



INDIGENT REPRESENTATION TASK FORCE

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ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS



Jason Gichner has more than 13 years of experience as a litigator, practicing both general civil litigation and criminal law. Jason received his undergraduate from Colgate University. He received his law degree from Vanderbilt University Law School. After law school, Jason joined the Office of the Metropolitan Nashville Public Defender. As a senior trial attorney and Team Leader, he represented thousands of clients and tried numerous jury cases to verdict.

Jason is an attorney with the law firm of Morgan & Morgan (Nashville) and currently serves as an adjunct Professor of Trial Advocacy at Vanderbilt University Law School. He has also served as a Professor of Clinical Studies in Criminal Law at Vanderbilt University Law School and as an Associate Editor of The Tennessee Tort Letter. Attorney Gichner is a graduate of the Tennessee Bar Association Leadership Law Program, is a member of the Harry Phillips American Inn of Court, and has previously served on the Criminal Justice Act Panel for the Middle District of Tennessee.

Victor S. (Torry) Johnson III served as the elected District Attorney General of Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee for more than twenty-six years before retiring at the conclusion of his third full term in August of 2014. Torry currently serves as a Visiting Professor, Belmont University College of Law.

He received his undergraduate degree from Hamilton College and returned to Nashville to attend Vanderbilt University



Law School. After graduation, he was a law clerk to the Hon. William E. Miller of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. He then joined the District Attorney's Office in Nashville where he spent six years handling a wide variety of criminal cases. He established and headed up the Special Prosecution Unit that focused its efforts on the arrest and conviction of career offenders.

During his career as District Attorney, he held leadership positions with the National District Attorneys Association and the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference and was a member of the Board of Directors for the Tennessee and Nashville Bar Associations. He served on the American Bar Association's Task Force on the Federalization of Criminal Law and has been a part of other task forces and commissions dealing with various topics of criminal law and sentencing.



Christina A. Zawisza is a nationally recognized expert and practitioner in the field of children's law. She currently serves as Professor of Clinical Law and Director of the Child and Family Litigation Clinic at the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law.

Ms. Zawisza was a Founder and Director of Children First (now Florida's Children First), an innovative statewide law reform project to enhance children's legal rights by taking into consideration their medical, educational and social needs. She has represented children at all levels of the court system from administrative to the United States Supreme Court and has practiced extensively before the Florida Legislature on behalf of children and families. Most recently, Ms. Zawisza developed and delivered a Juvenile Court Practice Series on behalf of the Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts.

Christina received her undergraduate degree from State University of New York at Albany, her M.A. in Public Policy from the University of Wisconsin, and her J.D. degree from the University of Virginia.