

JUDGE RICHARD H. DINKINS

Recommendation: RETAIN

Commission Vote: 9 FOR RETENTION • 0 FOR REPLACEMENT

Legal Education and Experience

Judge Richard H. Dinkins received a law degree from the Vanderbilt University School of Law in 1977. Upon completing law school, Judge Dinkins engaged in the private practice of law, practicing for twenty-six years in a general civil practice. His practice included civil rights and constitutional litigation, as well as serving as counsel for Fisk University and the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency. Judge Dinkins was appointed Chancellor of Part IV of the Chancery Court for Davidson County in September 2003. He was elected to the same position in August 2004 and reelected in August 2006. Judge Dinkins was appointed by the governor to the Court of Appeals in January 2008 and was elected in August 2008.

Service to the Profession

Judge Dinkins is a Fellow of the Tennessee Bar Foundation and a member of the Tennessee, Nashville and Napier-Looby Bar Associations, currently serving on the Board of Directors of the Nashville Bar Association. He is also a member of the National Bar Association Judicial Council and is a Fellow of the Tennessee Bar Foundation. He received the William M. Leech, Jr. Public Service Award from the Tennessee Bar Association in June 2004 and the Liberty Bell Award from the Nashville Bar Association in April 2001, as well as a number of other awards for service to the community and to the legal profession. Judge Dinkins has taught continuing legal

education seminars for attorneys and spoken on various topics to youth programs, employee groups and other groups.

Survey Results and Interview

Appellate judges gave Judge Dinkins high marks for his work. He received somewhat lower ratings by trial court judges and attorneys. Judge Dinkins' interview showed a marked improvement in areas identified in previous evaluations. He has shortened the turnaround time for opinions since mid-term evaluations in 2010. Judge Dinkins took the survey results seriously and indicated a strong desire to continue to improve.

Recommendation

The Commission unanimously recommends Judge Richard H. Dinkins be retained on the Tennessee Court of Appeals.

Judge Dinkins' response

I am grateful that the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission has unanimously recommended that I be retained as a Judge of the Court of Appeals, on which I have been honored to serve for six years. Throughout my time on the court, I have sought to render timely opinions based on the facts presented and to treat each party fairly and without bias or favor. If I am retained by the voters, I pledge to continue to pursue excellence and integrity in my personal and professional life.