

Annual Report  
of the  
Tennessee Judiciary  
2001



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

<b>Letter from the Chief Justice &amp; State Court Administrator</b>	<b>----- 2</b>
<b>Changing Population Focus</b>	<b>----- 3</b>
<b>Mediation Services</b>	<b>----- 5</b>
<b>Year In Review Snapshots</b>	<b>----- 6</b>
<b>Foster Care Training</b>	<b>----- 7</b>
<b>Supreme Court</b>	<b>----- 8</b>
<b>Intermediate Appellate Courts</b>	<b>----- 9</b>
<b>Trial Court Judges by District</b>	<b>----- 10</b>
<b>General Sessions Court Judges by County</b>	<b>----- 14</b>
<b>Appellate &amp; Trial Court Clerks</b>	<b>----- 18</b>
<b>Administrative Office of the Courts &amp; Budget</b>	<b>----- 25</b>
<b>Boards &amp; Commissions</b>	<b>----- 29</b>
<b>Board of Professional Responsibility</b>	<b>----- 30</b>
<b>Tennessee Board of Law Examiners</b>	<b>----- 30</b>
<b>Commission on Continuing Legal Education &amp; Specialization</b>	<b>----- 30</b>
<b>Tennessee Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection</b>	<b>----- 30</b>
<b>Statistical Report</b>	<b>----- 31</b>

*Published by the  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
511 Union Street  
Suite 600  
Nashville, TN 37219  
615-741-2687*



## ***Message from the Chief Justice and Administrative Director***

Dear Fellow Tennesseans:

We hope that you will find this Annual Report of the Tennessee Judiciary useful and informative. While it is filled with information about the judicial branch of government, our focus this year is on Tennessee's changing population, our increasing diversity, and how the court system is addressing the needs of our new fellow Tennesseans.

For many of these new neighbors from other lands, the system is confusing because they are unfamiliar with it. And, for some, language is a barrier to equal justice. For the youngest - those arriving in the arms of adoptive parents - judges across the state are pleased to be performing growing numbers of legally-required readoptions.



*Chief Justice  
Frank F. Drowota, III*

The report is presented this year in a single volume, including caseload statistics and basic information about the structure and administration of the court system. For several previous years we produced two separate publications. The decision was made to combine the new report into one volume to hold down production costs. This change is an example of our commitment to operate as efficiently as possible.



*Director  
Cornelia A. Clark*

The first section includes budget information showing that the judicial system continues to be a bargain for Tennesseans. As the chart on page 25 shows, the budget for the entire state court system in fiscal year 2000-2001 was 0.43 percent of the total state budget.

In the statistical section of the book, you will find numbers pertaining to filings, caseloads in courts across the state and dispositions of cases. The information is included for appellate courts and also trial courts by judicial district.

The report also contains listings of judges and clerks by districts and counties, along with much more "nuts and bolts" information about the court system and Administrative Office of the Courts.

The courts belong to all Tennesseans to whom we pledge to do our best to ensure that future generations will inherit a strong, fair and effective system of justice.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank F. Drowota, III".

Frank F. Drowota, III

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cornie Clark".

Cornelia A. Clark

# Judicial System Adapting to Serve Tennessee's Changing Population

Judges, clerks and other Tennessee court officials are dealing with new challenges accompanying a continuing transformation in the state's cultural composition. Courthouses - both rural and urban - no longer are filled only with English-speaking voices, but also with languages from around the world as Tennessee becomes home to growing numbers of immigrants.

Like many Tennesseans, the state's new residents - from foreign-born babies in the arms of proud adoptive parents to frightened women seeking orders of protection - may require services provided by the courts. Others may find themselves before a judge to face criminal charges or resolve a civil dispute. The system can be confusing for anyone who uses it, but for those who do not speak or understand English and have no experience with courts in this country, it also may be frightening.

In response to the state's increasing diversity, the Tennessee Supreme Court, the Administrative Office of the Courts and judges statewide are taking steps to provide assistance to court-users whose

primary language is not English. Judges also are becoming better acquainted with readoption requirements as increasing numbers of Tennessee families include children from orphanages in China, Russia, Romania, Azerbaijan, Vietnam and other foreign lands.

"The judicial system strives to serve and administer justice equally for all Tennesseans, whether their ancestors were native to the region, arrived in horse-drawn wagons or whether they are new residents from across a state line or across an ocean," Chief Justice Frank F. Drowota, III, said. "It is important to adapt the system as needed and we

**"The judicial system strives to serve and administer justice equally for all Tennesseans..."**

have taken some important steps to do that."



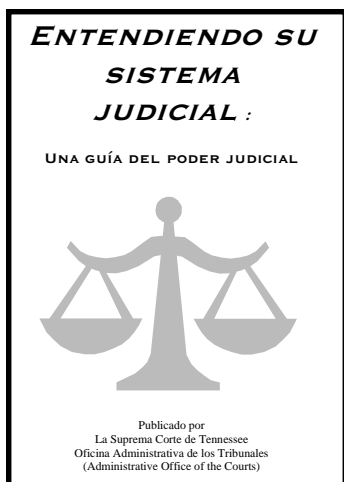
***Judge Edward Beckner of Morristown signs readoption papers for little Parker Frierson, son of Chancellor Thomas Frierson, II, and his wife Jane. The Friersons adopted their baby in Russia. Judge Beckner said any adoption is "such a pleasure, but this one was really special."***

Working with a grant from the Office of Criminal Justice Programs, the AOC has produced videos in English and six foreign languages judges say they hear most often in their courtrooms. The professionally-produced videos in English, Spanish, Arabic, Kurdish, Lao, Russian and Vietnamese, explain basic rights of defendants; orders of protection and the rights of parents in abuse and neglect cases. They will be available in courthouses and other locations across the state. The AOC contracted with the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute to provide translation services.

***(Continued on the following page)***



The AOC also received a grant from the National Center for State Courts to translate basic criminal practice forms into the same six languages. In addition, the court system has included information and other forms in Spanish on its website at [www.tsc.state.tn.us](http://www.tsc.state.tn.us).



Another judicial system initiative aimed at providing equal access to justice will result in statewide standards for court interpreters. In 1997, the Tennessee Judicial Council recommended establishment of minimum qualifications and a code of professional responsibility for interpreters. The council also recommended designating the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute as the lead agency to train and certify interpreters to be used in the judicial system. In its final report in 2000, the Implementation Committee of the Gender Fairness and Racial and Ethnic Fairness committees created by the Supreme Court also recommended adoption of interpreter guidelines and standards.

To begin the process, the AOC applied for and received a Byrne grant from the Office of Criminal Justice Programs to begin a certification program with the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute. Even while interpreter standards were being developed, training was conducted across the state during 2001, focusing both on techniques and ethical issues.

A duty Tennessee judges are increasingly being asked to take on is one that typically leaves all participants happy. Judges involved in the legal process of adopting or readopting foreign-born children say it is among the most satisfying of their judicial responsibilities.

"They're just beautiful children," said Circuit Court Judge Royce Taylor of Murfreesboro, who has handled several readoptions, including children from Russia, Romania and China. "All of them had a story. There were Romanian twins who had been malnourished and a little girl from China who was found in a stable. I give all adoptees a toy frog - I keep a supply of frogs - and one child told me how to say frog in Russian."

Justice Adolpho A. Birch, Jr. performed one readoption even though they normally are handled by Circuit and Chancery Court judges. He legally formalized the adoption of one-year-old Inara Abernathy, the first baby adopted out of Azerbaijan, a former Soviet Republic.

"That day in a Tennessee courtroom was one of the happiest in the life of our family," said Kimi Abernathy, the baby's mother. "People tend to think of courts as confrontational and intimidating, but for us, the memory of a courtroom and a judge will remain among our fondest."



**Actors and production crews borrowed Davidson County courtrooms to shoot videos produced in seven languages, including English. The videos explain basic rights of defendants, orders of protection and the legal process in child neglect and dependency cases.**

# Mediation Services Expanding Across State

In fiscal year 2000-2001, the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP) Start-up Project made significant progress toward its continuing goal of expanding services into communities across the state.

The addition of three new VORP centers is reducing the number of minor criminal cases litigated in courtrooms. With VORP, some of the cases are resolved through mediation. Workloads for district attorneys also are being reduced because the centers are taking referrals from warrant screenings. Through VORP, juvenile offenders are experiencing the human consequences of their actions, which should lower recidivism rates.

The new center in Blount County works with adults and juveniles and is strongly supported by judges in the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District as a spin-off program from the successful Knox County Community Mediation Center. A new program in Hamilton County works primarily with juvenile offenders, and is the only center within 100 miles of its location.

The third new center, the Nashville Conflict Resolution Center, operated by the Nashville Bar Association, brings with it some innovative concepts. This center, collaborating with the Neighborhood Justice Center, works to improve administration of the warrant screening program, brings to life the VORP program in Davidson County Juvenile Court and expands the accessibility of mediation services. The community outreach targets neighborhoods with limited access to the courts and, in some cases, strained relations with law enforcement.

The 11 VORP centers across Tennessee compiled impressive statistics during the year with more than 1,400 mediations - 766 involving adult offenders and 635 involving juveniles.

Thanks to the "Re-Thinkers" program conducted by the Anderson County center - offering classroom sessions and simulated mediations to offenders under age 12 - an average of 16 juveniles a month are served. Participants committed crimes in one or more of the following categories: theft, assault, vandalism, unruly or reckless conduct, trespass, truancy or possession by a minor.

The majority of cases handled by Victim Offender Reconciliation Programs involve property crimes, generally theft or vandalism under \$500. Those cases combined outnumber all others two-to-one.

The 11 VORP centers across Tennessee compiled impressive statistics during the year with more than 1,400 mediations - 766 involving adult offenders and 635 involving juveniles.

Center	Qtrs	Total Mediations
Sumner County	3	46
Columbia	4	46
Crossville	4	166
Mid-South	4	259
Knoxville	4	418
Blount County	4	53
Putnam County	3	111
Anderson County	4	55
Nashville Vorp	3	101
Neighborhood Justice	4	146
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3.61</b>	<b>1,401</b>

Geographic Totals	Total Mediations
Rural Middle	305
Urban Middle	293
Rural East	53
Urban East	473
Upper Middle	277



# Year In Review Snapshots



**Chancellor Thomas Gray speaks to students and teachers prior to oral arguments at SCALES in Gallatin.**



**Chief Justice Frank F. Drowota, III, (right) is congratulated by outgoing Chief Justice E. Riley Anderson, who stepped down effective Sept. 1, 2001, but remained on the court.**



**Judge D'Army Bailey conducts a tour of the Civil Rights Museum in Memphis for the Conference of Court Public Information Officers.**



**Justice Adolpho A. Birch, Jr., leads a discussion during the presiding judges' lunch at the TJC meeting at Paris Landing State Park.**



**Visiting at the TJC meeting are (left) Chief Justice Frank Drowota and Judge Jane Wheatcraft; (right photo) Judges Robert Childers and Steve Daniel; and (bottom left) Justice William Barker and Judge David Welles.**



**Justice Riley Anderson leads a panel at the Law School for Journalists. Panelists were Judges Robert Wedemeyer and Mary Beth Leibowitz and television news anchor Chris Clark.**



# Foster Care Training: Second Round Begins

The Tennessee Supreme Court has continued its support for the Court Improvement Program (CIP), a federal grant aimed at supporting judicial response to child abuse and neglect.

The CIP designed foster care review board training to directly address barriers to permanency within the judicial process. Since training started in 1998, the staff has offered a full day of education on child dependency laws to all county foster care review boards in the state.

Participants include board members, judges, court staff, Department of Children's Services personnel, CASA volunteers and local attorneys. Local courts, churches and restaurants often serve as hosts for the events. At the end of 2000, the CIP staff began a second round of training with the followup to be provided statewide by the end of 2002.

Training consists of an overview of policies behind child dependency laws, the role of juvenile courts, an explanation of the legal process, explanations of federal laws and their impact on children in foster care, and the responsibilities of foster care review boards. The day ends with a mock foster care review board hearing, during which participants read from a prepared script and discuss the proceedings.

In addition to foster care review board training, the Court Improvement staff also presents CLE programs for bar associations and juvenile court judges, and they annually update the Child Dependency Law manual which was compiled in 1999. In 2000-2001, the staff also provided technical assistance for a representation pilot project in two rural counties, with funds provided by a Byrne grant.



*Cindy McLean conducts training for Foster Care Review Board members, juvenile court judges, attorneys and Department of Children's Services workers. Other CIP trainers are Leslie Kinkead (in photo below) and Mary Rose Zingale, both of the AOC.*

More than 7,740 dependent or neglected children are in foster care in Tennessee.



**In less than three years, Foster Care Review Board Training was provided to:**

- Judges - 75
- Court Staff - 176
- Foster Care Review Board Members - 783
- Department of Children's Services Staff - 931
- Attorneys - 130
- Others (includes CASA, foster parents and others interested in child welfare) - 166
- TOTAL - 2,261



# 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.

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.



*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 (seated) Chief Justice Frank F. Drowota, III, and (standing from left) Justice Janice M. Holder, Justice E. Riley Anderson, Justice Adolpho A. Birch, Jr., and Justice William M. Barker. 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 Court Judges By Judicial District

### 1<sup>st</sup> 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

### 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

### 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

### 4<sup>th</sup> 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)

### 5<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

*Blount County*

#### CHANCERY COURT

Telford E. Forgety, Jr.

#### CIRCUIT COURT

W. Dale Young (Part I)

D. Kelly Thomas, Jr. (Part II)

### 6<sup>th</sup> 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)

### 7<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

*Anderson County*

#### CHANCERY COURT

William E. Lantrip

#### CIRCUIT COURT

James B. Scott, Jr.



**8<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
*Campbell, Claiborne, Fentress,  
Scott, Union counties*

**CHANCERY COURT**  
Billy Joe White

**CIRCUIT COURT**  
Conrad Troutman, Jr.

**CRIMINAL COURT**  
E. Shayne Sexton

**9<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
*Loudon, Meigs, Morgan, Roane counties*

**CHANCERY COURT**  
Frank V. Williams, III

**CIRCUIT COURT**  
Russell E. Simmons, Jr.

**CRIMINAL COURT**  
E. Eugene Eblen

**10<sup>th</sup> 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

**11<sup>th</sup> 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)

**12<sup>th</sup> 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)

**13<sup>th</sup> 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)

**14<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
*Coffee County*

**CIRCUIT COURT**  
L. Craig Johnson (Part I)  
John Rollins (Part II)





**15<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

*Jackson, Macon, Smith, Troup, Wilcox, Wilkes counties*

**CHANCERY COURT**

C. K. Smith

**CIRCUIT COURT**

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

**CRIMINAL COURT**

James O. Bond

**16<sup>th</sup> 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)

**17<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

*Bedford, Lincoln, Marshall, Moore counties*

**CHANCERY COURT**

James B. (J. B.) Cox

**CIRCUIT COURT**

Charles Lee (Part I)  
Lee Russell (Part II)

**18<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

*Sumner County*

**CHANCERY COURT**

Thomas E. Gray

**CIRCUIT COURT**

C. L. "Buck" Rogers

**CRIMINAL COURT**

Jane W. Wheatcraft

**19<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

*Montgomery, Robertson counties*

**CHANCERY COURT**

Carol Catalano

**CIRCUIT COURT**

James Walton (Part I) (deceased 11-13-01)  
Mike Jones (Part II)  
John H. Gasaway, III (Part III)

**20<sup>th</sup> 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)

**21<sup>st</sup> 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)

**22<sup>nd</sup> 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)

**23<sup>rd</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
*Cheatham, Dickson, Houston,  
Humphreys, Stewart counties*

**CIRCUIT COURT**  
Robert E. Burch (Division I)  
Leonard Martin (Division II)  
Allen W. Wallace (Division III)

**24<sup>th</sup> 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)

**25<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
*Fayette, Hardeman, Lauderdale,  
McNairy, Tipton counties*

**CHANCERY COURT**  
Dewey C. Whinton, (Part I)  
Martha Brasfield (Part II)

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

**26<sup>th</sup> 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)

**27<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
*Obion, Weakley counties*

**CHANCERY COURT**  
W. Michael Maloan

**CIRCUIT COURT**  
William B. Acree, Jr.

**28<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
*Crockett, Gibson, Haywood counties*

**CHANCERY COURT**  
George R. Ellis

**CIRCUIT COURT**  
Clayburn Peeples

**29<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
*Dyer, Lake counties*

**CHANCERY COURT**  
J. Steven Stafford

**CIRCUIT COURT**  
Russell Lee Moore, Jr.

**30<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
*Shelby County*

**CHANCERY COURT**  
Walter L. Evans (Part I)  
Floyd Peete, Jr. (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

## **31<sup>st</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

*Van Buren, Warren counties*

## **CIRCUIT and CHANCERY COURT**

Charles D. Haston, Sr.

### *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 H. Inman  
L. Terry Lafferty  
James L. Weatherford

## **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**

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**

James L. Watkins

**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  
James A. Robinson, Jr.  
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  
William B. Hackett

**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

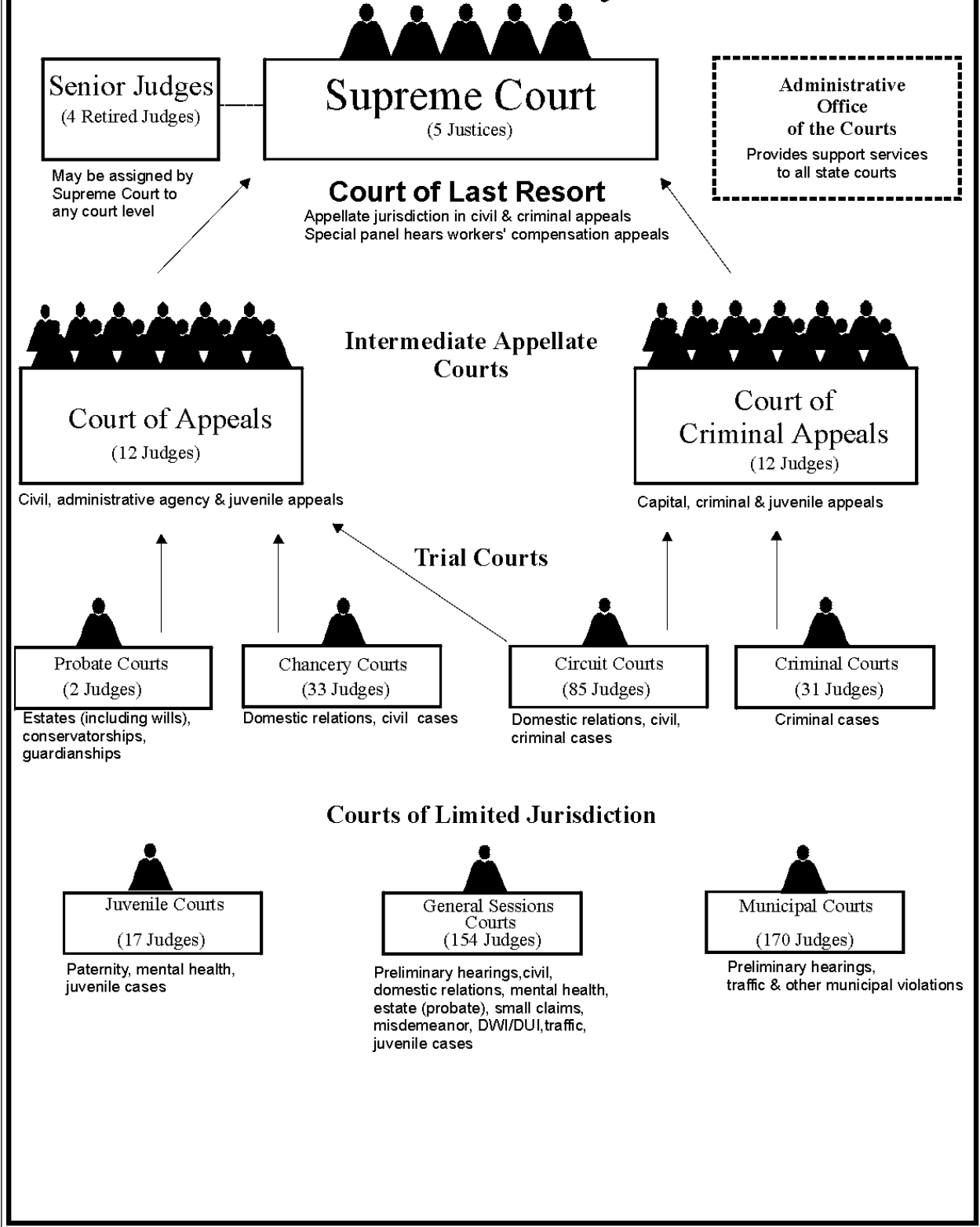
**Wilson County**

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 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North  
Nashville, TN 37219-1407  
615-741-2687

**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



*Attorney David Doyle is assisted in the Nashville appellate court clerk's office by Chief Deputy Clerk Janice Rawls (right) and Deputy Clerk Fay Hicks.*

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 in the Supreme Court are filed in the Middle Division.

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**  
Norma Pettyjohn

**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**  
Bobby D. Meadows  
**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**  
Casey Hughes  
**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**  
Vivian Hill  
**Clerk and Master**  
Debra Malone

**Dickson County**  
**Circuit Court Clerk**  
Sue Zwingle  
**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**  
Judy Callahan  
**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**  
Judy Medearis  
**Clerk and Master**  
S. Lee Akers  
**Criminal Court Clerk**  
Gwen Tidwell

**Hancock County**  
**Circuit Court Clerk**  
Jack Stapleton  
**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**  
Frankye Ward  
**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**  
Connie A. Clark  
**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**  
Nancy Matthews

**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**  
John Gentry

**McNairy County**  
**Circuit Court Clerk**  
Allen Lipford  
**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**  
Fayne B. Nelson

**Obion County**  
**Circuit Court Clerk**  
Robert G. Kendall  
**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**  
Tim R. Martin  
**Clerk and Master**  
Sue Whited

**Polk County**  
**Circuit Court Clerk**  
Connie H. Clark  
**Clerk and Master**  
Kim Ingram

**Putnam County**  
**Circuit Court Clerk**  
Lewis Coomer  
**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**  
Ann Mathews Stroud  
**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**  
Patsy A. Frizzell  
**Clerk and Master**  
Thomas Goins

**Sevier County**  
**Circuit Court Clerk**  
Janette Layman-Ballard  
**Clerk and Master**  
Carolyn McMahan

**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**  
Helen L. Crawford  
**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**  
Linda Effler  
**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**  
Don Squibb  
**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

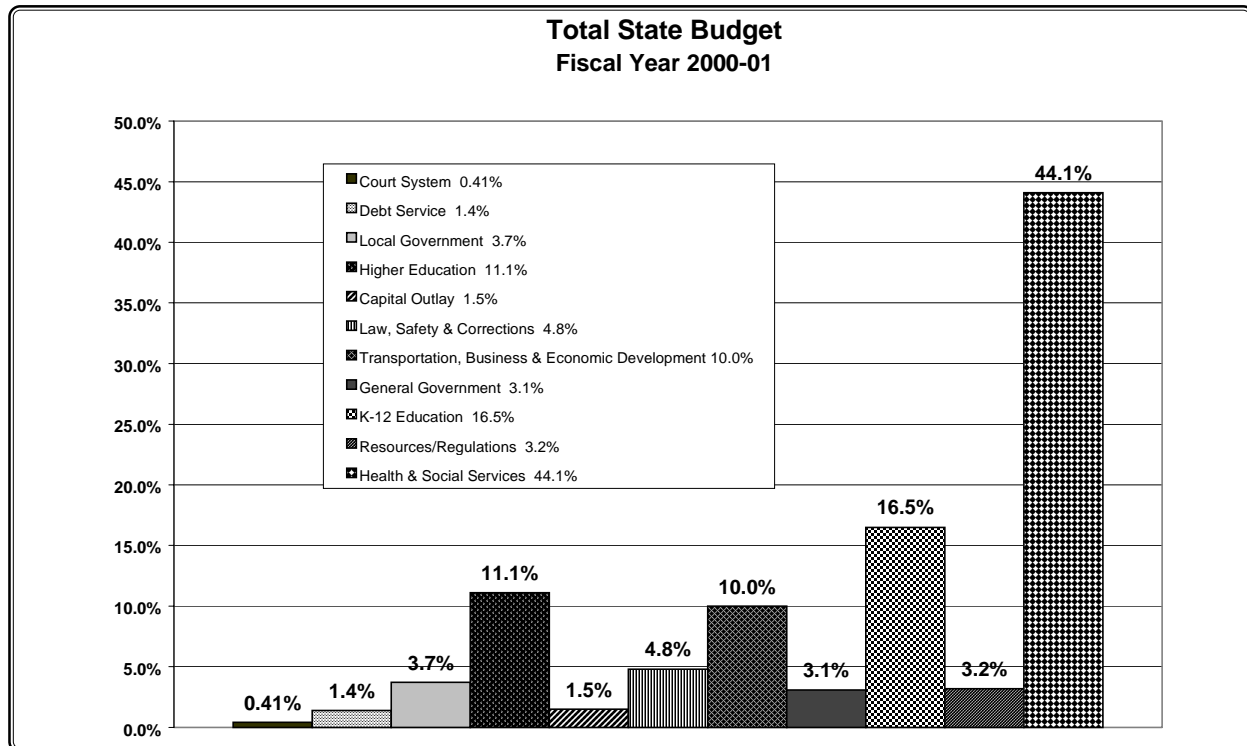
**Administrative Office of the Courts**  
**511 Union Street**  
**Suite 600**  
**Nashville, TN 37219**  
**615-741-2687**  
**Cornelia A. Clark**  
**Director**  
**Elizabeth Sykes**  
**Deputy Director**

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



The budget administered for fiscal year 2000-2001 was \$79,549,702.71 with total expenditures of \$77,875,736.79. The court system expended the following amounts for fiscal year 2000-2001:

Appellate and Trial Courts	\$39,816,227.91	51.13%
Supreme Court Buildings	2,405,895.58	3.09%
Child Support Referees	949,002.58	1.22%
Guardian Ad Litem	824,193.84	1.06%
Indigent Defendants Counsel	12,877,959.61	16.54%
Civil Legal Representation Fund	1,934,000.00	2.48%
Verbatim Transcripts	3,103,601.92	3.99%
Law Libraries	626,169.88	0.80%
Judicial Conference	126,253.43	0.16%
Judicial Programs and Commissions	1,052,291.35	1.35%
State Court Clerks' Conference	173,046.55	0.22%
Administrative Office of the Courts	11,938,382.10	15.33%
Appellate Court Clerk's Office	1,558,886.46	2.00%
Board of Law Examiners	<u>489,825.58</u>	0.63%
Total Expenditures	<u>\$77,875,736.79</u>	

The indigent defense fund expended \$12,877,959.61 for fiscal year 2000-2001 and \$2,719,826.07 was expended for capital cases. Listed below are the expenditures for the indigent defense fund and capital cases for fiscal years 1995-96 through 2000-2001:

Total expenditures from the indigent defense fund:

Fiscal Year 2000-2001	\$12,877,960
Fiscal Year 1999-2000	12,873,170
Fiscal Year 1998-1999	11,199,418
Fiscal Year 1997-1998	9,628,384
Fiscal Year 1996-1997	8,001,530
Fiscal Year 1995-1996	6,513,675

Total expenditures from the indigent defense fund for capital cases:

Fiscal Year 2000-2001	\$2,719,826
Fiscal Year 1999-2000	3,234,723
Fiscal Year 1998-1999	2,574,955
Fiscal Year 1997-1998	2,250,896
Fiscal Year 1996-1997	1,774,236
Fiscal Year 1995-1996	1,212,848

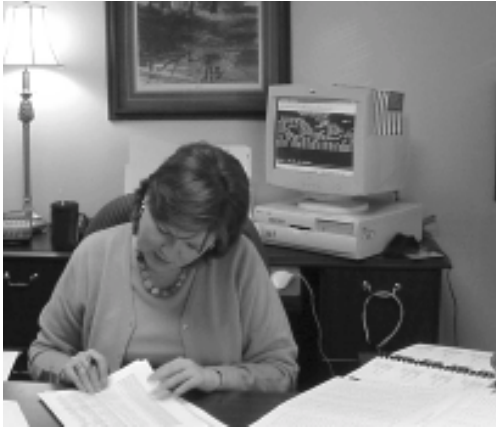
**TOTAL STATE BUDGET**

Fiscal Year 2000-01

Court System	- 0.43%
Higher Education	- 12.10%
Law, Safety & Corrections	- 5.11%
Transportation, Business & Economic Development	- 11.19%
General Government	- 3.96%
K-12 Education	- 18.33%
Resources/Regulations	- 3.47%
Health & Social Services	- 45.41%

## 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.



**Human Resources Manager Pam Taylor**

## Legal/Public Information Division

The Legal/Public Information Division of the AOC has a myriad of responsibilities ranging from website development and maintenance to drafting and monitoring court-related legislation. The division staffs 10 judicial conference and Supreme Court boards, committees and commissions and maintains documentation required under the Tennessee Open Appointments Act.

