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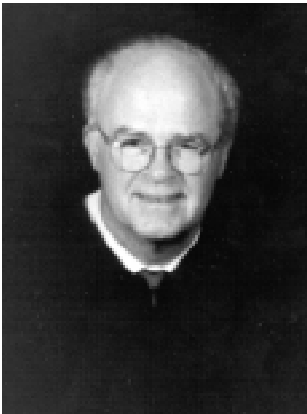
Information available on the website includes:

- ☞ Supreme Court, Court of Appeals and Court of Criminal Appeals opinions
- ☞ Court rule updates
- ☞ Ethics opinions
- ☞ News releases
- ☞ General court information
- ☞ Biographies of appellate court judges
- ☞ Juridicus, the judicial system newsletter
- ☞ Links to related websites
- ☞ Capital case information
- ☞ Reports
- ☞ Employment opportunities
- ☞ Guide to the courts
- ☞ Tennessee Code
- ☞ And more...

Message from the Chief Justice and Administrative Director

Dear Fellow Tennesseans:

We are pleased to present the new annual report for the Tennessee Judicial System. If you are familiar with previous reports, you will notice a change this year. The appearance and format are more streamlined and we believe the report is easier to use as a resource. The 2000 annual report is in two parts. The first book contains basic information about the judicial system. The larger second volume is our statistical report with numbers pertaining to filings, caseload and dispositions.



***Chief Justice
E. Riley Anderson***



***Director
Cornelia A. Clark***

We also have another change in this report. We are spotlighting children and families, with overviews and updates on several court-related programs aimed at helping the youngest Tennesseans and the state's families. The "Focus on Children and Families" section in this report, beginning on page 3, is especially timely since Law Day 2001, celebrated on May 1, is emphasizing "Protecting the Best Interests of Our Children." Nothing, we believe, is more important or deserves more of our attention.

Our mission is to provide the most efficient and effective judicial system possible for all Tennesseans of all ages - a system in which everyone is treated fairly and with respect. By doing so, we will ensure continued public trust and confidence in the administration of justice.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Riley Anderson".

E. Riley Anderson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cornie Clark".

Cornelia A. Clark

Focusing on Children and Families

For the Children

Recognizing that Tennessee's children are its future, the judicial branch, in concert with the legislative branch, took steps in the new millennium to protect the youngest and most vulnerable Tennesseans.

The Tennessee Parenting Plan, enacted by the 101st General Assembly, is a significant change in domestic relations law in Tennessee. It is designed to help parents understand the effect of the family breakup on their children. The law removes the terms "custody" and "visitation" from divorce proceedings. Rather, in a divorce or legal separation where there are minor children in the family, both parents cooperatively consider and prepare a parenting plan. The law requires affirmative action by Tennessee parents to protect the financial and emotional well-being of their children. The law promotes a collaborative effort on the part of both parents to ensure this protection.



The plan is multi-faceted, but two key elements are a minimum of four hours of mandatory parenting education and a very detailed written parenting plan. The parenting education class gives parents the tools to help children deal with the changes in the family. There is an emphasis that both parents must be present and active in their children's lives. The education also includes discussions of the legal process, alternative dispute resolution, marriage counseling, the judicial process and common attitudes and conduct involving domestic violence. The classes are available statewide and the providers are offering them at reduced prices to low-income parents.

The written parenting plan details the obligations of each parent and lists who will be caring for the children under normal and special circumstances. It specifies who makes decisions for the children and spells out child support arrangements. The plan also includes how parents may resolve problems without having to go into court.

During development of the parenting plan, parents may disagree about some issues. The new law calls for mediation or other alternative dispute means to resolve the conflicts before resorting to the court. The cost of mediation is borne, at least in part, by the parents on a sliding fee scale unless they are found to be indigent.

The new law is based on a pilot project conducted over the past two years in six of Tennessee's 31 judicial districts. The participating judges, clerks, attorneys and parents gave the program high marks on effectiveness in reducing stress on families involved in divorce. In addition, the pilot project courts saw a significant decrease in post-decree filings by parents with parenting plans.

Judges, working with legislators, were instrumental in designing and implementing the Parenting Plan. In judicial districts across the state, judges and members of the bar participated in educational and public awareness programs to help ensure the new program's success.

Children also are beneficiaries of another judicial program. Judicial response to child abuse and neglect is targeted under the federally funded Court Improvement Program (CIP). In 1995, the Tennessee Supreme Court received a CIP grant, initially for four years. Federal funding was extended, and it is projected that Tennessee's program will continue at least into early 2002.

At the program's outset, the court appointed a Permanency Planning Commission to assess state laws and court practices in child abuse cases. The commission also developed a plan to address barriers to permanency and assisted the AOC in implementing a plan of improvements.

Since 1998, the CIP staff has completed training in 93 of the 95 counties - every county with a Foster Care Review Board. Board members are volunteers appointed by juvenile court judges to review cases of children in state custody. About 1,950 individuals have been trained, including board members, judges, attorneys, court staff, Department of Children's Services personnel, foster parents and others interested in child welfare.

The training focuses on the legal aspects of the child dependency system, the role of the judicial branch in foster care review and monitoring foster children. Follow-up training, including the development of community action plans, will be done by the CIP staff. In addition, the CIP has:

- Provided dependency law training at the Tennessee General Sessions Judges Conference since 1998. In 2000, the staff presented a half-day of training at the Tennessee Judicial Conference. The Child Dependency Benchbook has been provided to judges.

Facts About Tennessee Children

There are more than 11,000 children in foster care in Tennessee.

72% (7,950) of the children in foster care were neglected or abused.

21% (2,300) of the children in foster care are delinquent and 7% (725) are unruly.

There are more boys (57%) in custody than girls (43%).

84% of girls and 63% of boys in custody were neglected or abused.

Almost one-half of the dependent children come from homes that are below the poverty level. One-quarter are abandoned, culturally deprived or come from homes where they have experienced domestic violence.

One-quarter of the children in custody are in family placement.

Children ages 6-12 remain longest in state custody. Children from birth to 5 years have the shortest average stay.

Source: Court Improvement Program

- Developed workshops for attorneys, ranging from one to four hours in length, to provide an overview of child dependency law, court procedures, the role of counsel and appellate issues. The staff has prepared the Legal Advocacy in Dependency and Termination of Parental Rights Manual.

- Took part in the Tennessee Adoption Conference sponsored by the Department of Children’s Services and the University of Tennessee School of Social Work.

- Collaborated with the Department of Children’s Services to develop a handbook for parents in dependency cases. The handbook also will be available in Spanish.

Since children and parents in dependency cases need early effective legal representation, the Tennessee Supreme Court, through the AOC, secured funds for pilot programs in Cheatham and Dickson counties to evaluate the use of specially trained attorneys in dependency cases. Attorneys were hired through the local public defender’s offices to represent indigent parents, and part-time attorneys were employed by local legal services agencies to represent dependent children as guardians ad litem in the pilot counties. The grant provided training for local juvenile judges to attend training and to provide trial skills training for attorneys. The goal of the CIP grant is earlier permanency for children in foster care.

And for Families

In Shelby County, trial judges and attorneys have joined forces to help high school students prepare for marriage and family responsibilities. The legal community created, and is teaching, a course called “Making Marriages Work and Avoiding Divorce.” Areas covered in the course include managing money, marital property, custody, spousal support, child support and domestic violence.

Also, in Shelby and Davidson counties, Domestic Violence Courts continue to prove their worth. Since its inception in 1997, the Shelby County court has contributed to:

- A 20 percent reduction in the number of cases dismissed.
- A 275 percent increase in the number of offenders sent to intervention programs.
- A 150 percent increase in probationers ordered into substance abuse programs.
- Lower recidivism rates for offenders processed in the Domestic Violence Court.
- Increased numbers of victims receiving advocacy services.

In interviews, 86 percent of victims said they were satisfied with advocacy services, and 76 percent said they felt safe because of the court’s handling of their cases.

Tennessee Courts

Supreme Court

The **TENNESSEE SUPREME COURT** is the state's court of last resort 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.

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

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 15-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 if recommended by the Judicial Evaluation Commission.

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 (seated) Chief Justice E. Riley Anderson and (standing from left) Justices Frank F. Drowota, III, Adolpho A. Birch, Jr., William M. Barker and Janice M. Holder. The Supreme Court sits "en banc," or as a whole, rather than in smaller panels.

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.

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.

Court of Appeals judges are (from left, front row) W. Frank Crawford, Houston Goddard, Ben H. Cantrell, Charles D. Susano, Jr., (from left, back row) Patricia J. Cottrell, William B. Cain, David R. Farmer, Bill Koch, D. Michael Swiney, Alan E. Highers, Herschel P. Franks and Holly K. Lillard.

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, John Everett Williams, Thomas Woodall, Joe Riley, James Curwood Witt, Jr., Norma McGee Ogle and Robert W. Wedemeyer.

Trial Court Judges By Judicial District

1st JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Carter, Johnson, Unicoi and Washington counties

Community outreach in the 1st Judicial District has included town hall meetings to hear what the public thinks about court performance. Judges in the district also visit classrooms, help students with mock trials and invite classes to come to court.

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

Judges in the 2nd Judicial District conducted programs during 2000 on domestic violence, the Parenting Plan and ethics, as well as taking part in civic and charitable activities. They were involved, too, in the education of students, judging student mock trials and inviting classes into their courtrooms to watch proceedings.

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 and Hawkins counties

Constitution Day is seen as an opportunity in the 3rd Judicial District to inform students and adults about the role of the judicial system in their lives. The celebration includes judges, legislators, local government officials and high school students who hear a speaker from the judicial branch discuss the Constitution. In addition to Constitution Day activities, government students from a local high school visit the courthouse every semester.

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 and Sevier counties

Judges in the 4th Judicial District are involved in their communities and in court-related educational programs for children and teens. They have volunteered to assist with Boys and Girls Clubs, programs to prevent domestic violence and with the Special Olympics. In addition, judges in the district have sponsored a legislative day in court and have initiated an array of projects to educate students about the judicial branch of government.

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

Jurors, parties and witnesses in the 5th Judicial District receive written materials to help them understand the process and their role in the courtroom proceedings. Also, judges in the district are actively involved with local schools, presiding over mock trials, inviting students to court and visiting classrooms.

CHANCERY COURT

Telford E. Forgety, Jr.

CIRCUIT COURT

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

6th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Knox County

In the 6th Judicial District, judges are actively involved in programs for students ranging from elementary school through law school, including a summer intern program for high school juniors and seniors. Students of all ages visit courtrooms and view proceedings. Visits often are followed by question and answer sessions with judges. A drug court initiated by a judge in the district during 2000 also is proving to be successful.

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

Judges and other members of the Bar in the 7th Judicial District provide annual scholarships for local high school students. The judges also preside over mock trials with high school students and invite school groups to attend court sessions.

CHANCERY COURT

William E. Lantrip*

CIRCUIT COURT

James B. Scott, Jr.

8th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Campbell, Claiborne, Fentress, Scott and Union counties

Judges in the 8th Judicial District have reached out to the community by inviting targeted groups for courthouse visits. Those attending court proceedings have included groups such as small business owners, senior citizens and students.

CHANCERY COURT

Billy Joe White

CIRCUIT COURT
Conrad Troutman, Jr.

CRIMINAL COURT
E. Shayne Sexton*

9th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Loudon, Meigs, Morgan and Roane counties

Students in the 9th Judicial District have been invited to sit in on court sessions for a first-hand look at the administration of justice. In addition, local judges have visited schools to discuss the judicial branch and its role. Other outreach projects in the district have included inviting state lawmakers to sit with judges during court proceedings and seeking comments and suggestions from trial participants.

CHANCERY COURT
Frank V. Williams, III

CIRCUIT COURT
Russell E. Simmons, Jr.

CRIMINAL COURT
E. Eugene Eblen *

10th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Bradley, McMinn, Monroe and Polk counties

Community outreach by judges in the 10th Judicial District has included a wide range of activities, such as helping to provide food for the needy, speaking to civic groups, presiding over mock trials with students, visiting schools and inviting senior citizens and other groups to the courthouse. Judges in the district also helped with a teen court, with students serving as lawyers and jurors to determine appropriate penalties for infractions committed at school.

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

In the 11th Judicial District, judges have sought suggestions for improvement from participants in court proceedings and have spoken to civic clubs about the judicial system. The judges also have participated in student mock trials, visited classrooms and invited students into their courtrooms. They have participated in domestic relations training programs, participated in a “Bridge the Gap” seminar and had a pilot program for the state’s new Parenting Plan.

