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# Message from the Chief Justice and Administrative Director

Dear Fellow Tennesseans,

It is with pleasure that we present the 2002-2003 Annual Report of the Tennessee Judiciary. The report contains information we hope you will find useful, including statistics on case filings and



Chief Justice Frank F. Drowota, III

dispositions, the names of judges and clerks in the appellate courts and each judicial district, information on awards in civil cases and much more.

Each year the annual report also has a special focus. This year we are taking you "Behind the Scenes" in the judicial branch. Television, movies and fictional literature may leave the impression that the court system is one-dimensional. And, indeed, the critical and visible work of judges, clerks, lawyers and others inside every courthouse is the heart and soul of the system. But there are many other functions performed to provide support and additional vital services. The



Director Cornelia A. Clark

Administrative Office of the Courts has wide-ranging responsibilities - including many mandated by law - that help make our courts function openly and efficiently to provide a justice system second-to-none.

In "Behind the Scenes," you will read about the AOC's diverse support team working with judges and clerks to maintain and continually improve the system we have inherited and others will inherit from us. From the Technology Division, which provides computer support for more than 1,400 court system personnel, to the Education Section, with its myriad of duties including overseeing educational conferences for judges and clerks, the AOC is an office in perpetual motion.

"There is created the Administrative Office of the Courts. The purpose of this office is to assist in improving the administration of justice in the state . . . "

**Tennessee Code Annotated** 

Those of us who are privileged to be part of the judicial branch are constantly reminded, as we perform our individual roles, what a remarkable system of justice the founders of our state created. Our pledge is to be faithful and diligent caretakers.

Sincerely,

Frank F. Drowota, III III amard F. Anort

Connie Clark Connie Clark



#### The AOC's Evolving Mission

The AOC, created by statute, provides an array of support services to the entire state court system. The director, who is appointed by the Tennessee 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

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**Deputy Director** 

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 reporter system; providing assistance to judicial committees; compiling data; and reviewing and disbursing funds to court-appointed attorneys, experts and foreign language interpreters appointed to assist indigents. Many of the responsibilities are mandated by the General Assembly, while others are based on necessity to help keep courts operating efficiently.

Duties are added as the court system evolves to serve a changing state and changing times. For example, in 2003, the number of officially certified and registered foreign language interpreters grew to 84 in five languages - Spanish, Arabic, Dutch, Bulgarian/Russian and Mandarin, reflecting Tennessee's increasing diversity. The standards for interpreters to become certified or registered are spelled out in Supreme Court rules, adopted in response to need in urban and rural courts across the state. The AOC's Court and Public Services Division (CAPS), working with the National Center for State Courts, tests interpreter applicants and maintains a roster of interpreters for judges.

The roster also is available on the court system website,

which is another AOC responsibility. The website - <u>www.tsc.state.tn.us</u> - includes information, forms, opinions and even a section for children and is maintained by a full-time webmaster. It is increasingly used as a resource, with nearly 36 million hits and 1.24 million visitors during 2003.



Staff Attorney Amy Frogge and Programs Manager Mary Rose Zingale

#### Executive Division

In addition to providing overall agency management and administration, the Executive Division's duties include staffing judicial commissions and conferences. Specifically, the division staffs the Judicial Selection Commission, the Judicial Council, the Tennessee Judicial Conference and the Tennessee General Sessions Court Judges' Conference. Judicial designations are coordinated through the Executive Division when it is appropriate for a judge assigned to a case to recuse himself or herself. The division also has primary responsibility for government and legislative relations and works on behalf of the judicial branch with associations and constituencies of the Tennessee bar.

#### Education and Training

With responsibilities including organizing and staffing 14 training sessions and educational conferences for judges, clerks, staff attorneys and others in the judicial system and coordinating four SCALES Projects involving nearly 2,000 high school students, the Education Section of the CAPS Division was moving at full speed in 2003.

