



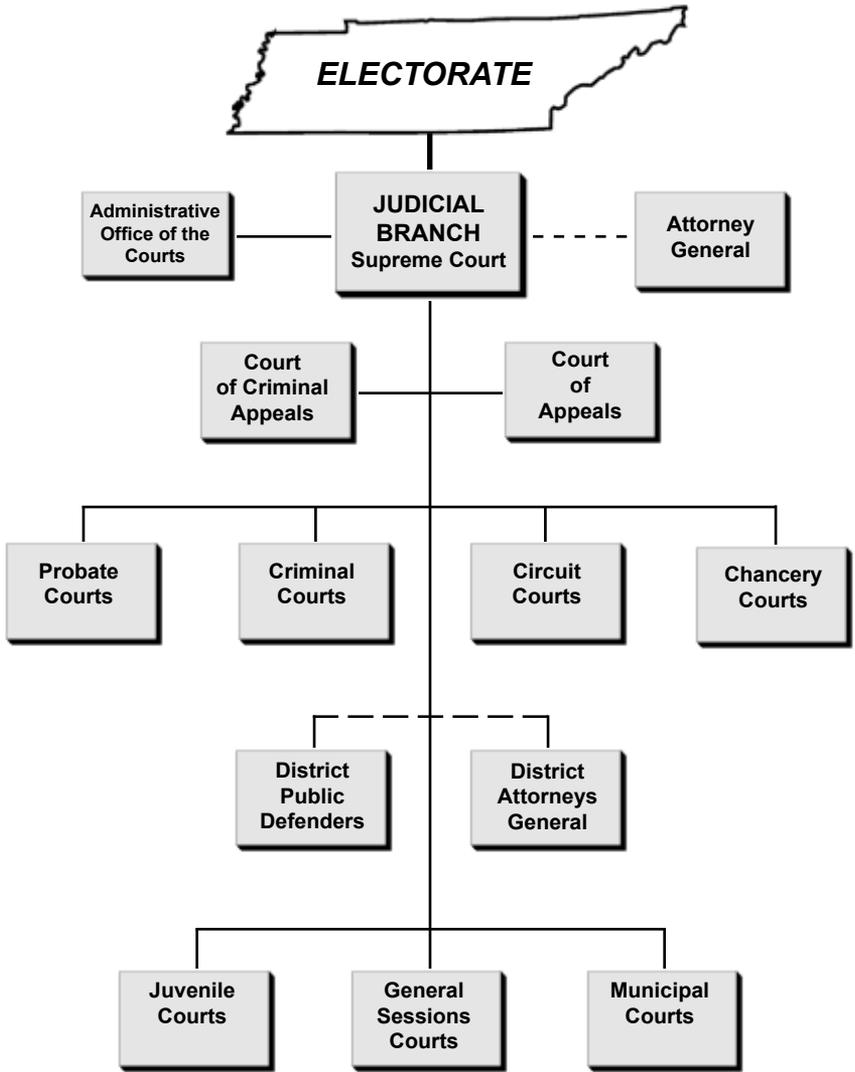
COURT OF JUSTICE



SECTION III



Judicial Branch



INTRODUCTION

The judicial branch, one of the three basic divisions of state government, serves as a check on the powers of both the legislative and executive branches. Through the power of judicial review, the courts rule on the constitutionality of legislation passed by the General Assembly and consider the legality of administrative policies and regulations.

Tennessee's judicial system is derived from a constitutional foundation: "The judicial power of this state shall be vested in one Supreme Court and in such Circuit, Chancery, and other inferior courts as the legislature shall from time to time ordain and establish ..." (Article VI, Section 1, Constitution of the State of Tennessee).

Although not a part of the court system, the offices of the attorney general, district attorneys general, and district public defenders are associated with the judicial branch of state government. The attorney general represents the interests of the state in litigation. The thirty-one district attorneys serve as prosecuting counsel in criminal cases. Public defenders and court-appointed private attorneys represent indigent defendants, primarily in criminal cases.

The Supreme Court is the highest court in the state. The five justices are nominated by the Judicial Nominating Commission, appointed by the governor and retained by a "yes-no" vote for eight-year terms. The majority of this court's workload consists of cases appealed from lower state courts.

The Intermediate Appellate Courts—the Court of Appeals and Court of Criminal Appeals—hear civil and criminal cases appealed from the trial courts.

The state's trial courts include Chancery, Criminal, Circuit, and Probate Courts. Judges in these courts are chosen by popular election within their judicial districts.

The fourth level of courts in Tennessee is composed of the Courts of Limited Jurisdiction—General Sessions, Juvenile, and Municipal Courts. These courts are funded by their respective counties.



SUPREME COURT JUSTICES

As required by the state Constitution, the Tennessee Supreme Court normally hears cases in Nashville, Jackson and Knoxville. Pictured in the courtroom at the Supreme Court Building in Nashville are (seated) Chief Justice Janice M. Holder and (standing left to right) Justices Cornelia A. Clark, William C. Koch Jr., Gary R. Wade and Sharon G. Lee.

Supreme Court

*401 Seventh Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37219-1407
(615) 741-2681
www.tncourts.gov*

The Tennessee Supreme Court is the state's highest court and the court of last resort. The court normally meets in Jackson, Knoxville and Nashville, as required by the state constitution.

The five justices may accept appeals of civil and criminal cases from lower state courts. They 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.

Attorneys may present oral arguments before the Supreme Court. Unlike trials in lower courts, there are no witnesses, juries or testimony in the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals or Court of Criminal Appeals. After Supreme Court justices have heard oral arguments and reviewed the attorneys' written materials, or briefs, they issue written decisions, known as opinions. Tennessee Supreme Court opinions on constitutional issues can be appealed only to the U.S. Supreme Court, 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 seventeen-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 of the evaluations are published in newspapers across the state to help voters decide whether the judges should be retained.

Chief Justice Janice M. Holder

50 Peabody Place, Memphis, TN 38103

Born Aug. 29, 1949, Canonsburg, Penn.; attended Allegheny College, 1967-68; B.S., *summa cum laude*, University of Pittsburgh, 1971; J.D., Duquesne University School of Law, 1975; Recent Decisions Editor, *Duquesne Law Review*, 1974-75; senior law clerk to Herbert P. Sorg, Chief Judge, U.S. District Court, Western District of Pennsylvania, 1975-77; Memphis Bar Association (Secretary, 1993; Treasurer, 1994; Board of Directors, 1986-87, 1993-94); Editor, *Memphis Bar Forum*, 1987-91; Chair, *Lawyers Helping Lawyers Committee*, 1987-91; American Bar Association (Lawyer Impairment Project, Vice-Chair, 1987; Judicial Administration Division, 1994-present); Tennessee Bar Association (Tennessee Lawyers Concerned For Lawyers, Executive Committee, 1989-1994; House of Delegates, 1989-91; Commission on Women and Minorities, 1992-1996; Commission Chair, 1994-96); Association for Women Attorneys (Treasurer, 1989; Vice President, 1991); Tennessee Judicial Conference (Vice Chair, Pattern Jury Instructions - Civil Committee, 1991-97; Treasurer, 1993-94; Executive Committee, 1993-96); Tennessee Task Force Against Domestic Violence (State Coordinating Council, 1994-96); American Inns of Court, Leo Bearman Sr. American Inn of Court (Master of the Bench, 1995-1997, National Member, 1998-present, emeritus, 2001-present); National Association of Women Judges, 1995-present; Founding Member, Tennessee Lawyers' Association for Women; Alliance for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Board of Directors, 1985-1994; Leadership Memphis, Class of 1993 (Co-Chair, Crime and Criminal Justice Day, 1995 and 1996); Midtown Mental Health Center, Board of Directors, Crisis Stabilization Unit, 1995-1997; Memphis Botanical Garden Foundation, Board of Trustees, 1995-2002; International Women's Forum, 1998-present; Kiwanis Club of Memphis, 2002-present; Memphis Council for International Visitors (Board of Directors, 2002-present; secretary, 2003-2005); Memphis Literacy Council, Volunteer Tutor, 2002-2005; recipient, Memphis Bar Association Sam A. Myar Award for Outstanding Service to the Legal Profession and to the Community, 1990; Divorce and Family Law Section of the Memphis Bar Association Judge of the Year, 1992; Memphis Bar Association's Chancellor Charles A. Rond Outstanding Jurist Award, 1992; Honorary Fellow, Tennessee Bar Association Young Lawyer Division, 1997; Fellow, Tennessee Bar Foundation, 1991 (Trustee, 1995-1999; Secretary, 1997-present); American Bar Foundation, 1997; Memphis and Shelby County Bar Foundation, 2004; Association for Women Attorneys, Marion Griffin-Frances Loring Award, 1999; Honoree, Tennessee Lawyers Association for Women, 2006; Honoree, National Association of Women Judges, Southern Regional Conference honoring women leaders of state courts, 2007; St. Mark Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., Community Service Award, 2008; Coalition for Mediation Awareness in Tennessee, Grayfred Gray Public Service Mediation Award, 2008; State of Tennessee House of Representatives, House Joint Resolution No. 1401, 2008; the Southeastern Region of the American Board of Trial Advocates' Jurist of the Year Award, 2009; elected circuit court judge, 30th Judicial District at Memphis, Division II, 1990; appointed, Supreme Court of Tennessee, December 1996; elected August 1998; re-elected 2006; elected Chief Justice September 2008.

Justice Cornelia A. Clark

318 Supreme Court Building, 401 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219-1407

Born Sept. 15, 1950, Franklin, Tenn.; United Methodist; B.A., Vanderbilt University, 1971; M.A.T., Harvard University, 1972; J.D., Vanderbilt School of Law, 1979; Articles Editor and Editorial Board Member, *Vanderbilt Law Review*; Graduate, National Judicial College and New York University Appellate Judges Program; Private Practice, Farris, Warfield & Kanaday, 1979-1989; Board Member, United Methodist Publishing House, 2008; Past Board Member, Lawyers Association for Women, Marion Griffin Chapter; Nashville Bar Association (Second Vice President); Member, Williamson County Bar Association, Tennessee Bar Association, American Bar Association, Tennessee Lawyers Association for Women (founding member), National Association of Women Judges, American Judicature Society; Nashville, Tennessee, and American Bar Foundations (Past Chair, Tennessee Bar Foundation); American Bar Association Commission on the American Jury, 2004; Past Faculty Member, American Academy of Judicial Education, National Judicial College; Former Adjunct Professor, Vanderbilt University School of Law; Chairman, Tennessee Judicial Council (2006-present); Harry Phillips American Inn of Court; Tennessee John Marshall American Inn of Court; Dean, Tennessee Judicial Academy (1997-1998); Board of Directors, Conference of State Court Administrators (2004-2005); Vice President, Tennessee Judicial Conference (1997-1998); previous member, Supreme Court Commissions on the Rules of Civil Procedure and Technology; 2005 Liberty Bell Award recipient from the Williamson County Bar Association; appointed Circuit Judge 21st Judicial District, October 1989; elected August 1990; re-elected August 1998; appointed Administrative Director of the Tennessee Courts, May 1999; appointed to Tennessee Supreme Court, September 2005; elected August 2006.

Justice Gary R. Wade

505 Main Street, Suite 200, Knoxville, TN 37902

Born May 31, 1948, Knox County, Tenn.; married; three children; four grandchildren; Methodist; B.S. University of Tennessee, 1970; J. D. University of Tennessee College of Law, 1973; private practice of law, 1973-87; member of University of Tennessee Chancellor's Associates, 1988-91; University of Tennessee College of Arts and Sciences Board of Visitors; University of Tennessee College of Law Dean's Circle; UT Development Council; Tennessee Bar Association, past member House of Delegates and Board of Governors; American Bar Association, Convention Delegate; Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association; Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; American Inns of Court; Fellow, Tennessee Bar Foundation; Tennessee Sentencing Commission, 1990-94; Tennessee Judicial Conference, Executive Committee, 1990-97; President, Tennessee Judicial Conference, 1995-96; President of Eta South Province, Phi Delta Theta Fraternity, 1990-97; Past President of Sevierville Lions Club; Chairman of Sevier County Heart Association, 1984-1986; Recipient of 1987 American Heart Association Presidential Award; 1987 Key to the City of Sevierville; 1987 Sevierville Chamber of Commerce Award; Mountain Press Mover and Shaker of the Year, 1983-85 and 1997; Gary R. Wade Boulevard, 1987; Mayor, City of Sevierville, 1977-87; Honorary Chair, Boys & Girls Club of the Smoky Mountains 1996 Financial Campaign; Board of Directors, United Way of Greater Knoxville Campaign Cabinet, 1997; Board of Directors, Tennessee's Resource Valley; Friends of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Chairman Emeritus, President 1993-2005, Board Chair, 2005-2006; Leadership Knoxville Class of 1995-96; Leadership Sevier Class of 1997; Leadership Sevier Board of Directors, President 2001; Knoxville Zoological Gardens Board of Directors, 2000-2006, Vice Chair 2002-2004, Chair 2005-2006; 2004 Citizen of the Year, Sevierville Chamber of Commerce; American Board of Trial Advocates Appellate Judge of the Year, 2004; Knoxville Bar Association Judicial Excellence Award, 2004; East Tennessee Regional Leadership Award, 2006; Walters State Community College Foundation Board of Trustees, President 2005-2006; Pellissippi State Technical Community College President's Associates; Board of Directors, East Tennessee Historical Society; 2007 United States Department of Interior Citizens Award for Exceptional Service; appointed to Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals, 1987; elected 1988; re-elected 1990 and 1998; Presiding Judge 1998-2006; appointed to the Tennessee Supreme Court May 30, 2006; elected 2008.

Justice William C. Koch Jr.

