

JUDGE JOHN EVERETT WILLIAMS

Recommendation: RETAIN

Commission Vote: 9 FOR RETENTION • 0 FOR REPLACEMENT

Legal Education and Experience

Judge John Everett Williams received a law degree from the Cumberland School of Law, Samford University, in 1981. He engaged in the private practice of law in Huntingdon from 1981 until 1998. Judge Williams was appointed to the Court of Criminal Appeals in November 1998 and was elected in 2000 and was re-elected in 2006.

Service to the Profession

Judge Williams is a member of the Tennessee and Carroll County Bar Associations. He has also been a member of the Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association and participated in the Tennesseans for Fair and Impartial Courts Project in 2011. Judge Williams is a frequent lecturer on legal topics.

Survey Results and Interview

Judge Williams' survey ratings from appellate judges, trial judges, attorneys and court personnel reflect a good performance with both areas of excellence and potential

for self-improvement. His ratings in giving parties an adequate time to be heard in oral argument and demonstrating courtesy and respect to court personnel are particularly noteworthy. During his interview, Judge Williams described his judicial philosophy as one that reflects a practical approach to the law. He noted that he has made a concerted effort to improve the quality of his written opinions. To that end, he has sought and received assistance from other judges and has paid greater attention to the details of opinion writing. He noted that some cases require more time than others and stated that there is no better cause than reaching the correct result.

Comments and Recommendation

While Judge Williams' ratings in the quality of written opinions reflect the need for additional self-improvement, the Commission recognizes his improvement in this area during the judicial term.

The Commission unanimously recommends Judge John Everett Williams be retained on the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals

COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS