
Annual Report of the Tennessee Judiciary

2002



***"If we do not maintain justice, justice
will not maintain us."***

-Francis Bacon



Frank F. Drowota, III	<i>Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Tennessee</i>
E. Riley Anderson	<i>Associate Justice, Supreme Court of Tennessee</i>
Adolpho A. Birch, Jr.	<i>Associate Justice, Supreme Court of Tennessee</i>
Janice M. Holder	<i>Associate Justice, Supreme Court of Tennessee</i>
William M. Barker	<i>Associate Justice, Supreme Court of Tennessee</i>
Cornelia A. Clark	<i>Administrative Director of the Courts</i>
Elizabeth Sykes	<i>Deputy Director</i>

Letter from the Chief Justice & State Court Administrator	2
Early History of the Court System	3
Courthouse Fires and Disasters	5
Supreme Court Historical Society	6
Tennessee Supreme Court	7
Intermediate Appellate Courts	8
Trial Court Judges by District	9
General Sessions Court Judges by County	13
Appellate & Trial Court Clerks	17
The Year In Headlines	24
2002 Initiatives	26
Administrative Office of the Courts	27
Boards & Commissions	30
Board of Professional Responsibility	31
Tennessee Board of Law Examiners	31
Commission on Continuing Legal Education & Specialization	31
Tennessee Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection	31
Statistical Report	33

Message from the Chief Justice and Administrative Director

Dear Fellow Tennesseans:

As we reflect on the past year, we cannot help but notice a new or renewed force in our nation and state - a healthy and positive result of the horrible events of Sept. 11, 2001. That force is unabashed patriotism, which has brought with it a widespread and

keen interest in our history, in the events and people responsible for shaping the country to this point in time.

We in the judicial branch of government are proud of the critical role courts have played in that evolution. We use the word evolution because ours is a nation of constant change and improvement, even of trial and error. The goal is to preserve, protect and expand upon our freedoms and advantages so that we will leave an even more perfect union for those who will come behind us.

In keeping with our national pride and curiosity about the past, part of this year's annual report focuses on the history of the state's legal system. The report begins with an article giving a brief early history of the courts in Tennessee, followed by information about the publication of a new book - ***"A History of the Tennessee Supreme Court."*** This book, a six-year project of the Tennessee Supreme Court Historical Society, is the first comprehensive history of the court from statehood in 1796 through the judicial elections of 1998.

But, the report also contains other information we hope you will find useful, such as a listing of the state's trial and general sessions judges and court clerks and a section of statistical data detailing case filings and dispositions in trial and appellate courts statewide. There is a great deal of information

between the covers of this report, which is part of our commitment to make the Tennessee judicial system as open and accessible as possible.

"The terrorists have labeled us a decadent and greedy society that needs to be destroyed. We face the challenge of defying this label . . . Each of us needs to examine our own personal lives and commitment to unselfish service whether we are in roles of elected public service, corporate leadership or everyday citizens . . . We bear the responsibility to renew our commitment to honesty, to the rule of law, to tolerance, to compassion, to selfless service and only then can we expect our democracy to survive . . ."

Chief Justice Frank F. Drowota, III, Sept. 11, 2002



Chief Justice
Frank F. Drowota, III



Director
Cornelia A. Clark

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature of Frank F. Drowota, III in dark ink.

Frank F. Drowota, III

A handwritten signature of Cornelia A. Clark in dark ink.

Cornelia A. Clark

Court System Begins with Justices of the Peace

By Charles A. Sherrill
Director, The Brentwood Library

For Tennessee's first hundred years, justices of the peace were the foundation of the state's legal system. These men, often without legal training, served the citizens in their counties by resolving minor disputes, performing marriages and serving on the quarterly court. They saved both time and expense by resolving issues without formal court proceedings. The regular courts changed and evolved through the years, but the justice of the peace remained the first source of help for citizens with legal problems.

The Watauga Association formed the first court in what is now Tennessee, in 1772. The five members of this court served as both legislators and judges, under the leadership of John Carter.

In 1776 North Carolina accepted responsibility for the Tennessee frontier and authorized John Carter to continue holding a court at Jonesboro for the "Washington District." When Washington County was organized in 1778, this court became the County Court of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions. Appeals were technically (though not practically) grantable to the Superior Court of Law and Equity of Salisbury District, 200 miles to the east.

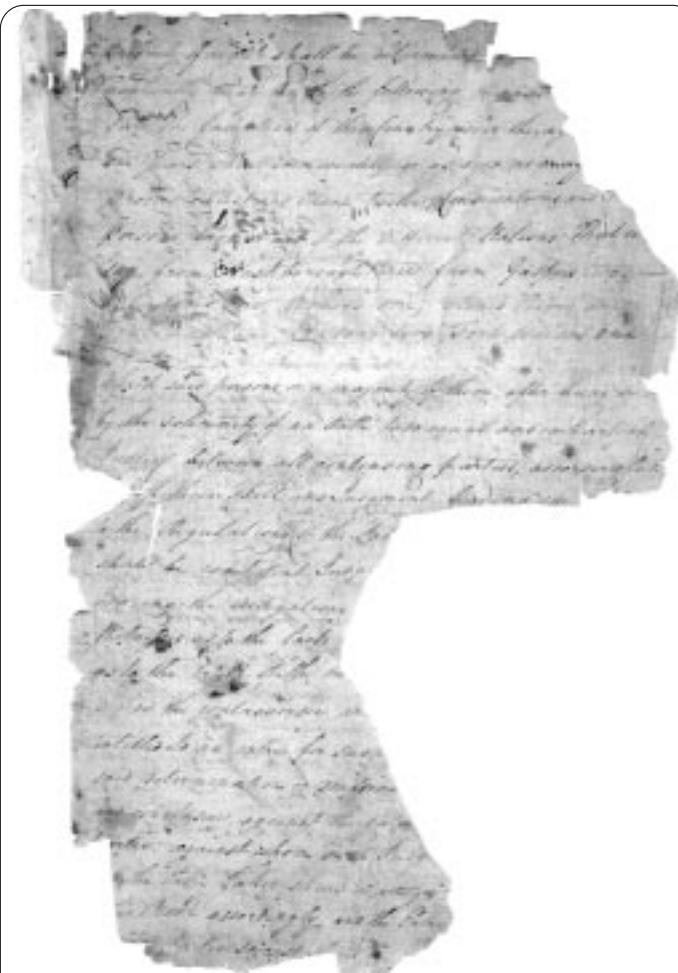
As the new counties of Sullivan (1779) and Greene (1783) were formed, each was provided with its own Court of Common Pleas. So that appeals from the Common Pleas courts of all the new counties could be tried on their side of the mountains, North Carolina established the Washington

District Superior Court of Law and Equity at Jonesboro in 1784. As the area further west became more populous the same process was followed, beginning with the formation of the Davidson County Court of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions in 1783. The Metro District Superior Court of Law and Equity was established at Nashville in 1788 to hear appeals for the western counties. This two-court system was generally maintained during the brief State of Franklin and territorial periods.

The 1796 Constitution of Tennessee gave Justices of the Peace sole jurisdiction over cases involving less than \$50 in property or fines. It also continued the Court of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions as an "inferior" court, and the Superior Court of Law and Equity as the "superior" and appellate court.

The Court of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions was comprised of a county's justices sitting in quorum. Until 1809, this group heard cases both of law and equity, and handled the business of the county. They heard law cases in which the punishment did not include loss of life or limb, and equity cases in which the amount of money or value of property involved was modest. A clerk kept minutes of the court's proceedings, and handled the court's business between sessions.

The Superior Courts of Law and Equity had sole jurisdiction over cases punishable by loss of life or limb and cases of greater dollar value. They also served as courts of appeal, for those dissatisfied with a Court of Pleas decision. Many of Tennessee's



The Cumberland Compact was entered into May 1, 1780, by 250 settlers on the Cumberland River. The compact framed the principles of self-rule and jurisprudence by which newcomers to the region could govern themselves. (Tennessee State Library and Archives)

leading pioneers served as Superior Court judges, including Andrew Jackson, John Overton, John McNairy, Archibald Roane and Willie Blount. The three traveling Superior Court judges heard cases in Jonesboro (Washington District), Knoxville (Hamilton District), Carthage (Winchester District), Clarksville (Robertson District), and Nashville (Metro District).

By 1809, the two-court system was overworked. To divide the case load, the legislature formed a Circuit Court, to be held in each county. The Superior Court was renamed the Supreme Court of Errors & Appeals. The division of cases among the courts varied from 1809 to 1833 as the legislature and the judges worked out the new system, sometimes disagreeing. In general the Common Pleas court heard only minor cases of both law and equity, the Circuit Court heard criminal cases and appeals from the Common Pleas court, and the Supreme Court heard larger equity cases and appeals from the other two courts.

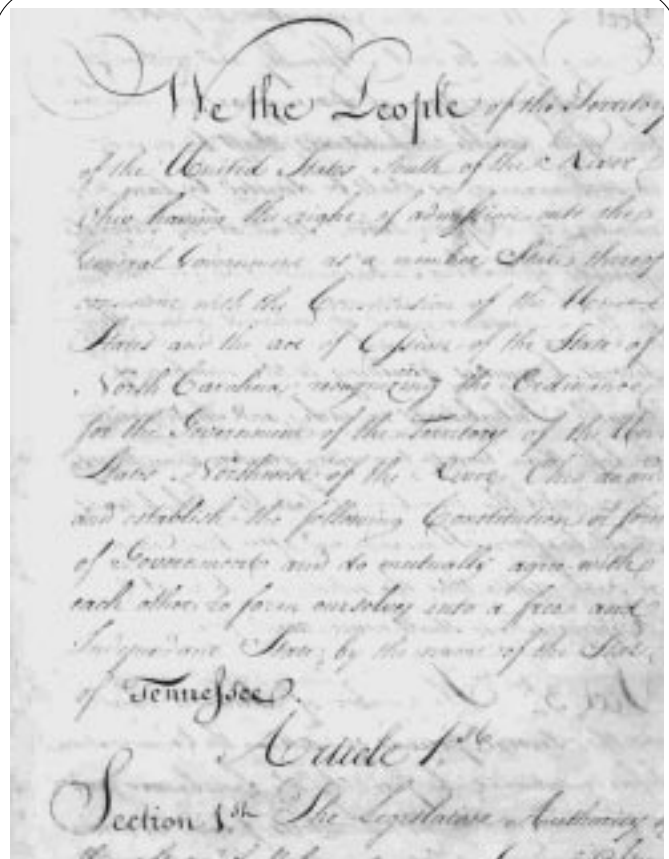
By 1829, the existing court system was strained to its limits. Adam Huntsman reported to the Senate that year that confusion over jurisdiction, multiple appeals and a lack of legal knowledge among justices of the peace made Tennessee's judicial system "the most expensive and least efficient of any in the United States." The legal process became a major issue driving the need for a new Constitution.

When the second Constitution of Tennessee was adopted in 1834 it reorganized the judiciary by adding a system of Chancery Courts. This allowed for a clear division of cases of law (Circuit Court) and cases of equity (Chancery Court). The name of the Court of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions was shortened simply to County Court, and its powers limited to trying non-indictable offenses (such as swearing, bastardy, and gambling), and tending to estate matters, roads, and other county business. The Supreme Court reduced its circuit to three districts, meeting in Knoxville, Nashville and Jackson.

The Chancery Court was originally a district court, but gradually one was established in each county. The Chancellor (judge of Chancery) weighed the evidence in equity cases and decided on a fair division among the parties. This court heard disputes over land boundaries, the partitioning of estates, disagreements between business partners, and other matters of equity or "fairness."

In contrast, the Circuit Court heard matters of law. A jury was seated to decide each case by determining whether a specific law had been violated. The cases heard by the Circuit Court included those brought by the State for crimes against the people (criminal cases), and those between individuals (civil cases). Criminal cases included murder, unlawful retailing of liquor, lewdness, public fighting and theft. Most civil cases resulted from unpaid debts. Beginning in 1842, the largest counties found it necessary to ease the work of the Circuit Court by forming separate Criminal Courts, but most counties did not divide the Circuit Court until after 1880.

The appellate function of the Tennessee Supreme Court causes its records to reflect the operations of all the lower courts. The case files of this court, found among the state archives, provide an intimate look at the lives of Tennesseans through the documents filed by the parties as they dealt with issues ranging from burglary to bribery and beyond.



Tennessee's first constitution was ratified in 1796 and sent to Philadelphia as part of the application for statehood. The document, which was patterned after constitutions in North Carolina and Pennsylvania, included protection for those accused of crimes and protections against excessive government.

Courthouse Fires and Disasters

Compiled by Tennessee Library & Archives

Because of courthouse fires and other disasters, some Tennessee records filed at the county level have been lost forever. The following list shows when courthouse fires and other disasters occurred in Tennessee.

COUNTY	YEAR	DISASTER
Bedford	1830 1863 & 1934	tornado/ fires
Bledsoe	1908	fire
Blount	1879 & 1906	fires
Cannon	1934	fire
Carroll	1931	fire
Carter	1933	fire
Chester	1910	fire
Claiborne	1932	fire
Cocke	1876	fire
Coffee	1870	fire
Cumberland	1905	fire
Davidson	1856	fire
Decatur	1869 & 1927	fires
Dickson	1830	tornado
Dyer	1864	fire
Fayette	1925	fire
Gibson???	1941	fire
Giles	1813, 1857 & 1907	fires
Grainger	1946	fire
Grundy	1853 & 1990	fires
Hamilton	1910	fire
Hancock	1885 & 1930	fires
Hardeman	1864	fire
Hardin	1859, 1864 & 1949	fire
Henderson	1896	fire
Hickman	1864	fire
Humphreys	1876 & 1898	fires
Jackson	1872 & 1926	fires
Lauderdale	1869	fire
McMinn	1964	fire
Macon	1860 & 1901 & 1932	fires
Marion	1922	fire
Marshall	1872 & 1927	fires
Meigs	1904 & 1964	fire
Monroe	1820s 1860	fire/Civil War
Montgomery	1878 & 1900 1999	fires/ tornado
Obion	1842	earthquake
Overton	1865	fire
Perry	1863 & 1928	fires



The historic Montgomery County Courthouse was extensively damaged by a tornado that ripped through downtown Clarksville in 1999. The second-empire style building, completed in 1879, cost \$100,000 when it was constructed. It replaced a courthouse destroyed in the great fire of 1878. The old courthouse is being restored and a new courthouse also has been built. Clarksville artist Tony Biagi captured the historic building in this print.

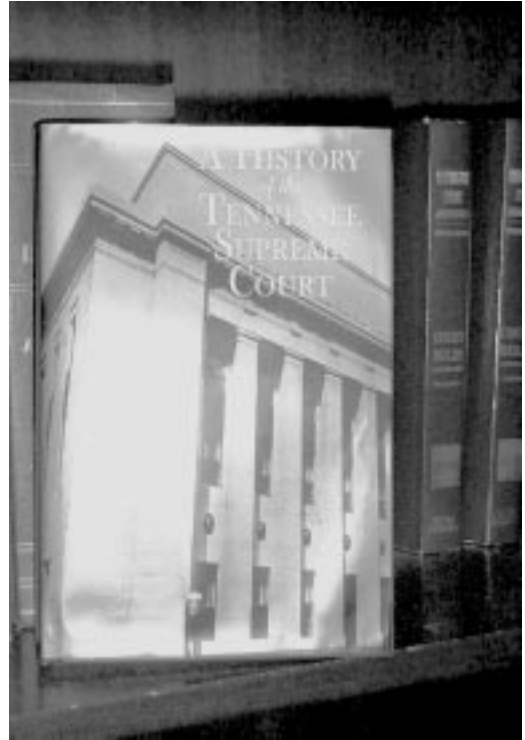
Historical Society Initiative Becomes Reality

Six years after the Tennessee Supreme Court Historical Society's creation during the state's 1996 Bicentennial celebration, the organization saw its first major project become a reality. "A History of the Tennessee Supreme Court," written by seven leading scholars and published by the University of Tennessee Press, was published in 2002 and unveiled during a ceremony at the state Capitol.

The book covers the court from 1796, when Tennessee became a state, through the 1998 judicial elections. The authors delve into many of the important and contentious issues the court has faced, such as slavery, Reconstruction, race and gender relations, and also includes biographical information about past and present members of the court.

The state's first constitution, adopted in 1796, created the first court of last resort, the Superior Courts of Law and Equity. It was followed in 1809 by the Supreme Court of Errors and Appeals and, in 1834, the Supreme Court of Tennessee. The 1870 state constitution mandated the court as it is today, with five members, no more than two from each grand division.

The book points out the court's colorful history and includes information about justices whose names are familiar because of their contributions to the state and nation. For example, the nation's seventh president, Andrew Jackson, resigned from the U.S. Senate in 1798 and was appointed judge of the state Superior Court.



Chief Justice Frank F. Drowota, III, (far right) and retired Justices Robert Cooper (1974 - 1990), William H.D. Fones (1973 - 1990) and Martha Craig Daughtrey (1990 - 1993 when she was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit) were among those attending a ceremony in the old Supreme Court room at the Tennessee State Capitol to mark publication of "A History of the Tennessee Supreme Court." Retired Justice Lyle Reid (1990 - 1998) also attended the book's unveiling.



Justice Janice Holder and other current and former members of the court signed copies of the book. Besides being available for purchase from the Tennessee Supreme Court Historical Society, copies of the book are being donated to school libraries statewide. The school donations are being supported by a grant from the Frist Foundation.

Tennessee Courts

Supreme Court

The **TENNESSEE SUPREME COURT** is the state's court of last resort 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.

Attorneys may present oral arguments before the Supreme Court. Oral arguments also are heard in the two intermediate appellate courts. After Supreme Court justices have heard oral arguments, if arguments are presented, and reviewed attorneys' briefs and records in the case, they issue their written opinions. Only opinions on federal constitutional issues can be appealed to the federal appellate courts, which may or may not agree to consider the appeals.

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 15-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.

By state law, judges on the three courts must be evaluated every eight years. Results are published in newspapers across the state to help voters decide whether judges should be retained if recommended by the Judicial Evaluation Commission.

"Over time, state supreme courts have played a pivotal role in the growth of law. . . state supreme courts have often been called upon to grapple with thorny legal issues long before they reached the Supreme Court of the United States. . ."

A History of the Tennessee Supreme Court



As required by the state Constitution, the five members of the Tennessee Supreme Court normally hear cases in Nashville, Jackson and Knoxville. Pictured in the courtroom at the Supreme Court Building in Nashville are (from left) Justice Janice M. Holder of Memphis; Justice E. Riley Anderson of Knoxville; Chief Justice Frank F. Drowota, III, of Nashville; Justice Adolpho A. Birch, Jr., of Nashville; and Justice William M. Barker of Chattanooga. The five justices of the Supreme Court sit "en banc," or as a whole, to hear oral arguments.

Intermediate Appellate Courts

The **COURT OF APPEALS**, created by the General Assembly in 1925, hears appeals in civil — or noncriminal — cases from trial courts and certain state boards and commissions.

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.

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.



Court of Appeals judges are (from left, front row) W. Frank Crawford, Houston Goddard, Ben H. Cantrell, Charles D. Susano, Jr., (from left, back row) Patricia J. Cottrell, William B. Cain, David R. Farmer, Bill Koch, D. Michael Swiney, Alan E. Highers, Herschel P. Franks and Holly K. Lillard.



Court of Criminal Appeals judges are (from left, front row) David G. Hayes, Joseph M. Tipton, Gary R. Wade, David H. Welles, Jerry Smith, (from left, back row) Alan E. Glenn, John Everett Williams, Thomas Woodall, Joe Riley, James Curwood Witt, Jr., Norma McGee Ogle and Robert W. Wedemeyer.

Trial Judges by Judicial District

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

Richard E. Ladd

CIRCUIT COURT

John S. McLellan, III (Part I)

R. Jerry Beck (Part II)

CRIMINAL COURT

Phyllis H. Miller

3rd JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins counties

CHANCERY COURT

Thomas R. Frierson, II

CIRCUIT COURT

John K. Wilson (Part I)

Ben K. Wexler (Part II)

Kindall T. Lawson (Part III)

CRIMINAL COURT

James E. Beckner

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)

D. Kelly Thomas, Jr. (Part II)

6th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Knox County

CHANCERY COURT

John F. Weaver (Part I)

Daryl R. Fansler (Part II)

Sharon J. Bell (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

James B. Scott, Jr.

8th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

*Campbell, Claiborne, Fentress,
Scott, Union counties*

CHANCERY COURT

Billy Joe White

CIRCUIT COURT

Conrad Troutman, Jr.

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

Robert Steven Bebb

11th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Hamilton County

CHANCERY COURT

W. Frank Brown, III (Part I)
Howell N. Peoples (Part II)

CIRCUIT COURT

Jackie Schulten (Division I)
Samuel H. Payne (Division II)
L. Marie Williams (Division III)
W. Neil Thomas, III (Division IV)

CRIMINAL COURT

Douglas A. Meyer (Division I)
Rebecca J. Stern (Division II)
Steve M. Bevil (Division III)

12th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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

CHANCERY COURT

Jeffrey 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

Vernon Neal

CIRCUIT COURT

John A. Turnbull (Part I)
John J. Maddux, Jr. (Part II)

CRIMINAL COURT

Leon C. Burns, Jr. (Division I)
Lillie Ann Sells (Division II)

14th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Coffee County

CIRCUIT COURT

L. Craig Johnson (Part I)
John Rollins (Part II)

15th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
*Jackson, Macon, Smith, Troupdale,
Wilson counties*

CHANCERY COURT
C. K. Smith

CIRCUIT COURT
Clara W. Byrd (Division I)
John D. Wootten, Jr. (Division II)

CRIMINAL COURT
James O. Bond

16th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Cannon, Rutherford counties

CHANCERY COURT
Robert E. Corlew, III

CIRCUIT COURT
Steve Daniel (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
Charles Lee (Part I)
Lee Russell (Part II)

18th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Sumner County

CHANCERY COURT
Thomas E. Gray

CIRCUIT COURT
C. L. "Buck" Rogers

CRIMINAL COURT
Jane W. Wheatcraft

19th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Montgomery, Robertson counties

CHANCERY COURT
Carol Catalano

CIRCUIT COURT
Ross H. Hicks (Part I)
Mike Jones (Part II)
John H. Gasaway, III (Part III)

20th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Davidson County

CHANCERY COURT
Irvin H. Kilcrease, Jr. (Part I)
Carol McCoy (Part II)
Ellen Hobbs Lyle (Part III)

CIRCUIT COURT
Hamilton Gayden, Jr. (Division I)
Marietta M. Shipley (Division II)
Barbara N. Haynes (Division III)
Muriel Robinson (Division IV)
Walter C. Kurtz (Division V)
Thomas W. Brothers (Division VI)
Frank G. Clement, Jr. (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 Norman (Division IV)

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

CIRCUIT COURT
Russ Heldman (Division I)
Robert E. Lee Davies (Division II)
Donald P. Harris (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 Hargrove (Part IV)

23rd JUDICIAL DISTRICT

*Cheatham, Dickson, Houston,
Humphreys, Stewart counties*

CIRCUIT COURT

Robert E. Burch (Division I)
Leonard Martin (Division II)
Allen W. Wallace (Division III) (*retired 1/31/03*)

24th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

*Benton, Carroll, Decatur, Hardin,
Henry counties*

CHANCERY COURT

Ron E. Harmon

CIRCUIT COURT

Charles Creed McGinley (Part I)
Julian P. Guinn (Part II)

25th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

*Fayette, Hardeman, Lauderdale,
McNairy, Tipton counties*

CHANCERY COURT

Dewey C. Whitenton (Part I)
Martha Brasfield (Part II)

CIRCUIT COURT

Jon Kerry Blackwood (Part I)
Joseph H. Walker, III (Part II)

26th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Chester, Henderson, Madison counties

CHANCERY COURT

Joe C. Morris

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 Peebles

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)
D. J. Alissandratos (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)
George H. Brown, Jr. (Division VI)
Robert A. Lanier (Division VII)
D'Army Bailey (Division VIII)
Robert L. Childers (Division IX)

CRIMINAL COURT

Bernie Weinman (Division I)
W. Otis Higgs, Jr. (Division II)
John P. Colton, Jr. (Division III)
Carolyn Wade Blackett (Division IV)
Joseph B. Dailey (Division V)
W. Fred Axley (Division VI)
Arthur T. Bennett (Division VII)
Chris Craft (Division VIII)
J. C. McLin (Division IX)
James C. Beasley, Jr. (Division X)

PROBATE COURT

Donn Southern
Robert Benham

31st JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Van Buren, Warren counties

CIRCUIT and CHANCERY COURT

Larry Barton Stanley, Jr.

Senior Judges

Senior judges are appointed by the Tennessee Supreme Court to two or four-year terms. The retired trial or appellate court judges may be assigned on a temporary basis to any state court.

*John K. Byers
William Inman
James L. Weatherford
Allen Wallace*
(*effective February 1, 2003)*

General Sessions Court Judges By County

Anderson County

Don A. Layton
Ronald N. Murch

Bedford County

Charles L. Rich

Benton County

Clyde W. Watson

Bledsoe County

Howard L. Upchurch

Blount County

Hugh Edward Delozier, Jr.
William R. Brewer, Jr.
William Terry Denton

Bradley County

Andrew F. Bennett, Jr.
Carrell Van Deacon, Jr.

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

John D. McAfee

Clay County

James D. White, Jr.

Cocke County

John A. Bell

Coffee County

Jere Ledsinger
Timothy R. Brock

Crockett County

Shannon A. Jones

Cumberland County

Steven C. Douglas

Davidson County

Casey Moreland
Gale B. Robinson
Gloria A. Dumas
John Aaron Holt
John P. Brown
Leon Ruben
Mark J. Fishburn
Michael F. Mondelli
Sue Mcknight Evans
William Edward Higgins
William Joseph Faimon

Decatur County

Ricky L. Wood

DeKalb County

Bratten Hale Cook, II

Dickson County

Durwood G. Moore

Dyer County

Charles V. Moore

Fayette County

J. Weber McCraw

Fentress County

Paul Crouch

Franklin County

Floyd Don Davis

Gibson County

James Webb

Giles County

John P. Damron

Grainger County

Joe Wayne
Wolfenbarger

Greene County

Thomas J. Wright

Grundy County

Earlene Y. Speer

Hamblen County

Herbert M. Bacon
Joyce Mills Ward

Hamilton County

Clarence E. Shattuck, Jr
O. Michael Carter
Robert L. Moon, Jr.
Ronald W. Durby
S. Richard Holcomb

Hancock County

Floyd W. (Bill) Rhea

Hardeman County

Steven C. Hornsby

Hardin County

Daniel L. Smith

Hawkins County

David L. Brand

Haywood County

J. Roland Reid

Henderson County

Robert Steve Beal

Henry County

Hansel J. McCadams

Hickman County

Samuel Herbert Smith

Houston County

Sidney Vinson

Humphreys County

Dan R. Bradley

Jackson County

Steven Cassetty

Jefferson County

Alfred Ben Strand, Jr.

Johnson County

William Bliss Hawkins

Knox County

Bobby Ray McGee
Brenda J. Waggoner
Chuck Cerny, Jr.
Geoffrey P. Emery
Tony W. Stansberry

Lake County

Danny Goodman, Jr.

Lauderdale County

Janice C. Craig

Lawrence County

Lee A. England

Lewis County

Billy W. Townsend

Lincoln County

Charles Crawford

Loudon County

William H. Russell

Macon County

Ken Witcher, Jr.

Madison County

Christy R. Little
Hugh H. Harvey, Jr.

Marion County

J. Clifford Layne

Marshall County

Steve Bowden

Maury County

George Logan Lovell
J. Lee Bailey, III
Jimmy E. Matthews

McMinn County

James F. Watson

McNairy County

Bob G. Gray

Meigs County

Jayne Johnston-Crowley

Monroe County

Edwin Cyrus Harris

Montgomery County

Jack Hestle

Ray Grimes

Wayne C. Shelton

Moore County

Donald J. Ray

Morgan County

Michael A. Davis

Obion County

Raymond Morris

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

Thomas A. Austin

Robertson County

Max D. Fagan

Rutherford County

Ben Hall McFarlin, Jr.

David Loughry

Scott County

James L. Cotton, Jr.

Sequatchie County

L. Thomas Austin

Sevier County

Dwight E. Stokes

Jeff D. Rader

Shelby County

Ann Lucas Pugh

Anthony Johnson

Betty Thomas Moore

Phyllis B. Gardner

John A. Donald

Joyce Broffitt

Larry E. Potter

Lonnie Thompson

Louis J. Montesi, Jr.

Loyce Lambert Ryan

Lynn Cobb

Mischelle Alexander-Best

Russell B. Sugarmon, Jr.

Tim James Dwyer

Gwen Rooks

Smith County

Mose Jackie Preston

Stewart County

George C. Sexton

Sullivan County

Duane S. Snodgrass

J. Klyne Lauderback

Steven Hal Jones

W.A. (Bill) Watson

Sumner County

Barry R. Brown

John Wesley Jones

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

John L. Kiener

Robert Lincoln

Wayne County

James Yeiser Ross

Weakley County

Thomas L. Moore, Jr.

White & Van Buren counties

Sam Benningfield

Williamson County

Alfred L. Nations

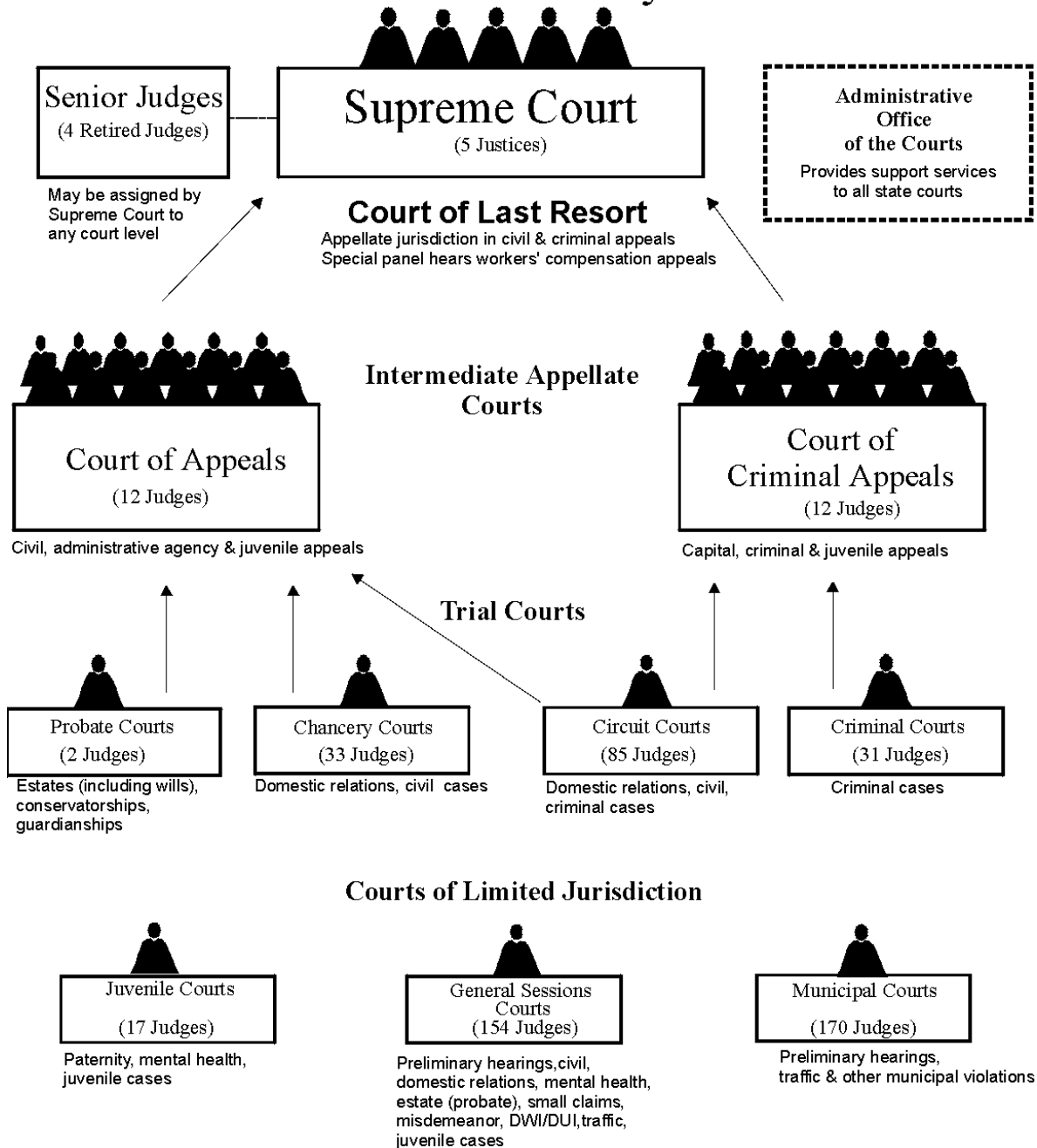
Lonnie R. Hoover

Wilson County

Barry Tatum

Robert P. Hamilton

Tennessee Judicial System



Offices of the Appellate & Trial Court Clerks

Cecil Crowson
Appellate Court Clerk
Janice Rawls
Chief Deputy Clerk
401 7th Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37219-1407
615-741-2681

Susan Turner
Chief Deputy Clerk
P.O. Box 909
Jackson, TN 38302-0909
901-423-5840

Frankie Holt
Chief Deputy Clerk
719 Locust Street
P.O. Box 444
Knoxville, TN 37901
865-594-6700

Appellate and trial court clerks are responsible for maintaining dockets and records and handling administrative matters in their courts. The clerks also 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.

The Office of the Appellate Court Clerk is responsible for filing appellate papers submitted by the parties with cases on appeal. The division where a case originates controls where the parties file their appeals. In capital cases where all appeals have been exhausted and where the execution date has been set, all papers submitted to the Supreme Court are filed in the Middle Division.



Deputy clerk Fay Hicks handles one of the dozens of calls the three appellate court clerk's offices receive every day. The offices are in Nashville, Knoxville and Jackson.



In addition to cases on appeal, the Middle Division is where all Rules of Court are filed, matters before the Court of the Judiciary, Board of Law Examiners, Board of Professional Responsibility and certified questions of law from federal courts. Also any petition for public response altering or amending the Rules is filed in the Middle Division, as are all Supreme Court opinions.

The clerk of the appellate courts is appointed by the Supreme Court for a six-year term and is based in Nashville, the Middle Division. Chief deputy clerks oversee the offices in Knoxville and Jackson.

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
Pam D. Mull
Clerk and Master
Reginald Hyberger

Campbell County
Circuit Court Clerk
Brenda Boshears
Clerk and Master
Bill Archer

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

Carroll County
Circuit Court Clerk
Paul Newmon
Clerk and Master
Kenneth Todd

Carter County
Circuit Court Clerk
John Paul Mathes
Clerk and Master
Charlotte McKeehan

Cheatham County
Circuit Court Clerk
Julie Womack
Clerk and Master
Doris Sanders

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

Claiborne County
Circuit Court Clerk
Billy Ray Cheek
Clerk and Master
Thomas O. Shumate

Clay County
Circuit Court Clerk
Peggy Ballard
Clerk and Master
Corrinne McLerran

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

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
Claudia Bonnyman
Criminal Court Clerk
David Torrence

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

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

Fayette County
Circuit Court Clerk
Jimmie German
Clerk and Master
Barbara Walls

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
Clerk and Master
Wanda Brown
Circuit Court Clerk
Janice Jones
Clerk and Master
Lois Lockhart

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

Hamblen County
Circuit Court Clerk
Kathy Trent-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

Hancock County
Circuit Court Clerk
Bill McMurray
Clerk and Master
Scott Collins

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
Joe Moore
Clerk and Master
Judy Hardister

Henderson County
Circuit Court Clerk
Kenny Cavness
Clerk and Master
Leigh Milam

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

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

Houston County
Circuit Court Clerk
Cora Sue McMillan
Clerk and Master
Patsy Brooks

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

Jackson County
Circuit Court Clerk
Aaron L. Thomas
Clerk and Master
Garry W. Jones

Jefferson County
Circuit Court Clerk
Kathy Bunch Carpenter
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
Leon Clanton
Clerk and Master
Kristy Gang

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

Lincoln County
Circuit Court Clerk
Gail Corder
Clerk and Master
Elizabeth Capshaw

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

Macon County
Circuit Court Clerk
Jennifer Hudson
Clerk and Master
Gwen Linville

Madison County
Circuit Court Clerk
Judy Barnhill
Clerk and Master
Pam Carter

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
Norma Corn White
Clerk and Master
Patty Gaines

McNairy County
Circuit Court Clerk
Ronnie Brooks
Clerk and Master
Fairy R. Hunter

Meigs County
Circuit Court Clerk
Debbie Smith
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
Edward Davis

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

Morgan County
Circuit Court Clerk
Rachel Smith
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
Robert O'Guin
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
Kim Ingram

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

Rhea County
Circuit Court Clerk
John E. Fine
Clerk and Master
Barry Harrison

Roane County
Circuit Court Clerk
Angela Randolph
Clerk and Master
Shannon Conley

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

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

Scott County
Circuit Court Clerk
Jan Burress
Clerk and Master
Betty Phillips

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

Sevier County
Circuit Court Clerk
Janette Layman-Ballard
Clerk and Master
Carolyn McMahan
General Sessions Clerk
Connie Holt

Shelby County
Circuit Court Clerk
Jimmy Moore
Clerk and Master
Kenny W. Armstrong
Criminal Court Clerk
William R. Key
General Sessions Court Clerk
Chris Turner
Probate Court Clerk
Chris Thomas

Smith County
Circuit Court Clerk
Robert Lancaster
Clerk and Master
Dianna Dillehay

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

Sullivan County
Circuit Court Clerk
Raymond Winters
Clerk and Master
Sara Housewright

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

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

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

Unicoi County
Circuit Court Clerk
Gregory Masters
Clerk and Master
Teresa W. Simerly

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

Van Buren County
Circuit Court Clerk
Teresa Simmons-DeLong
Clerk and Master
Sharon Guy

Warren County
Circuit Court Clerk
Bernie Morris
Clerk and Master
Richard McGregor

Washington County
Circuit Court Clerk
Karen Guinn
Clerk and Master
Dianna Boarman

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

Weakley County
Circuit Court Clerk
Pam Belew
Clerk and Master
Patricia Taylor

White County
Circuit Court Clerk
Henry E. Foster
Clerk and Master
Linda McCoy

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

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

The Year In Headlines

Ruling rejects way state funds teachers' salaries

By JENNIFER BARNETT
and DUREN CHEEK
Staff Writer

Tennessee's system for funding teacher salaries was thrown out yesterday by the state Supreme Court

Ray Brock dies, served state as chief justice

By CHRISTIAN BOTTORFF
Staff Writer

Ray L. Brock Jr., a retired chief justice for the Tennessee Supreme Court remembered by fellow judges for his collegiality and activism, died Thursday in a Chattanooga hospital of diabetes.

He was 80.

Mr. Brock served in the state Supreme Court from 1974 to 1987, when he retired.

Language videos now on Web explain court system

NASHVILLE (AP) Videos explaining in seven languages how the state courts work are now available on the Internet at the Tennessee Supreme Court Web site.

Court extends jury reform project

By J.K. DEVINE
jkdevine@jacksonsun.com

For six months, Circuit Court Judge C. Creed McGinley and his juries have been guinea pigs for a pilot program geared to improve the juror experience.

Now McGinley's juries will be permanent guinea pigs. He has been pleased with the program and worked to get it extended.

"Juror involvement has intensified. They just seem to become

more involved in the process," McGinley said. He is based in the 24th district, which covers Carroll, Benton, Decatur, Hardin and Henry counties.

The Tennessee Supreme Court jury reform project was geared to improve conditions for citizens who serve on a jury.

By MARY DANDO
THE DAILY NEWS

More than 7,700 Tennessee children in foster care because they were abused or neglected will benefit from a new state Supreme Court rule establishing guidelines for lawyers appointed to represent them as "guardians ad litem."



Open government wins in Supreme Court case

When private companies are paid by the taxpayers to perform public functions, as is the case with privatization, they should be subject to public scrutiny.

That was the unanimous opinion this week of the Tennessee Supreme Court in a ruling that is a victory for the public and for fiscal accountability.

Private contractors' business is covered by Public Records Act

Court addresses a mounting language barrier

The face of Tennessee is changing, and so is its voice. Many who now call the Volunteer State home speak in languages few around them understand. While the debate goes on about whether or not immigrants should learn the language of their new country, there are pressing legal matters that must be addressed. And any barriers to those legal matters must also be addressed.

That's why the new rules adopted by the Tennessee Supreme Court that set ethical and professional standards for court interpreters are so important and timely.

State's lawyers receive new set of ethics rules

By KATHY CARLSON
Staff Writer

The Tennessee Supreme Court yesterday issued a new set of ethics rules for the state's 19,000 lawyers, responding to changes in the way law is practiced and replacing a 32-year-old code of conduct.

Longtime judge on Appeals Court, Henry Todd, dies

By CHRISTIAN BOTTORFF
Staff Writer

Henry F. Todd, 87, a retired judge for the Tennessee Court of Appeals, died early yesterday morning.

Supreme Court re-elects Drowota as chief justice

Chief Justice Frank F. Drowota III, of Nashville, has been re-elected by the Tennessee Supreme Court to a four-year term ending Aug. 31, 2006.

Sampling of 2002 Judicial System Initiatives

Jury Reform

As 2002 wound down, the Supreme Court finalized proposed amendments to the Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure and the Tennessee Rules of Criminal Procedure designed to improve conditions for Tennessee jurors.

The rules, presented to the General Assembly for approval in 2003, were part of a jury reform pilot project started during 2001 in 10 courtrooms across the state. The project assessed 14 recommendations of the Tennessee Bar Association Jury Reform Commission.

Significant changes presented to the General Assembly would allow jurors in Tennessee to take notes during a trial and use the notes during deliberations. Judges also would have the discretion of allowing jurors to present questions in written form for witnesses.

Other jury reform proposals include permitting judges to change the order of expert testimony to help jurors understand and evaluate it and permitting lawyers to address jurors during a trial to explain evidence. Others require the trial judge to give basic instructions on procedures and law at the beginning of a trial and also give judges the option of presenting the bulk of final jury instructions before closing argument.

Paper Size

Tennessee joined a growing number of states in 2002 with the adoption of a rule requiring the use of letter-size paper for court documents. The rule, effective July 1, 2003, will virtually eliminate filings on legal-size, or 11 X 14 inches paper.

The change mandated by the Supreme Court applies to all state courts, including general sessions, juvenile, probate, circuit, chancery, criminal and appellate.

Interpreters Achieve Certification

During the final month of 2002, foreign language court interpreters were certified for the first time in Tennessee. The first seven to become

certified successfully completed oral and written examinations and a criminal background check as required by Supreme Court Rules 41 and 42 adopted earlier in the year. The two rules set out proficiency and ethics standards for interpreters working in Tennessee courts.

Under the rules, judges are required to attempt to appoint an interpreter who is certified if one is available. In addition to the seven certified interpreters, another 18 had qualified as registered interpreters, meaning they had passed the written examination and criminal background check, but had not completed the oral examination requirement.

