
The 2005-2006 *Annual Report of the Tennessee Judiciary* is dedicated to Supreme Court Justices E. Riley Anderson and Adolpho A. Birch, Jr., who retired August 31, 2006. Their service to the state and the administration of justice is gratefully acknowledged.



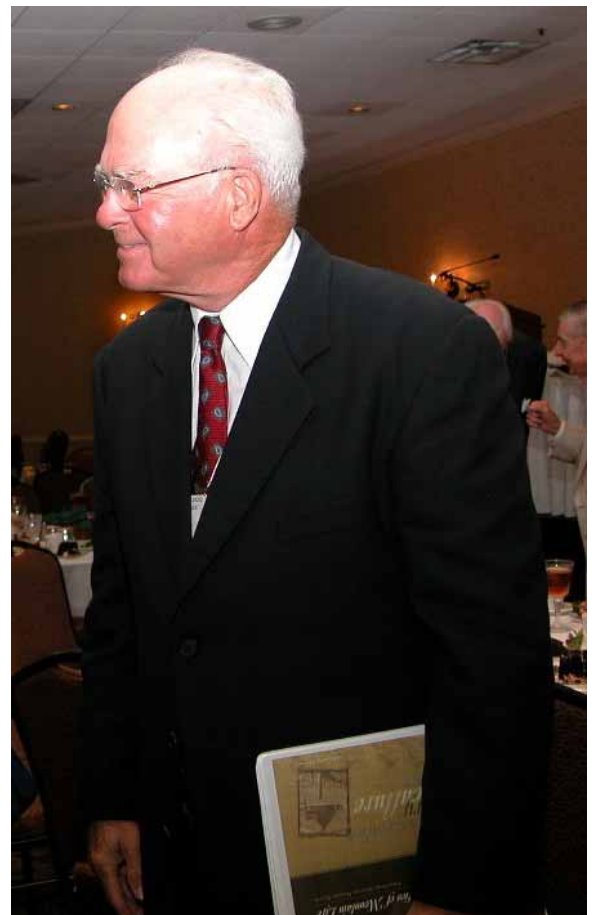
Justice Birch

"His commitment to judicial fairness and impartiality is well known and the state has been fortunate to enjoy the benefits of his dedication for over 40 years."

Governor Phil Bredesen on the retirement of Justice Adolpho A. Birch, Jr.

"His leadership in helping make the court system more open and accessible to the public will be long remembered and appreciated."

Governor Phil Bredesen on the retirement of Justice E. Riley Anderson



Justice Anderson

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A Message from the Chief Justice and State Court Administrator

Dear Fellow Tennesseans,

The past year has been one of tremendous change in the Tennessee judicial system. Of great significance, we lost the wisdom and experience of two remarkable members of the state Supreme Court and that of 18 trial court judges, most of whom retired after many years as part of our judicial family. We are confident, though, that the fine new judges who have succeeded them across the state will follow their examples and legacies of dedicated service.

Two of those veteran judges who left the bench are Supreme Court justices, to whom this publication is dedicated. Together, Justices E. Riley Anderson and Adolpho A. Birch, Jr., devoted an incredible 56 years to judicial service before stepping down on August 31, 2006. We are deeply grateful for their contributions to the administration of justice and are pleased to pay tribute to them in this Annual Report of the Tennessee Judiciary.

The Supreme Court and the people of Tennessee are fortunate that Governor Bredesen appointed Justice Gary R. Wade to fill the seat left vacant by Justice Anderson's retirement. Justice Wade was a member of the state Court of Criminal Appeals prior to his appointment to the Supreme Court. A successor to Justice Birch had not been appointed when the Annual Report was published.



Chief Justice
William M. Barker

The administrative side of the judiciary also saw a change. The Supreme Court appointed Elizabeth (Libby) Sykes as administrative director of the state court system, including the Administrative Office of the Courts, with its staff of 83 and vast array of responsibilities.

In addition, the Supreme Court appointed a new attorney general. Robert Cooper succeeded former Attorney General Paul Summers, who did not seek a second eight-year term. Before his appointment by the court in October 2006, Mr. Cooper was chief legal counsel to Governor Bredesen.

What the year has demonstrated is that while personnel changes are inevitable, the judicial system remains steadfast and strong. The system continues, as it has since its creation, to administer justice and serve those to whom it belongs.

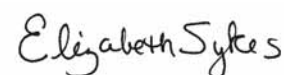


Administrative Director
Elizabeth Sykes

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William M. Barker".

William M. Barker
Chief Justice

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Sykes".

Elizabeth Sykes
Administrative Director

Including Justices Anderson, Birch

Retirements End Judicial Careers Totaling 423 Years

A spate of retirements within the span of a few months, most of them effective August 31, 2006, added up to a remarkable 423 years of judicial experience leaving the trial and appellate courts in Tennessee.

Among the 20 judges who stepped down after many years of service to the state were two members of the state Supreme Court. Former Chief Justices E. Riley Anderson and Adolpho A. Birch, Jr., both retired after serving as judges for a combined total of 56 years.

When he announced his decision to retire, Anderson said he did so with “mixed feelings.” He served two eight-year terms on the Tennessee Supreme Court, including four terms as chief justice. In 1987, Anderson

was the first appellate court judge appointed by Gov. Ned McWherter, who named him to the state Court of Criminal Appeals. Prior to his appointment, he practiced law in Oak Ridge for three decades.

As a member of the Supreme Court, Birch had the distinction of being the only Tennessee judge ever to have served at each level of the court system – general sessions, trial, intermediate appellate

court and the state Supreme Court. He also was the state’s first African-American chief justice. His retirement ended a 43-year judicial career, including 19 years as an appellate court judge. Prior to becoming a judge in Davidson County, Birch served as a public defender and as a prosecutor.

His decision to leave the bench was, in part, to allow him to “pursue those goals which are yet unrealized,” Birch said.

The two justices were in good company when they decided to retire from judicial public service. Trial court judges across the state also made the same decisions. Those who retired were Chancellor D.J. Alissandratos of Memphis; Criminal Court Judge R. Steven Bebb of

Cleveland; Criminal Court Judge James E. Beckner of Morristown; Chancellor Sharon Bell of Knoxville; Criminal Court Judge Arthur T. Bennett of Memphis; Criminal Court Judge Joseph B. Dailey of Memphis; Circuit Court Judge Julian P. Guinn of Paris; Circuit Court Judge Russ Heldman of Brentwood; Chancellor Richard Ladd of Bristol; Circuit Court Judge Leonard W. Martin of Dickson; Criminal Court Judge Douglas A. Meyer of Chattanooga; Criminal Court Judge Phyllis H. Miller of Kingsport; Chancellor Vernon Neal of Cookeville; Circuit Court Judge Samuel H. Payne of Chattanooga; Circuit Court Judge Marietta M. Shipley of Nashville; Circuit Court Judge Ben K. Wexler of Greeneville; Criminal Court Judge Jane W. Wheatcraft of Hendersonville; and Chancellor Dewey C. Whitenton of Bolivar.



Justice E. Riley Anderson



Justice Adolpho A. Birch, Jr.



Justices Anderson and Janice Holder answer students' questions.

The judges who contributed decades of service left their courtrooms with a storehouse of memories - some pleasant and some not. In recalling his years as a Criminal Court judge, Judge Dailey said one change is especially apparent.



Justice Anderson as a member of the Court of Criminal Appeals

“The level of violence has increased significantly,” he said in a newspaper interview. “It’s just such a part of our culture now and it’s very troubling to me.”

After conducting nearly 3,000 trials, Judge Martin also reflected on events that have taken place in his courtroom. Like many judges, he said he does not consider any single case more important or more interesting than another.

“For those involved, their case was the most important to them and that’s how I needed to treat it as well,” he said.

Fairness is the key to being a good judge, according to Judge Beckner, who spent 30 years on the bench.

“I have a trailer on my computer,” Beckner said in an interview. “It says, ‘The right things for the right reasons.’ I figured that if I did the right things for the right reasons, I wouldn’t have to answer to anybody.”

For 30 years, Judge Bennett presided over Criminal Court proceedings, treating everyone in his courtroom with respect, including those accused of and

convicted of crimes. The former Tennessee Judicial Conference president was known throughout the courthouse and legal community for his courtesy, demeanor and turn of a phrase. For example, when sentencing a defendant to prison, he would sometimes proclaim that he was “compelled to provide you with a rapid steed so you can gallop to the Penal Farm.”

The judges who retired across Tennessee were honored and thanked in their communities upon their retirements.

Judge Wexler was among those given public recognition for their years of service. He was thanked with a ceremony and a proclamation stating that he “symbolizes honesty, integrity and dignity in all that he has accomplished.”

Similar words were said and written about the 20 judges who contributed more than four centuries of service to the state and their communities.

Governor Phil Bredesen summed up the state’s appreciation for the contributions of Justices Anderson and Birch. Speaking to the Tennessee Judicial Conference, the governor said they were leaving the bench “with the thanks of a grateful state and governor for their tenure as public servants upholding the laws of this great state.”



Justice Birch relaxes



Justice Birch speaks with high school students

“Two Giants of Judiciary Announce Retirements

Tennesseans cannot begrudge the retirement wishes of two Supreme Court justices - E. Riley Anderson and Adolpho A. Birch. They deserve the state’s warmest congratulations and thanks for remarkable public service ... ”

Tennessean Editorial

Judicial System Snapshots



New trial court judges



Criminal Court Judge Mark Fishburn



Chancellor Steven Stafford and Circuit Court Judge Robert Childers



Court of Appeals Judge Sharon G. Lee with Justices Cornelia Clark and Janice Holder.



Court of Criminal Appeals Judge Kelly Thomas, Jr., and Criminal Court Judge James Beasley, Jr.



Deputy Staff Clerk Tim Young

Judicial System Budget 0.38 Percent of State Total

The Judicial Department budget for fiscal year 2005-2006 was \$98,336,100, with total expenditures of \$96,312,761. The budget for courts and related services was 0.38 percent of the total state budget (see graph below). Nearly half of judicial branch expenditures - \$47,330,648 - was for appellate and trial courts across the state. The second largest single expenditure was \$18,337,686 for criminal indigent defense, including \$2,434,985 for capital cases, a decrease of \$106,976 from the previous fiscal year. The budget also provided funds for Supreme Court buildings, child support referees, guardians ad litem, the civil legal representation fund, transcripts, law libraries, educational conferences for judges and clerks, the Administrative Office of the Courts, judicial programs and commissions, the Appellate Court Clerk's Offices, the Board of Law Examiners, the Board of Professional Responsibility, the Tennessee Lawyers' Assistance Program, the Tennessee Commission on Continuing Legal Education & Specialization and the Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection.

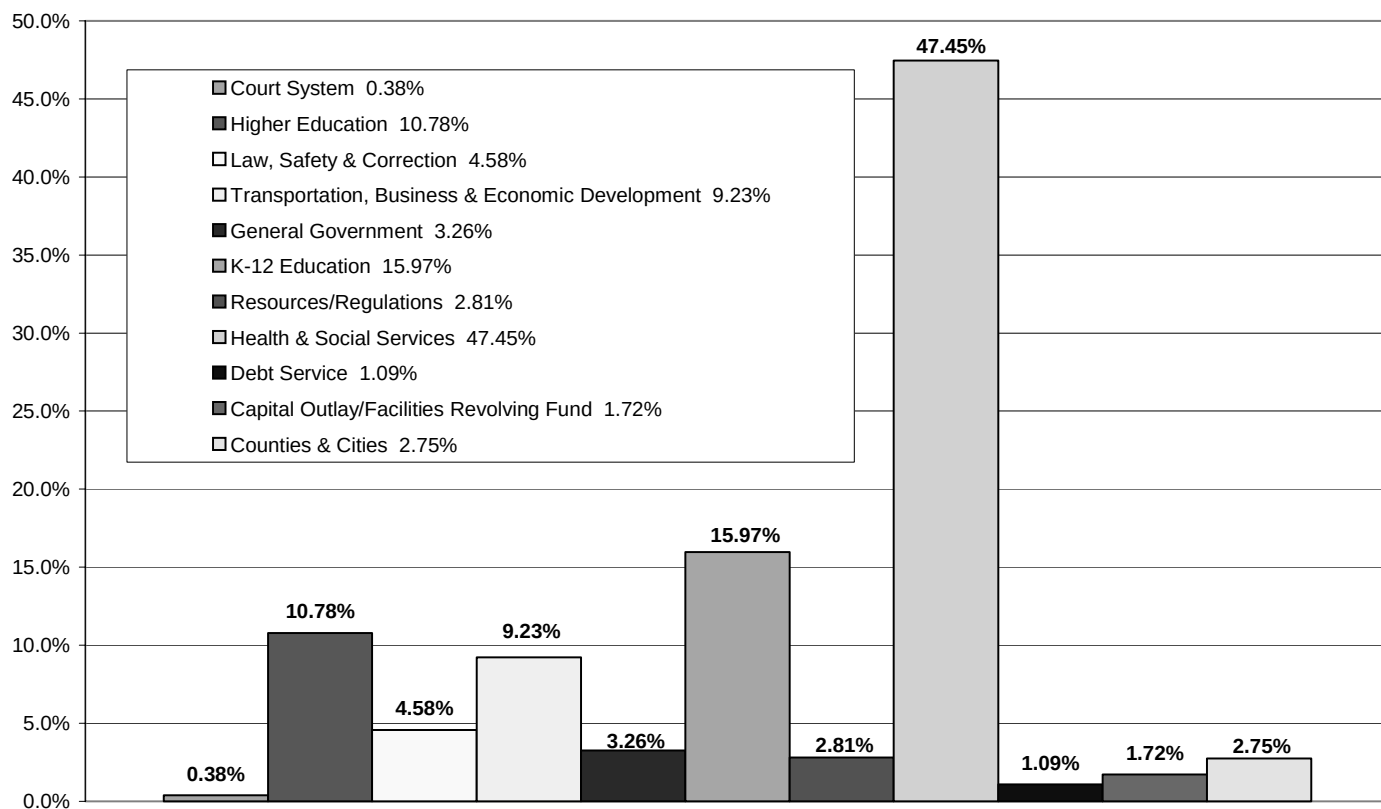
Indigent defense expenditures:

Fiscal Year 2005-2006	\$18,337,686
Fiscal Year 2004-2005	\$17,434,503
Fiscal Year 2003-2004	\$17,896,454
Fiscal Year 2002-2003	\$16,897,986
Fiscal Year 2001-2002	\$14,987,665
Fiscal Year 2000-2001	\$12,877,960

Indigent defense capital case expenditures:

Fiscal Year 2005-2006	\$2,434,985
Fiscal Year 2004-2005	\$2,541,961
Fiscal Year 2003-2004	\$2,826,388
Fiscal Year 2002-2003	\$3,649,471
Fiscal Year 2001-2002	\$3,014,000
Fiscal Year 2000-2001	\$2,719,636

Total State Budget Fiscal Year 2005-06



Judicial Highlights Sampler

Legislature Adjusts Judicial Salaries

For the first time in 16 years, trial and appellate court judges in Tennessee received a salary adjustment effective Sept. 1, 2006. Under the bill, Supreme Court justices' salaries were increased from \$129,000 to \$150,000, with an additional \$5,000 for the chief justice. Court of Appeals and Court of Criminal Appeals judges earn \$145,000, up from \$123,888, and trial court judges' salaries were increased from \$118,000 to \$140,000. Tennessee's constitution prohibits pay raises for judges during their eight-year terms of office. Prior to the salary adjustment, salaries for the state's appellate and trial court judges ranked seventh out of 13 Southeastern/Southern states. Separate legislation also provided pay raises for general sessions judges, based on their jurisdictions and the populations of the areas they serve.

New Fund Assists Legal Aid Programs

Low-income and elderly Tennesseans needing certain types of legal assistance are beneficiaries of legislation signed into law in May 2006. The Tennessee Voluntary Fund for Indigent Civil Representation will provide funds for legal aid programs across the state. Under the law, the Administrative Office of the Courts receives and distributes the additional money which comes from various litigation funds. The Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services was instrumental in the law's passage.

SCALES Participation Exceeds 16,000

The Supreme Court SCALES program surpassed the 16,000-students mark since the court initiated the project in 1995. More than 16,750 students from 376 public and private high schools have participated in the program. SCALES, an acronym for the Supreme Court Advancing Legal Education for Students, allows students to attend a Supreme Court session in their own, or a nearby, community. They are provided with study materials and classroom instruction in advance so that they understand the issues in the cases they will hear and how those cases reached the Supreme Court. Teachers are given notebooks of materials during a professional development session conducted by lawyers, judges and Supreme Court staff. Using the materials provided by the court, teachers include judicial education in their curricula.

Court Website Use Increases

The number of daily visitors to the court system website increased from about 7,100 the previous year to more than 12,000. The website address was changed to make it easier to remember, making the site more accessible. The new address - www.tncourts.gov - is shorter than the previous address. The site also has been updated to make it more accessible by using plain text menus. In addition to the court system website, the Administrative Office of the Courts has responsibility for maintaining and supporting websites for the Board of Law Examiners, the Tennessee Lawyers' Assistance Program, the Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and the Tennessee Municipal Judges Conference.

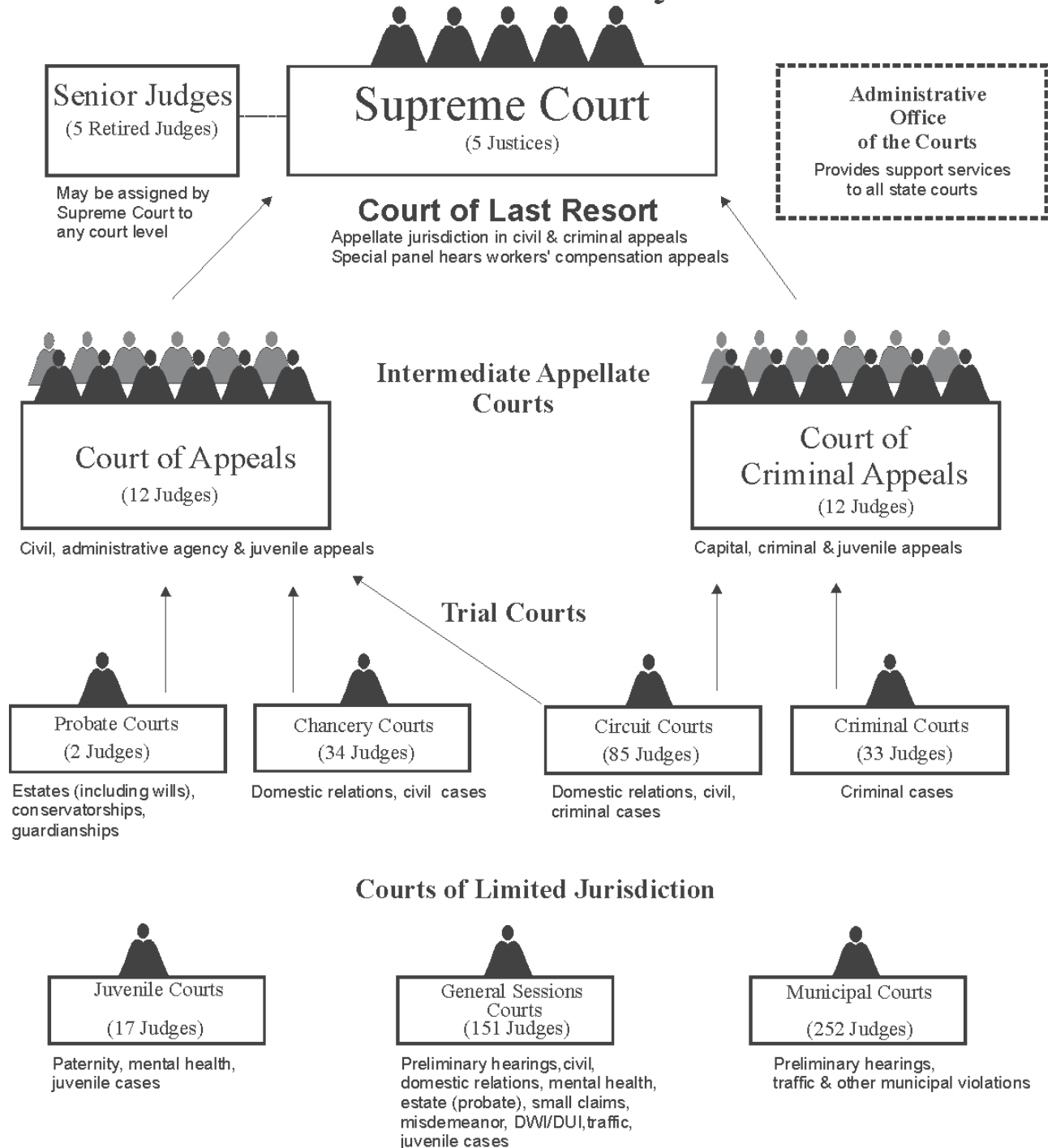
Grant Funds Custody, Visitation Study

The Administrative Office of the Courts, in conjunction with the Department of Human Services, Child Support Division, is overseeing a three year federal grant to fund a study into custody and visitation issues involving unmarried parents. The research and demonstration project is aimed at reducing adversarial proceedings and increasing financial security for unmarried parents and their children. The project will steer parents to community programs dealing with parent education, dispute resolution, counseling and other interventions to improve parent-child contact and parent relationships. The project is in three judicial districts - the 11th, 20th and 26th.

AOC Hosts ADA Coordinator Trainings

The Americans with Disabilities Judicial Program has 109 local ADA coordinators in counties throughout the state. The Administrative Office of the Courts hosted ADA trainings across the state for the coordinators. The program was implemented as a result of a case heard by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2004 - Lane v. Tennessee, which involved access to Tennessee courthouses. Following the court's decision in the case, the state adopted an ADA policy setting out procedures to make judicial programs readily accessible. Accessibility information is available on the court system website at www.tncourts.gov.

Tennessee Judicial System



Tennessee Supreme Court

THE SUPREME COURT is the state's highest court and may accept appeals of civil and criminal cases from lower state courts. The five justices also interpret the laws and Constitutions of Tennessee and the United States.

The Supreme Court may assume jurisdiction over undecided cases in the Court of Appeals or Court of Criminal Appeals when there is special need for a speedy decision. The court also has appellate jurisdiction in cases involving state taxes, the right to hold public office and issues of constitutional law. Appeals to the Supreme Court are discretionary except in death penalty cases. The court is required by law to review those cases on direct appeal.



Members of the Tennessee Supreme Court are (seated) Chief Justice William M. Barker and (standing from left) Justices Janice M. Holder, Gary R. Wade and Cornelia A. Clark. The court normally has five members, but one of two vacancies created by the Aug. 31, 2006, retirements of Justices E. Riley Anderson and Adolpho A. Birch, Jr., remained unfilled at the time the court was photographed.

Attorneys may present oral arguments before the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals and the Court of Criminal Appeals. The appellate courts also review attorneys' briefs and the records in cases before them and issue written opinions, or rulings. Only opinions on federal constitutional issues can be appealed to the federal courts, which may or may not agree to consider them.

The Supreme Court has administrative responsibilities relating to the entire court system and adopts rules to ensure that the judicial branch functions efficiently and fairly. Rules of the court can be found on the court system website at www.tncourts.gov.

Judges of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals and Court of Criminal Appeals are elected on a "yes-no" ballot every eight years. When a vacancy occurs, the 17-member Judicial Selection Commission interviews applicants and recommends three candidates to the governor, who appoints a new judge to serve until the next August general election.

"The Constitution does not provide for first and second class citizens."

Wendell Wilkie 1946

Intermediate Appellate Courts



Court of Appeals judges (seated from left) Charles D. Susano, Jr., William Frank Crawford, Herschel P. Franks, William C. Koch, Jr., Alan E. Highers, (standing from left) Patricia J. Cottrell, William Bryan Cain, D. Michael Swiney, David R. Farmer, Frank G. Clement, Jr., Holly M. Kirby and Sharon G. Lee.



Court of Criminal Appeals judges (seated from left) David G. Hayes, Joseph M. Tipton, Gary R. Wade, David H. Welles, Jerry Smith, (standing from left) Norma McGee Ogle, James Curwood Witt, Jr., Robert W. Wedemeyer, Alan E. Glenn, John Everett Williams, J.C. McLin and Thomas T. Woodall. Judge Wade was appointed to the Tennessee Supreme Court in June 2006. Circuit Court Judge Dea Kelly Thomas, Jr., was appointed in November 2006 to succeed Wade on the Court of Criminal Appeals.

The **COURT OF APPEALS**, created by the General Assembly in 1925, hears appeals in civil, or non-criminal, cases from trial courts and certain state boards and commissions. Members of the Court of Appeals are appointed and elected under the same system as the Tennessee Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeals. The method of judicial selection is legislatively established for all three appellate courts.

The **COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS**, created by the General Assembly in 1967, hears trial court appeals in felony and misdemeanor cases, as well

as post-conviction petitions. State law requires the Court of Criminal Appeals to review all death sentences. If a capital case conviction and sentence are affirmed by the Court of Criminal Appeals, there is an automatic review by the state Supreme Court.

“Four things belong to a judge: to hear courteously, to answer wisely, to consider soberly and to decide impartially.”

Socrates, circa 400 B.C.

All other Court of Appeals and Court of Criminal Appeals decisions may be appealed, by permission, to the state Supreme Court. Each of the intermediate appellate courts has 12 members, who normally sit in panels of three in Jackson, Knoxville and Nashville. They may also meet in other places as necessary.

A Message from the Tennessee Judicial Conference President

By Chancellor Jeffrey F. Stewart
12th Judicial District

As I began to write this article, I was reminded of an old story about a doctor, an engineer and an attorney arguing about which is the oldest profession. The doctor and engineer argued their theories based upon the Book of Genesis. The engineer thought his was the oldest because there could have been no organization and order out of chaos without proper design and engineering. After much debate, the ever silent attorney spoke up and said "who do you think created chaos?"

Many times it seems the judiciary is accused of creating chaos. Judges are referred to as activists and are asked to respond to questionnaires about their beliefs and opinions. Merit selection plans for appellate judges are being attacked. Closer to home, our judiciary is lacking one member of the Supreme Court as I write this. A new attorney general has recently been chosen, as has a new administrative director of the courts.

On the heels of the legislative success we enjoyed this past year, a degree of chaos could have abounded. Save one thing this might be the case. That one thing is leadership.

I once heard a man described by his friends as being "the calm at the center of the storm." When things were going wrong and were chaotic he always brought calmness to the discussions that solved the problem. I believe chaos will not prevail because we have strong and solid leaders within the judiciary.

The courts are filled with well qualified, reasonable men and women of high integrity. We have leadership in our Supreme Court that is experienced, deliberative,

cooperative, and reasonable. The AOC is being capably run by a well qualified and capable staff responding to our needs. Good leadership is the calm at the center of our storm.

As a conference we have maintained excellent relationships and communication. We have the

closeness of what retired Chief Justice Frank Drowota referred to as "family." Like any "family" we have our differences, but in times of discord we gather the strength of family to face our problems together.

Emerging from chaos is one thing, presiding over it is quite another. While calm leadership will lead us out of chaos, it will take calm leadership to preside over the chaos we confront in our courtrooms each day. We are problem solvers for a society with many problems to solve. We need to continue to solve these ills in a firm, fair, calm and deliberative way if we are to bring order to this chaos. To bring the calm needed, I believe the prophet Micah has good advice to all judges, to do justice, love mercy, and be humble.



Chancellor Jeffrey F. Stewart

As president of the conference for the upcoming year I look forward to the opportunity to continue to serve at your direction. You have honored me by choosing me to occupy this position, and I hope I will not disappoint you. Best wishes and good luck for the coming year.

Chancellor Stewart is serving a one-year term as president of the Tennessee Judicial Conference, which includes all of the state's appellate and trial court judges. His term began in June 2006.

Trial Judges by Judicial District Effective September 1, 2006

1st JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Carter, Johnson, Unicoi & Washington counties

Chancery Court

G. Richard Johnson

Circuit Court

Thomas J. Seeley, Jr. (Part I)

Jean A. Stanley (Part II)

Criminal Court

Lynn W. Brown

Robert E. Cupp

2nd JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Sullivan County

Chancery Court

E.G. Moody

Circuit Court

John S. McLellan, III (Part I)

R. Jerry Beck (Part II)

Criminal Court

Robert H. Montgomery, Jr.

3rd JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Greene, Hamblen, Hancock & Hawkins counties

Chancery Court

Thomas R. Frierson, II

Circuit Court

John K. Wilson (Part I)

Thomas J. Wright (Part II)

Kindall T. Lawson (Part III)

Criminal Court

John F. Dugger, Jr.

4th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Cocke, Grainger, Jefferson & Sevier counties

Chancery Court

Telford E. Forgety, Jr.

Circuit Court

Ben W. Hooper, II (Part I)

Richard Robert Vance (Part II)

Rex Henry Ogle (Part III)

O. Duane Slone (Part IV)

5th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Blount County

Chancery Court

Telford E. Forgety, Jr.

Circuit Court

W. Dale Young (Part I)

Vacant (Judge D. Kelly Thomas, Jr. appointed to the Court of Criminal Appeals Nov. 15, 2006)

6th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Knox County

Chancery Court

John F. Weaver (Part I)

Daryl R. Fansler (Part II)

Michael Moyers (Part III)

Circuit Court

Dale Workman (Division I)

Harold Wimberly, Jr. (Division II)

Wheeler A. Rosenbalm (Division III)

Bill Swann (Division IV)

Criminal Court

Richard R. Baumgartner (Division I)

Ray L. Jenkins (Division II)

Mary Beth Leibowitz (Division III)

7th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Anderson County

Chancery Court

William E. Lantrip

Circuit Court

Donald R. Elledge

8th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Campbell, Claiborne, Fentress, Scott & Union counties

Chancery Court

Billy Joe White

Circuit Court

John D. McAfee

Criminal Court

E. Shayne Sexton

9th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Loudon, Meigs, Morgan & Roane counties

Chancery Court

Frank V. Williams, III

Circuit Court

Russell E. Simmons, Jr.

Criminal Court

E. Eugene Eblen

10th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Bradley, McMinn, Monroe & Polk counties

Chancery Court

Jerri Bryant

Circuit Court

Larry H. Puckett (Part I)

John B. Hagler, Jr. (Part II)

Carroll Lee Ross (Part III)

Criminal Court

Amy F. Reedy

11th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Hamilton County

Chancery Court

W. Frank Brown, III (Part I)

Howell N. Peoples (Part II)

Circuit Court

Jacqueline E. Schulten (Division I)

Jeff Hollingsworth (Division II)

L. Marie Williams (Division III)

W. Neil Thomas, III (Division IV)

Criminal Court

Barry A. Steelman (Division I)

Rebecca J. Stern (Division II)

Don Wayne Poole (Division III)

12th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Bledsoe, Franklin, Grundy, Marion, Rhea & Sequatchie counties

Chancery Court

Jeffrey F. Stewart

Circuit Court

Thomas W. (Rusty) Graham (Part I)

J. Curtis Smith (Part II)

Buddy D. Perry (Part III)

13th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Overton, Pickett, Putnam & White counties

Chancery Court

Ronald Thurman

Circuit Court

John A. Turnbull (Part I)

John J. Maddux, Jr. (Part II)

Criminal Court

Leon C. Burns, Jr. (Division I)

David Patterson (Division II)

14th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Coffee County

Circuit Court

L. Craig Johnson (Part I)

John W. Rollins (Part II)

15th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Jackson, Macon, Smith, Troup & Wilcox counties

Chancery Court

C. K. Smith

Circuit Court

Clara W. Byrd (Division I)

John D. Wootten, Jr. (Division II)

Criminal Court

James O. Bond

“What distinguishes a truly free society from all others is an independent judiciary and a free press.”

Edward R. Murrow

16th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Cannon & Rutherford counties

Chancery Court
Robert E. Corlew, III

Circuit Court
J. Mark Rogers (Part I)
James K. Clayton, Jr. (Part II)
Don R. Ash (Part III)
Royce Taylor (Part IV)

17th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Bedford, Lincoln, Marshall & Moore counties

Chancery Court
James B. (J. B.) Cox

Circuit Court
Robert Crigler (Part I)
Lee Russell (Part II)

18th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Sumner County

Chancery Court
Thomas E. Gray

Circuit Court
C. L. (Buck) Rogers

Criminal Court
Dee David Gay

19th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Montgomery & Robertson counties

Chancery Court
Laurence M. (Larry) McMillian, Jr.

Circuit Court
Ross H. Hicks (Part I)
Mike Jones (Part II)
John H. Gasaway, III (Part III)

20th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Davidson County

Chancery Court
Claudia Bonnyman (Part I)
Carol McCoy (Part II)
Ellen Hobbs Lyle (Part III)
Richard Dinkins (Part IV)

Circuit Court
Hamilton Gayden, Jr. (Division I)
Amanda McClendon (Division II)
Barbara N. Haynes (Division III)
Muriel Robinson (Division IV)
Walter C. Kurtz (Division V)
Thomas W. Brothers (Division VI)
David (Randy) Kennedy (Division VII)
Carol Soloman (Division VIII)

Criminal Court
Steve R. Dozier (Division I)
J. Randall Wyatt, Jr. (Division II)
Cheryl A. Blackburn (Division III)
Seth W. Norman (Division IV)
Monte Watkins (Division V)
Mark Fishburn (Division VI)

21st JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Hickman, Lewis, Perry & Williamson counties

Circuit Court
Robbie T. Beal (Division I)
Robert E. Lee Davies (Division II)
Jeffrey S. Bivins (Division III)
Timothy Easter (Division IV)

22nd JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Giles, Lawrence, Maury & Wayne counties

Circuit Court
Jim T. Hamilton (Part I)
Robert Holloway (Part II)
Robert L. (Bob) Jones (Part III)
Stella L. Hargrove (Part IV)

23rd JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Cheatham, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys
& Stewart counties

Circuit Court
Robert E. Burch (Division I)
Larry J. Wallace (Division II)
George C. Sexton (Division III)

24th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Benton, Carroll, Decatur, Hardin & Henry counties

Chancery Court
Ron E. Harmon

Circuit Court
Charles Creed McGinley (Part I)
Donald E. Parish (Part II)

25th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Fayette, Hardeman, Lauderdale, McNairy & Tipton counties

Chancery Court

William C. Cole (Part I)
Martha B. Brasfield (Part II)

Circuit Court

J. Weber McCraw (Part I)
Joseph H. Walker, III (Part II)

26th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Chester, Henderson & Madison counties

Chancery Court

James F. Butler

Circuit Court

Roy B. Morgan, Jr. (Division I)
Donald H. Allen (Division II)
Roger A. Page (Division III)

27th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Obion & Weakley counties

Chancery Court

W. Michael Maloan

Circuit Court

William B. Acree, Jr.

28th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Crockett, Gibson & Haywood counties

Chancery Court

George R. Ellis

Circuit Court

Clayburn Peeples

29th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Dyer & Lake counties

Chancery Court

J. Steven Stafford

Circuit Court

Russell Lee Moore, Jr.

30th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Shelby County

Chancery Court

Walter L. Evans (Part I)
Arnold Goldin (Part II)
Kenny Armstrong (Part III)

Circuit Court

John R. McCarroll, Jr. (Division I)
James F. Russell (Division II)
Karen R. Williams (Division III)
Rita L. Stotts (Division IV)
Kay S. Robilio (Division V)
Jerry Stokes (Division VI)
Robert A. Lanier (Division VII)
D'Army Bailey (Division VIII)
Robert L. Childers (Division IX)

Criminal Court

Paula L. Skahan (Division I)
W. Otis Higgs, Jr. (Division II)
John P. Colton, Jr. (Division III)
Carolyn Wade Blackett (Division IV)
James M. Lammey, Jr. (Division V)
W. Fred Axley (Division VI)
Lee V. Coffee (Division VII)
Chris Craft (Division VIII)
W. Mark Ward (Division IX)
James C. Beasley, Jr. (Division X)

Probate Court

Karen D. Webster
Robert Benham

31st JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Van Buren & Warren counties

Circuit & Chancery Court

Larry B. Stanley, Jr.

Senior Judges

Senior judges are appointed by the Tennessee Supreme Court and may be assigned on a temporary basis to any state court.

Jon Kerry Blackwood
J.S. "Steve" Daniel
Donald P. Harris
Jerry Scott
Allen W. Wallace

General Sessions and Juvenile Court Judges By County

Anderson County *

Don A. Layton
Ronald N. Murch
April Meldrum (Juvenile Court)

Bedford County

Charles L. Rich

Benton County

Ronald Darby

Bledsoe County

Howard L. Upchurch

Blount County

Michael A. Gallegos (Division I)
William Terry Denton (Division II)
William R. Brewer, Jr. (Division III)
David R. Duggan (Division IV)

Bradley County

Sheridan C. Randolph
Daniel R. Swafford

Campbell County

Joseph M. Ayers

Cannon County

Susan Melton

Carroll County

Larry J. Logan

Carter County

John W. Walton

Cheatham County

Phillip A. Maxey

Chester County

Larry F. McKenzie

Claiborne County

Robert M. Estep

Clay County

James D. White, Jr.

Cocke County

John A. Bell

Coffee County

Jere Ledsinger
Timothy R. Brock

Crockett County

Paul B. Conley, III

Cumberland County

Larry Warner

Davidson County *

Gale B. Robinson (Division I)
Daniel Eisenstein (Division II)
Angelita Blackshear Dalton (Division III)
Gloria A. Dumas (Division IV)
Dianne Turner (Division V)
Michael F. Mondelli (Division VI)
William Edward Higgins (Division VII)
Leon Ruben (Division VIII)
Sue McKnight Evans (Division IX)
Casey Moreland (Division X)
John Aaron Holt (Division XI)
Betty Adams Green (Juvenile Court)

Decatur County

Ricky L. Wood

DeKalb County

Bratten Hale Cook, III

Dickson County *

Durwood G. Moore
A. Andrew Jackson (Juvenile Court)

Dyer County

Tony Childress

Fayette County

Mike Whitaker

Fentress County

Todd Burnett

Franklin County

Thomas C. Faris

Gibson County *

James Webb

Robert W. Newell (Juvenile Court)

Giles County

John P. Damron

Grainger County

Joe Wayne Wolfenbarger

Greene County

Kenneth N. Bailey, Jr.

Grundy County

William R. (Trey) Anderson, III

Hamblen County *

Janice Snider

Joyce Mills Ward

Mindy Norton Seals (Juvenile Court)

Hamilton County *

Christie M. Sell (Division I)

David Bales (Division II)

Clarence E Shattuck, Jr. (Division III)

Ronald W. Durby (Division IV)

Robert L. Moon, Jr. (Division V)

Suzanne Bailey (Juvenile Court)

Hancock County

Floyd W. (Bill) Rhea

Hardeman County

Charles (Chip) Cary

Hardin County

Daniel L. Smith

Hawkins County *

David L. Brand

James F. (Jay) Taylor (Juvenile Court)

Haywood County

J. Roland Reid

Henderson County

Robert Stevie Beal

Henry County

Vicki S. Snyder

Hickman County

Samuel H. Smith

Houston County

William S. Vinson, III

Humphreys County *

Dan R. Bradley

Anthony L. Sanders (Juvenile Court)

Jackson County

Tiffany Gentry Gipson

Jefferson County

Alfred B. Strand, Jr.

Johnson County

William Bliss Hawkins

Knox County *

Chuck Cerny, Jr. (Division I)

Geoffrey P. Emery (Division II)

Bobby Ray McGee (Division III)

Andrew Jackson, VI (Division IV)

Tony W. Stansberry (Division V)

Timothy E. Irwin (Juvenile Court)

Lake County

Danny Goodman, Jr.

Lauderdale County *

Janice C. Craig

Rachel Anthony (Juvenile Court)

Lawrence County

Patricia McGuire

Lewis County

Billy W. Townsend

Lincoln County

N. Andy Myrick, Jr.

Loudon County

William H. Russell

Macon County

Ken Witcher, Jr.

Madison County

Christy R. Little

Hugh H. Harvey, Jr.

Marion County *

Marshall A. (Mark) Raines, Jr.

Ronnie J. Blevins, II (Juvenile Court)

Marshall County

Steve Bowden

Mauzy County

George Logan Lovell

J. Lee Bailey, III

Bobby Sands

McMinn County

James F. Watson

McNairy County

Van. D. McMahan

Meigs County

Jayne Crowley

Monroe County

J. Reed Dixon

Montgomery County

Jack Hestle

Ray Grimes

Wayne C. Shelton

Moore County

Terry Gregory

Morgan County

Michael A. Davis

Obion County *

Raymond Morris

Sam C. Nailling, Jr. (Juvenile Court)

Overton County

John R. Officer

Perry County

Clovis Parnell

Pickett County

Ronnie Zachary

Polk County

Billy D. Baliles

Putnam County

John P. Hudson

Nolan R. Goolsby

Rhea County

James W. McKenzie

Roane County

Dennis W. Humphrey

Jeffery H. Wicks

Robertson County

Burton D. Glover

Rutherford County *

Ben Hall McFarlin, Jr.

David Loughry

Larry Douglas Brandon

Donna Scott Davenport (Juvenile Court)

Scott County

James L. Cotton, Jr.

Sequatchie County

L. Thomas Austin

Sevier County

Dwight E. Stokes

Jeff D. Rader

Shelby County *

Lynn Cobb (Division I)

Phyllis B. Gardner (Division II)

John A. Donald (Division III)

Deborah Means Henderson (Division IV)

Betty Thomas Moore (Division V)

Lonnie Thompson (Division VI)
Ann Lucas Pugh (Division VII)
Tim James Dwyer (Division VIII)
Joyce Broffitt (Division IX)
Anthony Johnson (Division X)
Karen Lynne Massey (Division XI)
Gwen Rooks (Division XII)
Louis J. Montesi, Jr. (Division XIII)
Larry E. Potter (Division XIV)
Loyce Lambert Ryan (Division XVI)
Curtis Person, Jr. (Juvenile Court)

Smith County

David Bass

Stewart County

Gueary Andrew Brigham

Sullivan County *

J. Klyne Lauderback (Division I)
Mark Toohey (Division II)
Duane S. Snodgrass (Division III)
W.A. (Bill) Watson (Division IV)
Paul R. Wohlford (Bristol City Juvenile Court)

Sumner County

Barry R. Brown
James Hunter

Tipton County

William A. Peeler

Trousdale County

Kenny Linville

Unicoi County

David R. Shults

Union County

Darryl W. Edmondson

Warren County

Larry G. Ross

Washington County *

Robert Lincoln
Sharon Green (Johnson City Juvenile Court)

Wayne County

James Yeiser Ross, Sr.

Weakley County *

Thomas L. Moore, Jr.
James H. Bradberry (Juvenile Court)

White & Van Buren Counties

Sam Benningfield

Williamson County

Alfred L. Nations
E. Denise Andre

Wilson County

Barry Tatum (Division I)
Robert P. Hamilton (Division II)

* Generally, general sessions judges exercise juvenile jurisdiction. However, in counties noted with an asterisk (*), a special juvenile court has been created by a private act of the legislature. General sessions courts do not exercise juvenile jurisdiction in these counties.

Appellate and Trial Court Clerks



The three appellate court clerk's offices in Knoxville, Nashville and Jackson process more than 25,000 filings each year. These include motions, briefs, orders and appellate court opinions. In addition the staff is responsible for sending thousands of notices to parties involved in the cases.

The Office of the Appellate Court Clerk has 34 employees with offices in the three Supreme Court buildings in Nashville, Knoxville and Jackson. The office is responsible for filing and processing all briefs, motions and other documents filed by litigants appealing cases to the Tennessee appellate courts; scheduling oral arguments for the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals and Court of Criminal Appeals; filing all orders and opinions of the appellate courts; and filing all pleadings and orders before the Supreme Court involving the Court of the Judiciary, the Board of Professional Responsibility and the Board of Law Examiners.

During 2005-06, the major initiative of the Office of the Appellate Court Clerk was obtaining approval of Supreme Court Rule 46 authorizing the Electronic Filing Pilot Project for the appellate courts of Tennessee. This pilot project, which permits but does not require attorneys to e-file briefs, motions and other pleadings with the appellate courts, will be implemented during the coming fiscal year. Electronic filing will provide the appellate judiciary and appellate bar with a more efficient

way to file and view appellate pleadings on-line on the internet. The appellate record transmitted from the trial court will remain in paper copy form during the pilot project.

Also, during this last fiscal year, the Office of Appellate Court Clerk enhanced its presence on the internet by making the following information available at its website: public case history listing all filing events in appeals, posting of oral argument dockets for all the appellate courts, posting of various forms and manuals helpful during the appeals process including a Pro Se Litigant Filing Guide. The website address is <http://www.tncourts.gov/geninfo/AppellClerk/AppellateClerksWeb.htm>

Trial court clerks across the state also are responsible for maintaining dockets and records and handling administrative matters in their courts. In addition, the clerks serve as judicial system goodwill ambassadors since they have day-to-day interaction with the public.

Circuit Court clerks, elected in each county for four-year terms, also serve as General Sessions Court clerks in counties without designated General Sessions Court clerks. Clerks also are elected in counties with Probate and Criminal Courts. Each Chancery Court is served by a clerk and master who is appointed by the Chancery Court judge for a six-year term.

Michael Catalano
Appellate Court Clerk

Janice Rawls
Chief Deputy Clerk
401 7th Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37219-1407

Susan Turner
Chief Deputy Clerk
P.O. Box 909
Jackson, TN 38302-0909

Frankie Holt
Chief Deputy Clerk
P. O. Box 444
Knoxville, TN 37901-0444

Court Clerks by County

Anderson County
Circuit Court Clerk
Barry Pelizzari
Clerk and Master
Steve Queener

Bedford County
Circuit Court Clerk
Thomas A. Smith
Clerk and Master
Patricia Finney

Benton County
Circuit Court Clerk
Terry Hudson
Clerk and Master
Tim Burrus

Bledsoe County
Circuit Court Clerk
Jamey Roberson
Clerk and Master
Greg Forgey

Blount County
Circuit Court Clerk
Tom Hatcher
Clerk and Master
James A. Carroll

Bradley County
Circuit Court Clerk
Gayla Miller
Clerk and Master
Carl Shrewsbury

Campbell County
Circuit Court Clerk
Bobby Vann
Clerk and Master
Bill Archer

Cannon County
Circuit Court Clerk
Robert Davenport
Clerk and Master
Harold Patrick

Carroll County
Circuit Court Clerk
Bertha Taylor
Clerk and Master
Kenneth Todd

Carter County
Circuit Court Clerk
John Paul Mathis
Clerk and Master
Melissa Moreland

Cheatham County
Circuit Court Clerk
Julie Womack
Clerk and Master
Pamela Jenkins

Chester County
Circuit Court Clerk
Keith Frye
Clerk and Master
Cornelia Hall

Claiborne County
Circuit Court Clerk
Billy Ray Cheek
Clerk and Master
Frances Cardwell

Clay County
Circuit Court Clerk
Susan Birdwell
Clerk and Master
Corrinne McLerran

Cocke County
Circuit Court Clerk
Peggy Lane
Clerk and Master
Craig Wild
General Sessions Court Clerk
Frankie Cody
Juvenile Court Clerk
Joy Large

Coffee County
Circuit Court Clerk
Heather Duncan
Clerk and Master
Charlotte V. Broyles

Crockett County
Circuit Court Clerk
Kim Kail
Clerk and Master
Betty Johnson

Cumberland County
Circuit Court Clerk
Larry Sherrill
Clerk and Master
Sue Tollett

Davidson County
Circuit/Probate Court Clerk
Richard R. Rooker
Clerk and Master
Cristi Scott
Criminal Court Clerk
David Torrence
Juvenile Court Clerk
Vic Lineweaver

Decatur County
Circuit Court Clerk
Danny Tanner
Clerk and Master
Elizabeth J. Carpenter

DeKalb County
Circuit Court Clerk
Katherine Pack
Clerk and Master
Debra Malone

Dickson County
Circuit Court Clerk
Pam Myatt
Clerk and Master
Nancy Miller
General Sessions Court Clerk
Barbara Spann
Juvenile Court Clerk
Judy G. Wilson

Dyer County
Circuit Court Clerk
Tom T. J. Jones
Clerk and Master
John H. Hoff

Fayette County
Circuit Court Clerk
Connie Doyle
Clerk and Master
Vip Lewis

Fentress County
Circuit Court Clerk
W. Frank Smith
Clerk and Master
Kathryn T. Robbins

Franklin County
Circuit Court Clerk
Nancy Silvertooth
Clerk and Master
Brenda Clark

Gibson County
Circuit Court Clerk
Janice Jones
Clerk and Master
Amanda Brown
Clerk and Master
Lois Lockhart
Juvenile Court Clerk
Lee Hayes

Giles County
Circuit Court Clerk
Crystal Greene
Clerk and Master
Merry B. Sigmon

Grainger County
Circuit Court Clerk
Rhonda Reagan
Clerk and Master
Vickie B. Greenlee

Greene County
Circuit Court Clerk
Gail Jeffers
Clerk and Master
Kay Armstrong

Grundy County
Circuit Court Clerk
Marcia Bess
Clerk and Master
Phyllis Dent
Juvenile Court Clerk
Jimmy Rogers

Hamblen County
Circuit Court Clerk
Kathy Mullins
Clerk and Master
Kathy Jones-Terry

Hamilton County
Circuit Court Clerk
Paula Thompson
Clerk and Master
S. Lee Akers
Criminal Court Clerk
Gwen Tidwell
Juvenile Court Clerk
Ron Swafford

Hancock County
Circuit Court Clerk
Bill McMurray
Clerk and Master
Judith H. Trent

Hardeman County
Circuit Court Clerk
Linda K. Fulghum
Clerk and Master
Janice Bodiford

Hardin County
Circuit Court Clerk
Diane B. Polk
Clerk and Master
Martha Smith

Hawkins County
Circuit Court Clerk
Holly H. Jaynes
Clerk and Master
Shirley Graham

Haywood County
Circuit Court Clerk
Elma Pirtle
Clerk and Master
Judy Hardister

Henderson County
Circuit Court Clerk
Kenny Cavness
Clerk and Master
Leigh Milam
Juvenile Court Clerk
Sheila Todd

Henry County
Circuit Court Clerk
Rondall Myers
Clerk and Master
Mary Burns

Hickman County
Circuit Court Clerk
Dana Nicholson
Clerk and Master
Sue Smith

Houston County
Circuit Court Clerk
Sharon Tomlinson
Clerk and Master
Patsy Brooks

Humphreys County
Circuit Court Clerk
Elaine Choate
Clerk and Master
Mike Bullion

Jackson County
Circuit Court Clerk
Aaron P. Thomas
Clerk and Master
Sherrie Pippin Osborne

Jefferson County
Circuit Court Clerk
Penny Murphy
Clerk and Master
Nancy C. Humbard

Johnson County
Circuit Court Clerk
Carolyn Wilson Hawkins
Clerk and Master
Linda Morefield

Knox County
Circuit Court Clerk
Catherine F. Quist
Clerk and Master
Howard G. Hogan
Criminal Court Clerk
Martha Phillips

Lake County
Circuit Court Clerk
Debbie Beasley
Clerk and Master
Nanette Cook

Lauderdale County
Circuit Court Clerk
Richard Jennings
Clerk and Master
Sandra Burnham

Lawrence County
Circuit Court Clerk
Debbie Riddle
Clerk and Master
Kristi Gang

Lewis County
Circuit Court Clerk
Donna Couch
Clerk and Master
Janet Williams

Lincoln County
Circuit Court Clerk
Gail Corder
Clerk and Master
Rebecca N. Bartlett

Loudon County
Circuit Court Clerk
Lisa Niles
Clerk and Master
Fred Chaney

Macon County
Circuit Court Clerk
Rick Gann
Clerk and Master
Gwen Linville

Madison County
Circuit Court Clerk
Judy Barnhill
Clerk and Master
Pam Carter
Juvenile Court Clerk
Bart Swift

Marion County
Circuit Court Clerk
Evelyn Griffith
Clerk and Master
Levoy Gudger

Marshall County
Circuit Court Clerk
Elinor Foster
Clerk and Master
Tommy Higdon

Maury County
Circuit Court Clerk
Kathy Kelley
Clerk and Master
Cheryl Church

McMinn County
Circuit Court Clerk
Rhonda J. Cooley
Clerk and Master
Patty Gaines

McNairy County
Circuit Court Clerk
Ronnie Brooks
Clerk and Master
Kim Harrison

Meigs County
Circuit Court Clerk
Darrell Davis
Clerk and Master
Jim Mercer

Monroe County
Circuit Court Clerk
Martha Cook
Clerk and Master
Robert J. Pennington

Montgomery County
Circuit Court Clerk
Cheryl J. Castle
Clerk and Master
Ted Crozier, Jr.

