

JUDGE THOMAS T. WOODALL

Recommendation: RETAIN

Commission Vote: 5 FOR RETENTION • 4 FOR REPLACEMENT

Legal Education and Experience

Judge Thomas T. Woodall received his law degree from Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, University of Memphis in 1981. He served as a judicial law clerk from 1981 to 1982. He served as Assistant District Attorney General from 1984 to 1990, and engaged in the private practice of law in Dickson from 1990 to 1996. He was appointed to the Court of Criminal Appeals in December 1996 and was elected in 1998 and was re-elected in 2006.

Service to the Profession

Judge Woodall is a member of the Tennessee and Dickson County Bar Associations. Judge Woodall has authored articles for the Memphis State University Law Review as well as "A Judge's View of Appellate Advocacy," *The Prosecutor's Desk Book (3d ed.): Ethical Issues and Emerging Roles for 21st Century Prosecutors*, 2001, American Prosecutors Research Institute. Judge Woodall frequently lectures on legal topics to groups such as attorneys, court clerks, law clerks and municipal and general sessions judges.

Survey Results and Interview

Judge Woodall's survey ratings from appellate judges, trial judges, attorneys and court personnel reflect a sat-

isfactory performance. His ratings in use of structured, logical reasoning, applying law to the facts of the case, and ethical conduct were particularly noteworthy. Judge Woodall's integrity, knowledge of the law and service to his profession were unquestioned.

Comments and Recommendation

The majority of the Commission found that Judge Woodall had improved the timeliness of his opinions, and that he had made notable improvement since the last quarter of 2011. However, there is still room for improvement and Judge Woodall appears to be headed in the right direction in addressing this issue according to the majority. The Commissioners voting against retention noted that Judge Woodall was taking over 10 months from oral argument to issue an average opinion from 2009, 2010 and 2011. Judge Woodall's improvement in 2012 and 2013 to issuing an average opinion in 6 to 7 months from oral argument was sufficient improvement for the majority to vote to retain. Judge Woodall expressed deep concern over the timeliness of his opinions and a commitment to continue to make significant improvements.

The Commission recommends Judge Thomas T. Woodall be retained on the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals.