

Advisory Task Force on Composition of Judicial Districts

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

Phone (865) 397-3497
Fax (865) 397-8981

October 1, 2019

Ms. Leah C. Aden
Mr. Samuel Spital
NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc.
40 Rector, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10006

Dear Ms. Aden and Mr. Spital:

I have your e-mail/letter of 1:57 p.m., Sunday, September 15, 2019. While you requested that the Task Force respond to certain issues or questions at its meeting on Monday, September 16, we were simply unable to do that, because of the timing of your e-mail. Nevertheless, the Task Force has now received and considered your letter and its response is set out below.

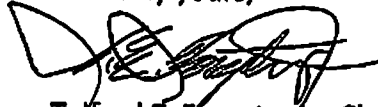
The Task Force welcomes your comments and has fully considered them, as well as all the others it received (and there were a great many). After fully considering the concerns/suggestions you raise—along with the other relevant factors—the group has voted to recommend no changes in the judicial districts or the number of judgeships in West Tennessee. (Indeed, the only changes recommended on those matters are in Middle Tennessee, where there were sufficient reasons and a clear consensus for change in the 21st District, and in Districts where the state-mandated weighted caseload study has regularly indicated a need for new judgeships.)

The Task Force fully supports the promotion of diversity in Tennessee's Judiciary. In considering that factor along with all the other appropriate ones, its conclusions are as stated above. In short, the group felt that applying all the factors, these conclusions were indicated.

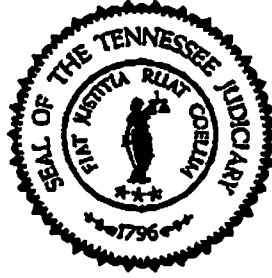
Finally, the Task Force did reach out and solicit input from the T.B.A. Committee on Racial and Ethnic Diversity as well as the Tennessee Black Caucus of State Legislators. I attach copies of my letters dated March 26, 2019. We received oral and written comment from Dr. Sekou Franklin who works with your organization, and who raised many of the same issues you have raised. And of course, we received your comments. In addition, we advertised and held five public hearings—two in West Tennessee—and solicited and received some 98 written or online comments. Again, the Task Force feels that it has done its best to receive and consider every possible public comment.

As always, please feel free to contact me or the Task Force if you have other questions or comments.

Sincerely yours,



Telford E. Forgety, Jr., Chair
Advisory Task Force on Composition
Of Judicial Districts



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March 26, 2019

Ms. Terica Smith, Chair
Tennessee Bar Association
Committee on Racial and Ethnic Diversity
225 Martin Luther King Blvd, Suite 320
Jackson, TN 38301

Dear Ms. Smith:

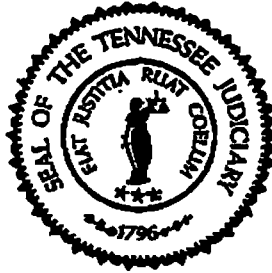
By Ch. 974 Tennessee Public Acts (2018) the legislature created a Task Force to study, hold hearings, and recommend a plan for statewide judicial redistricting. On behalf of the Task Force, I would like to invite your comments and participation in this process. The Administrative Office of the Courts has a link for the Task Force on their website:
<http://tncourts.gov/Advisory%20Task%20Force%20on%20Composition%20of%20Judicial%20Districts>. You may consult the site for a listing of the Task Force members, its meetings and public hearings, as well as other information regarding redistricting. You may also use the above link to submit your comments to the Task Force. Additionally, you may register to speak, and to submit items for the Task Force to consider at its public hearings by using the following link:
<http://tncourts.gov/node/5336509>. We would be glad to have you and hear from you at any or all of our meetings.

Finally, if you have any questions, you may contact the A.O.C. or any member of the Task Force. Again, we will welcome any thoughts, ideas, or comments you may have.

Sincerely,

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Telford E. Forgety, Jr., Chair
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March 26, 2019

The Honorable G.A. Hardaway, Chairman
Tennessee's Black Caucus of State Legislators
Suite 404 Cordell Hull Building
425 5th Avenue, North
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Representative Hardaway:

By Ch. 974 Tennessee Public Acts (2018) the legislature created a Task Force to study, hold hearings, and recommend a plan for statewide judicial redistricting. On behalf of the Task Force, I would like to invite your comments and participation in this process. The Administrative Office of the Courts has a link for the Task Force on their website: <http://tncourts.gov/Advisory%20Task%20Force%20on%20Composition%20of%20Judicial%20Districts>. You may consult the site for a listing of the Task Force members, its meetings and public hearings, as well as other information regarding redistricting. You may also use the above link to submit your comments to the Task Force. Additionally, you may register to speak, and to submit items for the Task Force to consider at its public hearings by using the following link: <http://tncourts.gov/node/5336509>. We would be glad to have you and hear from you at any or all of our meetings.

Finally, if you have any questions, you may contact the A.O.C. or any member of the Task Force. Again, we will welcome any thoughts, ideas, or comments you may have.

Sincerely,

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Telford E. Forgety, Jr., Chair
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