321 Supreme Court Building, 401 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219

Born Sept. 12, 1947, Honolulu, Hawaii; married; Episcopalian; B.A., Trinity College, Hartford, Conn., 1969; J.D., Vanderbilt University, 1972; LL.M., University of Virginia, 1996; American, Tennessee, and Nashville Bar Associations; American Inns of Court Foundation, Board of Trustees (2000-2004), Secretary (2004-2008); Harry Phillips American Inn of Court (1990-present); American Bar Association, Appellate Judges Conference, Executive Committee (2008-present); United Way of Metropolitan Nashville, Board of Trustees (1981-present), President (2003-2004); Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, Board of Trustees (2005-present); Nashville Rotary Club (2000-present); Tennessee Bar Foundation (1993-present); Nashville Bar Foundation (1993-present); American Judicature Society; Scribes; Baptist Hospital Ethics Committee (1994-2003); Baptist Hospital Institutional Review Committee (1991-1994); instructor in Constitutional Law, Nashville School of Law (1997-present); adjunct instructor, Vanderbilt University School of Law (1988-95); co-chair, Tennessee Supreme Court Advisory Commission on Technology (1997-2001); Assistant Attorney General (1972-76); Senior Assistant Attorney General (1976-77); Deputy Attorney General (1977-78); Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Personnel (1979-81); Counsel to Governor Lamar Alexander (1981-84); appointed to Court of Appeals in June 1984; elected in August 1984; re-elected in August 1990, 1998 and 2006; Presiding Judge, Middle Section of the Court of Appeals, 2003-2007; appointed to the Supreme Court in June 2007; elected in August 2008.

Justice Sharon G. Lee

505 Main Street, Suite 236, Knoxville, TN 37902

Born December 8, 1953, Knoxville, Tenn.; two children; graduate of Webb School of Knoxville; attended Vanderbilt University; 1975 graduate of University of Tennessee College of Business with high honors; 1978 graduate of University of Tennessee College of Law; private practice in Madisonville, Tenn., from 1978-2004; served as county attorney for Monroe County, Madisonville city judge, city attorney for Vonore and Madisonville, Rule 31 listed family mediator, adjunct faculty, University of Tennessee College of Law, 2008; member of the Tennessee Bar Association (House of Delegates), Tennessee Bar Foundation, Knoxville Bar Foundation, Tennessee Judicial Conference (Executive Committee), Tennessee Lawyers' Association for Women (director), East Tennessee Lawyer's Association for Women (president), Knoxville Executive Women's Association (secretary), Boys and Girls Club of Monroe Area (board of directors), Monroe County Bar Association (president, vice president and secretary), Million Dollar Advocates Forum, and National Association of Women Judges; co-author of Opening and Closing Arguments; appointed to Tennessee Court of Appeals, Eastern Section, June 4, 2004; elected August 2004; re-elected in August 2006; appointed to the Tennessee Supreme Court, October 2, 2008.



Pictured above are (seated from left) David R. Farmer, Patricia J. Cottrell, Presiding Judge Herschel P. Franks, Alan E. Highers and Charles D. Susano Jr.; (standing from left) Holly M. Kirby, Richard H. Dinkins, Andy D. Bennett, John W. McClarty, Frank G. Clement Jr., D. Michael Swiney and J. Steven Stafford.

Intermediate Appellate Courts Court of Appeals

Created by the General Assembly in 1925, the Court of Appeals hears appeals in civil — or non-criminal — cases from trial courts and certain state boards and commissions. The court has 12 members who sit in panels of three in Jackson, Knoxville and Nashville. All decisions made by the Court of Appeals may be appealed, by permission, to the Tennessee Supreme Court. As in all three appellate courts, Court of Appeals hearings do not include witnesses, juries or testimony. Instead, attorneys present oral and written arguments.

Court of Appeals judges are elected on a “yes-no” ballot every eight years. When a vacancy occurs on the intermediate appellate court, 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.

As with judges on the Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeals, members of the Court of Appeals must, by state law, be evaluated every eight years. Results of the evaluations are published in newspapers across the state to help voters decide whether the judges should be retained.

Western Section

Alan E. Highers

Supreme Court Building, P.O. Box 909, Jackson, TN 38302

Born July 5, 1937, Muskogee, Okla.; married; two children; Church of Christ; A.A. and LL.D., Freed-Hardeman University; B.A., David Lipscomb University; J.D., University of Memphis School of Law; admitted to Bar, 1968; private practice, 1968-73; lecturer, University of Memphis School of Law, 1972; recipient of Outstanding Alumnus of the Year Award by Freed-Hardeman University, 1977; special judge and referee at Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County, 1973-77; Circuit Court judge in Memphis, 1977-82; selected Judge of the Year by National Reciprocal and Family Support Enforcement Association (NRFSEA) in Washington, D.C., 1982; faculty, National College of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Reno, Nev., 1980-85; Tennessee Judicial Conference, secretary 1978-79, vice president 1981-82, president 1984-85, member of Executive Committee for ten years; appointed to Court of Appeals, September 1982; elected August 1984; re-elected August 1990, 1998 and 2006; presiding judge, Court of Appeals, Western Section, November 2007 – present.

David R. Farmer

Supreme Court Building, P.O. Box 909, Jackson, TN 38302

Born Dec. 6, 1940, Springfield, Mo.; married; two children; Methodist; B.B.A., University of Memphis, 1963; J.D., University of Memphis School of Law, 1966; admitted to Bar, 1966; Union Carbide Corp., 1966-68; private practice in Jackson, 1968-86; president, Jackson-Madison County Bar Association, 1980; Tennessee Defense Lawyers Association, director 1977-80, secretary-treasurer 1983-84; vice president 1985; Fellow, Tennessee Bar Foundation; Leo Bearman Sr. American Inn of Court; member of United States Army Reserve, 1966-72; appointed to Court of Appeals 1986; elected 1986; re-elected 1990, 1998 and 2006.

Holly M. Kirby

5050 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN 38157

Born July 9, 1957, Memphis, Tenn.; married; two children; Presbyterian; graduate of Columbia Central High School, Columbia, Tenn., 1975; B.S. in Engineering, University of Memphis, 1979 (magna cum laude, Herff and Honors Alumni Scholarships); J.D., University of Memphis School of Law, 1982 (Herff Scholarship; Law Review, Notes Editor); admitted to Bar in 1982; law clerk to Honorable Harry W. Wellford, Sixth Circuit, U.S. Court of Appeals, 1982-83; practiced law in Memphis, 1983-1995 (first female partner in law firm Burch, Porter & Johnson); Tennessee Appellate Court Nominating Commission, 1989-94, chairperson, 1994; Leo Bearman Sr. American Inn of Court, 1995-98; University of Memphis Award for Outstanding Young Alumna, 1996; elected to Memphis Bar Foundation, 2007; appointed to Court of Appeals in 1995 by Governor Don Sundquist (first woman to serve on Court of Appeals); elected 1996; re-elected to eight-year terms in 1998 and 2006.

J. Steven Stafford

100 Main Ave., N. Suite 4, Dyersburg, TN 38024

Born Sept. 2, 1956, McKenzie, Tenn.; married; two children; Baptist; B.S., University of Tennessee at Martin; J.D., Samford University Cumberland School of Law, 1983; admitted to the Bar, 1983; practiced law in Dyersburg, 1983-1993; Dyersburg City Judge, 1988-1993; Dyer County Juvenile Judge, 1993-1994; First Harry S. Truman Scholar in Tennessee, 1977; President of the Dyer County Bar Association, 1987; Member of the Tennessee Bar Association; Member of the Tennessee Bar Association House of Delegates, 1991-1998; Member of the Tennessee Bar Association Board of Governors, 2002-2003; Tennessee Judicial Conference President, 2002-2003; Tennessee Court of the Judiciary, Presiding Judge, 2004-2007; Dean of the Tennessee Judicial Academy, 1998-Present; Tennessee Bar Foundation Fellow, 1994; Chairman of the Board of Trustees, 2008-2009; Selected Judge of the Year by the Tennessee American Board of Trial Advocates, 2007; First Baptist Church, Dyersburg, Deacon; Selected Outstanding Young Tennessean by Tennessee Jaycees, 1996; University of Tennessee Board of Governors National Alumni Association, 1991-1992; University of Tennessee at Martin Alumni Council, 1988-1991; appointed Chancellor of the 29th Judicial District consisting of Dyer and Lake Counties, June 1993; elected August 1994; re-elected August 1998 and 2006; appointed to the Court of Appeals, June 2008; elected August 2008.

Middle Section

Frank G. Clement Jr.

215 Supreme Court Building, 401 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219-1407
Born 1949, Nashville, Tenn.; married; one child; West End United Methodist Church; B.S.E., University of Memphis, 1972; president, Student Government Association, 1972; Governor, Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature, 1972; J.D., Nashville School of Law, 1979; admitted to Bar, 1979; 164th Military Airlift Group, Tennessee Air National Guard, 1968-74; president, Nashville Kiwanis Club, 1987-88; chair, Nashville Area Chapter and Tennessee Valley Blood Region, American Red Cross, 1989-91; private practice of law, 1979-95; Board of Directors, Nashville Bar Association, 1991-95; president, Nashville Bar Association, 1995; Harry Phillips American Inn of Court, 1990-2001; Leadership Nashville, 1995; Fellow, Tennessee and Nashville Bar Foundations; member, Tennessee and Nashville Bar Associations; treasurer and executive committee member, Tennessee Trial Judges Association, 1997-2002; Tennessee Judicial Conference Convention chair, 1998; appointed 1995 judge of the Circuit and Probate Court, 20th Judicial District, elected 1996 judge of Division VII of the Circuit Probate Court, 20th Judicial District, re-elected 1998; appointed to the Court of Appeals of Tennessee by Governor Phil Bredesen, September 2003; elected August 2004; re-elected August 2006; member, Board of Trustees, Nashville School of Law, 2006 to present.

Patricia J. Cottrell

203 Supreme Court Building, 401 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219
Born Jan. 15, 1947, in Memphis, Tenn.; graduate of East High School, Memphis, 1965, National Merit Scholar; B.S. with honors, University of Tennessee, 1969; J.D., University of Tennessee College of Law, 1976; Tennessee Law Review; assistant attorney general, 1976-78 and 1982-84; director, Public Law Institute, University of Tennessee College of Law, 1978-79; assistant director, Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission, 1979-81; deputy attorney general, 1984-1991; Director of Law, Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, 1991-93; chief deputy attorney general, 1993-97; private practice of law in Nashville, 1997-98; Judicial Conference; Nashville Bar Association; Nashville Bar Association Board of Directors, 2009; Nashville Bar Foundation; Tennessee Bar Foundation; American Inns of Court; Supreme Court Historical Society; founding member, Lawyers Association for Women; Leadership Nashville, 1993-94; Charter Revision Commission of Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, 1994-98; adjunct faculty, Vanderbilt School of Law, 1999; appointed to Court of Appeals November 1998; elected in 2000; re-elected to an eight-year term in 2006.

Andy D. Bennett

218 Supreme Court Building, 401 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219
Born July 12, 1957, Charlotte, Tenn.; married with one child; Methodist; graduate of Dickson County Senior High School, Dickson, Tenn., valedictorian and gold medalist; Vanderbilt University, B.A. cum laude, 1979; Vanderbilt University School of Law, J.D., 1982, awarded the Weldon White Prize for the best paper on a Tennessee subject; Assistant Attorney General, 1982-86; Deputy Attorney General, 1986-93; Associate Chief Deputy Attorney General, 1993-97; Chief Deputy Attorney General, 1997-2007; Tennessee Bicentennial Foundation Board of Directors, 1993-97; Tennessee Supreme Court Commission on Dispute Resolution, 1992-94; President of Tennessee Supreme Court Historical Society, 2005-07; author of several legal and historical articles; William M. Leech, Jr. Award for outstanding service to the Tennessee Attorney General's Office, 1998; Marvin Award from the National Association of Attorneys General for "outstanding leadership, expertise and achievement in advancing the goals of the National Association of Attorneys General," 2004; Tennessee Bar Foundation Fellow, 2001; appointed to the Tennessee Court of Appeals September 2007; elected August 2008.

Richard H. Dinkins

Supreme Court Building, 401 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219

Born Aug. 30, 1952, Nashville, Tenn.; Baptist; B.A., Denison University, Granville, Ohio, 1974; J.D., Vanderbilt University School of Law, Nashville, Tenn., 1977; associate, Law Firm of the Honorable Avon N. Williams Jr., 1977-80; partner, Williams and Dinkins, 1981-99; member, Dodson, Parker, Dinkins & Behm, P.C., 1999-2003; member, American, National, and Nashville Bar Associations; member, Napier-Looby Bar Association, Board of Directors 1981-83, Vice President, 1984, President, 1985; former cooperating attorney, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund; former cooperating attorney, Minority Business Enterprise Legal Defense and Educational Fund; former member, Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association, Board of Governors; member, Board of Directors, Nashville Bar Association, 1988-1991; former member, Commercial Law Section, National Bar Association; Barrister, Harry Phillips Inn of Court, 1990-2002, Master 2005-present; member, Board of Directors, Nashville Bar Association 2006-08; Fellow, Tennessee Bar Association Foundation; appointed Chancellor, Davidson County Chancery Court – Part IV, Sept. 26, 2003; elected May 2004; re-elected August 2006; appointed to the Tennessee Court of Appeals Jan. 14, 2008; elected August 2008.

Eastern Section

Herschel P. Franks

Suite 562, McCallie Avenue, Chattanooga, TN 37402

Born May 28, 1930, Savannah, Tenn.; married; one child; United Church of Christ; attended University of Tennessee-Martin, University of Maryland; LL.B., University of Tennessee; graduate of National Judicial College; past president of Chattanooga Bar Association; member of American Bar Association, Chattanooga Bar Foundation and Tennessee Bar Foundation; U.S. Air Force, 1950-54; recipient of 1971 Optimist Community Service Award, 1986 Foundation of Freedom Award by Chattanooga Bar Association; listed in Who's Who in American Law, Who's Who in America; chancellor of third chancery division 1970-78; appointed to Court of Appeals May 1978; elected August 1978; re-elected August 1982, 1990, 1998 and 2006.

Charles D. Susano Jr.

Historic U.S. Post Office and Court House, 505 Main Street, P.O. Box 444,
Knoxville, TN 37901

Born March 24, 1936, Knoxville, Tenn.; married; three children; All Saints Roman Catholic Church; Ph.B. (Accounting), University of Notre Dame, 1958; U.S. Army, 1958-60; J.D., University of Tennessee, 1963; member, Order of the Coif; Tennessee Law Review; admitted to Bar, 1964; law clerk to Supreme Court, 1963-64; assistant district attorney general, Knox County, 1967-68; chairman, Knox County Democratic Party, 1972-74; member, state Democratic Executive Committee, 1974-82; practiced law in Knoxville, 1964-94; appointed to Court of Appeals, March 1994; elected August 1994; re-elected in August 1998 and August 2006; fellow, American Bar Foundation and Tennessee Bar Foundation; member, Advisory Board, Shepherd Center, Atlanta; member, Advisory Commission to the Supreme Court on Rules of Practice and Procedure.