At the end of the year, written tests had been given to 150 applicants and 39 also had taken the oral examination. Prospective interpreters had been tested in Arabic, Vietnamese, Lao and Spanish.

CASE and SCALES Projects

Students across the state continued to benefit from court system outreach programs. The Supreme Court conducted two SCALES Projects, bringing the number of participating students to more than 10,000 since the program started in 1995. SCALES is an acronym for the Supreme Court Advancing Legal Education for Students.

In April 2002, the Eastern Section of the Court of Appeals launched a similar program - the CASE Project. CASE is an acronym for Court of Appeals Affecting Student Education.

Both court programs make it possible for students to hear oral argument in actual cases heard in their own or a nearby community. Students also receive materials and instruction about the court system as part of the programs.

Workers Comp Mediation

Supreme Court Provisional Rule 37, adopted in 2002, continues a pilot program started in 1998 for mediating workers' compensation cases at the appellate level. The rule envisions "the use of mediation to make the resolution of workers' compensation appeals more efficient, economical and fair." Rule 37 provides for the extension of the pilot program on a statewide basis.

Administrative Office of the Courts

511 Union Street
Suite 600
Nashville, TN 37219
615-741-2687
Cornelia A. Clark
Director
Elizabeth Sykes
Deputy Director

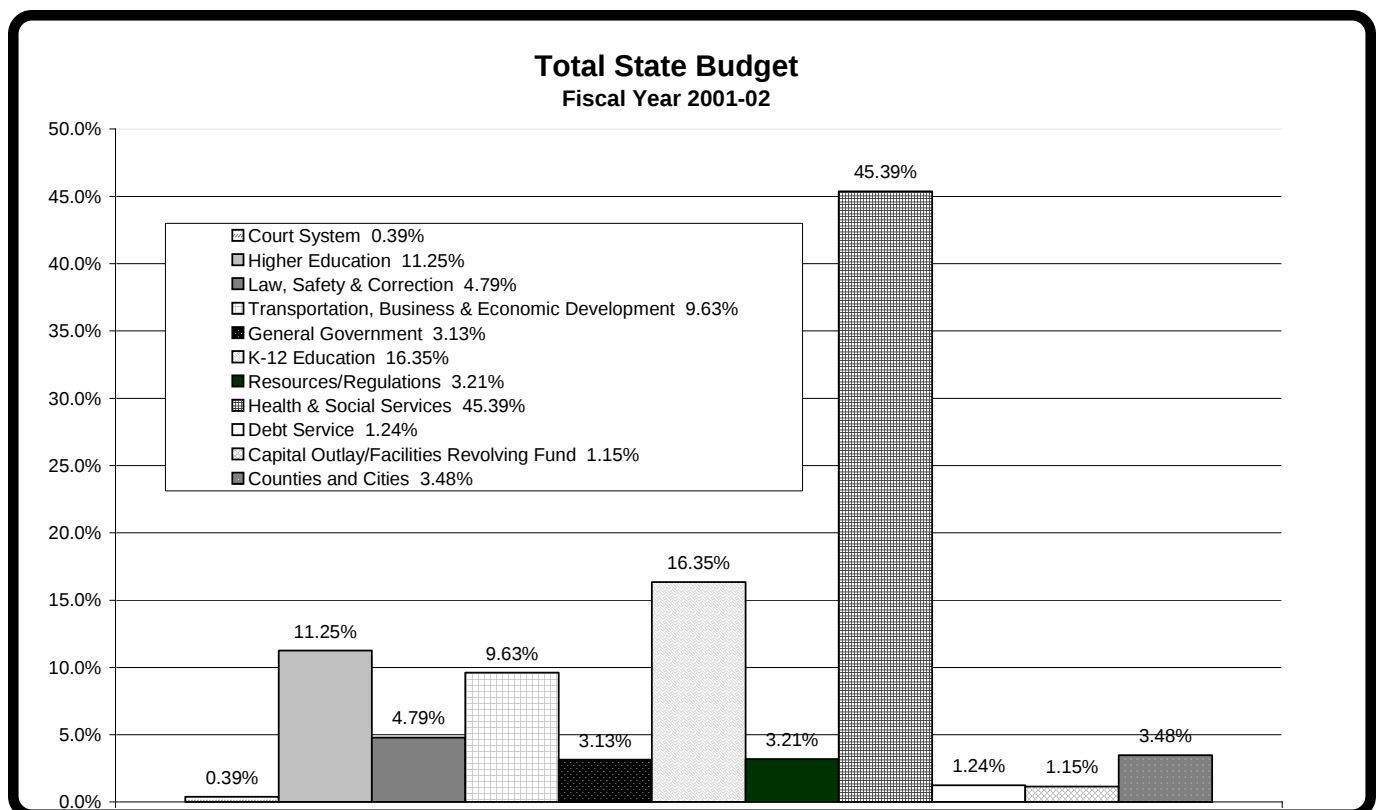
The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) provides support services to the state court system. The director, appointed by the Supreme Court, is chief administrative officer for the courts and oversees the AOC. Duties of the office include preparing the court system's annual budget; providing judicial education, law libraries, computers, other equipment, training and technical support for judges and other court personnel;

assisting judges with case assignments; administering payroll accounts for the court system; conducting orientation for new judges; administering the official state criminal court reporters system; providing assistance to judicial committees; compiling data; and reviewing and disbursing funds to court-appointed attorneys representing indigents.

Fiscal Services Division

The Fiscal Services Division is primarily responsible for maintaining financial integrity for the Judicial Branch of state government. This is accomplished by providing timely support to the various programs through the four major sections comprising the fiscal services division. These four groups are accounting management, facilities management, office management and grants/contracts management. The actions of these four groups affect all of the employees of the court system.

The court system's budget compared to other departments/agencies is shown in the graph below.



The budget administered for fiscal year 2001-2002 was \$77,053,800, before supplemental appropriations, with total expenditures of \$77,332,384.26. The court system expended the following amounts for fiscal year 2001-2002:

Appellate and Trial Courts	\$40,300,488.54	52.11%
Supreme Court Buildings	2,497,384.47	3.23%
Child Support Referees	934,160.83	1.21%
Guardian Ad Litem	977,355.74	1.26%
Indigent Defendants Counsel	14,897,665.34	19.26%
Civil Legal Representation Fund	3,128,741.57	4.05%
Verbatim Transcripts	3,293,061.34	4.26%
Law Libraries	579,956.31	0.75%
Judicial Conference	179,649.41	0.23%
Judicial Programs and Commissions	632,511.16	0.82%
State Court Clerks' Conference	179,406.15	0.23%
Administrative Office of the Courts	7,625,956.81	9.86%
Appellate Court Clerk's Office	1,603,521.57	2.07%
Board of Law Examiners	502,525.02	0.65%
Total Expenditures	\$77,332,384.26	

The Indigent Defense Fund expended \$14,897,665.34 for fiscal year 2001-2002 and \$3,014,000 was expended for capital cases. Listed below are the expenditures for the Indigent Defense Fund and for capital cases for fiscal years 1997-98 through 2001-2002:

Total Expenditures from the Indigent Defense Fund:

Fiscal Year 2001-2002	\$14,897,665
Fiscal Year 2000-2001	12,877,960
Fiscal Year 1999-2000	12,878,170
Fiscal Year 1998-1999	11,288,119
Fiscal Year 1997-1998	9,628,384

Indigent Defense Fund capital case expenditures:

Fiscal Year 2001-2002	\$3,014,000
Fiscal Year 2000-2001	2,719,636
Fiscal Year 1999-2000	3,234,723
Fiscal Year 1998-1999	2,574,955
Fiscal Year 1997-1998	2,189,110

Human Resources Division

The Human Resources Division addresses the human resource needs of nearly 700 court system employees statewide, including trial and appellate court judges and AOC staff. The division works with judges and AOC management in developing position descriptions, recruiting, interviewing, hiring, training, employee evaluations and employee separation. Other responsibilities include approving salary adjustments, overseeing employee benefits, monitoring Workers' Compensation claims and leave under the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and consulting with management regarding a wide variety of employment issues. The division also is responsible for Affirmative Action and Title VI compliance.



