulghum
Clerk and Master
Janice Bodiford

Hardin County
Circuit Court Clerk
Diane B. Polk
Clerk and Master
Martha Smith

Hawkins County
Circuit Court Clerk
Holly H. Jaynes
Clerk and Master
Shirley Graham

Haywood County
Circuit Court Clerk
Joe Moore
Clerk and Master
Judy Hardister

Henderson County
Circuit Court Clerk
Kenny Cavness
Clerk and Master
Leigh Milam

Henry County
Circuit Court Clerk
Rondall Myers
Clerk and Master
Mary Burns

Hickman County
Circuit Court Clerk
Dana Nicholson
Clerk and Master
Sue Smith

Houston County
Circuit Court Clerk
Cora Sue McMillan
Clerk and Master
Patsy Brooks

Humphreys County
Circuit Court Clerk
Elaine Choate
Clerk and Master
Mike Bullion

Jackson County
Circuit Court Clerk
Aaron L. Thomas
Clerk and Master
Garry W. Jones

Jefferson County
Circuit Court Clerk
Kathy Bunch Carpenter
Clerk and Master
Nancy C. Humbard

Johnson County
Circuit Court Clerk
Carolyn Wilson Hawkins
Clerk and Master
Linda Morefield

Knox County
Circuit Court Clerk
Catherine F. Quist
Clerk and Master
Howard G. Hogan
Criminal Court Clerk
Martha Phillips

Lake County
Circuit Court Clerk
Debbie Beasley
Clerk and Master
Nanette Cook

Lauderdale County

Circuit Court Clerk

Richard Jennings
Clerk and Master
Sandra Burnham

Lawrence County

Circuit Court Clerk

Leon Clanton
Clerk and Master
Kristi Gang

Lewis County

Circuit Court Clerk

Donna Couch
Clerk and Master
Janet Williams

Lincoln County

Circuit Court Clerk

Gail Corder
Clerk and Master
Elizabeth Capshaw

Loudon County

Circuit Court Clerk

Lisa Niles
Clerk and Master
Fred Chaney

Macon County

Circuit Court Clerk

Jennifer Hudson
Clerk and Master
Gwen Linville

Madison County

Circuit Court Clerk

Judy Barnhill
Clerk and Master
Juvenile Court Clerk
Lacy Bond

Marion County

Circuit Court Clerk

Evelyn Griffith
Clerk and Master
Levoy Gudger

Marshall County

Circuit Court Clerk

Elinor Foster
Clerk and Master
Tommy Higdon

Maury County

Circuit Court Clerk

Kathy Kelley
Clerk and Master
Cheryl Church

McMinn County

Circuit Court Clerk

Norma Corn White
Clerk and Master
Patty Gaines

McNairy County

Circuit Court Clerk

Ronnie Brooks
Clerk and Master
Fairy R. Hunter

Meigs County

Circuit Court Clerk

Debbie Smith
Clerk and Master
Jim Mercer

Monroe County

Circuit Court Clerk

Martha Cook
Clerk and Master
Robert J. Pennington

Montgomery County

Circuit Court Clerk

Cheryl J. Castle
Clerk and Master
Edward Davis

Moore County

Circuit Court Clerk

Trixie Harrison
Clerk and Master
Tammy Roberts

Morgan County

Circuit Court Clerk

Rachel Smith
Clerk and Master
Angela Anderson

Obion County

Circuit Court Clerk

Harry Johnson
Clerk and Master
Paula Rice

Overton County

Circuit Court Clerk

Johnny Brown
Clerk and Master
Dorothy Stanton

Perry County

Circuit Court Clerk

Robert O'Guin
Clerk and Master
Joyce Marshall

Pickett County

Circuit Court Clerk

Larry Brown
Clerk and Master
Sue Whited

Polk County

Circuit Court Clerk

Connie H. Clark
Clerk and Master
Kim Ingram

Putnam County

Circuit Court Clerk

Marcia Borys
Clerk and Master
Linda F. Reeder

Rhea County

Circuit Court Clerk

Regina Metts
Clerk and Master
John Fine

Roane County
Circuit Court Clerk
Angela Randolph
Clerk and Master
Shannon Conley

Robertson County
Circuit Court Clerk
Lisa Cavender
Clerk and Master
Kenneth Hudgens

Rutherford County
Circuit Court Clerk
Eloise Gaither
Clerk and Master
John A. W. Bratcher

Scott County
Circuit Court Clerk
Jan Burress (died 12-3-2004)
Clerk and Master
Betty Phillips

Sequatchie County
Circuit Court Clerk
Karen Milsaps
Clerk and Master
Thomas Goins

Sevier County
Circuit Court Clerk
Janette Ballard
Clerk and Master
Carolyn McMahan
General Sessions Clerk
Connie Holt

