

JUDGE JOHN WESTLEY McCLARTY

Recommendation: RETAIN

Commission Vote: 9 FOR RETENTION • 0 FOR REPLACEMENT

Legal Education and Experience

Judge John Westley McClarty received a law degree from Southern University School of Law in 1976. He engaged in the private practice of law in Chattanooga since graduating from law school. He also served as a part time Juvenile Court Referee for Hamilton County in 1990. Judge McClarty was appointed to the Court of Appeals on January 14, 2009, and was elected in 2010.

Service to the Profession

Judge McClarty is a member of the Chattanooga Bar Association, Chattanooga Bar Foundation and American Board of Trial Advocates. He is a past board member of the Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association and past president of the Chattanooga Trial Lawyers Association. He is a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers. Judge McClarty also served as a hearing panel member for the Board of Professional Responsibility from 2001-2009. Judge McClarty has served as an instructor in the Criminal Justice Department for Cleveland State Community College and has also given presentations on housing discrimination to the Chattanooga Bar Association. Since taking the bench, he has attended numerous judicial training events, including the Institute of Judicial Administration at the New York School of Law in 2012.

Survey Results and Interview

Judge McClarty's survey ratings from appellate judges, trial judges, attorneys and court personnel reflect an overall good performance. He received ratings of "excellent" from appellate judges, attorneys, trial judges and court employees in the categories of administrative per-

formance and general performance. He also was rated "excellent" in oral argument by appellate judges, attorneys and court employees (trial judges do not rate in this category). Judge McClarty was rated "good" in the quality of his written opinions, reflecting an area for self improvement. As a result of its interview with Judge McClarty, the Commission found Judge McClarty to have a broad range of knowledge and experience in civil law. Judge McClarty has a history of service to the community. While most new judges experience a backlog of opinions while transitioning into and adapting to the judicial position, Judge McClarty has completed his work in a timely manner, a fact that demonstrates his impressive work ethic. Judge McClarty has recently completed judicial opinion writing courses that will serve to forward the process of continually improving the quality of written opinions.

Recommendation

The Commission unanimously recommends Judge John Westley McClarty be retained on the Tennessee Court of Appeals.

Judge McClarty's Response

I thank and appreciate the Commission for again recommending me for retention on the Tennessee Court of Appeals. It has been my privilege and a great joy to serve the people of this Great State as a Judge on this Court. If re-elected I will continue to devote my best efforts to grant a full and fair hearing to the litigants before the Court and after serious and thoughtful consideration decide their cases based upon the law and facts of each particular case.

COURT OF APPEALS