Finance director Tim Townsend and accounting technician Debbie Hill

Technology Services Division

The Technology Services Division provides computer support for more than 1,400 court system personnel, maintains 74 local area networks and oversees the wide area communications that tie together all appellate court sites, the TnCIS project site and the AOC. The staff also provides classes on court-supplied software and the help desk assists court personnel with support issues.

The division has several large projects underway, including development of the Tennessee Court Information System (TnCIS).

The Judicial Information Tracking System (JITS) is performing well, a vast improvement over its predecessor. Efforts continue to enhance and refine the software. In the past year, several changes have taken place to allow for fax filing and improve the collection of state litigation taxes.

The division continues to work with the TJIS (Tennessee Judicial Information System) to improve data collection and reporting. Since the passage of 2001 Public Chapter 408 and amendment to Supreme Court Rule 11 added additional notification and enforcement duties to the TJIS system, case information reporting has drastically improved.

Over the coming year, Technology Services will be working to update software for the court reporter tracking database, enhance and redesign the indigent defense payment system, continue improvements to the JITS software and work toward implementation of TJIS data reporting for courts with general sessions jurisdiction to meet the July 1, 2003, legislative mandate.



Stan Walls
Court Technology Assistant

Tennessee Court Information System

The Tennessee Court Information System (TnCIS) is a statutorily-authorized trial court case management software system integrating case tracking and accounting functions for court clerks, including circuit, criminal, chancery, probate, juvenile, and general sessions. TnCIS software will provide participating clerks with an automated case management system to improve record keeping, reduce paperwork, improve timeliness, enhance fee collection, allow for better sharing and transfer of data, aid in the efficient management of the court's time and provide better service to the public.

The TnCIS business plan was presented to the legislative oversight committee, which approved and adopted it as the guide for TnCIS going forward. The hardware replacement subcommittee recommended creation of a fund to provide no-interest or low-interest loans to counties to fund hardware replacement. This fund was created through legislation in 2001 Public Chapter 451 with no actual dollars allocated.

The TnCIS team members for both the AOC and Local Government Data Processing have been very busy in 2002. The majority of the detail design work for the first wave of functionality was completed and approved in 2002. This included the user interface prototype, which was demonstrated for the TJISAC (Tennessee Judicial Information Systems Advisory Committee) and the TnCIS Steering Committee as well. The final piece of the detail design phase should be completed in early 2003. The rest of 2003 will be spent preparing for and testing the TnCIS software prior to implementation in late 2003/early 2004.

Court and Public Services Division



Joann Watlington
Publications Coordinator

The AOC's Judicial Education and Program Services Division and the Legal and Public Information Division were merged during 2002 into the Court and Public Services Division (CAPS). The new division includes the programs, education, public information and legal sections. In addition, the Court Improvement Program, the Court Interpreters Program, the Court Reporters Program and the Judicial Evaluation Program are administered by the division.

The programs section includes the alternative dispute resolution program, the VORP project, the parenting plan program and drug courts. The education section plans and presents educational seminars for the Tennessee Judicial Conference, General Sessions Judges Conference and Clerks of Court, and coordi-

nates the SCALES project for high school students. Education also administers judicial out-of-state travel for educational seminars and conferences and all continuing education for judicial law clerks. The Court Improvement Program is part of the division. Staff train Foster Care Review Boards, attorneys and judges on child dependency laws to address barriers to permanency within the judicial process. The division also includes public information, the court system website and publications.

The legal section is also included in the Court and Public Services Division. The legal staff serves as reporters for the Pattern Jury Instruction Committees, draft and track legislation, work with the Advisory Commission on the Rules of Practice and Procedure and publishers on the rules of court, track capital cases in the trial and appellate courts, and advise judges and personnel on legal issues. The Court Interpreter Program is also administered by the CAPS division.

Active Boards and Commissions Created by the Tennessee Supreme Court

Advisory Commission on Rules of Practice and Procedure
Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission
Board of Law Examiners
Board of Professional Responsibility
Commission on Continuing Legal Education
Court of the Judiciary
Judicial Council
Judicial Ethics Committee
Judicial Evaluation Commission
Judicial Performance Program Committee
Judicial Selection Commission
Lawyer Assistance Program
Lawyers Fund for Client Protection
State Law Library Commission
Supreme Court Building Commissions: Nashville, Knoxville, Jackson
Tennessee Code Commission
Tennessee Judicial Conference Committees
Tennessee Judicial Information System Advisory Committee
Tennessee Court Information System Steering Committee

Board of Professional Responsibility
1101 Kermit Drive, Suite 730
Nashville, TN 37217
615-361-7500

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. Tennessee attorneys have paid nearly \$18 million in court assessments to finance the program, including \$1.6 million in 2002. The board, an arm of the Supreme Court, received 1,171 complaints from Nov. 1, 2001, through Oct. 31, 2002, resulting in nine disbarments, 13 suspensions, 13 public censures, 50 private reprimands and 82 private admonitions. Another four attorneys opted to take disability inactive status. The number of complaints against attorneys dropped from the previous 12 month period, when the total was 1,397.

Tennessee Board of Law Examiners
706 Church Street, Suite 100
Nashville, TN 37243-0740
615-741-3234
www.state.tn.us/lawexaminers

The Board of Law Examiners governs the examination and admission of attorneys applying to practice law in Tennessee. The office, with a staff of three, admits attorneys previously licensed for more than five years in other jurisdictions and administers the bar examination to recent law school graduates. The two-day exam is given each year in February and July. During 2002, 712 law school graduates took the exam and 67 percent passed.

Commission on Continuing Legal Education and Specialization
221 Fourth Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37219
615-741-3096 (CLE)
www.cletn.org

The commission oversees the mandatory continuing legal education requirements and certification of attorneys as specialists in 11 areas of the law. Attorneys in the state have earned more than 235,000 hours of CLE credit at over 5,400 programs nationwide accredited by the commission. More than 240 Tennessee attorneys are certified specialists.

Tennessee Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection
615-741-3097

TLFCP manages a fund of approximately \$1 million from which it reimburses clients whose attorneys have stolen from them. During 2002, the fund paid out over \$40,000 to claimants. The fund is administered by the same staff and uses the same office space as the Tennessee Commission on Continuing Legal Education and Specialization.

Tennessee Lawyers Assistance Program
1- 877- 424-8527
email: tnlap@aol.com
www.tlap.org

TLAP provides confidential free referrals and other support services to attorneys, judges, bar applicants and law students with health and personal issues such as substance abuse, stress, family problems, depression and eating disorders. The program was created by the Tennessee Supreme Court and is supported by attorneys. Since September 1999, the program has had more than 660 inquiries and referrals and averages 18 new service calls per month.