

Annual Report of the Tennessee Judiciary

Fiscal Year 2006-2007



“Where Law Ends, Tyranny Begins”

William Pitt the Younger

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A Message from the Chief Justice & State Court Administrator

Dear Fellow Tennesseans,

It has been an exceptionally busy and productive year in the Tennessee Judicial System, not only in terms of caseloads in courtrooms across the state, but in many other areas as well. We are proud that so much has been accomplished to make the system better for its stakeholders - the people of Tennessee. This year's Annual Report of the Tennessee Judiciary highlights a few of those changes, programs and improvements.

For example, the Administrative Office of the Courts provided 40 hours of legal training on state and federal special education laws to help ensure that school systems are in compliance.



**Chief Justice
William M. Barker**

The five-day program, mandated by the General Assembly, included sessions conducted by national experts on special education legal issues. We are confident that this AOC program will benefit the state's 130,000 special education students.

Also, during 2007, the AOC's Education Department conducted nine educational conferences for judges and court clerks, in addition to 10 other educational programs, including a capital case seminar funded by the National Judicial College. Judges and staff attorneys who attended the capital case program gave it outstanding reviews and said it provided solid information they will use.

While we certainly hope we never use it, the appellate courts and appellate court clerk adopted a Continuity of Operations (COOP) Plan directing the day to day operations of the courts and the clerk's offices in the event of an emergency or disaster. The plan spells out alternative filing plans and office locations, as well as communications plans to ensure that essential functions could continue. The Administrative Office of the Courts also adopted a COOP Plan to ensure that administrative support for the judicial system could continue during and after an emergency, disaster or pandemic.

These are just a few examples of the many steps taken during the past year to provide the best judicial system possible for the people of Tennessee. We will continue to seek out initiatives to make what we consider a great system of justice even better.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William M. Barker". The signature is written in a cursive style.

**William M. Barker
Chief Justice**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Sykes". The signature is written in a cursive style.

**Elizabeth Sykes
Administrative Director**



**Administrative Director
Elizabeth Sykes**

The Year In Review: A Sampling of Achievements & Changes

Tennesseans of all ages and incomes, in all areas of the state, may benefit from dozens of judicial system initiatives, programs, achievements and changes during the past year. The administration of justice is far broader than the daily real-life dramas taking place in courtrooms. This is demonstrated by the following sampling of steps taken to ensure that Tennessee has the best system of justice possible inside its courthouses and beyond.

- Urban and rural counties shared \$2 million in state funds to add security equipment based on their needs. The AOC announced the awards in November 2007 to enhance courtroom security across the state. In addition to providing money for equipment, a portion of the \$2 million will be used for training courthouse security personnel. Grants totaling \$600,000 also were awarded for courthouse audio and video equipment, which has become increasingly essential in court proceedings.

- The Education Department of the AOC conducted nine major educational conferences during the year attended by hundreds of appellate, trial, general sessions and municipal judges and court clerks from across the state. In addition, a capital case seminar was conducted for judges, judicial system attorneys and law clerks. Funding for the seminar was provided by the National Judicial College in Nevada.

- The Supreme Court SCALES Project - an acronym for the Supreme Court Advancing Legal Education for Students - was conducted in two judicial districts and at Boys State during 2007. High school students attended oral arguments in actual cases which were heard in their communities. Teachers participating in the program attended an inservice training session where they were given notebooks of materials and handbooks for their students. A total of 1,576 students took part during the school year.

- The AOC provided 40 hours of legal training to administrative law judges, attorneys and mediators who are involved in ensuring that school systems comply with state and federal special education laws. Under a bill passed in 2007 by the General Assembly and signed into law by Gov. Phil Bredesen, all special education due process cases are heard by administrative law judges employed by the secretary of state. The law also mandated that training be provided by the AOC. The five-day program included sessions conducted by national experts on special education legal issues. About 130,000 Tennessee students qualify for special education services.

- Continuity of Operations (COOP) Plans were adopted by the three appellate courts, the appellate court clerk and the Administrative Office of the Courts. The plans detail how day-to-day operations of the courts and clerk's offices would continue in case of an emergency, disaster or pandemic. The AOC plan details how the office would provide administrative support to the judicial branch in an emergency.

- The AOC is an annual sub-recipient of a federal grant through the Tennessee Department of Human Services (DHS), Child Support Division. The grant is for establishing programs to support and facilitate noncustodial parents' access and visitation with their children. The state uses the funding to assist self-represented divorced and never married parents. Grants during 2006-07 have been awarded to agencies assisting parents who cannot afford to hire attorneys to help them resolve access and visitation issues.

- The AOC, with DHS, received a three-year federal grant to study how visitation and custody agreements might be developed to



The three appellate court clerk's offices in Knoxville, Nashville and Jackson processed more than 25,000 filings in FY 2006-07, including motions, briefs, orders and appellate court opinions.

reduce adversarial proceedings and increase financial security for children and their unmarried parents. The project is piloted in three judicial districts - the 11th, 20th, and 26th. The grant award for the three year period is about \$1 million. Unmarried parents often become embroiled in an adversarial legal process when a single parent files for welfare benefits, assigns child support rights to the state and the noncustodial parent faces orders to pay current and back support. The project will steer parents to community programs dealing with parent education, dispute resolution, counseling and others aimed at improving communication and relationships. The grant evaluation will be completed in 2009.

- The number of mediators qualified under Supreme Court Rule 31 exceeded 900 during the past year. Also in 2007, the 11-member Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission, established under Rule 31, held its fifth annual advanced mediation workshop at Vanderbilt Law School.

- During FY 2006-07, the AOC distributed \$150,000 to 10 Victim Offender Reconciliation (VORP) centers across the state, The VORP program was sanctioned by the General Assembly in 1993 with state funding distributed by the AOC. The centers provide services to the judiciary and community to help provide alternatives to the courts for resolution of felony, misdemeanor and juvenile delinquent disputes. During the fiscal year, the VORP centers received approximately 2,272 referrals for services and performed more than 1,451 mediation sessions.

- The AOC distributed \$298,233 to 13 programs during the fiscal year under the Tennessee Parenting Plan law, enacted in 2000. The funding supports court-ordered mediation, parenting education programs and related services to resolve family conflicts in divorce, post-divorce and other child custody matters. Under the statute, funded initiatives include

interpreters for no cost or reduced fee mediations, parenting plan coordinators, drug and alcohol testing, and mental health evaluations for indigent parents involved in visitation and custody issues before the court.

The Tennessee Parenting Plan law was adopted in recognition of “the fundamental importance of the parent-child relationship to the welfare of the child.” Two key elements are a minimum of four hours of mandatory parenting education and a very detailed written parenting plan. The emphasis is on keeping both parents involved in their children’s lives.

- The number of visitors to the court system website - www.tncourts.gov - continued to grow during the year. The site receives about 300,000 visitors a month, or 11,000 visitors per weekday. The average user looks at five pages per visit. The most popular pages are court opinions, rules of court, ethics and employment opportunities.

The website has undergone a number of changes in the past year including an easier-to-use public meetings calendar and a new survey to obtain comments and suggestions for improvements from its users.



The Finance Division of the Administrative Office of the Courts received, reviewed, audited and processed 94,462 indigent defense claims in FY 2006-2007.

Judicial System Budget 0.40 Percent of State Total

The judicial system budget for FY 2006-2007 was \$109,910,500, with total expenditures of \$108,368,300. The budget for courts and related services was 0.40 percent of the total state budget (see graph below). Nearly half of judicial branch expenditures - \$52,217,900 - was for appellate and trial courts across the state. The second largest single expenditure was \$20,748,800 for criminal indigent defense, including \$1,754,747 for capital cases, a decrease of \$680,238 from the previous fiscal year. The budget also provided funds for Supreme Court buildings, child support referees, guardians ad litem, the civil legal representation fund, transcripts, law libraries, educational conferences for judges and clerks, the Administrative Office of the Courts, judicial programs and commissions, the Appellate Court Clerk's Offices, the Board of Law Examiners, the Board of Professional Responsibility, the Tennessee Lawyers' Assistance Program, the Tennessee Commission on Continuing Legal Education & Specialization and the Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection.

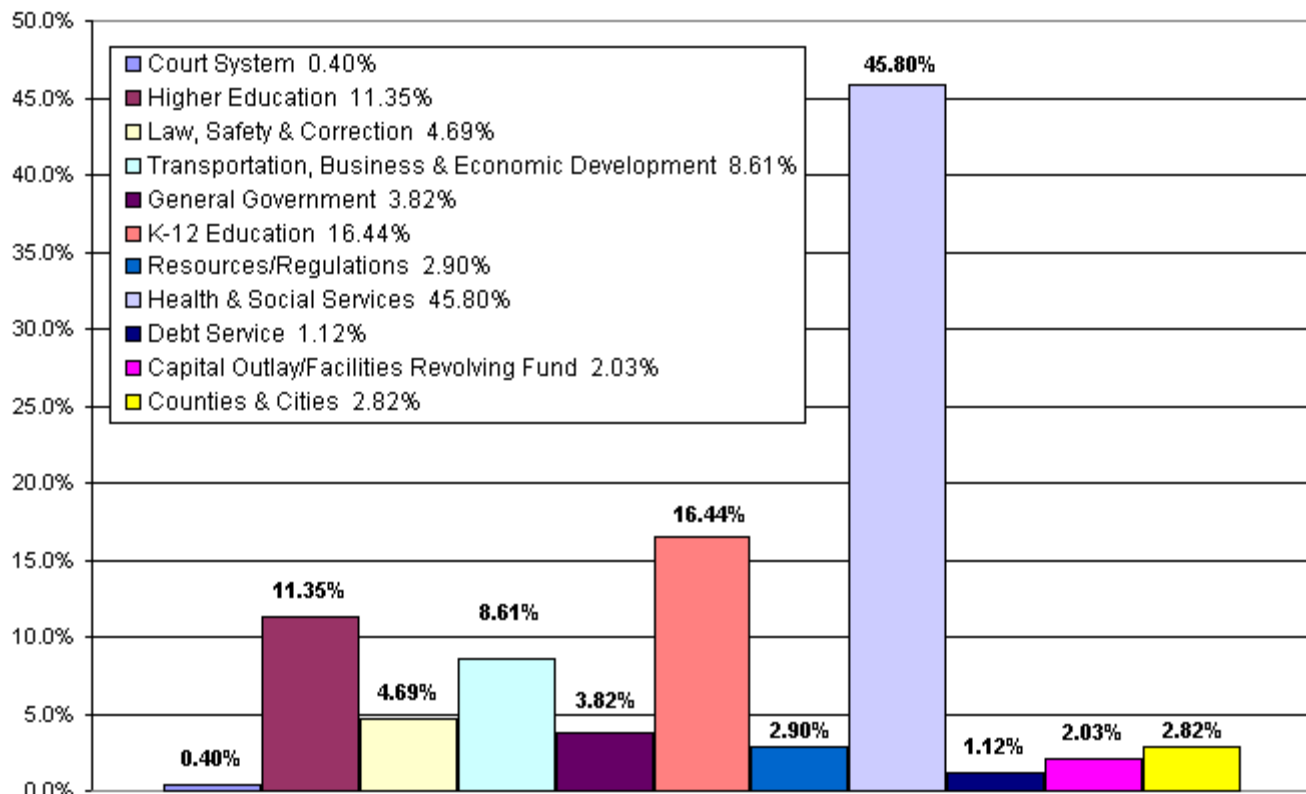
Indigent defense expenditures:

Fiscal Year 2006-2007	\$20,748,800
Fiscal Year 2005-2006	\$18,337,686
Fiscal Year 2004-2005	\$17,434,503
Fiscal Year 2003-2004	\$17,896,454
Fiscal Year 2002-2003	\$16,897,986
Fiscal Year 2001-2002	\$14,987,665
Fiscal Year 2000-2001	\$12,877,960

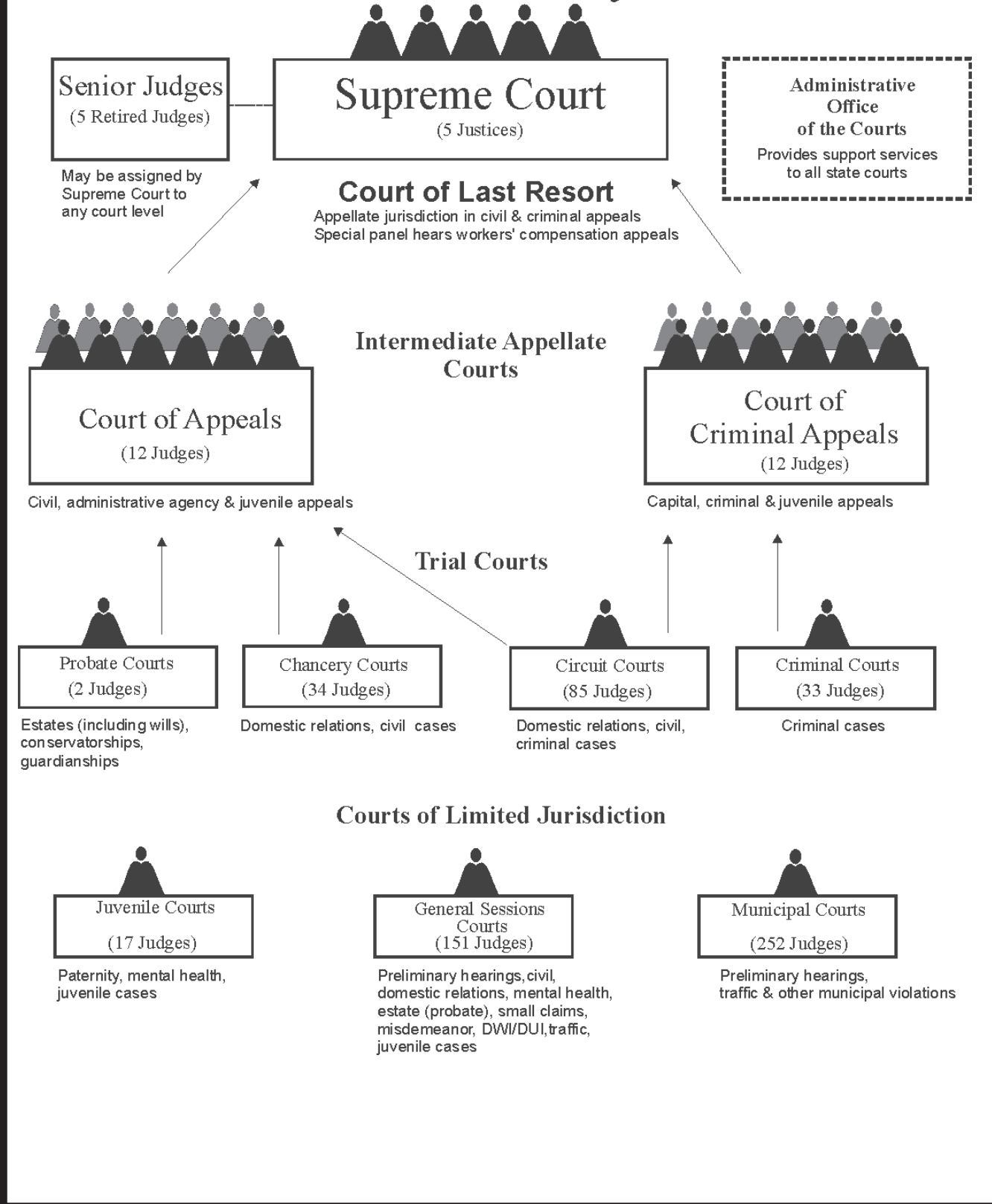
Indigent defense capital case expenditures:

Fiscal Year 2006-2007	\$1,754,747
Fiscal Year 2005-2006	\$2,434,985
Fiscal Year 2004-2005	\$2,541,961
Fiscal Year 2003-2004	\$2,826,388
Fiscal Year 2002-2003	\$3,649,471
Fiscal Year 2001-2002	\$3,014,000
Fiscal Year 2000-2001	\$2,719,636

Total State Budget
Fiscal Year 2006-07



Tennessee Judicial System



Tennessee Supreme Court

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

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

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

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

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



Members of the Tennessee Supreme Court are (seated) Chief Justice William M. Barker and (standing from left) Justices Gary R. Wade, who was appointed to the court in May 2006, Janice M. Holder, Cornelia A. Clark and William C. Koch, Jr., who was appointed in June 2007. The Supreme Court normally hears cases in Knoxville, Nashville and Jackson and sits "en banc," or as a whole.

Retired Supreme Court Chief Justice Charles O'Brien passed away January 18, 2007, at age 86. He served on the court from 1987 until his retirement in 1994. He previously served on the Court of Criminal Appeals and had been a member of the Tennessee General Assembly.

Intermediate Appellate Courts



Court of Appeals judges (seated from left) Charles D. Susano, Jr., William Frank Crawford, Herschel P. Franks, William C. Koch, Jr. (appointed to the Supreme Court June 15, 2007), Alan E. Highers, (standing from left) Patricia J. Cottrell, William Bryan Cain, who died on September 27, 2007, D. Michael Swiney, David R. Farmer, Frank G. Clement, Jr., Holly M. Kirby and Sharon G. Lee. Not pictured is Andy D. Bennett, who was appointed to the court on September 18, 2007.



Court of Criminal Appeals judges are (seated from left) Jerry L. Smith, David H. Welles, Presiding Judge Joseph M. Tipton, David G. Hayes, Thomas T. Woodall, (standing from left) D. Kelly Thomas, Jr., Robert W. Wedemeyer, Norma McGee Ogle, James Curwood Witt Jr., John Everett Williams, Alan E. Glenn and J.C. McLin.

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

Members of the Court of Appeals are appointed and elected under the same system as the Tennessee Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeals. The method of judicial selection is legislatively established for all three appellate courts.

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

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

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

A Message from the Tennessee Judicial Conference President

By Judge D. Kelly Thomas, Jr.
Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals

My father graduated from U.T. College of Law in 1949. He and my mom moved to Maryville where he hung his shingle. Dad told me his goal was to be known as an honest lawyer. In short, the honorable part of the honorable profession was not lost on him.



Judge D. Kelly Thomas, Jr.

I noticed that he never really laughed at lawyer jokes – a “heh, heh, heh” was about all you could get out of him. I asked him once why he did not laugh at lawyer jokes and he replied, “ I don’t think they’re funny.”

My point is, as was his, if we of the legal profession do not stand-up for one another, how can we expect the public to respect our profession?

This year has seen several significant events impacting the judiciary. Through the leadership of Governor Bredesen and the state’s legislature, our state is financially sound. Money has been provided in the judicial budget to improve courthouse security across our state and to provide video and other technological services to local courthouses.

Through the leadership of our Supreme Court, the citizens of Tennessee have expanded access to justice whether through the *Pro Bono* Project, improved physical access to courthouses through the Court Improvement Project, or the removal of language barriers through the Court Interpreters Program. In an effort to provide a more accurate picture of the distribution of judicial resources and caseloads statewide, an impressive 98 percent of our trial judges participated in a new Weighted Caseload Study. The results

show very few judicial districts with a significant difference between the number of judges needed and the number of judges employed. The outstanding participation also evidences the trial judges’ commitment to cooperate with other branches of state government with the common goal to maximize the efficient use of judicial resources.

The judges of Tennessee, with the support of the Administrative Office of the Courts, have the resources necessary to perform their duties in an exemplary fashion. Exceptional judicial performance is due and, I believe, is provided to the citizens of Tennessee.

In closing, allow me to return to my discussion of my dad, lawyer jokes, and professionalism. The actions of one judge are, in the eyes of the public, representative of all judges.

My hope is that the members of the judiciary of this state will continue to involve themselves in their communities in a manner that allows the citizens to see that their judges are of the highest caliber.

It is also my hope that all judges will be vigilant in upholding our Canons of Judicial Conduct and in monitoring their individual personal wellness. An otherwise honorable, fair judge who is not at peace is capable of acts that he or she may never imagine, bringing embarrassment to all in the legal profession. Our judicial conference is full of wonderful, capable and committed judges. We must continue to exhort each other to stand tall and serve well.

“Our judicial conference is full of wonderful, capable and committed judges. We must continue to exhort each other to stand tall and serve well.”

Judge Thomas is serving a one-year term as president of the Tennessee Judicial Conference, which includes all of the state’s appellate and trial court judges. His term began in June 2007.

Trial Judges by Judicial District

1st JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Carter, Johnson, Unicoi & Washington counties

Chancery Court

G. Richard Johnson

Circuit Court

Thomas J. Seeley, Jr. (Part I)

Jean A. Stanley (Part II)

Criminal Court

Lynn W. Brown

Robert E. Cupp

2nd JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Sullivan County

Chancery Court

E.G. Moody

Circuit Court

John S. McLellan, III (Part I)

R. Jerry Beck (Part II)

Criminal Court

Robert H. Montgomery, Jr.

3rd JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Greene, Hamblen, Hancock & Hawkins counties

Chancery Court

Thomas R. Frierson, II

Circuit Court

John K. Wilson (Part I)

Thomas J. Wright (Part II)

Kindall T. Lawson (Part III)

Criminal Court

John F. Dugger, Jr.

4th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Cocke, Grainger, Jefferson & Sevier counties

Chancery Court

Telford E. Forgety, Jr.

Circuit Court

Ben W. Hooper, II (Part I)

Richard Robert Vance (Part II)

Rex Henry Ogle (Part III)

O. Duane Slone (Part IV)

5th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Blount County

Chancery Court

Telford E. Forgety, Jr.

Circuit Court

W. Dale Young (Part I)

Michael H. Meares (Part II)

6th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Knox County

Chancery Court

John F. Weaver (Part I)

Daryl R. Fansler (Part II)

Michael Moyers (Part III)

Circuit Court

Dale Workman (Division I)

Harold Wimberly, Jr. (Division II)

Wheeler A. Rosenbalm (Division III)

Bill Swann (Division IV)

Criminal Court

Richard R. Baumgartner (Division I)

Kenneth F. Irvine, Jr. (Division II)

Mary Beth Leibowitz (Division III)

7th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Anderson County

Chancery Court

William E. Lantrip

Circuit Court

Donald R. Elledge

8th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Campbell, Claiborne, Fentress, Scott & Union counties

Chancery Court

Billy Joe White

Circuit Court

John D. McAfee

Criminal Court

E. Shayne Sexton

9th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Loudon, Meigs, Morgan & Roane counties

Chancery Court

Frank V. Williams, III

Circuit Court

Russell E. Simmons, Jr.

Criminal Court

E. Eugene Eblen

10th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Bradley, McMinn, Monroe & Polk counties

Chancery Court

Jerri Bryant

Circuit Court

Larry H. Puckett (Part I)
John B. Hagler, Jr. (Part II) (retired 12-31-07)
Carroll Lee Ross (Part III)

Criminal Court

Amy F. Reedy

11th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Hamilton County

Chancery Court

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

Circuit Court

Jacqueline E. Bolton (Division I)
Jeff Hollingsworth (Division II)
L. Marie Williams (Division III)
W. Neil Thomas, III (Division IV)

Criminal Court

Barry A. Steelman (Division I)
Rebecca J. Stern (Division II)
Don Wayne Poole (Division III)

12th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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

Chancery Court

Jeffrey F. Stewart

Circuit Court

Thomas W. (Rusty) Graham (Part I)
J. Curtis Smith (Part II)
Buddy D. Perry (Part III)

13th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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

Chancery Court

Ronald Thurman

Circuit Court

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

Criminal Court

Leon C. Burns, Jr. (Division I)
David Patterson (Division II)

14th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Coffee County

Circuit Court

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

15th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Jackson, Macon, Smith, 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

Senior Judges

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

*Jon Kerry Blackwood
Jerry Scott
Allen W. Wallace
Donald Paul Harris*

16th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Cannon & Rutherford counties

Chancery Court

Robert E. Corlew, III

Circuit Court

J. Mark Rogers (Part I)

James K. Clayton, Jr. (Part II)

Don R. Ash (Part III)

Royce Taylor (Part IV)

17th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Bedford, Lincoln, Marshall & Moore counties

Chancery Court

James B. (J. B.) Cox

Circuit Court

Robert Crigler (Part I)

Lee Russell (Part II)

18th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Sumner County

Chancery Court

Thomas E. Gray

Circuit Court

C. L. (Buck) Rogers

Criminal Court

Dee David Gay

19th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Montgomery & Robertson counties

Chancery Court

Laurence M. (Larry) McMillian, Jr.

Circuit Court

Ross H. Hicks (Part I)

Mike Jones (Part II)

John H. Gasaway, III (Part III)

20th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Davidson County

Chancery Court

Claudia Bonnyman (Part I)

Carol McCoy (Part II)

Ellen Hobbs Lyle (Part III)

Richard Dinkins (Part IV) (Appointed to COA 1-11-08)

Circuit Court

Hamilton Gayden, Jr. (Division I)

Amanda McClendon (Division II)

Barbara N. Haynes (Division III)

Muriel Robinson (Division IV)

Walter C. Kurtz (Division V)

Thomas W. Brothers (Division VI)

David (Randy) Kennedy (Division VII)

Carol Soloman (Division VIII)

Criminal Court

Steve R. Dozier (Division I)

J. Randall Wyatt, Jr. (Division II)

Cheryl A. Blackburn (Division III)

Seth W. Norman (Division IV)

Monte Watkins (Division V)

Mark Fishburn (Division VI)

21st JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Hickman, Lewis, Perry & Williamson counties

Circuit Court

Robbie T. Beal (Division I)

Robert E. Lee Davies (Division II)

Jeffrey S. Bivins (Division III)

Timothy Easter (Division IV)

22nd JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Giles, Lawrence, Maury & Wayne counties

Circuit Court

Jim T. Hamilton (Part I)

Robert Holloway (Part II)

Robert L. (Bob) Jones (Part III)

Stella L. Hargrove (Part IV)

23rd JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Cheatham, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys
& Stewart counties

Circuit Court

Robert E. Burch (Division I)

Larry J. Wallace (Division II)

George C. Sexton (Division III)

24th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Benton, Carroll, Decatur, Hardin & Henry counties

Chancery Court

Ron E. Harmon

Circuit Court

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

25th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Fayette, Hardeman, Lauderdale, McNairy & Tipton counties

Chancery Court

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

Circuit Court

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

26th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Chester, Henderson & Madison counties

Chancery Court

James F. Butler

Circuit Court

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

27th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Obion & Weakley counties

Chancery Court

W. Michael Maloan

Circuit Court

William B. Acree, Jr.

28th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Crockett, Gibson & Haywood counties

Chancery Court

George R. Ellis

Circuit Court

Clayburn Peoples

29th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Dyer & Lake counties

Chancery Court

J. Steven Stafford

Circuit Court

Russell Lee Moore, Jr.

30th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Shelby County

Chancery Court

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

Circuit Court

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

Criminal Court

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

Probate Court

Robert Benham
Karen D. Webster

31st JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Van Buren & Warren counties

Circuit & Chancery Court

Larry B. Stanley, Jr.

General Sessions & Juvenile Court Judges

Anderson County *

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

Bedford County

Charles L. Rich

Benton County

Ronald Darby

Bledsoe County

Howard L. Upchurch

Blount County

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

Bradley County

Sheridan C. Randolph
Daniel R. Swafford

Campbell County

Joseph M. Ayers

Cannon County

Susan Melton

Carroll County

Larry J. Logan

Carter County

John W. Walton

Cheatham County

Phillip A. Maxey

Chester County

Larry F. McKenzie

Claiborne County

Robert M. Estep

Clay County

James D. White, Jr.

Cocke County

John A. Bell

Coffee County

Jere Ledsinger
Timothy R. Brock

Crockett County

Paul B. Conley, III

Cumberland County

Larry Warner

Davidson County *

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

Decatur County

Ricky L. Wood

DeKalb County

Bratten Hale Cook, III

Dickson County *

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

Dyer County

Tony Childress

Fayette County

Mike Whitaker

Fentress County

Todd Burnett

Franklin County

Thomas C. Faris

Gibson County *

James Webb

Robert W. Newell (Juvenile Court)

Giles County

John P. Damron

Grainger County

Joe Wayne Wolfenbarger

Greene County

Kenneth N. Bailey, Jr.

Grundy County

William R. (Trey) Anderson, III

Hamblen County *

Janice Snider

Joyce Mills Ward

Mindy Norton Seals (Juvenile Court)

Hamilton County *

Christie M. Sell (Division I)

David Bales (Division II)

Clarence E Shattuck, Jr. (Division III)

Ronald W. Durby (Division IV)

Robert L. Moon, Jr. (Division V)

Suzanne Bailey (Juvenile Court)

Hancock County

Floyd W. (Bill) Rhea

Hardeman County

Charles (Chip) Cary

Hardin County

Daniel L. Smith

Hawkins County *

David L. Brand

James F. (Jay) Taylor (Juvenile Court)

Haywood County

J. Roland Reid

Henderson County

Robert Stevie Beal

Henry County

Vicki S. Snyder

Hickman County

Samuel H. Smith

Houston County

William S. Vinson, III

Humphreys County *

Dan R. Bradley

Anthony L. Sanders (Juvenile Court)

Jackson County

Tiffany Gentry Gipson

Jefferson County

Alfred B. Strand, Jr.

Johnson County

William Bliss Hawkins

Knox County *

Chuck Cerny, Jr. (Division I)

Geoffrey P. Emery (Division II)

Bobby Ray McGee (Division III)

Andrew Jackson, VI (Division IV)

Tony W. Stansberry (Division V)

Timothy E. Irwin (Juvenile Court)

Lake County

Danny Goodman, Jr.

Lauderdale County *

Janice C. Craig

Rachel Anthony (Juvenile Court)

Lawrence County

Patricia McGuire

Lewis County

Billy W. Townsend

Lincoln County

N. Andy Myrick, Jr.

Loudon County

William H. Russell

Macon County

Ken Witcher, Jr.

Madison County

Christy R. Little
Hugh H. Harvey, Jr.

Marion County *

Marshall A. (Mark) Raines, Jr.
Ronnie J. Blevins, II (Juvenile Court)

Marshall County

Steve Bowden

Maury County

George Logan Lovell
J. Lee Bailey, III
Bobby Sands

McMinn County

James F. Watson

McNairy County

Van. D. McMahan

Meigs County

Jayne Crowley

Monroe County

J. Reed Dixon

Montgomery County

Jack Hestle
Ray Grimes
Wayne C. Shelton

Moore County

Terry Gregory

Morgan County

Michael A. Davis

Obion County *

Raymond Morris
Sam C. Nailling, Jr. (Juvenile Court)

Overton County

John R. Officer

Perry County

Tommy E. Doyle

Pickett County

Ronnie Zachary

Polk County

Billy D. Baliles

Putnam County

John P. Hudson
Nolan R. Goolsby

Rhea County

James W. McKenzie

Roane County

Dennis W. Humphrey
Jeffery H. Wicks

Robertson County

Burton D. Glover

Rutherford County *

Ben Hall McFarlin, Jr.
David Loughry
Larry Douglas Brandon
Donna Scott Davenport (Juvenile Court)

Scott County

James L. Cotton, Jr.

Sequatchie County

L. Thomas Austin

Sevier County

Dwight E. Stokes
Jeff D. Rader

Shelby County *

Lynn Cobb (Division I)
Phyllis B. Gardner (Division II)
John A. Donald (Division III)
Deborah Means Henderson (Division IV)
Betty Thomas Moore (Division V)
Lonnie Thompson (Division VI)
Ann Lucas Pugh (Division VII)
Tim James Dwyer (Division VIII)
Joyce Broffitt (Division IX)
Anthony Johnson (Division X)
Karen Lynne Massey (Division XI)
Gwen Rooks (Division XII)
Louis J. Montesi, Jr. (Division XIII)
Larry E. Potter (Division XIV)
Loyce Lambert Ryan (Division XVI)
Curtis Person, Jr. (Juvenile Court)

Smith County

David Bass

Stewart County

Gueary Andrew Brigham

Sullivan County *

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

Sumner County

Barry R. Brown
James Hunter

Tipton County

William A. Peeler

Trousdale County

Kenny Linville

Unicoi County

David R. Shults

Union County

Darryl W. Edmondson

Warren County

Larry G. Ross

Washington County *

Robert Lincoln
James A. Nidiffer
Sharon Green (Johnson City Juvenile Court)

Wayne County

James Yeiser Ross, Sr.

Weakley County *

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

White & Van Buren Counties

Sam Benningfield

Williamson County

Alfred L. Nations
E. Denise Andre

Wilson County

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

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

Municipal Court Judges

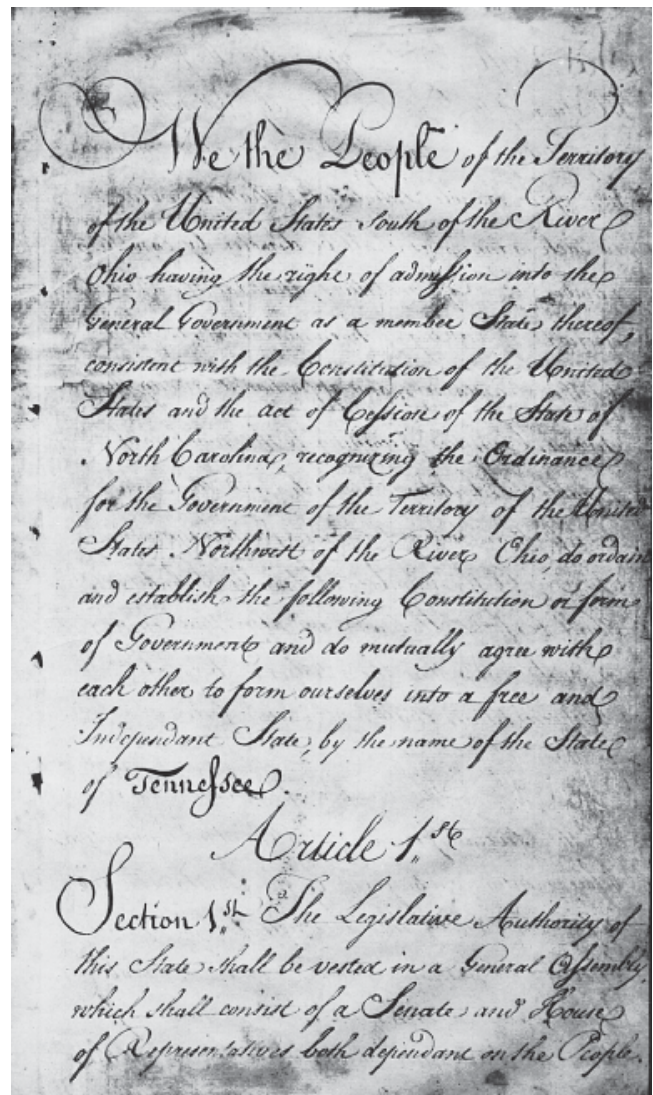
Adamsville	Terry L. Wood	Collegedale	Kevin B. Wilson
Alamo	Robert G. McLean	Collierville	William Craig Hall
Alcoa	H. Allen Bray	Columbia	Thomas DuBois, Jr.
Alexandria	Brody N. Kane	Cookeville	David W. Ledbetter
Algood	Jeffrey M. Bass	Coopertown	Earl J. Porter, Jr.
Ardmore	Joseph F. Fowlkes	Cornersville/Petersburg	M. Quinn Brandon
Ashland City	James W. Stinnett, Jr.	Cowan	Becky Sherman
Athens/Englewood/ Niota	Donald B. Reid	Cross Plains	Chip Hellman
Atoka/Mason/Munford	David L. Douglas	Cross Plains	Melanie Stark
Baileyton/Greeneville/ Tusculum	Linda Thomas-Woolsey	Crossville	Thomas L. Bean
Baneberry/Dandridge	Rebecca D. Slone	Crump	Leslie W. Creasy
Bartlett	Freeman C. Marr	Cumberland Gap	vacant
Bartlett	George D. McCrary, III	Dayton	William McPheeters
Baxter	David Craig Bush	Decatur	J. Shannon Garrison
Bean Station/Blaine	Robert C. Edwards	Decherd	David Keller
Belle Meade	William L. Brooks	Dickson	J. Reese Holley
Bells	Harold C. Craig	Dover	Marlin L. Blane
Benton	Carl F. Petty	Dresden/Gleason	Thomas L. Moore, Jr.
Berry Hill	Larry D. Cantrell	Dunlap	M. Keith Davis
Bethel Springs	Ken Seaton	Dyersburg	Dean P. Dedmon
Big Sandy/Camden	Ronald E. Darby	Eagleville	Andrew L. Messick
Bluff City	Michael E. Large	East Ridge	Arvin H. Reingold
Bolivar	Catherine Hornsby	Elizabethton	T. J. Little, Jr.
Bradford	Jimmy Merrell	Elkton	M. Andrew Hoover
Brentwood	Thomas W. Schlater	Erin	Roland Roby
Brighton/Covington	Elizabeth B. Ziarko	Erwin	Randy Trivette
Bristol	Shelton B. Hillman, Jr.	Estill Springs/Winchester	Trudy Edwards
Brownsville	James S. Haywood	Ethridge	Christopher Sockwell
Bruceton/Clarksburg	Dwayne D. Maddox, III	Etowah	E.L. Parker, III
Burns	David B. Brogdon	Fairview/Franklin	Murray T. Taylor, Jr.
Calhoun	Robert Sherwood	Farragut	Jerry M. Martin
Carthage	Randell D. Wakefield	Fayetteville	J. Rhea Thompson
Carthage/Gordonsville	Richard M. Brooks	Friendship	Casey Burnett
Caryville	Elizabeth C. Asbury	Gadsden	Tommy A. Smith
Celina	Hershel Lacy	Gainesboro	Lee G. Richardson
Centerville	Jim Rice	Gallatin	Connie W. Kittrell
Chapel Hill	William M. Haywood	Gallaway	R. Price Harris
Charleston	Robert B. Wilson, III	Gates	Scott A. Lovelace
Chattanooga	Russell J. Bean	Gatlinburg	Jerry H. McCarter
Chattanooga	Sherry Paty	Germantown	Robert M. Brannon, Jr.
Church Hill	Allen J. Coup	Germantown	Raymond S. Clift, Jr.
Clarksville	Charles W. Smith	Gibson	James Waddell
Cleveland	Bill B. Moss	Goodlettsville	William Fred Lee
Clifton/Collinwood	James Y. Ross, Sr.	Grand Junction/La Grange	Russell X. Thompson
Clinton	Michael S. Farley	Graysville/Spring City	L. Darren Gibson
		Greenbrier	William R. Underhill
		Halls/Trimble	Marianna Williams
		Harriman	Charles J. Crass

Henderson	Charles E. Patterson	Martin/Sharon/South Fulton	Langdon Unger, Jr.
Hendersonville	Curtis M. Lincoln	Maryville	William D. Yarborough
Henning/Ripley	Herman Reviere	Mauzy City	Rayce Castellaw
Henry	Michael L. Ainley	Maynardville	Bruce Williams
Henry	Vicki H. Hoover	McEwen/Waverly	Dan R. Bradley
Hohenwald	Billy W. Townsend	McKenzie/Trezevant	Matthew M. Maddox
Hollow Rock	Laura A. Keeton	McMinnville	Timothy L. Reed
Hornbeak/Union City	H. Allen Nohsey	Medina	Jerry Spore
Hornsby	Harriet Sue Thompson	Memphis	Jayne R. Chandler
Humboldt	Harold R. Gunn	Memphis	Earnestine H. Dorse
Huntingdon	Marsha W. Johns	Memphis	Tarik B. Sugarmon
Huntland	Raymond Ferguson	Middleton/Whiteville	Chas. M. Cary
Jacksboro	Robert R. Asbury	Milan	W. Collins Bonds
Jackson	Blake J. Anderson	Millersville	John H. Lowe
Jamestown	Sarah Ann Threet	Millington	A. Wilson Wages
Jasper	J. Clifford Layne	Minor Hill	Samuel B. Garner, Jr.
Jefferson City	W. Keith Repass	Monteagle	Dorothy Buck
Jellico	Don R. Moses	Monterey	vacant
Johnson City	William Mooney	Morrison	John Partin
Johnson City	Stan Widener	Morristown	W. Douglas Collins
Jonesborough	John C. Rambo	Moscow	Arthur Druien, Jr.
Kenton	Charles Crouson	Moscow	Joel A. Pace
Kimball/South Pittsburg	William L. Gouger	Mount Carmel	Terry Risner
Kingsport	J. Robert Boatright	Mount Juliet	John T. Gwin
Kingston	Brenda Hall McDonald	Mount Pleasant	Barton E. Kelley
Knoxville	John R. Rosson, Jr.	Mountain City	Terry Reece
Lafayette	James W. Chamberlain	Murfreesboro	Ewing Sellers
LaFollette	Wesley Lynn Hatmaker	Nashville	Angelita B. Dalton
Lake City	Brian J. Hunt	Nashville	Gloria A. Dumas
Lakesite	Arnold A. Stulce, Jr.	Nashville	Daniel Eisenstein
Lakewood	Dan R. Alexander	Nashville	Sue McKnight Evans
LaVergne	Guy Dotson, Jr.	Nashville	Wm. E. "Bill" Higgins
Lawrenceburg	Ben Boston	Nashville	John Aaron Holt
Lawrenceburg	Ryan P. Durham	Nashville	Michael F. Mondelli
Lebanon	James H. Flood	Nashville	Casey Moreland
Lenoir City	Terry Vann	Nashville	Gale B. Robinson
Lewisburg	Roger E. Brandon	Nashville	Leon Ruben
Lexington	Mary Jowers	Nashville	Edward S. Ryan
Linden	Donald Schwendimann	Nashville	Dianne Turner
Lobelville	Tommy E. Doyle	New Johnsonville	Joseph Hornick
Livingston	Kelly R. Williams	New Market	Max Stiner
Lookout Mountain	W. B. "Brad" Weeks	New Tazewell	Hershel Beeler
Loretto	W. Charles Doerflinger	Newbern	Jason Hudson
Loudon	John O. Gibson	Newport	J. William Myers
Lynnville	vacant	Nolensville	James D. Petersen
Madisonville	Ted Cagle	Norris	Bradley H. Hodge
Manchester	Gerald L. Ewell, Jr.	Norris	Eric W. Rauch

Oak Ridge	Robert A. McNees, III
Oakland/Piperton	James P. Gallagher
Obion/Samberg/Troy	Sam C. Nailling, Jr.
Oliver Springs	Joseph H. Van Hook
Oneida	Harold G. Jeffers
Paris	David F. Hessing
Parkers Cross Roads	Jack S. Hinson
Parsons/Scotts Hill	J. Michael Ivey
Pegram	H. Reid Poland, III
Pegram/Pleasant View	Gregory D. Smith
Pigeon Forge	David W. Webb
Pikeville	Edward L. Boring
Pittman Center	A. Randolph Sykes
Plainview	Byron Bryant
Portland	Steven F. Glaser
Pulaski	Rogers N. Hays
Puryear	Paul D. Hessing
Red Bank	Johnny D. Houston
Red Boiling Springs	Jim Roark
Ridgely	Billy Gray
Ridgetop	G. Wayne Detring
Rockford	Norman Newton
Rockwood	Greg Leffew
Rogersville	William H. Lyons
Rutherford	Pamela H. Flowers
Rutledge	Robert M. Burts
Saint Joseph	Paul B. Plant
Savannah	Nan Barlow
Selmer	Bill W. Webb
Sevierville	Lanning P. Wynn
Shelbyville	John T. Bobo
Signal Mountain	Mark G. Rothberger
Smithville	J. Hilton Conger
Smyrna	Keta J. Barnes
Sneedville	Patricia Johnson
Soddy-Daisy	David W. Norton
Sparta	William D. Mitchell
Spring Hill	Huntly Gordon
Spring Hill	S. Jason Whatley, Sr.
Springfield	Gary Dilliha
Surgoinville	C. Christopher Raines, Jr.
Sweetwater	Peter Alliman
Tazewell	Douglas Harbin
Tellico Plains	Dwaine B. Thomas
Tennessee Ridge	Woodrow J. Adams
Tiptonville	Danny Cook
Townsend	Christopher R. Ralls

