

IN THE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS OF TENNESSEE
AT KNOXVILLE

Assigned on Briefs October 21, 2014

WILLIAM T. JOHNSON v. STATE OF TENNESSEE

Appeal from the Criminal Court for Hamilton County

No. 284499 Don W. Poole, Judge

No. E2014-00828-CCA-R3-PC - Filed December 8, 2014

JAMES CURWOOD WITT, JR., J., concurring.

I fully concur in the majority opinion in this case. I only write separately to express a view that counsel's absence from court – even during jury deliberations and verdict announcement – for reasons no more substantial than coaching a basketball game presents a closer question than our opinion may suggest. It may be that a certain casualness has permeated the practice of law, and courts and lawyers should be vigilant in maintaining standards of regularity and professionalism.

JAMES CURWOOD WITT, JR., JUDGE