D. Michael Swiney

Supreme Court Building, 505 Main Street, Suite 200, P. O. Box 444,
Knoxville, TN 37901

Born May 25, 1949, Sarasota, Fla.; married; two children, Gabe and Eli; Church Street United Methodist Church; B.S., University of Tennessee, 1971; M.S., 1974, and J.D., 1978; member, Order of the Coif; admitted to Bar, 1979; practiced law in Knoxville, 1979-99; adjunct professor, University of Tennessee College of Law, 1997-2006; Hamilton Burnett Chapter, American Inns of Court, 1991-present; Tennessee Court of the Judiciary, 2003-present; appointed to the Tennessee Court of Appeals July 1999; elected 2000; re-elected 2006.

John W. McClarty

633 Chestnut Street, Suite 1560; P.O. Box 11481, Chattanooga, TN 37450

Born June 5, 1948, Chattanooga, Tenn.; single; two sons; two stepdaughters; African Methodist Episcopal; graduate of Howard High School, Chattanooga, 1967; Bachelor Degree with Double Majors in Political Science and History, Austin Peay State University, 1971; Juris Doctor Degree with Honors, Southern University School of Law, 1976 (ranking No. 5 in his class); recognized as a Distinguished Legal Scholar by Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity; member of the Law Review Staff serving as Articles Editor and was author of a comment, *Felony Murder Rule in Louisiana*, published Vol. I, No. II SULR; admitted to Tennessee Bar in 1976; entered private practice as Associate in Law Office of Jerry Summers, 1976; opened sole practice in 1978; senior partner in McClarty & Williams with Walter F. Williams from 1980 to 1991; sole practice from 1991 to January 2009; involved in excess of 5,000 civil and criminal cases during course of 32 years of practice; *Who's Who in American Law*, Fourth Edition, 1986; Martindale-Hubbell AV rating, 2001; Hearing Committee Member, Supreme Court Board of Professional Responsibility, 2001-09; Board Certified Civil Trial Specialist by the National Board of Trial Advocacy and Certified Civil Trial Specialist by the Tennessee Commission on Continuing Legal Education and Specialization; appointed by Governor Bredesen to serve as Board Member and later Chairman of the Tennessee Registry of Election Finance, May 2005-2007; selected for membership to American Board of Trial Advocacy in 2008; selected as Fellow to American College of Trial Lawyers, 2009; On Jan. 14, 2009, appointed by Governor Bredesen as Judge of Tennessee Court of Appeals Eastern Section (first African-American State Judge serving in East Tennessee).

Court of Criminal Appeals

The Court of Criminal Appeals was created by the legislature in 1967 to hear trial court appeals in felony and misdemeanor cases, as well as post-conviction petitions. The Tennessee General Assembly increased the membership of the court from nine to 12 on Sept. 1, 1996. The members sit monthly in panels of three in Jackson, Knoxville and Nashville. They may also meet in other places as necessary.

All Court of Criminal Appeals decisions may be appealed to the state Supreme Court by permission, except in capital cases, which are appealed automatically. No witnesses, juries or testimonies are present in the Court of Criminal Appeals. Instead, attorneys present oral and written arguments.

Court of Criminal Appeals judges serve eight-year terms. If a vacancy occurs on the court, the Judicial Selection Commission recommends three candidates to the governor, who then appoints a new judge to serve until the next August general election. Judges on the Court of Criminal Appeals may run for re-election without opposition. Incumbent judges are retained or rejected on a "yes-no" vote.

Western Section

John Everett Williams

115 Court Square, P.O. Box 88, Huntingdon, TN 38344

Born Nov. 11, 1953, Milan, Tenn.; one son; Methodist; graduate Huntingdon High School; B.S., (Criminal Justice) University of Tennessee at Martin; J.D., Cumberland School of Law, 1981; private practice, Williams & Williams Attorneys at Law, Huntingdon, Tenn., 1981-98; member, Tennessee Bar Association, Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association; Carroll County Bar Association past president, 1981-84; Huntingdon Jaycees' Outstanding Chairperson; Huntingdon Lion's Club past president, 1991-92; American Heart Association; American Cancer Society; American Red Cross; Carroll County Habitat for Humanity; Carroll County Ducks Unlimited; Cumberland School of Law's co-chairman Cordell Hull's Speakers' Forum and Director of Special Programs; appointed to Court of Criminal Appeals November 1998; elected to eight-year term August 2006.

Alan E. Glenn

5050 Poplar Avenue, Suite 1414, Memphis, TN 38157

Born Oct. 3, 1942, Chicago, Ill.; married; one child; Montgomery Bell Academy; B.A., 1965, J.D., 1968, Vanderbilt University; law clerk, U.S. District Judge, Memphis; assistant U.S. attorney, 1970-71; assistant district attorney general, 1971-82; private practice, Memphis, 1982-99; instructor, Trial Advocacy, Harvard Law School, 1986-1999; lecturer, National College of District Attorneys, 1982-86; arbitrator, American Arbitration Association, 1985-99; member, Board of Construction Advisors, American Arbitration Association, 1995-99; president, National Ornamental Metal Museum, 1996-2005; president, Memphis Arts in the Park Festival, 1997-98; vice president, Theatre Memphis, 1995-97; appointed to Court of Criminal Appeals April 1999; elected in 2000 and again in 2006.



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

J.C. McLin

5050 Poplar Avenue, 1400 White Station Tower, Memphis, TN 38157

Born July 10, 1947, in Trenton, Tenn.; married with three children; ordained minister; graduate of Rosenwald High School, Trenton, Tenn.; A.A., Owen College, Memphis, Tenn., 1968; B.S., Lane College, Jackson, Tenn., 1969; M.S. Ed., University of Tennessee, Martin, Tenn., 1971; J.D., University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn., December 1974; National College of District Attorneys, Houston, Texas, 1979; The National Judicial College, Reno, Nev., 2001; Group Facilitator, The National Judicial College, Reno, Nev., 2004 and 2009; admitted to the Tennessee Bar, May 1975; Memphis Area Legal Services, 1975; Assistant District Attorney, 30th Judicial District, 1975-90; private practice, 1990-99; Criminal Court Judge, 30th Judicial District of Tennessee, 2000-04; appointed to the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals, Western Division, September 2004; elected to eight-year term August 2006; member, Memphis and Shelby County Bar Association; Tennessee Judicial Conference; Memphis Baptist Ministerial Association; and Lane College Board of Trustees; founder, Information Assistance and Monitoring (I.A.M.) Program; board member, City of Memphis Second Chance Program.

Camille R. McMullen

5050 Poplar Avenue, White Station Tower, Suite 1416, Memphis, TN 38157

Born Feb. 23, 1971, Nashville, Tenn.; married; two children; member, St. Andrews African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church, Memphis, TN; graduate John Overton High School, Nashville, Tenn., (1989); B.S. in Political Science from Austin Peay State University, 1993 (magna cum laude, Martin Luther King Jr. and Honors Scholarships); J.D., University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 1996; received the following honors: Dean's List, McClure International Fellowship, Order of the Barristers, Ray Jenkins Trial Semifinalist; clerk for the Republic of South Africa, post-apartheid; admitted, Tennessee Bar, 1997; law clerk to Honorable Joe G. Riley, Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals, 1996-97; Assistant District Attorney General with the Shelby County District Attorney General's Office, 1997-2001; Assistant United States Attorney with the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Tennessee, 2001-2008; member, Tennessee, Memphis, and National Bar Association; National Association of Women Judges; the American Inns of Court, Memphis Bar Association, Fellow; appointed, Court of Criminal Appeals, 2008 by Governor Phil Bredesen (first African American woman to serve on Court of Criminal Appeals).