CHANCERY COURT

W. Frank Brown, III (Part I)*
Howell N. Peoples (Part II)

CIRCUIT COURT

Jackie 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 and Sequatchie counties

Judges in the 12th Judicial District have gone into classrooms to discuss the court system and invited classes into the courtroom. Outreach projects also have included an open house at the courthouse. The judges also took the lead in bringing the SCALES Project to the district for nearly 1,000 students in Winchester and Dayton .

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 and White counties

A mentoring program initiated by a 13th Judicial District judge is a model for the state and was preliminarily approved for CLE credit. Judges in the district also visited local classrooms and invited students to attend court proceedings. Outreach also included working on Habitat for Humanity homes, helping provide food for the needy and participating in the Adopt a School program.

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

Judges in the 14th Judicial District have teamed with other volunteers to teach classes in local high schools in addition to taking part in mock trials involving students. Also, at-risk youth in the district have been invited to visit courtrooms. The judges are active in local civic organizations as well.

CIRCUIT COURT

L. Craig Johnson (Part I)

John Rollins (Part II)*

15th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Jackson, Macon, Smith, Trousdale and Wilson counties

Judges in the 15th Judicial District distribute booklets to jurors to help them understand their role and what will be happening. When trials are over, judges seek comments and suggestions from attorneys, clerks, jurors, parties and witnesses. The judges also have conducted an open house at the courthouse and are actively involved with local schools and in community activities.

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 and Rutherford counties

For judges in the 16th Judicial District, 2000 was a busy year. A mini-drug court program was established, serving 10 women with addiction problems. In October, the district received a \$480,000 federal grant to establish a Drug Court which is expected to expand services to 50 addicted individuals. Three programs are being offered to abusers and batterers in domestic violence cases. The district was the first in the state to participate in a Trial Judge Evaluation Program. Surveys were sent to court personnel, attorneys and jurors containing questions about judicial performance and demeanor. The information will be used for self-improvement.

CHANCERY COURT

Robert E. Corlew, III

CIRCUIT COURT

Steve Daniel (Part I)
James K. Clayton, Jr. (Part II)
Don R. Ash (Part III)
Royce Taylor (Part IV)*

17th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Bedford, Lincoln, Marshall and Moore counties

Judges in Judicial District 17 regularly visit schools to discuss the administration of justice and constitutional rights. They also invite classes to visit courtrooms and preside over student mock trials. They speak to local civic clubs and have invited state lawmakers to sit with them while they hold court. For self-improvement, judges have solicited comments and suggestions from jurors and other participants in courtroom proceedings.

CHANCERY COURT

James B. (J. B.) Cox

CIRCUIT COURT

Charles Lee (Part I)*
Lee Russell (Part II)

18th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Sumner County

During an annual leadership program, judges in the 18th Judicial District present an entire day on the court system. The judges are involved with local schools, visiting classrooms, reading to elementary students and presenting programs for students on Law Day. Judges also have written and assisted with mock trials. They participate in the Young Lawyers Mentoring Program and are active in charitable and civic affairs, such as Habitat for Humanity, United Way and Leadership Sumner.

CHANCERY COURT

Thomas E. Gray*

CIRCUIT COURT

C. L. "Buck" Rogers

CRIMINAL COURT

Jane W. Wheatcraft

19th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Montgomery and Robertson counties

In the 19th Judicial District, judges have undertaken a number of outreach projects, including inviting local legislators to sit with them while they hold court, working to develop a positive relationship with the media and speaking to civic organizations. The judges also have visited schools, invited students to court and participated in student mock trials. And for self-improvement purposes, they have solicited comments and suggestions from attorneys, clerks, jurors, parties and witnesses.

CHANCERY COURT

Carol Catalano

CIRCUIT COURT

James E. Walton (Part I)*

Mike Jones (Part II)

John H. Gasaway, III (Part III)

20th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Davidson County

Judges in the 20th Judicial District are involved in a myriad of projects and are adding others. A new drug court residential program is considered a model and has received nationwide attention. Judges in the district also participate in the Nashville Bar mentoring program and are involved with local schools. Classes of children are invited into courtrooms and judges go into schools to discuss the court system and assist with mock trials. In addition, the judges speak regularly at civic clubs and work to maintain a good relationship with the local news media. In some courts, judges seek comments and suggestions from jurors and other participants in legal proceedings.

CHANCERY COURT

Irvin H. Kilcrease, Jr. (Part I)

Carol McCoy (Part II)*

Ellen Hobbs Lyle (Part III)

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)
Frank G. Clement, Jr. (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)

21st JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Hickman, Lewis, Perry and Williamson counties

As in many districts across the state, judges in the 21st Judicial District volunteer their time to educate students about the court system and the administration of justice. Judges have visited schools to speak to classes and also have helped with mock trials involving students. The judges have not limited their outreach efforts to students, though. They also speak regularly to civic groups in their communities.

CIRCUIT COURT

Russ Heldman (Division I)*
Robert E. Lee Davies (Division II)
Donald P. Harris (Division III)
Timothy Easter (Division IV)

22nd JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Giles, Lawrence, Maury and Wayne counties

Working with the media, speaking to civic groups and involvement with local schools are among the community outreach projects in the 22nd Judicial District. Students have been invited to court to watch trials and other proceedings, and judges have gone into classrooms, as well as helping with mock trials.

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 and Stewart counties

Jurors and participants in some 23rd Judicial District trials receive orientation materials to help them understand what to expect in the courtroom. Judges in the district also visit schools and invite classes into their courtrooms. All of the judges speak to local civic organizations about the Judicial Branch of government.

CIRCUIT COURT

Robert E. Burch (Division I)*
Leonard Martin (Division II)
Allen W. Wallace (Division III)

24th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Benton, Carroll, Decatur, Hardin and Henry counties

Classes of students in the 24th Judicial District have visited courtrooms to see for themselves how the judicial system operates. They also benefit from judges' visits to their classrooms. Judges in the district also have reached out into their communities by seeking comments and suggestions from attorneys, jurors and others who use the system.

CHANCERY COURT

Ron E. Harmon

CIRCUIT COURT

Charles Creed McGinley (Part I)
Julian P. Guinn (Part II)*

25th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Fayette, Hardeman, Lauderdale, McNairy and Tipton counties

Judges in the 25th Judicial District are involved in mock trials in which students serve as lawyers, jurors and other participants in the assigned cases. The judges also go into classrooms to meet with students and invite classes into their courtrooms. Outside community involvement includes volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, the Humane Society and other charitable and civic organizations.