The staff also helped with or oversaw other meetings and conferences dealing with topics as far afield as planning for disasters in the court system and providing equal access to justice for pro se - or self-represented - litigants. In addition, the Education Section and other AOC staff planned and participated in a national conference, Women Working in Corrections and Juvenile Justice.

Accounting Technician Debbie Hill Training is a vital part of the AOC's mission, not only for court system personnel, but also for Foster Care Review Boards, youth services officers, foster parents, attorneys, Department of Children's Services workers, juvenile judges and others involved in protecting children in state custody. Through the federally-funded Court Improvement Program, which is a part of CAPS, training was provided for nearly 600 individuals across the state. CIP either conducted or participated in another 19 trainings, including the state's first Methamphetamine Conference with 580 attendees.

#### Additional CAPS Responsibilities

The role of the CAPS Division is wide-ranging and also includes responsibility for the website, media relations, producing publications and administering the VORP Project, the Parenting Plan Program, the Judicial Evaluation Program and the Alternative Dispute Resolution Program. More than 150 mediators attended the ADR Commission's advanced mediation seminar in Nashville this year. Additionally, the legal section is part of the CAPS division, providing a variety of services from

#### **Tennessee Court Information System**

The Tennessee Court Information System (TnCIS) is a statutorilyauthorized 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.

2003 has been a busy year on the TnCIS project. The TnCIS staff worked on final design deliverables for Wave 1 – General Sessions only functionality. After those were completed, the team from Local Government started programming while the AOC team began preparations for testing. Loudon, Wilson and Madison counties were selected as pilot sites for Wave 1. The first pilot site is expected to be installed in the early Spring of 2004.

legal research to legislative tracking for the judicial system.

#### Technology in the Courts

Technology Services, another of the AOC's divisions, 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, as well as Tennessee Court Information System (TnCIS) project sites and the AOC. The staff also provides classes on court-supplied software and the help-desk assists court personnel with support issues.

Software upgrades were started in 2003 for the Judicial Information Tracking System (JITS). The updates are expected to enhance the system's performance. In addition, the division continued to improve the quality and accuracy of Tennessee Judicial Information System (TJIS) data.

To comply with legislation requiring the AOC to collect data from general sessions courts, the Technology Services Division established a limited data set that was implemented July 1 and is moving toward complete statistical data collection as funding allows.

Updated software was completed and put into operation for tracking court reporters and a needs analysis, workflow and specifications were developed for an improved indigent defense tracking system.

#### Human Resources

The employees who perform the multitude of tasks at the AOC, as well as all other judicial department employees, have their own behind-the-scenes support from the Human Resources Division. In 2003, the division - with help from the Technology Division - made a significant efficiency improvement with implementation of the Human Resources Information System (HRIS) to manage attendance and payroll hours. Using the computer-based system, employees enter their annual and sick leave, rather than submitting paper time sheets showing the number of hours they worked each day.

#### <u>Fiscal Services</u>

But none of the AOC divisions, and in fact, the entire court system, could operate without the Fiscal Services Division with its three major sections - accounting management, facilities management and office management. The work of the three groups within Fiscal Services affects all employees of the court system.

During fiscal year 2002-03, the division processed 66,269 indigent defense claims, entered at least 1.5 million lines of data into the overclaim database, audited and paid approximately 12,870 invoices and expense reports, processed approximately 460 journal vouchers, accounted for over 4,500 equipment items and deposited 2,300 checks.

The budget for fiscal year 2002-2003 was \$81,329,800, before supplemental appropriations, with total expenditures of \$84,462,673.

Appellate and Trial Courts	\$42,261,630	50.04%
Supreme Court Buildings	2,381,306	2.82%
Child Support Referees	987,395	1.17%
Guardian Ad Litem	1,662,036	1.97%
Indigent Defendants Counsel	16,897,986	20.01%
Civil Legal Representation Fund	3,327,900	3.94%
Verbatim Transcripts	3,400,103	4.03%
Law Libraries	570,774	0.68%
Judicial Conference	195,572	0.23%
Judicial Programs and Commissions	462,668	0.55%
State Court Clerks' Conference	172,975	0.20%
Administrative Office of the Courts	2,408,773	2.86%
TnCIS	4,944,300	5.85%
Appellate Court Clerk's Offices	1,680,808	1.99%
Board of Law Examiners	588,311	0.70%
Board of Professional Responsibility	1,886,363	2.23%
TN Lawyers' Assistance Program	217,401	0.26%
Continuing Legal Education	385,764	0.46%
Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection	30,588	0.04%
Total Expenditures	\$84,462,673	

The criminal indigent defense fund expended \$16,897,986 for fiscal year 2002-2003, including \$3,649,471 for capital cases. Listed below are the expenditures for the indigent defense fund and for capital cases for fiscal years 1997-98 through 2002-03:

Expenditures from the indigent defense fund:

Fiscal Year 2002	2-2003 \$	6 16,897,986
Fiscal Year 2001	1-2002	14,897,665
Fiscal Year 2000	)-2001	12,877,960
Fiscal Year 1999	9-2000	12,878,170
Fiscal Year 1998	8-1999	11,288,119
Fiscal Year 1997	7-1998	9,628,384

Expenditures from the indigent defense fund for capital cases:

Fiscal Year	2002-2003	\$ 3,649,471
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



Inventory Control Clerk Laura Hood



# 2003: Tornado, Storms Damage Jackson Building, Appellate Courts Move to New Home in Knoxville

Court buildings in Jackson and Knoxville were in the news during 2003. In May, the Tennessee Supreme Court Building in Jackson, which houses the Western Section Court of Appeals and Court of Criminal Appeals and where the Supreme Court meets, was heavily damaged by storms and tornados. The Madison County Criminal Justice Complex also was ravaged, forcing trial and general sessions judges to find temporary quarters. The courts were back in operation within days as judges heard cases in makeshift facilities ranging from a motel to the jail Clerks also made chapel. quick arrangements to provide services. Updated information for jurors, litigants and attorneys was posted on the court system website during the crisis.



Storm and tornado-ravaged Supreme Court Building in Jackson

On a brighter note, after outgrowing the cramped Supreme Court Building on Locust Street in Knoxville, the three appellate courts moved into spacious quarters in the historic downtown Post Office Building. Besides serving as a post office for many years, the building had housed U.S. District Court for 64 years.

The State Building Commission approved the move after nearly a decade of discussion and debate about possible sites to house the courts, clerk's office and legal library. The Supreme Court is mandated by the state Constitution to sit in Knoxville, Nashville and Jackson. The other appellate courts sit in panels of three to hear cases in the three locations.



Historic Post Office Building in Knoxville

The judicial branch leased 46,000 square feet from the building's owner, who used a \$500,000 historic preservation grant for renovations. The space includes a large courtroom on the second floor.

The courts, clerk's office and library, with about 50 employees, had 32,000 square feet in the former Supreme Court Building, which was in serious need of repairs.



# **Tennessee Courts**

## **Supreme Court**

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

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

Attorneys may present oral arguments before the Supreme Court. Oral arguments also are heard in the two intermediate appellate courts - the Court of Appeals and the Court of Criminal Appeals. After Supreme Court justices have heard oral arguments, if arguments are presented, and reviewed attorneys' briefs and records in the cases, 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 17-member Judicial Selection Commission interviews applicants and recommends three candidates to the governor, who appoints a new judge to serve until the next August general election.

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.

The Supreme Court also has administrative responsiblities relating to the entire court system and adopts rules to ensure that the judicial branch functions efficiently, effectively and fairly. Rules of the court can be found on the court system website at www.tsc.state.tn.us.



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.

In 1995, the Tennessee Supreme Court initiated its SCALES Program for high school students. SCALES, an acronym for the Supreme Court Advancing Legal Education for Students, is designed to educate young Tennesseans about the judicial system. The Supreme Court meets in communities across the state to hear oral arguments in actual cases. Students and their teachers attend the court sessions and also are provided, in advance, with materials explaining issues in the cases they will hear and also the judicial branch of government. In addition, their teachers attend professional development sessions where they receive notebooks of instructional materials to use in their classrooms. More than 11,500 students have participated in SCALES during the program's first nine years.

## **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) Charles Susano, W. Frank Crawford, Houston Goddard, William Koch, Jr., (from left, back row) Holly Kirby, Herschel P. Franks, Allen E. Highers, Michael D. Swiney, William Cain, David R. Farmer, Patricia J. Cottrell and Frank Clement, Jr.



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, Norma McGee Ogle, James Curwood Witt, Jr., Joe Riley, Thomas Woodall, John Everett Williams and Robert W. Wedemeyer.



*Circuit Court Judge Don Ash of Murfreesboro took office as president of the Tennessee Judicial Conference in June 2003 for a one-year term. The conference is made up of the state's trial and appellate court judges. Chancellor Steve Stafford of Dyersburg preceded Judge Ash as president. His successor, beginning in June 2004, is Circuit Court Judge John McLellan, III, of Kingsport.* 

By Circuit Court Judge Don Ash 16th Judicial District

It has been an extremely rewarding year for the Judiciary in Tennessee. We have accomplished many goals and have laid a beneficial foundation for Tennessee's court system for future years.

First, in a major effort to provide assistance to trial judges, a program has been initiated to send technological equipment to each judicial district. A portable evidence presenter, LCD projector and



Judge Don Ash

portable screen have been included in this technological package which will prove to be especially beneficial in jury trials. Training has already been provided at each judicial conference and there will be a longer program discussing its uses at the March Conference.

Second, with the help of Chancellor Skip Frierson, great strides have been made to create a Tennessee Judicial Family Institute. This program is designed to assist new judges and their families in the transition from attorney to judge. The TJFI will include programs such as ethics training and a mentoring program for spouses or significant others of members of the bench.

A website also will be created to assist judicial families.

The SCALES program has been well received across the state. Thousands of Tennessee high school students have learned about our court system through this important program. In almost every judicial district, outreach programs are taking place to educate the public about our jobs as judges and how our jobs are performed.

Efforts have been made to work with the Tennessee Lawyers Association of Women, Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association and the Tennessee Bar Association to coordinate the June 2004 conference in Nashville. There will be programs held in conjunction with each of these important groups and it should be a terrific meeting.

In closing, some of the finest men and women in this state serve as judges in Tennessee. They are dedicated to public service and improving the court system as well as educating their local communities about our branch of government. It is an honor to serve with these gifted individuals.

# Trial 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.

# Judiciary Experiences Losses, Adds New Faces in 2003

January 31 - Circuit Court Judge Allen Wallace retires in the 23rd Judicial District.

February 3 - Judge Allen Wallace becomes a senior judge. February 12 - Circuit Court Judge George Sexton is appointed in the 23rd Judicial District.

April 27 - Chancellor Joe Morris of the 26th Judicial District dies.

June 19 - Chancellor James F. Butler is appointed in the 26th Judicial District.

September 1 - Court of Appeals Judge Ben Cantrell retires.

September 8 - Criminal Court Judges Mark Fishburn and Monte Dwight Watkins are appointed to fill two newlycreated positions in the 20th Judicial District.

September 17 - Chancellors Richard Dinkins and Claudia Bonnyman are appointed to fill one newly-created position and a vacancy created by the retirement of Chancellor Irvin Kilcrease, Jr., in the 20th Judicial District.

September 17 - Court of Appeals Judge Frank Clement, Jr., is appointed.

October 1 - Chancellor Irvin Kilcrease, Jr., retires in the 20th Judicial District.

November 25 - Circuit Court Judge David "Randy" Kennedy is appointed in the 20th Judicial District to succeed former Circuit Court Judge Frank Clement, Jr.

December 13 - Senior Judge John K. Byers dies.



Chancellor Irvin Kilcrease, Jr., who retired from his 20th Judicial District seat effective Oct. 1, 2003, was recognized for his years of service by Attorney General Paul Summers (left) and Criminal Court Judge Cheryl Blackburn during a swearing-in ceremony for new judges.

#### 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 \*



Circuit Court Judge Marietta Shipley of Nashville was among participants in a 2003 Pro Se Summit sponsored by the Administrative Office of the Courts. The AOC received a \$20,000 State Justice Institute (SJI) grant for the summit to begin identifying barriers confronted by self-represented litigants in Tennessee.

**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

Jacqueline E. 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)

#### 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) \*

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, Trousdale & 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

#### **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 William 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



Chancellor Jeff Stewart of the 12th Judicial District attended the 2003 Tennessee Judicial Conference at Paris Landing State Park. The educational conferences are conducted by the AOC.

**19<sup>th</sup> 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)

**20<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT** Davidson County

#### CHANCERY COURT

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

#### CIRCUIT COURT

Hamilton Gayden, Jr. (Division I) Marietta M. Shipley (Division II) Barbara N. Haynes (Division III) Muriel Robinson (Division IV) Walter C. Kurtz (Division V) Thomas W. Brothers (Division VI) \* **David (Randy) Kennedy** (Division VII) Carol Soloman (Division VIII)

#### **CRIMINAL COURT**

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

**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) George Sexton

**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. Whitenton (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 James Butler \*

#### **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 (Part I) \*

CIRCUIT COURT Russell Lee Moore, Jr. (Part I)

**30<sup>th</sup> 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

**31**<sup>st</sup> **JUDICIAL DISTRICT** Van Buren & Warren counties

**CIRCUIT COURT & CHANCELLOR** Larry B. Stanley, Jr. \*

\* Presiding judge

# 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 (Died December 13, 2003) William H. Inman James L. Weatherford Allen Wallace



Circuit Court Judge Don Allen (left) and Chancellor James F. Butler (right) of the 26th Judicial District attended a 2003 disaster planning conference coordinated by the Administrative Office of the Courts. Speakers included Craig Waters, public information officer for the Florida Supreme Court.

# General Sessions Court Judges By County

#### Anderson County

Don A. Layton Ronald N. Murch

<u>Bedford County</u> Charles L. Rich

<u>Benton County</u> Clyde W. Watson

<u>Bledsoe County</u> Howard L. Upchurch

<u>Blount County</u> Hugh E. Delozier, Jr. William R. Brewer, Jr. William Terry Denton

<u>Bradley County</u> Andrew F. Bennett, Jr. Carrell Van Deacon, Jr.

Campbell County Joseph M. Ayers

<u>Cannon County</u> Susan Melton

Carroll County Larry J. Logan

<u>Carter County</u> John W. Walton

<u>Cheatham County</u> Phillip A. Maxey

<u>Chester County</u> Larry F. McKenzie

<u>Claiborne County</u> John D. McAfee

<u>Clay County</u> James D. White, Jr.

<u>Cocke County</u> John A. Bell <u>Coffee County</u> Jere Ledsinger Timothy R. Brock

<u>Crockett County</u> Shannon A. Jones

<u>Cumberland County</u> Steven C. Douglas

Davidson County Casey Moreland Gale B. Robinson Gloria A. Dumas John Aaron Holt John P. Brown Leon Ruben Andrei Ellen Lee Michael F. Mondelli

Sue McKnight Evans William Edward Higgins William Joseph Faimon

Decatur County Ricky L. Wood

<u>DeKalb County</u> Bratten Hale Cook, III

*Dickson County* Durwood G. Moore

<u>Dyer County</u> Charles V. Moore

*Fayette County* J. Weber McCraw

*Fentress County* Paul Crouch

<u>Franklin County</u> Floyd Don Davis

<u>Gibson County</u> James Webb <u>Giles County</u> John P. Damron

<u>Grainger County</u> Joe Wayne Wolfenbarger

<u>Greene County</u> Thomas J. Wright

*Grundy County* Earlene Y. Speer

<u>Hamblen County</u> 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

<u>Hancock County</u> Floyd W. (Bill) Rhea

<u>Hardeman County</u> Charles "Chip" Cary

*<u>Hardin County</u>* Daniel L. Smith

*Hawkins County* David L. Brand

<u>Haywood County</u> J. Roland Reid

<u>Henderson County</u> Robert Stevie Beal

<u>Henry County</u> Hansel J. McCadams

*<u>Hickman County</u>* Samuel H.Smith <u>Houston County</u> Sidney Vinson

*Humphreys County* Dan R. Bradley

Jackson County Steven Cassetty

<u>Jefferson County</u> Alfred B.Strand, Jr.

<u>Johnson County</u> William Bliss Hawkins

<u>Knox County</u> Bobby Ray McGee Brenda J. Waggoner Chuck Cerny, Jr. Geoffrey P. Emery Tony W. Stansberry

<u>Lake County</u> Danny Goodman, Jr.

*Lauderdale County* Janice C. Craig

*Lawrence County* Lee A. England

<u>Lewis County</u> Billy W. Townsend

Lincoln County Charles Crawford

<u>Loudon County</u> William H. Russell

<u>Macon County</u> Ken Witcher, Jr.

<u>Madison County</u> Christy R. Little Hugh H. Harvey, Jr. <u>Marion County</u> J. Clifford Layne

<u>Marshall County</u> Steve Bowden

<u>Maury County</u> George Logan Lovell J. Lee Bailey , III Jimmy E. Matthews

<u>McMinn County</u> James F. Watson

<u>McNairy County</u> Bob G. Gray

<u>Meigs County</u> Jayne Johnston-Crowley

<u>Monroe County</u> Edwin Cyrus Harris

<u>Montgomery County</u> Jack Hestle Ray Grimes Wayne C. Shelton

Moore County Donald J. Ray

<u>Morgan County</u> Michael A. Davis

<u>Obion County</u> Raymond Morris

<u>Overton County</u> John R. Officer

Perry County Clovis Parnell

<u>Pickett County</u> Ronnie Zachary

*Polk County* Billy D. Baliles <u>Putnam County</u> John P. Hudson Nolan R. Goolsby

<u>Rhea County</u> James W. McKenzie

<u>Roane County</u> Dennis W. Humphrey Thomas A. Austin

<u>Robertson County</u> Max D. Fagan

<u>Rutherford County</u> Ben Hall McFarlin, Jr. David Loughry

<u>Scott County</u> James L. Cotton, Jr.

*Sequatchie County* L. Thomas Austin

<u>Sevier County</u> 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

<u>Smith County</u> Mose Jackie Preston

<u>Stewart County</u> Gueary Andrew Brigham <u>Sullivan County</u>

Duane S. Snodgrass J. Klyne Lauderback Steven Hal Jones W.A. (Bill) Watson

<u>Sumner County</u> Barry R. Brown James Hunter

<u>*Tipton County*</u> William A. Peeler

<u>Trousdale County</u> Kenny Linville

<u>Unicoi County</u> David R. Shults

<u>Union County</u> Darryl W. Edmondson

*Warren County* Larry G. Ross

<u>Washington County</u> John L. Kiener Robert Lincoln

<u>Wayne County</u> James Yeiser Ross

<u>Weakley County</u> Thomas L. Moore, Jr.

