

**Chairman,  
Mike Bell**

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman,  
Jon Lundberg**

**2<sup>nd</sup>, Vice Chairman,  
Dawn White**

☞

**Research Analyst,  
Chase Johnson**

**Executive Assistant,  
Sue Lusk**



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April 4, 2019

Honorable Telford Forgety  
P. O. Box 1370  
Dandridge, TN 37725

Chancellor Forgety,

The creation of the Task Force on Judicial Districts by passage of Chapter 974 in of 2018 underscores the great interest from the General Assembly concerning judicial redistricting. We consider this critical for the future of our courts and judicial system.

We fully realize the difficulty of the work of the task force. Many lessons can be learned from legislation proposed in the 2013 Legislative Session. We trust you have reviewed that plan and the comments from affected groups. That experience taught us that it is prudent to make decisions early in order to give all parties time to digest the proposal.

We attended your first public hearing at the Cordell Hull building and concur with comments made at that hearing in response to questions about the legislative intent - especially in regards to allocation or reallocation of judicial resources. It is our intent that the task force consider the weighted caseload data, geography, population and other factors. Even which districts have too many judges or not enough judges. The task force should make recommendations in that regard where changes are deemed necessary.

Any proposal on this topic will naturally generate a lot of emotion. This Task Force was created to deal with that emotion and work through it.

As Chairman and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee we are expecting a final recommended plan from you that will be detailed, comprehensive, and the basis for legislation to address judicial redistricting early next year - we will file legislation in January 2020.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Mike Bell in blue ink.

Chairman Mike Bell  
Senate Judiciary Committee

Handwritten signature of Jon Lundberg in blue ink.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman Jon Lundberg  
Senate Judiciary Committee