CHANCERY COURT

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

CIRCUIT COURT

Jon Kerry Blackwood (Part I)
Joseph H. Walker, III (Part II)

26th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Chester, Henderson and Madison counties

Judges in the 26th Judicial District are involved in a program for jail and workhouse inmates serving misdemeanor sentences. The Personal Growth & Development program helps inmates develop job skills and assists them in finding jobs after they are released. The judges also refer some defendants to an outside program to help develop job skills. Delay reduction was another area tackled by the courts. Civil docket call days were started to ensure that civil cases progress through the system without delay. The district also hosted the SCALES Project in 2000 involving more than 350 high school students.

CHANCERY COURT

Joe C. Morris

CIRCUIT COURT

Roy B. Morgan, Jr. (Division I)

Donald H. Allen (Division II)

Roger A. Page (Division III)*

27th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Obion and Weakley counties

In the 27th Judicial District, judges respond to requests from civic clubs to speak at meetings about the what they do and the role of the judicial branch of government. They also invite student groups to court and visit local schools to talk about the administration of justice.

CHANCERY COURT

W. Michael Maloan

CIRCUIT COURT

William B. Acree, Jr.*

28th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Crockett, Gibson and Haywood counties

Elementary and middle school children in the 28th Judicial District go into a courtroom each spring and conduct a trial with assistance from a local judge. In the scripted trial, the Big Bad Wolf is charged with the attempted murder of the three little pigs. Students play the roles of the lawyers, jurors, witnesses, the wolf, pigs and others involved in the trial. Following the trial, the judge answers students' questions about the legal system and their mock case. Judges in the district also speak to civic organizations, invite students into their courtrooms and host Leadership Gibson County for a tour of the courthouse.

CHANCERY COURT

George R. Ellis*

CIRCUIT COURT

Clayburn Peebles

29th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Dyer and Lake counties

Legislators have been invited by judges in the 29th Judicial District to sit with them while they hold court. The judges' outreach efforts have included developing a positive relationship with local media and speaking to civic organizations. In addition, judges participate in student mock trials, speak at schools and invite students to court. Also, the judges have solicited suggestions for improvement from clerks, attorneys, jurors, parties and witnesses.

CHANCERY COURT

J. Steven Stafford *

CIRCUIT COURT

Russell Lee Moore, Jr.

30th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Shelby County

The 30th Judicial District operates a pilot project Domestic Violence Court to handle criminal domestic violence cases and civil protection orders. Since it started in 1997, changes have included a 20 percent reduction in cases dismissed; a 275 percent increase in offenders sent to intervention programs; a 150 percent increase in probationers ordered into substance abuse treatment; lower recidivism rates; and more victims receiving advocacy services. Judges also participate in "Making Marriages Work and Avoiding Divorce," a Bar sponsored course for high school and college students.

CHANCERY COURT

Walter L. Evans (Part I)

Floyd Peete, Jr. (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)

D'Army Bailey (Division VIII)

Robert L. Childers (Division IX)

CRIMINAL COURT

Bernie Weinman (Division I)
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)
James C. Beasley, Jr. (Division X)

PROBATE COURT

Donn Southern
Robert Benham

31st JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Van Buren and Warren counties

CIRCUIT COURT and CHANCELLOR

Charles D. Haston, Sr.*

*** Denotes presiding judge in each district for one-year terms beginning September 2000.**

Senior Judges

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



**John K. Byers
William H. Inman
L. Terry Lafferty
James L. Weatherford**

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 Edward Delozier, Jr.
William R. Brewer, Jr.
William Terry Denton

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

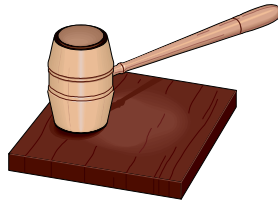
Larry F. McKenzie

Claiborne County

John D. McAfee

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

Casey Moreland
Gale B. Robinson
Gloria A. Dumas
John Aaron Holt
John P. Brown
Leon Ruben
Mark J. Fishburn
Michael F. Mondelli
Sue McKnight Evans
William Edward Higgins
William Joseph Faimon

Decatur County

Ricky L. Wood

DeKalb County

Bratten Hale Cook, II

Dickson County

Durwood G. Moore

Dyer County

Charles V. Moore

Fayette County

J. Weber McCraw

Fentress County

Paul Crouch

Franklin County

Floyd Don Davis

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

Joyce Mills Ward

Hamilton County

Clarence E. Shattuck, Jr

O. Michael Carter

Robert L. Moon, Jr.

Ronald W. Durby

S. Richard Holcomb

Hancock County

Floyd W. (Bill) Rhea

Hardeman County

Steven C. Hornsby

Hardin County

Daniel L. Smith

Hawkins County

David L. Brand

Haywood County

J. Roland Reid

Henderson County

Robert Steve Beal

Henry County

Hansel J. McCadams

Hickman County

Samuel Herbert Smith

Houston County

Sidney Vinson

Humphreys County

Dan R. Bradley

Jackson County

Steven Cassetty

Jefferson County

Alfred Ben Strand, Jr.

Johnson County

William Bliss Hawkins

Knox County

Bobby Ray McGee

Brenda J. Waggoner

Chuck Cerny, Jr.

Geoffrey P. Emery

Tony W. Stansberry

Lake County

James L. Watkins

Lauderdale County

Janice C. Craig

Lawrence County

Lee A. England

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
Jimmy E. Matthews

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

Donald J. Ray

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

Ann Lucas Pugh
Anthony Johnson
Betty Thomas Moore
James A. Robinson, Jr.
John A. Donald
Joyce Broffitt
Larry E. Potter
Lonnie Thompson
Louis J. Montesi, Jr.
Loyce Lambert Ryan
Lynn Cobb
Mischelle Alexander-Best
Russell B. Sugarmon, Jr.
Tim James Dwyer
William B. Hackett