Shelby County
Circuit Court Clerk
Jimmy Moore
Clerk and Master
Kenny W. Armstrong
Criminal Court Clerk
William R. Key
General Sessions Court Clerk
Chris Turner
Probate Court Clerk
Chris Thomas
Juvenile Court Clerk
Steve Stamson

Smith County
Circuit Court Clerk
Myra Hardcastle
Clerk and Master
Dianna Dillehay

Stewart County
Circuit Court Clerk
Barbara Wallace
Clerk and Master
Jane Link

Sullivan County
Circuit Court Clerk
Raymond Winters
Clerk and Master
Sara Housewright

Sumner County
Circuit Court Clerk
Mahailiah Hughes
Clerk and Master
Brenda Page

Tipton County
Circuit Court Clerk
Mike Forbess
Clerk and Master
Judy Billings

Trousdale County
Circuit Court Clerk
Kim Taylor
Clerk and Master
Shelly Brown

Unicoi County
Circuit Court Clerk
Beverly Tinker
Clerk and Master
Teresa W. Simerly

Union County
Circuit Court Clerk
Barbara Williams
Clerk and Master
Doris Seymour

Van Buren County
Circuit Court Clerk
Teresa Simmons-DeLong
Clerk and Master
Tina Shockley

Warren County
Circuit Court Clerk
Bernie Morris
Clerk and Master
Richard McGregor

Washington County
Circuit Court Clerk
Karen Guinn
Clerk and Master
Brenda Sneyd

Wayne County
Circuit Court Clerk
Billy G. Crews
Clerk and Master
Carolyn Mathis

Weakley County
Circuit Court Clerk
Pam Belew
Clerk and Master
Patricia Taylor

White County
Circuit Court Clerk
Henry E. Foster
Clerk and Master
Linda McCoy

Williamson County
Circuit Court Clerk
Debbie McMillan Barrett
Clerk and Master
Elaine Beeler
Juvenile Court Clerk
Brenda Hyden

Wilson County
Circuit Court Clerk
Linda Neal
Clerk and Master
Barbara Webb

Tennessee Court of the Judiciary

731-264-5671

The 15-member Court of the Judiciary investigates complaints of judicial misconduct against Tennessee judges and disciplines those who are found in violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct. In FY 2003-2004, the court received approximately 340 complaints. All complaints are investigated and, when appropriate, prosecuted by the court's disciplinary counsel.

Board of Professional Responsibility

1101 Kermit Drive, Suite 730

Nashville, TN 37217

615-361-7500

The Board of Professional Responsibility investigates complaints against attorneys and disciplines those who violate professional rules. The program also publishes ethics opinions, operates an ethics hotline, conducts seminars and oversees an attorney trust fund program. The board received 926 complaints from July 1, 2003, through June 30, 2004, a decrease of 5.8 percent. In the 28 years since its creation, Tennessee attorneys have contributed \$24.6 million in annual assessments to finance the board's programs.

Tennessee Board of Law Examiners

706 Church Street, Suite 100

Nashville, TN 37243-0740

615-741-3234

www.state.tn.us/lawexaminers

The Board of Law Examiners governs the examination and admission of attorneys applying to practice law in Tennessee. The office, with a staff of three, admits qualified attorneys previously licensed in other jurisdictions and administers the two-day bar examination in February and July to law school graduates. During fiscal year 2003-04, 847 law school graduates took the exam and 74 percent passed.

Commission on Continuing Legal Education & Specialization

221 Fourth Avenue North

Nashville, TN 37219

615-741-3096

www.cletn.org

The commission evaluates CLE courses across the country each year and records attendance at approved CLE courses for more than 15,000 Tennessee attorneys. The commission also makes sure that all Tennessee attorneys either meet the requirements of 12 hours of general and three hours of ethics/professionalism CLE each year or are eligible for exemption. The CLE Commission oversees the mandatory continuing legal education requirements and certification of attorneys as specialists in 11 areas of the law.

Tennessee Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection

615-741-3097

TLFCP manages a fund of approximately \$1 million from which it reimburses clients whose attorneys have misappropriated funds. The fund is administered by the same staff as the Tennessee Commission on Continuing Legal Education and Specialization.

Tennessee Lawyers' Assistance Program

200 4th Ave. North, Suite 810

1-877-424-8527

email: tnlap@aol.com

www.tlap.org

TLAP, a free and confidential EAP and peer assistance program, provides consultation, assessment, referral, intervention and other services for lawyers, judges, bar applicants and law students with issues such as substance abuse, stress, professional burnout, family problems, depression, gambling and eating disorders. The program was created by the Tennessee Supreme Court in 1999. From its inception through August 2004, there have been more than 1,102 inquiries and referrals.