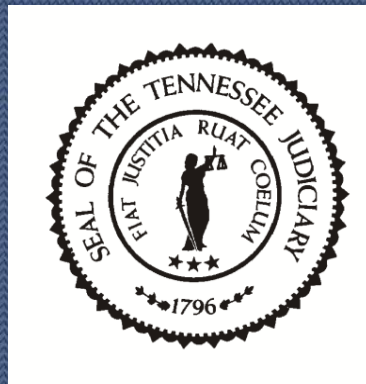


Tennessee Judicial Family Institute and Judicial Mentoring Program



Thomas R. Frierson, II, Judge
Tennessee Court of Appeals, E.S.
Tennessee Judicial Academy 2022
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- *“The network provides an excellent opportunity for every member of a judge’s family to learn first-hand the responsibilities, duties, and ethical limitations that are placed upon each member of the family.”*

*Former Chief Justice William M. Barker
Tennessee Supreme Court, 2006*

- **National Judicial Family Institute**

The logo for the Judicial Family Institute is displayed on a dark blue rectangular background. The word "Judicial" is in a large, bold, white sans-serif font. The word "Family" is also in a large, bold, white sans-serif font, with a white silhouette of a house integrated into the letter 'a'. Below "Judicial Family", the word "INSTITUTE" is written in a smaller, white, all-caps, spaced-out sans-serif font.

Judicial Family
INSTITUTE

The National JFI website can be found at judicialfamilyinstitute.org and by using the link to JFI found at www.tncourts.gov.

- A. General Purpose

- 1. The Judicial Family Institute (JFI) is a national organization dedicated to providing information and education on topics of concern and importance to judicial households and their extended family members.



- 2. *“We set aside personal differences in politics, geography and positions on controversial issues to attend to JFI matters.”*



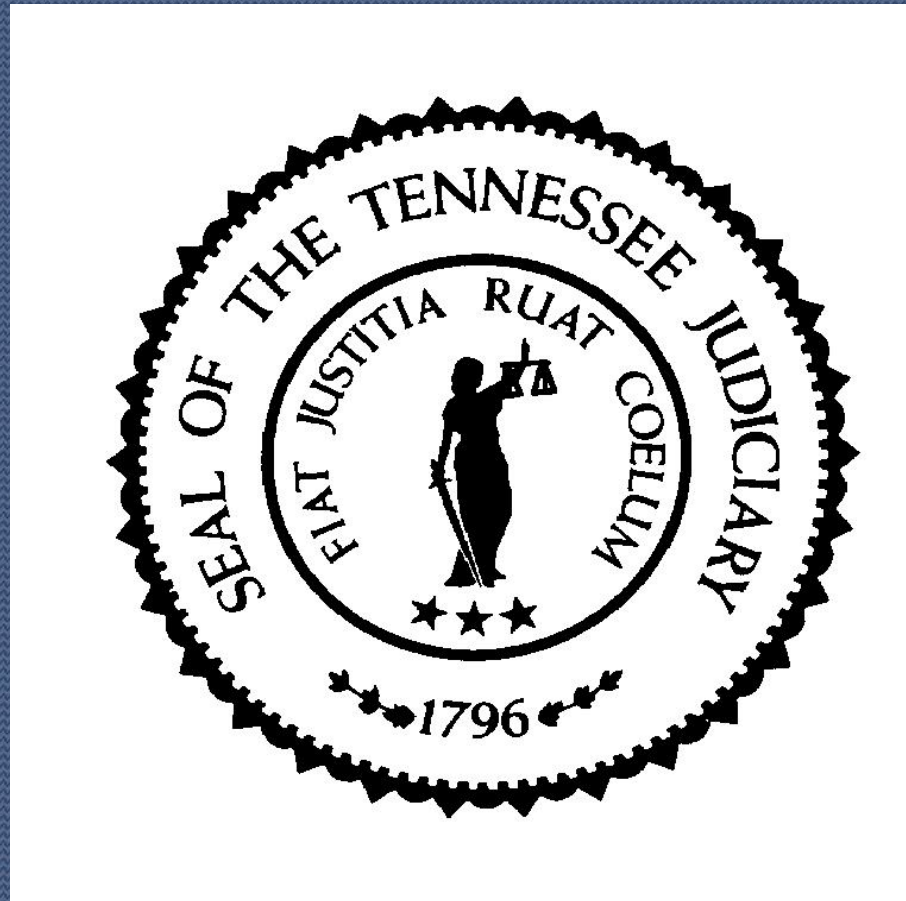
- B. Personal Observations

- 1. *“Being part of a judicial family, going through campaigns, reading newspaper articles about my father’s judicial decisions, and living a public life has bonded us as a family. It has also given me a sense of process, a subtle understanding of how our political system works, and a deep respect for those who choose to make it a career.”* - Ruth Ann Newcomer, Court Relations Program Manager for the Supreme Court of Ohio