Moore County
Circuit Court Clerk
Trixie Harrison
Clerk and Master
Tammy Roberts

Morgan County
Circuit Court Clerk
Pam Lively
Clerk and Master
Angela Anderson

Obion County
Circuit Court Clerk
Harry Johnson
Clerk and Master
Paula Rice

Overton County
Circuit Court Clerk
Johnny Brown
Clerk and Master
Dorothy Stanton

Perry County
Circuit Court Clerk
Peggy Smotherman
Clerk and Master
Joyce Marshall

Pickett County
Circuit Court Clerk
Larry Brown
Clerk and Master
Sue Whited

Polk County
Circuit Court Clerk
Connie H. Clark
Clerk and Master
Kimberly A. Ingram

Putnam County
Circuit Court Clerk
Marcia Borys
Clerk and Master
Linda F. Reeder
Probate Court Clerk
Wayne Nabors

Rhea County
Circuit Court Clerk
Regina Metts
Clerk and Master
John Fine

Roane County
Circuit Court Clerk
Angela Randolph
Clerk and Master
Shannon Conley
Juvenile Court Clerk
Margaret Hutchinson

Robertson County
Circuit Court Clerk
Lisa Cavender
Clerk and Master
Kenneth Hudgens

Rutherford County
Circuit Court Clerk
Eloise Gaither
Clerk and Master
John A. W. Bratcher

Scott County
Circuit Court Clerk
Donnie Phillips
Clerk and Master
Jane A. Lloyd

Sequatchie County
Circuit Court Clerk
Karen Milsaps
Clerk and Master
Thomas Goins

Sevier County
Circuit Court Clerk
Rita D. Ellison
Clerk and Master
Carolyn McMahan
General Sessions Court Clerk
Connie Holt

Shelby County
Circuit Court Clerk
Jimmy Moore
Clerk and Master
Dewun Settle
Criminal Court Clerk
William R. Key
General Sessions Court Clerk
Chris Turner
Probate Court Clerk
Chris Thomas
Juvenile Court Clerk
Steve Stamson

Smith County
Circuit Court Clerk
Myra Hardcastle
Clerk and Master
Dianna Dillehay

Stewart County
Circuit Court Clerk
Jason Wallace
Clerk and Master
Jane C. Link

Sullivan County
Circuit Court Clerk
Tommy Kerns
Clerk and Master
Sara Housewright
Juvenile Court Clerk (Division IV)
Gay K. Hillman
Janice Vaughn (Kingsport)
Teresa Morrell (Bristol)

Sumner County
Circuit Court Clerk
Mahailiah Hughes
Clerk and Master
Brenda M. Page

Tipton County
Circuit Court Clerk
Mike Forbess
Clerk and Master
Judy Billings

Trousdale County
Circuit Court Clerk
Kim Taylor
Clerk and Master
Shelly Jones

Unicoi County
Circuit Court Clerk
Christy Howard
Clerk and Master
Teresa W. Simerly

Union County
Circuit Court Clerk
Barbara J. Williams
Clerk and Master
Doris Seymour

Van Buren County
Circuit Court Clerk
Teresa Simmons-DeLong
Clerk and Master
Tina Shockley

Warren County
Circuit Court Clerk
Bernie Morris
Clerk and Master
Trenena Wilcher

Washington County
Circuit Court Clerk
Karen Guinn
Clerk and Master
Brenda Sneyd
Juvenile Court Clerk
Peggy Cannon

Wayne County
Circuit Court Clerk
Billy G. Crews
Clerk and Master
Carolyn Mathis

Weakley County
Circuit Court Clerk
Pam Belew
Clerk and Master
Susan Collins

White County
Circuit Court Clerk
Beverly Templeton
Clerk and Master
Linda McCoy

Williamson County
Circuit Court Clerk
Debbie McMillan Barrett
Clerk and Master
Elaine Beeler
Juvenile Court Clerk
Brenda Hyden

Wilson County
Circuit Court Clerk
Linda Neal
Clerk and Master
Barbara Webb

Court-Related Boards & Commissions

Board of Professional Responsibility

The Board of Professional Responsibility investigates complaints against attorneys and disciplines those who violate professional rules. The program also publishes ethics opinions, operates an ethics hotline, conducts seminars and oversees an attorney trust fund program.

In fiscal year 2005-2006, there were 991 complaints filed, an increase of less than 1 percent.

Tennessee attorneys have contributed \$28.4 million in annual court assessments to finance the board's programs, with no contributions from other sources.

Tennessee Court of the Judiciary

The 16-member Court of the Judiciary investigates complaints of judicial misconduct against Tennessee judges and disciplines those who are found in violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct. In FY 2005-2006, the court received 309 complaints. All complaints are reviewed and, when appropriate, prosecuted by the court's disciplinary counsel.

Continuing Legal Education & Specialization

The commission evaluates CLE courses nationwide and records attendance at approved courses for more than 15,500 Tennessee attorneys. The commission also makes sure all Tennessee attorneys either meet requirements of 12 hours of general and three hours of ethics/professionalism CLE each year or are eligible for exemption. The commission oversees certification of attorneys as specialists in 14 areas of the law.

Tennessee Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection

TLFCP manages a fund of almost \$2 million from which it reimburses clients whose attorneys have misappropriated funds. The fund is administered by the same staff as the Tennessee Commission on Continuing Legal Education & Specialization.

Tennessee Board of Law Examiners

The Board of Law Examiners governs the examination and admission of attorneys applying to practice law in Tennessee. The board, with a staff of four, admits qualified attorneys previously licensed in other jurisdictions and administers the two-day bar examination in February and July to law school graduates. During fiscal year 2005-2006, 1,000 law school graduates took the exam and 74.6 percent passed.

Tennessee Lawyers' Assistance Program

Tennessee Lawyers' Assistance Program (TLAP) is a free confidential assistance program, providing consultation, referral, intervention, peer support and advocacy for lawyers, judges, bar applicants and law students with physical, mental and emotional health issues. The program provides assistance for issues such as substance abuse, dependency, stress, anxiety, professional burnout, family problems, depression, gambling or other compulsive disorders and sexual identity issues. Since it was created by the Tennessee Supreme Court in 1999, TLAP has received more than 1,500 inquiries and referrals and has made presentations to more than 4,000 members of the legal community.

Tennessee Judicial Selection Commission

The 17-member commission accepts and reviews applications to fill unexpired judicial terms, interviews applicants, conducts a public hearing and recommends three names to the governor. When the vacancy is for a trial court position, the governor must select one of the three applicants recommended by the commission. When the vacancy is an appellate court position, the governor may ask for a second list of names from which to appoint a new judge. The commission met eight times in calendar year 2006, including two special called meetings.

Judicial Evaluation Commission

In 1994, the General Assembly changed the method of electing state appellate judges by adopting the *Tennessee Plan*. Under the plan, every appellate judge who seeks election to fill either an unexpired or a full eight year term must be evaluated by the Judicial Evaluation Commission prior to a scheduled August election. The purpose of the evaluation process is to assist the public in evaluating the performance of incumbent appellate judges and to promote self-improvement among judges.

The 12-member commission includes lawyers, non-lawyers and state court judges. In 2006, the commission released a report containing evaluation results and retention recommendations for all appellate judges standing for retention election in August 2006. The commission conducted a formal interview with each judge to discuss judicial performance issues as part of the evaluation process.

Notes