Smith County

Mose Jackie Preston

Stewart County

George C. Sexton

Sullivan County

Duane S. Snodgrass
J. Klyne Lauderback
Steven Hal Jones
W.A. (Bill) Watson

Sumner County

Barry R. Brown
John Wesley Jones

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

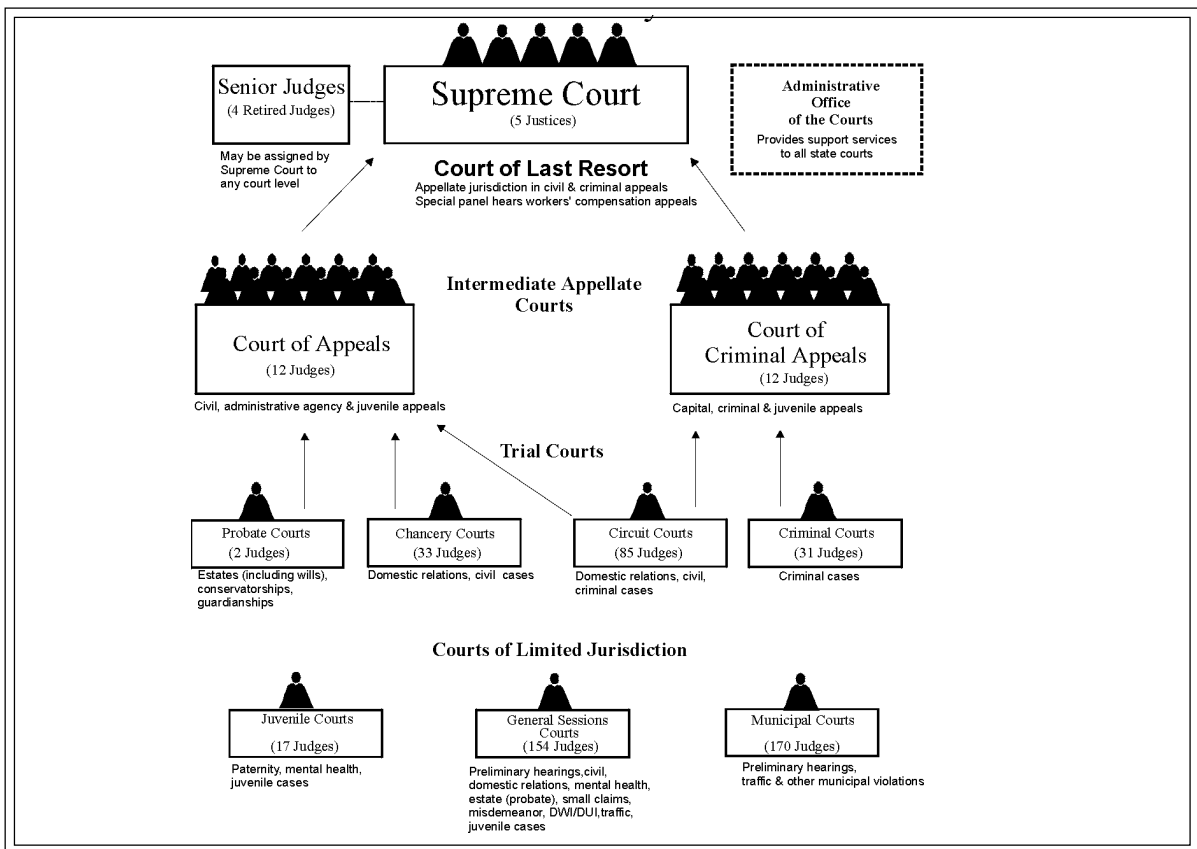
Sam Benningfield

Williamson County

Alfred L. Nations
Lonnie R. Hoover

Wilson County

Barry Tatum
Robert P. Hamilton



Offices of the Appellate & Trial Court Clerks

Cecil Crowson - Appellate Court Clerk, Nashville



Janice Rawls - Chief Deputy Clerk, Nashville

401 7th Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37219-1407
615-741-2687

Susan Turner - Chief Deputy Clerk, Jackson

P.O. Box 909
Jackson, TN 38302-0909
901-423-5840

Frankie Holt - Chief Deputy Clerk, Knoxville

719 Locust Street
P.O. Box 444
Knoxville, TN 37901
865-594-6700

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 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, the Middle Division is where all Rules of Court are filed, matters before the Court of the Judiciary, Board of Law Examiners Board of Professional Responsibility and certified questions of law from federal courts. Also any petition for public response altering or amending the Rules is filed in the Middle Division, as are all Supreme Court opinions.

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. Chief deputy clerks oversee the offices in Knoxville and Jackson.

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
Norma Pettyjohn

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
Reginald Hyberger

Campbell County
Circuit Court Clerk
Brenda Boshears
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 Mathes
Clerk and Master
Charlotte McKeehan

Cheatham County
Circuit Court Clerk
Julie Womack
Clerk and Master
Doris Sanders

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
Bobby D. Meadows
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

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Circuit Court Clerk
Casey Hughes
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Circuit Court Clerk
Larry Sherrill
Clerk and Master
Sue Tollett

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Circuit/Probate Court Clerk
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Clerk and Master
Claudia Bonnyman
Criminal Court Clerk
David Torrence

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

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Circuit Court Clerk
Vivian Hill
Clerk and Master
Debra Malone

Dickson County
Circuit Court Clerk
Sue Zwingle
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

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Circuit Court Clerk
Judy Callahan
Clerk and Master
Merry B. Sigmon

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Rhonda Reagan
Clerk and Master
Vickie B. Greenlee

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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 Trent-Mullins
Clerk and Master
Kathy Jones-Terry

Hamilton County
Circuit Court Clerk
Judy Medearis
Clerk and Master
S. Lee Akers
Criminal Court Clerk
Gwen Tidwell

Hancock County
Circuit Court Clerk
Jack Stapleton
Clerk and Master
Scott Collins

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

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

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

Haywood County
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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
Reed Brewer

Hickman County
Circuit Court Clerk
Frankye Ward
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

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Kathy Bunch Carpenter
Clerk and Master
Nancy C. Humbard

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Carolyn Wilson Hawkins
Clerk and Master
Linda Morefield

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Clerk and Master
Howard G. Hogan
Criminal Court Clerk
Martha Phillips

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

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Richard Jennings
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Sandra Burnham

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Leon Clanton
Clerk and Master
Kristy Gang

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Donna Couch
Clerk and Master
Janet Williams

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Clerk and Master
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Gwen Linville

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Nancy Matthews

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Evelyn Griffith
Clerk and Master
Levoy Gudger

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Elinor Foster
Clerk and Master
Tommy Higdon

Maury County
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Kathy Kelley
Clerk and Master
Cheryl Church

McMinn County
Circuit Court Clerk
Norma Corn White
Clerk and Master
Virginia Smith

McNairy County
Circuit Court Clerk
Allen Lipford
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
Judith B. Lee

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

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Rachel Smith
Clerk and Master
Fayne B. Nelson

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Circuit Court Clerk
Robert G. Kendall
Clerk and Master
Paula Rice