● C. Online Topics (Articles, Videos, Resources, and Links)

- 1. Civics Education
- 2. Ethics
- 3. Family and Children
- 4. Health and Quality of Life
- 5. High-Profile Cases
- 6. Security
- 7. Mentoring
- 8. Retirement
- 9. Emergency Preparedness
- 10. Finances
- 11. Judicial Assistance
- 12. Law and Literature
- 13. Media
- 14. New Judge
- 15. Political Life

- Tennessee Judicial Family Institute



- A. Mission statement

- 1. The Tennessee Judicial Family network is an initiative of the Judicial Family Institute (TJFI) Committee of the Tennessee Judicial Conference. The primary focus of TJFI is to identify the needs of and challenges confronting judicial families today while responding appropriately by making available useful information relevant to such issues.

- 2. The Tennessee Judicial Family Institute supports judges and their families through a broad range of programs which include an association of judicial spouses and other judicial family members, annual conference plenary sessions, a judicial mentoring program, and online resources.

- B. Historical perspective

- 1. The Tennessee Judicial Family Institute was established as an *ad hoc* committee in 2003.

Its purpose is

“to encourage an exchange of positive information regarding the responsibilities and challenges of judicial families.” . . .



- C. TJFI Judicial Conference
Registration/Welcome Table



- D. Association of Judicial Spouses and Other Judicial Family Members



- 1. As the Association endeavors to identify the needs and concerns of judicial families, this network has supported educational and recreational opportunities designed to address pertinent issues impacting judicial families today.

- 2. Specific Initiatives
 - A. Judicial Family Member Activities During Judicial Conferences
 - 1. 2016 JFI hosted Nashville Sounds vs. Memphis Redbirds (picnic and game)
 - 2. 2017 JFI sponsored a family adventure at Bays Mountain Park and Planetarium
 - B. Educational Sessions
 - C. Judicial Family Member Surveys, Directory and Networking
 - D. Door Prizes
 - E. Annual Conference Coffee Breaks: “Jolt Before You Bolt”

- E. Judicial Conference Plenary Sessions



- 1. In June 2004, during the Tennessee Judicial Conference's annual meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, judges, spouses and other judicial family members convened in plenary session to consider judicial family topics including personality profiles, ethics and avoiding conflicts of interest, managing the judge's own family challenges and stress management. . . .



- F. Tennessee Judicial Mentoring Program



The TJC welcomed new trial and appellate judges on September 1, 2006.

- “One of the greatest values of mentors is the ability to see ahead what others cannot see and to help them navigate a course to their destination.”

- John C. Maxwell

- 1. . . . Through the program, a mentor judge is assigned to assist and counsel each new judge of the conference. The primary aim of the mentoring program is to provide an appropriate, comprehensive approach to the responsibilities and challenges immediately experienced by new judges. . . .



- All new judges are encouraged to engage actively in the mentoring process for at least one year following election or appointment to the bench.



- Administrative Structure

- The Tennessee Judicial Mentoring Program shall be further developed, implemented, and maintained under the joint direction of the Tennessee Judicial Family Institute Committee and Retired Judges Committee.