Middle Section

David H. Welles

208 Supreme Court Building, 401 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219

Born July 10, 1948, Memphis, Tenn.; married; two children; Methodist; graduate of Dresden High School, 1966; B.S., University of Tennessee at Martin, 1971; J.D., University of Tennessee College of Law, 1974; Order of the Coif; practiced law in Dresden, 1974-87; part-time assistant district attorney general, 1976-87; chief clerk of the Tennessee House of Representatives, 1977-82; legal counsel to Governor Ned McWherter, 1987-94; Weakley County Bar Association, 1974-87; fellow, Nashville Bar Association, Tennessee Bar Association; lieutenant colonel (retired), Tennessee Army National Guard; former member, Tennessee Court of the Judiciary; served as member of Supreme Court Commission on Racial and Ethnic Fairness; appointed to Court of Criminal Appeals February 1994; elected to unexpired term August 1994; elected to eight-year term in August 1998 and again in August 2006.

Jerry L. Smith

200 Supreme Court Building, 401 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219

Born, Dec. 9, 1953, Etowah, Tenn.; Episcopal; graduate of McMinn Central High, 1971; B.A., University of Tennessee, 1975; J.D., University of Tennessee College of Law, 1978; private practice, 1978-80; assistant attorney general, 1980-84; deputy attorney general, 1984-95; member of Tennessee Judicial Conference, Tennessee Bar Association, Nashville Bar Association; Attorney General's designee to the Tennessee Sentencing Commission, 1986-89; served on the Sixth Circuit Task Force on Capital Cases, 1987; president of the National Association of Extradition Officials, 1985-86; Instructor in Criminal Law and Criminal Constitutional Law, Nashville School of Law, 2003-present; appointed to the Court of Criminal Appeals November 1995; elected 1996; re-elected to eight-year term, August 1998 and 2006.

Thomas T. Woodall

P.O. Box 1075, Dickson, Tennessee 37056

Born, 1955, Nashville, Tenn.; two children; Presbyterian; Graduate of Battle Ground Academy; B.S., Tennessee Tech; J.D., University of Memphis; admitted to practice law in Tennessee, 1981; member of the Tennessee Court of the Judiciary; member of Tennessee and Dickson County Bar Associations; Tennessee Judicial Conference; First Presbyterian Church of Dickson; "City of Dickson 100 Years Celebration" Committee in 1999; Co-Chair, Dickson County American Cancer Society Relay for Life Event in 2005; former Chairman, Benton County, Tenn., Unit of American Heart Association; former member of Board of Directors of Dickson County Habitat for Humanity, Inc., and Board of Directors of Dickson Help Center; law clerk for the Honorable Mark Walker, Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, 1981-82, private practice of law, Shelby County, Tennessee, 1982-84; Assistant District Attorney General, 24th Judicial District, Huntingdon, Tenn., 1984-90; private practice of law, Dickson, Tenn., 1990-November 1996; appointed to Court of Criminal Appeals December 1996; elected to eight-year term August 1998; elected to eight-year term August 2006.

Robert W. Wedemeyer

220 Supreme Court Building, 401 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219

Born May 23, 1951, Nashville, Tenn.; married to Patricia Wedemeyer; professional harpist; three children, two stepchildren, one grandchild; resides in Clarksville, Tenn.; Oak Ridge High School; B.A., Vanderbilt University, 1973; J.D., University of Memphis School of Law, 1976; private practice, Cunningham, Mitchell, Hicks & Wedemeyer, 1977-84; Wedemeyer & Grimes, 1985-90; appointed to circuit court for the 19th judicial district (Montgomery and Robertson counties) by Governor Ned R. McWherter, 1990; elected in 1990 and re-elected in 1998; appointed to the Court of Criminal Appeals by Governor Don Sundquist in 2000; elected in 2000; re-elected in 2006; member of Criminal Jury Instructions Committee of Tennessee Judicial Conference, 1992-98; current member of Bench/Bar relations committee of Tennessee Judicial Conference; former Little League Baseball Coach, Youth Soccer Coach, YMCA Basketball Coach; past president of Montgomery County Chapter of American Red Cross; member of Montgomery County Bar Association (president-1981); member of Robertson County Bar Association; graduate of Leadership Clarksville, 1988.

Eastern Section

Joseph M. Tipton

505 Main Street, Suite 200, Knoxville, TN 37902

Born March 9, 1947, Birmingham, Ala.; married; two children; Episcopal; graduate of Webb School of Knoxville, Distinguished Alumni Award, 2006; B.S., University of Tennessee Knoxville, 1969; J.D., University of Tennessee College of Law, 1971; Order of the Coif; Phi Kappa Phi Honor Fraternity; past president of Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; first recipient of TACDL's Outstanding Service Award; member of Tennessee Bar Association; former delegate to TBA House of Delegates; member, Knoxville Bar Association; recipient of the 2006 KBA Dicta Award for outstanding writing; member of Tennessee Judicial Conference; former adjunct professor, U.T. College of Law, 1983-92; assistant member of Tennessee Board of Law Examiners, 1981-96; member of the Hamilton Burnett American Inn of Court; appointed to Court of Criminal Appeals September 1990; elected August 1992; re-elected to eight-year term August 1998; re-elected to eight-year term August 2006; presiding judge of the Court since September 2006.

James Curwood Witt Jr.

138 College Street, Madisonville, TN 37354

Born Oct. 23, 1948, Knoxville, Tenn.; married; four children; Methodist; graduate of Madisonville High School, 1966; Associate Degree, Hiwassee College, 1968; bachelor's degree, Tennessee Wesleyan College, 1970; J.D., University of Tennessee College of Law, 1973; Order of the Coif; Tennessee Law Review; admitted to practice law in Tennessee, 1970; member of Tennessee and Monroe County Bar Associations; president, Monroe County Bar Association, 1977; judge, Monroe County Juvenile Court, 1979-82; Tennessee Council of Juvenile Court Judges, 1979-82; Hearing Committee member, Board of Professional Responsibility, 1986-92; member of Tennessee Judicial Council, 1980-88; chairman, board of trustees, Emory & Henry College, Tennessee Wesleyan College and Hiwassee College, 1987-90; member, Holston Conference (United Methodist Church) Board of Trustees, 1995; president, Boys & Girls Club of the Monroe Area, Tennessee, Inc., 1996; presenter, Phi Theta Kappa, Tennessee Regional Honors Institute, 1995; member, Tennessee Bar Foundation; adjunct professor of law, U.T. College of Law; faculty, Tennessee Judicial Academy; appointed to Court of Criminal Appeals January 1997; elected to eight-year term August 1998 and 2006.