Overton County
Circuit Court Clerk
Johnny Brown
Clerk and Master
Dorothy Stanton

Perry County
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Robert O'Guin
Clerk and Master
Joyce Marshall

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Tim R. Martin
Clerk and Master
Sue Whited

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Clerk and Master
Kim Ingram

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Lewis Coomer
Clerk and Master
Linda F. Reeder

Rhea County
Circuit Court Clerk
John E. Fine
Clerk and Master
Barry Harrison

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Circuit Court Clerk
Angela Randolph
Clerk and Master
Shannon Conley

Robertson County
Circuit Court Clerk
Ann Mathews Stroud
Clerk and Master
Kenneth Hudgens

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

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Jan Burress
Clerk and Master
Betty Phillips

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Patsy A. Frizzell
Clerk and Master
Thomas Goins

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Circuit Court Clerk
Janette Layman-Ballard
Clerk and Master
Carolyn McMahan

Shelby County
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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

Smith County
Circuit Court Clerk
Helen L. Crawford
Clerk and Master
Dianna Dillehay

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

Sullivan County
Circuit Court Clerk
Raymond Winters
Clerk and Master
Dorothy Dulaney
Clerk and Master
Ralph Harr
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 Barkelew

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

Unicoi County
Circuit Court Clerk
Gregory Masters
Clerk and Master
Teresa W. Simerly

Union County
Circuit Court Clerk
Linda Effler
Clerk and Master
Doris Seymour

Van Buren County
Circuit Court Clerk
Teresa Simmons-DeLong
Clerk and Master
Sharon Scott

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

Washington County
Circuit Court Clerk
Don Squibb
Clerk and Master
Dianna Boarman

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

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

Administrative Office of the Courts
511 Union Street
Suite 600
Nashville, TN 37219
615-741-2687
Cornelia A. Clark - Director
Elizabeth Sykes - Deputy Director

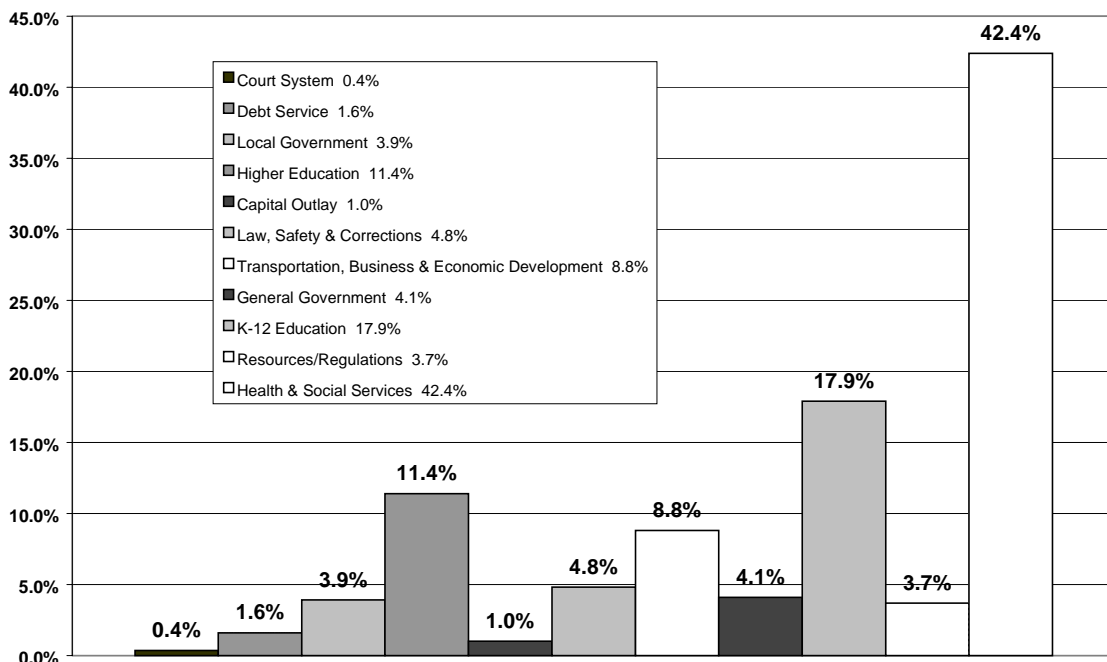
The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) provides support services to the state court system. The director, appointed by the Supreme Court, is chief administrative officer for the courts and oversees the AOC. Duties of the office include preparing the court system's annual budget; providing judicial education, law libraries, computers, other equipment, training and technical support for judges and other court personnel; assisting judges with case assignments; administering payroll accounts for the court system; conducting orientation for new judges; administering the official state criminal court reporters system; providing assistance to judicial committees; compiling data; and reviewing and disbursing funds to court-appointed attorneys representing indigents.

Fiscal Services Division

The Fiscal Services Division is responsible for maintaining financial integrity for the court system by providing timely support to the various programs. The division is composed of four major sections - accounting management, facilities management, office management and grants/contracts management. The actions of these four groups affect all employees of the court system.

The court system's budget compared to other departments/agencies is shown in the graph below.

Total State Expenditures
Fiscal Year 1999-00



The budget administered for fiscal year 1999-2000 was \$75,282,300, with total expenditures of \$72,529,533. The court system expended the following amounts for fiscal year 1999-2000:

Appellate and Trial Courts	\$37,481,046	51.68%
Supreme Court Buildings	2,173,687	3.00%
Child Support Referees	953,041	1.31%
Guardian Ad Litem	705,851	0.97%
Indigent Defendants Counsel	12,873,170	17.75%
Civil Legal Representation Fund	1,934,000	2.67%
Verbatim Transcripts	3,058,952	4.22%
Law Libraries	726,103	1.00%
Judicial Conference	219,343	0.30%
Judicial Programs and Commissions	945,803	1.30%
State Court Clerks' Conference	167,868	0.23%
Administrative Office of the Courts	9,325,086	12.86%
Appellate Court Clerk's Office	1,496,826	2.06%
Board of Law Examiners	468,831	0.65%
Total Expenditures	\$72,529,607	

The Indigent Defense Fund expended \$12,873,170 for fiscal year 1999-2000 of which \$3,234,723 was expended for capital cases. Listed below are the expenditures for the Indigent Defense Fund and for capital cases for fiscal years 1995-96 through 1999-2000:

Total expenditures from the Indigent Defense Fund:

Fiscal Year 1999-2000	\$12,873,170
Fiscal Year 1998-1999	11,199,418
Fiscal Year 1997-1998	9,628,384
Fiscal Year 1996-1997	8,001,530
Fiscal Year 1995-1996	6,513,675

Total expenditures from the Indigent Defense Fund for capital cases:

Fiscal Year 1999-2000	\$3,234,723
Fiscal Year 1998-1999	2,574,955
Fiscal Year 1997-1998	2,250,896
Fiscal Year 1996-1997	1,774,236
Fiscal Year 1995-1996	1,212,848

Human Resources Division

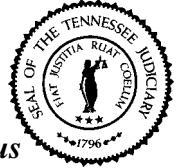
The Human Resources Division was created in mid-2000 to more comprehensively address the HR needs of judges, AOC employees and others working in the judicial branch. The division works with judges and AOC management in developing position descriptions, recruiting, interviewing, hiring, training, employee evaluations and employee separation. Other responsibilities include approving salary adjustments, overseeing employee benefits, monitoring Workers' Compensation claims and leave under the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and consulting with management regarding a wide variety of employment issues. The division also is responsible for Affirmative Action and Title VI compliance.

Legal/Public Information Division

This division has an array of responsibilities, including the production of publications, providing information to the media and public, producing content for and maintaining the court system web site and preparing monthly capital case status reports for the Supreme Court and trial judges. The division provides legal counsel and researches legal issues as needed for the judicial department and AOC staff and provides staff support to various boards and commissions. In addition, the division maintains and updates membership rosters for all Supreme Court boards and commissions.

NEWS FROM:

Supreme Court of Tennessee
Administrative Office of the Courts
Internet Home Page: www.tsc.state.tn.us



Cornelia A. Clark, Director
Elizabeth Sykes, Deputy Director

Revamped Website Provides Better Court Information

New features, more information and an updated look are among recent changes on the Tennessee court system website at www.tsc.state.tn.us.

"The website is part of our commitment to make court-related information and material as accessible as possible," said Cornelia Clark, administrative director of the courts.

The court system website was first introduced as a tool for the legal community. The new web page - with the same Internet address - has added features, improved disability access and is easier to use.

The area for children, accessed through the "Fun Stuff" button on the home page, includes games; biographies; "Our Courts In a Nutshell," a simple guide to the judicial system; and a link to definitions of legal terms.

Policies and procedures concerning discrimination in the court system can be found on the website as well as appellate court opinions, court rules and ethics opinions. Features include a "Press Room," with news releases, a list of telephone numbers and addresses of interest to the media as well as other information and links. Websites for the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit and court systems nationwide can be accessed along with other legal and government sites.

Technology Services Division

Technology Services provides computer support for more than 1,400 court system personnel, maintains 74 local area networks and oversees the wide area communications tying together all appellate court sites, TnCIS project sites and the AOC. The training staff offers classes on court supplied software and the help desk assists court personnel with support issues.

The division has several large projects under way, including development of the Tennessee Court Information System (TnCIS). Specifications for the system were completed during 2000 and the AOC contracted with Local Government Data Processing Corporation to develop software.

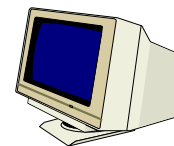
The Appellate Court Automation Project (ACAP) went live in the Appellate Clerk's Offices in late 1999 and the Judicial Information Tracking System (JITS) is a vast improvement over its predecessor. A contract was signed in November 2000 to add a component for imaging judgments and orders, eliminating the need for old-style minute books. It also will allow users in court buildings to access the images.

A large number of upgrades were performed during the last six months of 1999 to address Y2K. Testing for both hardware and software started almost three years prior to the date rollover, so the judicial branch experienced no serious problems.

With the reorganization of the AOC in 2000, Technology Services has taken on the Tennessee Judicial Information System (TJIS) data entry group. This added several staff members to the division along with the responsibility for data entry for caseload statistics, felony judgment documents and indigent administrative fee reporting.

Tennessee Court Information System

The Tennessee Court Information System (TnCIS) is a statutorily-authorized trial court case management software system integrating the case tracking and accounting functions for court clerks, including Circuit, Criminal, Chancery, Probate, Juvenile and General Sessions Courts. TnCIS software will provide participating clerks with an automated management system that will improve record keeping, reduce paperwork, improve timeliness, enhance fee collection, allow better transfer of data, aid in efficient management of the court's time, and provide better service to the public.



Since July 1, 1999, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) has worked closely with the selected vendor, Local Government Data Processing Corporation (LGDPC), and the legislative oversight committee designated to provide input into this project. The AOC TnCIS team and LGDPC completed a high-level review of the TnCIS system requirements prior to the end of the last fiscal year. A subcommittee of the legislative oversight committee was appointed to study long-range funding for the hardware replacement and other recurring components of the project. Detailed user specifications for the system were finalized on October 16, 2000, and the final contract with the software vendor was signed December 18, 2000. A business plan was developed in late 2000, and will be finalized in early 2001.

Judicial Education and Program Services Division

The new Judicial Education and Program Services Division replaces the former Court Services Division and reflects a realignment of responsibilities.

The Judicial Education Department continues to provide training and seminars for judges, clerks and other and court personnel. Additionally, the department administers judicial out-of-state travel for educational seminars and conferences and all continuing legal education for judicial law clerks. The department has assumed responsibility for coordinating the SCALES Project.

The ADR/Programs Department administers Supreme Court Rule 31 and other programs with an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) component. The department provides implementation assistance for the Tennessee Parenting Plan and has collaborated with the Tennessee Association of Legal Services to coordinate mediation services for indigent parents. The department also has responsibility for oversight and disbursement of funds to Victim Offender Reconciliation Programs (VORP).

The division includes the staff for the Court Improvement Project (CIP), which is responsible for developing and implementing a plan of improvement to address barriers to permanency for dependent and abused children in state custody. The division also administers the Judicial Performance and Evaluation Programs for appellate and trial judges.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Background

In 1995, the Tennessee Supreme Court took a step to reduce litigation with the creation of the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Commission. The panel came up with rules for the new method of resolving disputes. The result was Supreme Court Rule 31 establishing court-annexed ADR. As originally presented, the rule emphasized mediation, but proposed changes would expand the program with neutral case evaluation, judicial settlement conferences, non-binding arbitration, mini-trials and summary jury trials. The changes also would expand coverage of the rule to all courts of record.