The division works with legal publishers on pattern jury instructions and court rules and also has responsibility for publications, including the *Annual Report of the Tennessee Judiciary*, the *Media Guide to Tennessee's Legal System*, *Judicus*, the *Criminal Justice Handbook*, *Presiding Judges Handbook* and the Rule 12 Report CD-ROM. A roster of Supreme Court Rule 13-qualified capital case attorneys is maintained and complaints to the Court of the Judiciary are processed by the Legal/Public Information Division. In addition, the staff handles requests for information from the media and the public and assists trial judges, as requested, with media arrangements for high-profile court proceedings.



**Webmaster Durwood Edwards**

Responses to surveys and statistical information requests are handled by the division and the staff assists judges, court clerks and AOC staff with legal research and advice. The division compiles and maintains monthly status reports on Tennessee capital cases.





## 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). (See project manager's update below). Another project is the new intranet server, implemented at the AOC.

The Judicial Information Tracking System (JITS) is performing well, a vast improvement over its predecessor. Efforts continue to enhance and refine the project, including the addition of an imaging component in 2001 allowing images of orders and judgments to be linked with their cases, simplifying the information retrieval.

The division continues to work with the TJIS system to improve data collection and reporting. The passage of 2001 Public Chapter 408 and an amendment to Supreme Court Rule 11 added additional notification and enforcement duties to the TJIS system effective July 1, 2001.

Over the coming year, Technology Services will be working to update software on several platforms, redesign 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.

### 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 AOC will request funding for the hardware replacement fund in the next legislative session.

The AOC TnCIS team and Local Government Data Processing team have made significant progress on the project. The planning/strategy phase was completed mid-2001, including the creation of a project schedule/estimated timeline and technical plans for training, telecommunications, testing and implementation. The preliminary design phase was to be completed in November 2001 with detail design beginning for general sessions courts, the first wave of functionality scheduled to be implemented. Most of 2002 will be spent evaluating prototypes, testing, and getting ready to implement the first TnCIS sites in 2003.

## Program Services

During 2001, Program Services - part of the Judicial Education and Program Services Division - supported statewide implementation of the Tennessee Parenting Plan law, including placing three coordinators, developing a program to help indigent parents gain access to education and mediation services, developing a web page and producing Spanish language versions of parenting plan forms. Also, Program Services encouraged continuing growth of Victim-Offender Reconciliation Programs (VORP's) and instituted a pilot appellate mediation program for workers' compensation cases.

Judges across the state have prepared local rules and conducted seminars to familiarize their staffs and local attorneys with the 2001 Parenting Plan law. The AOC provided a number of aids to judges and clerks, including a manual with detailed discussions of the law and sample forms for use by participants.

Information about the Parenting Plan law can be found on the AOC website at [www.tsc.state.tn.us](http://www.tsc.state.tn.us). It includes downloads of forms in English and Spanish, help in locating local parenting plan education providers and mediators and frequently asked questions.

In association with the Parenting Plan law, funds are available under Supreme Court Rule 38 to reimburse education providers and mediators for services to indigent parents. Also, the AOC, in concert with the legal services offices across the state, is making available pro bono mediation for parents who otherwise cannot afford the service.



The Parenting Plan was passed by the General Assembly on June 1, 2000, signed by the governor on June 14, 2000, and became effective on January 1, 2001.

## Education


The Education section of the division also had a successful year, with a total of nine educational conferences for the Tennessee Judicial Conference, General Sessions Judges Conference, Clerks Conference and Court Reporters Association. Attendance at the meetings totaled more than 1,500. Also during the year, the division coordinated a Tennessee Supreme Court SCALES Project in the 18th Judicial District with about 650 students and teachers participating.

---

### *Boards and Commissions*

*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.

**Tennessee Board of Law Examiners**  
706 Church Street, Suite 100  
Nashville, TN 37243-0740  
615-741-3234  
[www.state.tn.us/lawexaminers](http://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 2001, 544 law school graduates took the exam and 76.8 percent passed.

**Commission on Continuing Legal Education and Specialization**  
221 Fourth Avenue North  
Nashville, TN 37219  
615-741-3096 (CLE)  
[www.cleln.org](http://www.cleln.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 200,000 hours of CLE credit at over 4,400 CLE 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 2001, the fund paid out over \$25,000 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](mailto:tnlap@aol.com)

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 400 inquiries and referrals.