

JUDGE THOMAS R. FRIERSON, II

Recommendation: RETAIN

Commission Vote: 9 FOR RETENTION • 0 FOR REPLACEMENT

Legal Education and Experience

Judge Thomas R. Frierson, II received his law degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1983. He engaged in the private practice of law in Morristown from 1983 to 1990. In August of 1990, he was elected General Sessions Judge for Hamblen County, and served in that capacity until being appointed Chancellor for the 3rd Judicial District in March, 1996. Judge Frierson was appointed by the Governor to serve on the Court of Appeals on February 14, 2013.

Service to the Profession

Judge Frierson is a past president of the Tennessee Judicial Conference. He was a member of the Tennessee Bar Association's Board of Governors from 2010 to 2011, and is a member of the Tennessee and the Knoxville Barr Associations. He was recognized as Trial Judge of the Year by the Tennessee chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocacy in 2000, and recently made a presentation regarding the Code of Judicial Conduct to attorneys from the Republic of Georgia at the UT College of Law in April, 2013.

Survey Results and Interview

Because Judge Frierson has only been a member of the Court of Appeals since February, 2013, several appellate judges were unable to evaluate him, having not worked with him in that capacity as of yet. The same was true of trial judges; however those that did rate him gave him high marks for the respect and collegiality he shows other judges and court personnel. At his interview, Judge

Frierson impressed the Commission as a very congenial jurist. He has produced opinions within an acceptable time range.

Recommendation

The Commission unanimously recommends Judge Thomas R. Frierson, II be retained on the Tennessee Court of Appeals.

Judge Frierson's Response

Please allow me to express humble appreciation for the recommendation of retention included in the Final Public Report of the Tennessee Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission. I am grateful for the opportunity to have participated in the judicial performance evaluation program, which includes submitting this response before publication of the Commission's final report.

Regarding service to the legal profession and the public, I am committed to performing the duties of judicial office impartially, competently, and diligently. I shall strive to administer justice to the best of my ability. Respecting the judicial office as a public trust, I shall aspire at all times to conduct that ensures public trust and confidence in the judiciary. I am fully committed to upholding and promoting the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary.

Again, I thank all members of the Tennessee Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission for your recommendation that I be retained as a judge to serve on the Tennessee Court of Appeals.

COURT OF APPEALS