*White & Van Buren counties* Sam Benningfield

<u>Williamson County</u> Alfred L. Nations Lonnie R. Hoover

<u>Wilson County</u>

Barry Tatum Robert P. Hamilton *Cecil Crowson* (retired) Appellate Court Clerk

*Michael Catalano* Appellate Court Clerk (effective Jan. 1, 2004)

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

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

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



Cecil Crowson (left), who joined the judicial branch in 1975 and became appellate court clerk in 1993, announced his retirement in 2003. Chief Justice Frank Drowota, III, (right) said, "His dedication to the judicial branch has been unwavering throughout his career with the courts." Michael Catalano was appointed by the Tennessee Supreme Court to succeed Crowson effective Jan. 1, 2004.

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.



Staff Clerk Tim Young

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 in which all appeals have been exhausted and the execution date has been set, all papers submitted to 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, and where matters before the Court of the Judiciary, Board of Law Examiners, Board of Professional Responsibility and certified questions of law from federal courts are heard. Also any petition for public response altering or amending the Rules is filed in the Middle Division.

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 Carl Shrewsbury

<u>Campbell County</u> Circuit Court Clerk Brenda Boshears Clerk and Master Bill Archer

<u>Cannon County</u> 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 Mathis Clerk and Master Charlotte McKeehan

<u>Cheatham County</u> Circuit Court Clerk Julie Womack Clerk and Master Pamela Jenkins

<u>Chester County</u> Circuit Court Clerk Keith Frye Clerk and Master Cornelia Hall

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

<u>Clay County</u> 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 Cristi Scott 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 Člerk** 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 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 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

#### <u>Johnson County</u>

**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 Kristi 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

**<u>Rhea County</u> Circuit Court Clerk** Regina Metts **Clerk and Master** John Fine Roane County Circuit Court Clerk Angela Randolph Clerk and Master Shannon Conley

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

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

Scott County Circuit Court Clerk 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 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 <u>Smith County</u> Circuit Court Clerk Paula Faye Lancaster Clerk and Master Dianna Dillehay

Stewart County Circuit Court Clerk Barbara Wallace Clerk and Master Jane Wallace

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

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

<u>Tipton County</u> 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 Beverly Tinker 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 Tina Shockley

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

<u>Wilson County</u> Circuit Court Clerk Linda Neal Clerk and Master Barbara Webb

#### 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, including \$1.7 million in FY 02-03. The board, an arm of the Tennessee Supreme Court, received 983 complaints from July 1, 2002, through June 30, 2003. There were three disbarments, 17 suspensions, 19 public censures, 45 private reprimands and 81 private admonitions. Another three attorneys were placed on disability inactive status. Complaints against attorneys dropped from the previous 12 month period, when the total was 1,171. The board's consumer assistance program has proven to be effective in resolving consumer concerns which do not rise to the level of serious ethical violations. In 2003, the program addressed 3,757 consumer concerns. There were 3,533 instances of informal mediation. There were also instances of referrals to other agencies, such as fee dispute committees, lawyer referral services or to disciplinary counsel when problems could not be quickly resolved by mediation.

#### 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 qualified attorneys previously licensed in other jurisdictions and administers the two-day bar examination in February and July to law school graduates. During fiscal year 2002-03, 843 law school graduates took the exam and 75 percent passed.

#### Commission on Continuing Legal Education & Specialization 221 Fourth Avenue North Nashville, TN 37219 615-741-3096 (CLE) <u>www.cletn.org</u>

The commission evaluates over 5,000 CLE courses across the country each year and records attendance at approved CLE courses for more than 15,000 Tennessee attorneys. The commission also makes sure that all Tennessee attorneys either meet the requirements of 12 hours of general and three hours of ethics/ professionalism CLE each year or are eligible for exemption. The CLE Commission oversees the mandatory continuing legal education requirements and certification of attorneys as specialists in 11 areas of the law.

#### 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 misappropriated funds. 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 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. From September 1999 through October 31, 2003, there were more than 942 inquiries and referrals.