

Memorial Resolution

THE HONORABLE SETH WALKER NORMAN

JUNE 2024

Judge Seth Walker Norman, retired Criminal Court Judge of the 20th Judicial District, passed away on September 25, 2023, at age 89.

Born on April 6, 1934, Judge Seth Norman was a Nashville native, and the fourth of five children born to Jack and Carrie Norman. After attending John B. Ransom grade school, Judge Norman graduated from Duncan Preparatory School for Boys.

Shortly after enrolling at Vanderbilt University, Judge Norman left college to enlist in the United States Air Force and served from 1953 to 1957, including service in the Korean War and missions in Southeast Asia. He was a navigator on B-29, C-47, C-119, C-118, B-26, C-54, SA-16, and C-124 aircraft and traveled to Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. He continued his service in the Tennessee Air National Guard until 1965.

Judge Norman graduated from the Nashville School of Law and received his law license in 1962. While in law school, he worked as a deputy clerk in the Davidson County General Sessions Court Clerk's office.

In 1960, Judge Norman was elected president of the Davidson County Young Democrats and, soon after, was elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives. He also served as a member of the Tennessee Democratic Executive Committee, as a delegate to the 1968 Democratic National Convention, and on the Democratic National Platform Committee.

Judge Norman was in private legal practice at the law office of Jack Norman, Sr., his father, for twenty-eight years and was elected to the bench as a criminal court judge in Nashville in 1990.

Judge Norman is often considered the father of the State's recovery court system. In 1997, Judge Norman established the groundbreaking Davidson County Drug Court (also known as DC4), one of the first recovery courts in the country, and in 1998, he opened the first court-operated residential drug court in the United States. At DC4, residents are immersed in a therapeutic residential community designed to allow participants to fully engage with specialized treatment in a supervised and structured environment. After more than 20 years in operation, DC4 is still transforming lives, reuniting families, and healing communities across the State of Tennessee.

Judge Norman also founded the 13th Judicial District Recovery Court in 2011 and the Morgan County Residential Recovery Court in 2013. Today, there are eighty-two recovery courts in Tennessee, including specialized courts focused on veterans, juveniles, and other vulnerable populations.

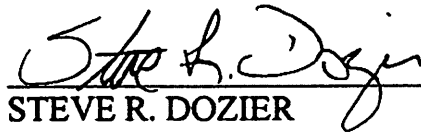
After a long and distinguished judicial career, Judge Seth Norman took a well-deserved retirement from the bench in 2018. His outstanding service and commitment are reflected in numerous awards and honors, including a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Tennessee Association of Alcohol, Drug, and other Addiction Services; his 2018 induction into the Nashville Bar Foundation; the Nashville Bar Association's Jack Norman Award in 2016; the Tennessee Association of Drug Court Professionals Judges' Award in 2015; and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Nashville Prevention Partnership in 2011.

Judge Norman was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Donnie Crieghton Norman, his parents, and brothers Robert Sneed Norman, Jack Norman, Jr., and Julian Norman. He leaves behind his children, numerous grand and great-grandchildren, and his sister. Also left to cherish his memory are many grateful recovery court program participants and their families, who credit Judge Norman's vision and unfailing dedication to recovery and healing with saving their lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED by the Tennessee Judicial Conference that we honor the life, work, and legacy of our departed colleague, the Honorable Seth Walker Norman, with this resolution expressing our profound and deep sorrow upon the death of a distinguished longtime member of this conference.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be filed in the archives of the Tennessee Judicial Conference and be enrolled in the records of the Courts of Davidson County in Tennessee and that a copy be presented to his family as a token of the esteem and honor in which he has been held.

Respectfully submitted this the 12th day of June, 2024.



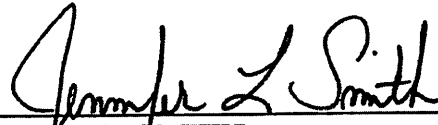
STEVE R. DOZIER
Criminal Court Judge, Division I
Twentieth Judicial District



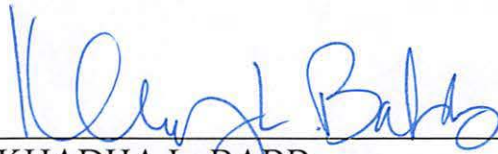
ANGELITA BLACKSHEAR DALTON
Criminal Court Judge, Division II
Twentieth Judicial District



CHERYL A. BLACKBURN
Criminal Court Judge, Division III
Twentieth Judicial District



JENNIFER L. SMITH
Criminal Court Judge, Division IV
Twentieth Judicial District



KHADIJA L. BABB
Criminal Court Judge, Division V
Twentieth Judicial District



CYNTHIA C. CHAPPELL
Criminal Court Judge, Division VI
Twentieth Judicial District