

# JUDGE CHARLES D. SUSANO, JR.

**Recommendation: RETAIN**

**Commission Vote: 8 FOR RETENTION • 1 FOR REPLACEMENT**

## **Legal Education and Experience**

Judge Charles D. Susano, Jr. received a law degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1963. He served as law clerk to the Tennessee Supreme Court from 1963 to 1964. He engaged in the private practice of law in Knoxville from 1964 to 1994. He also served as Assistant District Attorney for Knox County from 1967 to 1968. Judge Susano was appointed to the Tennessee Court of Appeals in March 1994 and was elected in August 1994 and re-elected in 1998 and 2006.

## **Service to the Profession**

Judge Susano served as a member of the Court of the Judiciary from 1999 to 2003 and was Presiding Judge Pro Tem from 1999 to 2002. He is a Fellow of the Tennessee and American Bar Foundations. He was selected 2003 Appellate Judge of the Year by the American Board of Trial Advocates, Tennessee Chapter. Judge Susano was also awarded the Courage in the Face of Adversity Award by the Knoxville Bar Association in 2004. He has served as an Executive Committee Member and Treasurer for the Tennessee Judicial Conference. He has frequently lectured on legal topics.

## **Survey Results and Interview**

Judge Susano's survey ratings from appellate judges, trial judges, attorneys and court personnel reflect an excellent performance. His ratings in all areas related to written opinions were particularly noteworthy, encompassing

elements of quality and promptness. His ratings in the areas of oral argument, ethical conduct, freedom from bias, and demonstration of appropriate judicial temperament were equally noteworthy. The interview with Judge Susano confirmed the survey results. Judge Susano has an excellent turnaround time on his opinions.

## **Comments and Recommendation**

One Commission member was concerned that the excellent work now being done by this judge may be difficult to sustain into his 80's.

**The Commission recommends Judge Charles D. Susano, Jr. be retained on the Tennessee Court of Appeals.**

## **Judge Susano's Response**

I thank the Commission for its vote of confidence in recommending me for another term as Judge of the Court of Appeals. It is an honor and a privilege to serve the people of Tennessee. I am also thankful to my fellow judges for selecting me Chief Judge of the Court. I will continue to uphold my oath of office to support and defend the state and federal constitutions. My goal will always be to render fair and impartial judgments in the cases that come before the Court.