Norma McGee Ogle

505 Main Street, Suite 350, Knoxville, TN 37902

Born Sept. 9, 1952, Lawrenceburg, Tenn.; married; one child; Methodist; B.S., University of Tennessee, 1974; J.D., University of Tennessee College of Law, 1977; admitted to practice law in Tennessee, 1977; member of Tennessee Bar Association, Sevier County Bar Association, Knoxville Bar Association; Tennessee Human Rights Commission, commissioner and chairperson, 1995-98; State of Tennessee Local Planning Advisory Board member, 1997-98; board of directors, Boys and Girls Club of the Smoky Mountains, 1995-2000; Sevier County Board of Education member and chairperson, 1982-94; board of directors, Fort Sanders Sevier Medical Center, 1982-94; board of directors, Sevier County Chapter of American Heart Association, 1991-94; advisory board member, Walters State Community College, 1997-present; Pigeon Forge City Attorney, 1990-98; Pittman Center City Attorney, member, Leadership Sevier Class of 1998; Sevier County Library Foundation; Memphis Area Legal Services, 1977-79; private practice of law, 1979-98; appointed to Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals 1998; elected in 2000; re-elected in 2006.

D. Kelly Thomas Jr.

505 Main Street, Suite 334, Knoxville, TN 37902

Born Feb. 17, 1952. Maryville, Tenn.; married; graduate of Maryville High School; B.A., University of Tennessee, 1974; J.D. University of Tennessee, 1977; admitted to Tennessee Bar in 1978; partner in Thomas & Thomas, 1978-1987; associate, Thomas & Cunningham, 1987-1990; elected Circuit Court Judge, Fifth Judicial District, Division II, 1990; re-elected 1998 and 2006; appointed Criminal Court of Appeals Judge, Eastern Section, 2006; past president, Blount County Bar Association; Faculty member of The National Judicial College, University of Nevada, Reno, 1994-99; East Tennessee Representative, State-Federal Judicial County Board of Directors, 1992; President Tennessee Trial Judges Association, 1996-98; Tennessee Judicial Conference Executive Committee, 1995-96; Ethics Instructor at Tennessee General Sessions Judges Conference, Tennessee Court Clerks Association Conference, Tennessee Juvenile Association Conference, 1996, 1997 and 2000; East Tennessee Director, Tennessee Judicial Conference Executive Committee, appointed in 2002; president Tennessee Judicial Conference, 2007; founding Board of Directors, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Blount County; Boys and Girls Club of Blount County, Board of Directors; Blount County Food Pantry, Board of Directors.

Senior Judges

Jon Kerry Blackwood
Walter C. Kurtz

Allen Wilson Wallace
Donald Paul Harris

Senior judges are appointed by the Tennessee Supreme Court to serve two or four-year terms. The retired trial or appellate court judges may be assigned on a temporary basis to any state court.

Administrative Office of the Courts*511 Union Street**Suite 600**Nashville, TN 37219**(615) 741-2687*

Elizabeth Sykes, *Administrative Director*
Tim Townsend, *Deputy Director*

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) provides support to the Tennessee Supreme Court and the entire state court system. The director, appointed by the Supreme Court, is 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 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 reporters system; providing assistance to judicial committees; compiling data; and disbursing funds to court-appointed attorneys representing indigents.

**Elizabeth Sykes**

Trial & Appellate Court Clerks

Michael Catalano, *Appellate Court Clerk*

Joanne Newsome, *Acting Chief Deputy Clerk, Knoxville*

Janice Rawls, *Chief Deputy Clerk, Nashville*

Susan Turner, *Chief Deputy Clerk, Jackson*



Michael Catalano

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.

The Office of the Appellate Court Clerk is responsible for filing documents submitted by the parties with cases on appeal. The division where a case originates controls where the parties file their appeals.

In capital cases where all appeals have been exhausted and where the execution date has been set, all papers submitted in the Supreme Court are filed in the Middle Division.

In addition to cases on appeal, all Rules of Court, petitions for public response altering or amending the Rules of Court, and Supreme Court opinions are filed in the Middle Division. This division is responsible for matters before the Court of the Judiciary and Board of Law Examiners Board of Professional Responsibility and certified questions of law from federal courts.

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. The appellate court clerk oversees the offices in Knoxville, Nashville and Jackson. Each office also has a chief deputy clerk.

State Trial Courts

Tennessee's ninety-five counties are divided into thirty-one judicial districts. Within each district are circuit courts and chancery courts as provided by the state Constitution. Some districts also have legislatively established criminal courts and probate courts. Judges of these courts are elected to eight-year terms.

Circuit Courts are courts of general jurisdiction in Tennessee. Circuit judges hear civil and criminal cases and appeals of decisions from City, Juvenile, Municipal, and General Sessions courts. The jurisdiction of Circuit Courts often overlaps that of the Chancery Courts.

Chancery Courts are a good example of the court system's English heritage. The traditional equity courts are based on the English system in which the chancellor acted as the "King's conscience." Chancellors may, by law and tradition, modify the application of strict legal rules and adapt the relief given to the circumstances of individual cases.

Criminal Courts are established by the General Assembly in areas where they are justified by heavy caseloads. In addition to having jurisdiction over criminal cases, Criminal Court judges hear misdemeanor appeals from lower courts and certain appeals from juvenile courts. In districts without Criminal Courts, criminal cases are handled at the trial level by Circuit Court judges.

Probate Courts are created by the legislature and given exclusive jurisdiction over probate of wills and administration of estates. The courts also handle conservatorships and guardianships.

Trial Court Judges by Judicial District

DISTRICT 1

Chancellor

Circuit Court Judges

Criminal Court Judges

(Carter, Johnson, Unicoi, and Washington Counties)

G. Richard Johnson

Thomas J. Seeley Jr. (Part I)

Jean A. Stanley (Part II)

Lynn W. Brown

Robert E. Cupp

DISTRICT 2

Chancellor
Circuit Court Judges

Criminal Court Judge

(Sullivan County)

E.G. Moody
John S. McLellan III (Part I)
R. Jerry Beck (Part II)
Robert H. Montgomery Jr.

DISTRICT 3

Chancellor
Circuit Court Judges

Criminal Court Judge

(Greene, Hamblen, Hancock and Hawkins Counties)

Thomas R. Frierson II
John K. Wilson (Part I)
Thomas J. Wright (Part II)
Kindall T. Lawson (Part III)
John F. Dugger Jr.

DISTRICT 4

Chancellor
Circuit Court Judges

(Cocke, Grainger, Jefferson, and Sevier Counties)

Telford E. Forgety Jr.
Ben W. Hooper II (Part I)
Richard Robert Vance (Part II)
Rex Henry Ogle (Part III)
O. Duane Slone (Part IV)

DISTRICT 5

Chancellor
Circuit Court Judges

(Blount County)

Telford E. Forgety Jr.
W. Dale Young (Part I)
David R. Duggan (Part II)

DISTRICT 6

Chancellors

Circuit Court Judges

Criminal Court Judges

(Knox County)

John F. Weaver (Part I)
Daryl R. Fansler (Part II)
Michael W. Moyers (Part III)
Dale Workman (Division I)
Harold Wimberly Jr. (Division II)
Wheeler A. Rosenbalm (Division III)
Bill Swann (Division IV)
Richard R. Baumgartner (Division I)
Bobby Ray McGee (Division II)
Mary Beth Leibowitz (Division III)

DISTRICT 7

Chancellor
Circuit Court Judge

(Anderson County)

William E. Lantrip
Donald R. Elledge

DISTRICT 8

Chancellor
Circuit Court Judge
Criminal Court Judge

(Campbell, Claiborne, Fentress, Scott and Union Counties)