Tracy City/Whitwell
Trenton
Tullahoma
Vonore
Walden
Wartrace
Watauga
Watertown
Waynesboro
Westmoreland
White Bluff
White House
White Pine
Winfield
Woodbury
Yorkville

Marshall A. Raines, Jr.
J. Mark Johnson
James F. Conley
Thomas B. Moser
Herbert Thornbury
Ginger Bobo Shofner
Richard Norris
Robert Evans Lee
Robert C. Turman
Jade Rogers Maberry
William R. Hamilton
Susan Kay Johnson
Sandra K. Smith
Leif E. Jeffers
Richard A. Northcutt
Mike Welch



This is the first page of Tennessee's first Constitution, adopted February 6, 1796, and effective June 1, 1796, upon Tennessee's admission by Congress to statehood.

Appellate & Trial Court Clerks



The Supreme Court Building in Nashville houses the Appellate Court Clerk's Office, a Supreme Court Library, offices and a courtroom where the three appellate courts hear cases. Libraries also are located in the Supreme Court Buildings in Knoxville and Jackson, serving as resources for judges, lawyers and the public. The three law libraries have a total of about 125,000 volumes and, in Nashville, some material is available on CD. Also in Nashville, the library has computer terminals for patrons to use.

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

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

Circuit Court clerks, elected in each county

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

Michael Catalano
Appellate Court Clerk

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

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

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

Court Clerks by County

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

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

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

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

Blount County
Circuit Court Clerk
Tom Hatcher
Clerk and Master
Brenda Flowers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cocke County
Circuit Court Clerk
Peggy Lane
Clerk and Master
Craig Wild
**General Sessions/Juvenile
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
Nancy Evans

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fentress County
Circuit Court Clerk
Tammy Smith
Clerk and Master
Kathryn R. Taylor

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

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

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

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

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

Grundy County
Circuit Court Clerk
Marcia Bess
Clerk and Master
Phyllis Dent

Juvenile Court Clerk
Jimmy Rogers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Henderson County
Circuit Court Clerk
Beverly Dunaway
Clerk and Master
Leigh Milam
Juvenile Court Clerk
Sheila Todd

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Madison County
Circuit Court Clerk
Judy Barnhill

Clerk and Master
Pam Carter
Juvenile Court Clerk
Bart Swift

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Juvenile Court Clerk
Steve Stamson

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

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

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

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

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

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

Unicoi County
Circuit Court Clerk
Tracie Pate
Clerk and Master
Teresa W. Simerly

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

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

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

Washington County
Circuit Court Clerk
Karen Guinn
Clerk and Master
Brenda Sneyd
Juvenile Court Clerk
Charlene Davenport

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

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

White County
Circuit Court Clerk
Beverly Templeton
Clerk and Master
Lynda K. McCoy

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

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

Court-Related Boards & Commissions

Board of Professional Responsibility

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

In FY 2006-2007, the board's Consumer Assistance Program handled 4,380 complaints against attorneys that did not rise to the level of ethical violations. The board has 176 formal disciplinary complaints pending and opened 1,309 investigations, an increase of more than 32 percent over the prior year. Tennessee attorneys, and out-of-state lawyers seeking *pro hac vice* admission, have contributed \$30.6 million in annual assessments to finance the board's programs.

Tennessee Court of the Judiciary

The 16-member Court of the Judiciary investigates complaints of judicial misconduct against Tennessee judges and disciplines those who are found in violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct. In FY 2006-2007, the court received 330 complaints. All complaints are reviewed and, when appropriate, prosecuted by the court's disciplinary counsel.

Continuing Legal Education & Specialization

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

In 2007, \$1.2 million in excess fees and penalties collected from attorneys were awarded to organizations statewide based on grant proposals. The grants, ranging from \$10,000 to \$355,806, were approved by the Supreme Court.

Tennessee Board of Law Examiners

The Board of Law Examiners governs the examination and admission of attorneys applying to practice law in Tennessee. The board, with a staff of four, admits qualified attorneys previously licensed in other jurisdictions and administers the two-day bar examination in February and July to law school graduates. During FY 2006-2007, 965 law school graduates took the exam and 71.3 percent passed.

Tennessee Lawyer Assistance Program

Tennessee Lawyer Assistance Program (TLAP) is a free confidential assistance program providing consultation, referral, intervention, and crisis counseling for lawyers, judges, bar applicants and law students who are struggling with substance abuse, stress or emotional health issues. Since it was created by the Tennessee Supreme Court in 1999, TLAP has received more than 2000 inquiries and referrals and has made presentations to more than 4,500 members of the legal community. TLAP's work contributes to the protection of the public, the improvement of the integrity and reputation of the legal profession, and, because assistance to an affected lawyer often prevents future ethical violations, the reduction of disciplinary actions. TLAP recently added an outreach coordinator to work within the criminal justice system and to increase awareness of TLAP services within the four Tennessee law schools. TLAP received a grant from the Office of Criminal Justice to fund 50 percent of this position.

Tennessee Judicial Selection Commission

The commission accepts and reviews applications to fill unexpired judicial terms, interviews applicants, conducts a public hearing and recommends three names to the governor. When the vacancy is a trial court position, the governor must select one of the three applicants recommended by the commission. When the vacancy is an appellate court position, the governor may ask for a second list of names from which to appoint a new judge. The commission met six times in calendar year 2007.

Judicial Evaluation Commission

In 1994, the General Assembly changed the method of electing state appellate judges by adopting the Tennessee Plan. Under the plan, every appellate judge who seeks election to fill either an unexpired or a full eight year term must be evaluated by the Judicial Evaluation Commission prior to a scheduled August election. The evaluations assist voters and promote self-improvement among judges. The 12-member commission includes lawyers, non-lawyers and state court judges. In 2007, the commission gathered information about and conducted interviews with four appellate judges who will appear on the general election ballot in August 2008 for retention election. The commission conducted formal interviews with Supreme Court Justice Gary R. Wade, Supreme Court Justice William C. Koch, Jr., Court of Criminal Appeals Judge D. Kelly Thomas, Jr., and Court of Appeals Judge Andy D. Bennett. A report publishing the commission's recommendations will be released in March 2008.