- The Role of the Mentoring Program

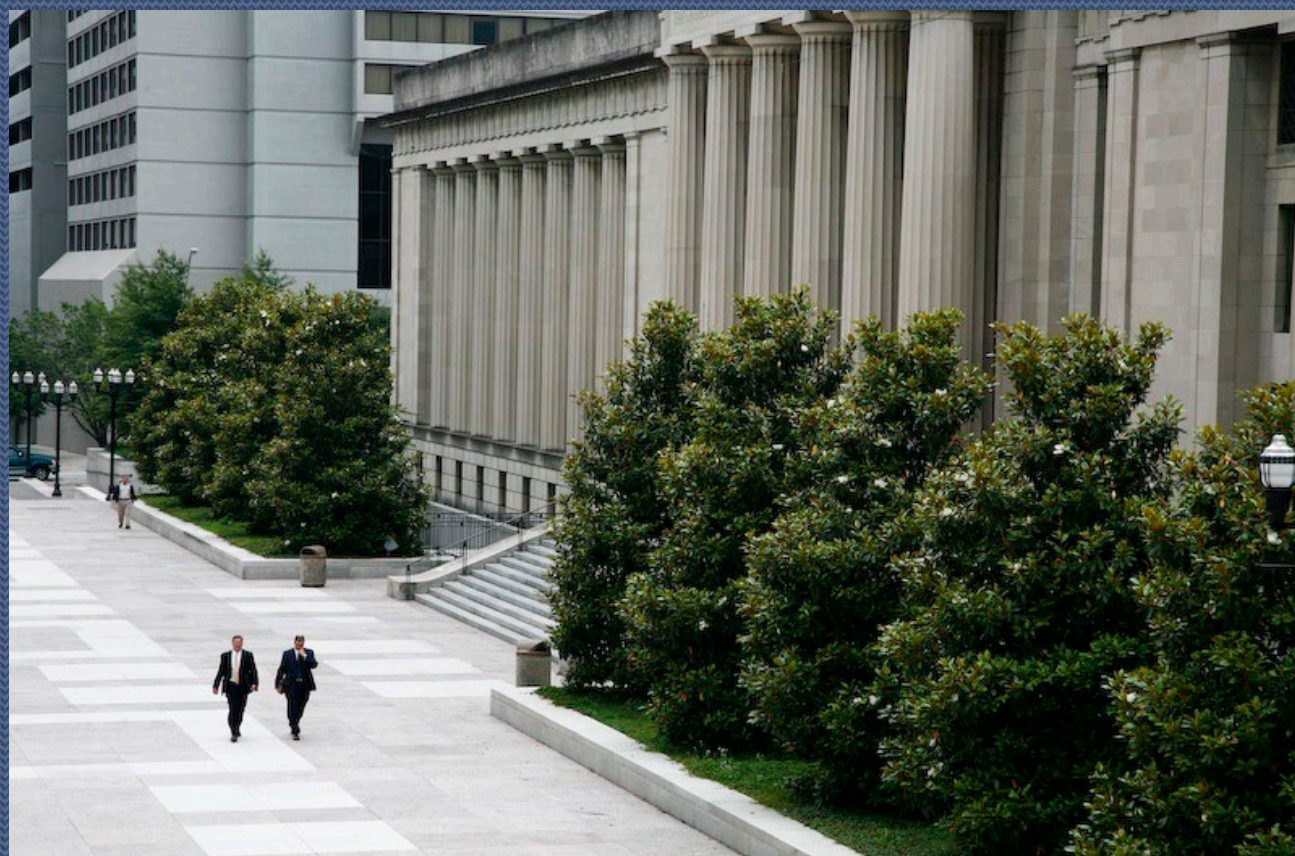
- Mentor judges shall include any current, senior, former, or retired judges/justices expressing a desire and willingness to serve in such capacity.

- “In order to be a mentor, and an effective one, one must care Know what you know and care about the person, care about what you know and care about the person you’re sharing with.”

- Maya Angelou, American poet, memoirist, and civil rights activist.



- A mentor shall be assigned to assist and counsel each new judge who agrees to voluntarily participate in the program.



- Mentors maintain a primary responsibility for assisting new judges by familiarizing them with pertinent topics, including the parameters of the judicial mentoring program, details of closing a law practice, employment procedures/policies, ethical considerations, and tips for living in a judicial family.

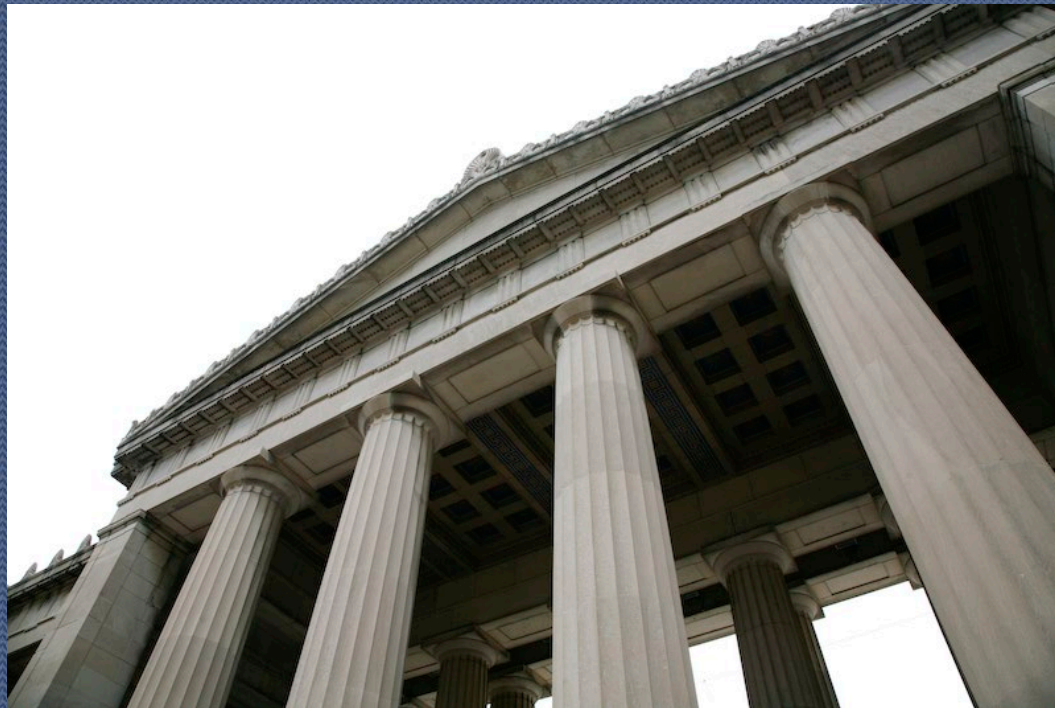
- Description of Mentoring

- The approach of the mentors must be crafted to accommodate different personality types as well as learning styles of the new judges.

- Mentor judges are encouraged to make a commitment to accept interruptions for emergencies, even during trials or hearings.



- The mentoring program relationship shall continue for at least twelve months.



- All participating judges shall be instructed to participate in an evaluation survey at the end of the twelve-month mentoring process.

- The Legacy of Mentoring

- Judicial mentoring has personal, organizational, and professional rewards, exceeding what may be the original intent of a mentor and a new judge participating in the mentoring program.

- For the new judge, being mentored is an affirming experience, which facilitates the judge's ability to become an involved member of the conference and the judiciary.



- A successful mentoring program promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.



- Mentoring leaves a lasting legacy.



- G. Community Outreach Initiatives

- 1. During the February 2007 Conference of Chief Justices held in New Orleans, Louisiana, the Judicial Family Institute sponsored a volunteer project visit for judicial family members to the Albert Wicker Elementary School.



- a. During the visit, participants had an opportunity to make book donations to the school library which had been devastated by hurricane Katrina.



- 2. During the June 2011 Tennessee Judicial Conference in Chattanooga, Tennessee, the Judicial Family Institute sponsored a visit by judicial family members to the Children's Hospital at Erlanger.



- a. During the visit, participants had an opportunity to read to young patients and leave as gifts copies of the book, *Count On Us, A Tennessee Number Book* by *Michael Shoulders*, which had been signed by appellate and trial court judges.



- H. Judicial Family Institute Logo



“Through educational programs, research, and this website, JFI encourages the exchange of information and resources between judicial branch educators and staff, judicial family members, and various organizations.”

- I. Out of State Presentations

- 1. *Judicial Family Institute Programs*, Conference of Chief Justices, Williamsburg, Va., January, 2008.
- 2. *Stress Resilience for the Judicial Family*, Nevada Judicial Leadership Summit, 2012.

• Final Analysis

- A. “. . . JFI encourages judges’ families to be supportive and judges to persevere. . . .”



Judicial Family Institute, Inc.
(JFI) History and Mission, July 12, 2001

- B. *“The family is a harbor of safety in an ocean of change. In this kinship, we find the strength to swim together and eventually the courage to swim apart.” - Anonymous*