Five Years Later

A continuing purpose of the ADR Commission is the approval of mediators who fulfill requirements of Rule 31. As 1999 ended, 662 mediators were available for court referrals. The neutrals have varied credentials and experience, ranging from law, including former judges, to the social sciences, including psychologists, social workers and educators, to engineers and others. With the advent of the new Parenting Plan law, it is expected that the number of Rule 31 mediators will grow to meet increased need for family mediators.

Another Alternative

The AOC also supports Victim-Offender Reconciliation Programs (VORPs) across the state. These programs promote the reconciliation of parties involved in relatively low-level offenses, usually at the General Sessions Court level. The programs have been well received and there is widespread interest in expanding their coverage.

Equal Justice

The year 2000 marked significant progress toward establishing a certification program for court interpreters in Tennessee. The state joined the National Consortium for State Court Interpreter Certification to have access to various services, most notably to established valid testing instruments. The Court Interpreter Program, operated by the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute, hosted workshops in Memphis, Nashville and Knoxville to help prepare those interested in pursuing certification when it becomes available.


Another initiative in 2000 was to identify and begin translation of basic court documents. Thanks to grants from the National Center for State Courts and the Office of Criminal Justice Programs, a division of Finance and Administration, numerous documents, video and audio tapes are being translated or produced in Spanish, Arabic, Vietnamese, Laotian, Kurdish and Russian. By having these available, the courts will be better equipped to ensure that language barriers are not barriers to equal justice.

Boards and Commissions 2000

- **Advisory Commission on Rules of Civil and Appellate Procedure**
- **Advisory Commission on Rules of Criminal Procedure**
- **Advisory Commission on Technology**
- **Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission**
- **Board of Law Examiners**
- **Board of Professional Responsibility**
- **Commission on Continuing Legal Education**
- **Court of the Judiciary**
- **Indigent Defense Commission**
- **Judicial Council**
- **Judicial Ethics Committee**
- **Judicial Evaluation Commission**
- **Judicial Performance Program Committee**
- **Judicial Selection Commission**
- **Lawyer Assistance Program**
- **Lawyers Fund for Client Protection**
- **Permanency Planning Commission**
- **Post-Conviction Defender Commission**
- **Racial and Ethnic Fairness and Gender Fairness Implementation Committee**
- **State Law Library Commission**
- **Supreme Court Building Commissions:**
 - **Nashville**
 - **Knoxville**
 - **Jackson**
- **Tennessee Code Commission**
- **Tennessee Judicial Conference Committees**
- **Tennessee Judicial Information System Advisory Committee**
- **Tennessee Court Information System Steering Committee**



Attorney Facts

- .. **15,242 attorneys paid annual registration fees through the Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility in 2000, providing revenue of more than \$1.3 million.**
- .. **In February 2000, 204 law school graduates took the Tennessee bar examination and 141 passed. In July, 617 took the exam and 494 passed.** 
- .. **An annual fee paid by attorneys generated \$152,810 in 2000 for the Lawyer Assistance Program, a Tennessee Supreme Court initiative. The program provides confidential assistance to attorneys with personal issues such as substance abuse, stress, marital or family problems, depression, compulsive gambling and eating disorders. Assistance or information about the TLAP is available by calling 1-877-424-8527.**
- .. **Fees paid by Tennessee attorneys boosted The Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection by \$144,420 during 2000, for a total of \$1.54 million collected from attorneys since 1990.**
- .. **More than 3,600 attorneys sought guidance on ethical issues during 2000 through a Board of Professional Responsibility program initiated in 1976 by the state Supreme Court.**

Sources: Tennessee Boards of Professional Responsibility and Law Examiners, Tennessee Lawyer Assistance Program and Commission on Continuing Legal Education

Board of Professional Responsibility

1101 Kermit Drive
Suite 730
Nashville, TN 37217
615-361-7500

The Board of Professional Responsibility was designated by the Tennessee Supreme Court in 1976 to investigate complaints against attorneys and discipline those who violate professional rules. Since then, the program has expanded to include publication of ethics opinions, operation of an ethics hotline, conducting ethics seminars and oversight of an attorney trust fund account program.

Membership on the board was limited to attorneys until 1996 when the Supreme Court added three non-lawyer members to increase public confidence in the fairness and effectiveness of the disciplinary process. The board's staff includes eight full-time disciplinary counsel and nine support staff members. An audit released in May 2000 concluded that operations of the board are "efficient, effective and are achieving the results desired by the Tennessee Supreme Court."

Tennessee attorneys have paid more than \$16.5 million in annual assessments to finance the professional responsibility program, with no contributions from other sources. During 2000, the board received 1,917 complaints, down slightly from 1999 when there were 1,924 complaints. Of those received in 2000, 418 were administratively dismissed and deemed "frivolous."

Tennessee Board of Law Examiners
706 Church Street
Suite 100
Nashville, TN 37243-0740
615-741-3234

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 attorneys previously licensed for more than five years in other jurisdictions and administers the bar examination to recent law school graduates. The exam is given twice each year in February and July. It is a two-day exam including the multiple choice Multistate Bar Examination and 12 essay questions.

Information about the board can be found on the Internet at www.state.tn.us/lawexaminers. The site provides general information, fee and deadline information and a Notice of Intent to take the bar examination. Exam locations and results also are posted on the website.

Commission on Continuing Legal Education and Specialization
221 Fourth Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37219
615-741-3096 (CLE)
615-741-3097 (Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection)

Created by Supreme Court Rule 21, the Tennessee Commission on Continuing Legal Education and Specialization oversees mandatory continuing legal education requirements and certification of attorneys as specialists. The commission accredited 4,920 CLE programs nationwide in 2000. Tennessee's attorneys earned over 269,000 hours at these programs.

The commission also oversees Tennessee's program to certify attorneys as specialists in 11 areas of the law. The state has more than 200 certified specialists.

The commission, with a staff of three, is funded by a per hour fee paid by CLE sponsors or by the attorneys and by application and annual fees paid by specialists. During 2000, the commission rented office space from the Administrative Office of the Courts. A move to new offices was to be completed in early 2001.

The commission's website address is www.cletn.com

Tennessee Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection

Created by Supreme Court Rule 25, TLFCP manages a fund of, currently, approximately \$1,000,000 from which it reimburses clients when an attorney steals from them. During 2000, the fund - which currently totals about \$1 million - paid out \$132,410.66 to 31 claimants. Twenty-one of these payments came from claims against a deceased Memphis attorney. The fund is administered by the same staff as the Tennessee Commission on Continuing Legal Education and Specialization and does not rent separate office space, thereby reducing operating costs.