Billy Joe White
John D. McAfee
E. Shayne Sexton

DISTRICT 9

Chancellor
Circuit Court Judge
Criminal Court Judge

(Loudon, Meigs, Morgan and Roane Counties)

Frank V. Williams III
Russell E. Simmons Jr.
E. Eugene Eblen

DISTRICT 10

Chancellor
Circuit Court Judges

Criminal Court Judge

(Bradley, McMinn, Monroe, and Polk Counties)

Jeri Bryant
Larry H. Puckett (Part I)
J. Michael Sharp (Part II)
Carroll Lee Ross (Part III)
Amy F. Reedy

DISTRICT 11

Chancellors

Circuit Court Judges

Criminal Court Judges

(Hamilton County)

W. Frank Brown III (Part I)

Howell N. Peoples (Part II)

Jacqueline E. Schulten (Division I)

Jeff Hollingsworth (Division II)

L. Marie Williams (Division III)

W. Neil Thomas III (Division IV)

Barry A. Steelman (Division I)

Rebecca J. Stern (Division II)

Don W. Poole (Division III)

DISTRICT 12

Chancellor

Circuit Court Judges

(Bledsoe, Franklin, Grundy, Marion, Rhea and Sequatchie Counties)

Jeffrey Stewart

Thomas W. "Rusty" Graham (Part I)

J. Curtis Smith (Part II)

Buddy D. Perry (Part III)

DISTRICT 13

Chancellor

Circuit Court Judges

Criminal Court Judges

(Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Overton, Pickett, Putnam and White Counties)

Ronald Thurman

John A. Turnbull (Part I)

John J. Maddux Jr. (Part II)

Amy V. Hollars (Special Judge)

Leon C. Burns Jr. (Division I)

David A. Patterson (Division II)

DISTRICT 14

Circuit Court Judges

(Coffee County)

L. Craig Johnson (Part I)

Vanessa Agee Jackson (Part II)

DISTRICT 15

Chancellor

Circuit Court Judges

Criminal Court Judge

(Jackson, Macon, Smith, Trousdale and Wilson Counties)

C.K. Smith

Clara W. Byrd (Division I)

John D. Wootten Jr. (Division II)

David E. Durham

DISTRICT 16

Chancellor

Circuit Court Judges

(Cannon and Rutherford Counties)

Robert E. Corlew III

J. Mark Rogers (Part I)

David M. Bragg (Part II)

Don R. Ash (Part III)

Royce Taylor (Part IV)

DISTRICT 17

Chancellor

Circuit Court Judges

(Bedford, Lincoln, Marshall and Moore Counties)

James B. "J.B." Cox

Robert Crigler (Part I)

Franklin Lee Russell (Part II)

DISTRICT 18

Chancellor

Circuit Court Judge

Criminal Court Judge

(Sumner County)

Thomas E. Gray

C. L. "Buck" Rogers

Dee David Gay

DISTRICT 19

Chancellor

Circuit Court Judges

(Montgomery and Robertson Counties)

Laurence M. "Larry" McMillan Jr.

Ross H. Hicks (Part I)

Michael R. Jones (Part II)

John H. Gasaway III (Part III)

DISTRICT 20

Chancellors

(Davidson County)

Claudia Bonnyman (Part I)

Carol McCoy (Part II)

Ellen Hobbs Lyle (Part III)

Russell Perkins (Part IV)

Circuit Court Judges

Hamilton Gayden Jr. (Division I)

Amanda McClendon (Division II)

Barbara N. Haynes (Division III)

Philip Smith (Division IV)

Walter C. Kurtz (Division V)

Thomas W. Brothers (Division VI)

David Randall “Randy” Kennedy (Division VII)

Carol Soloman (Division VIII)

Criminal Court Judges

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)

DISTRICT 21

Circuit Court Judges

(Hickman, Lewis, Perry and Williamson Counties)

Robbie T. Beal (Division I)

James G. Martin (Division II)

Jeffrey S. Bivins (Division III)

Timothy Easter (Division IV)

DISTRICT 22

Circuit Court Judges

(Giles, Lawrence, Maury and Wayne Counties)

Jim T. Hamilton (Part I)

Robert Holloway (Part II)

Robert L. “Bob” Jones (Part III)

Stella L. Hargrove (Part IV)

DISTRICT 23

Circuit Court Judges

(Cheatham, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys and Stewart Counties)

Robert E. Burch (Division I)

Larry J. Wallace (Division II)

George C. Sexton (Division III)

DISTRICT 24

Chancellor

Circuit Court Judges

(Benton, Carroll, Decatur, Hardin and Henry Counties)

Ron E. Harmon

Charles Creed McGinley (Part I)

Donald E. Parish (Part II)

DISTRICT 25

Chancellors

Circuit Court Judges

(Fayette, Hardeman, Lauderdale, McNairy and Tipton Counties)

William C. Cole (Part I)

Martha B. Brasfield (Part II)

J. Weber McCraw (Part I)

Joseph H. Walker III (Part II)

DISTRICT 26

Chancellor

Circuit Court Judges

(Chester, Henderson and Madison Counties)

James F. Butler

Roy B. Morgan Jr. (Division I)

Donald H. Allen (Division II)

Roger A. Page (Division III)

DISTRICT 27

Chancellor

Circuit Court Judge

(Obion and Weakley Counties)

W. Michael Maloan

William B. Acree Jr.

DISTRICT 28	(Crockett, Gibson and Haywood Counties)
Chancellor	George R. Ellis
Circuit Court Judge	Clayburn Peebles
DISTRICT 29	(Dyer and Lake Counties)
Chancellor	Tony A. Childress
Circuit Court Judge	Russell Lee Moore Jr.
DISTRICT 30	(Shelby County)
Chancellors	Walter L. Evans (Part I) Arnold B. Goldin (Part II) Kenny Armstrong (Part III)
Circuit Court Judges	John R. McCarroll Jr. (Division I) James F. Russell (Division II) Karen R. Williams (Division III) Lorrie K. Ridder (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 Judges	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 (Division VI) Lee V. Coffee (Division VII) Chris Craft (Division VIII) W. Mark Ward (Division IX)
Probate Court Judges	James C. Beasley Jr. (Division X) Robert Benham Karen D. Webster
DISTRICT 31	(Van Buren and Warren Counties)
Circuit & Chancery Court Judge	Larry B. Stanley Jr.

Courts of Limited Jurisdiction

General Sessions Court jurisdiction varies from county to county based on state laws and private acts. Every county is served by the court which hears civil and criminal cases. Civil jurisdiction is restricted to specific monetary limits and types of actions. Criminal jurisdiction is limited to preliminary hearings in felony cases and misdemeanor trials in which a defendant waives the right to a grand jury investigation and trial by jury in Circuit or Criminal Court. General Sessions judges also serve as juvenile judges except in counties in which the legislature has established separate Juvenile Courts. General Sessions judges are elected to eight-year terms.

Juvenile Court jurisdiction is vested in General Sessions Courts except in those counties in which the law establishes Juvenile Courts. Juvenile Courts have exclusive jurisdiction in proceedings involving minors alleged to be delinquent, unruly, dependent and neglected. Juvenile Courts also have concurrent jurisdiction with Circuit, Chancery and Probate Courts in some areas.

Municipal Court, also known as city court, has jurisdiction in cases involving violations of city ordinances. Jurisdiction varies widely from city to city.

