

# *Memorial Resolution*

**Honorable James C. Beasley, Jr.**

**1951 – 2021**

**June 2021**

James (Jim) C. Beasley, Jr., retired Criminal Court Judge for the 30th Judicial District, died on February 21, 2021, at the age of 70. He is survived by his wife of 38 years, “Libba” Elizabeth M. Beasley, his daughters, Elizabeth Beasley McCracken and Sarah Hudson Beasley, his father Judge James C. Beasley, Sr., and his grandchild, Blakely Elizabeth McCracken.

Judge Beasley was born and raised in Memphis. He graduated from Overton High School in 1969. In 1973, he received his undergraduate degree from the University of Memphis and in 1977 received his Juris Doctorate degree from the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at the University of Memphis. While attending law school at night, Judge Beasley worked during the day in the Shelby County Criminal Court Clerk’s office.

After admission to the Bar, Judge Beasley worked as an Assistant District Attorney General in Shelby County, Tennessee from 1978 to 1995. During this time he met the love of his life, Libba, who was an Official Court Reporter in Criminal Court and they were married in 1982. During his tenure as a prosecutor, Judge Beasley was assigned to many high profile cases and was a highly respected trial lawyer known for both his zealous advocacy and his cordiality with his adversaries.

Judge Beasley was appointed to the Bench in 1995 by Governor Don Sundquist and served as Criminal Court Judge in Division 10 until his retirement in 2017. As a Criminal Court Judge, Judge Beasley presided astutely over some of the most complex and notorious cases in Shelby County. Judge Beasley never forgot what it was like to be a trial lawyer and he treated all lawyers with great

respect. In turn, Judge Beasley was highly respected by the Bar for his fairness and compassion as evidenced by the fact that he served for 22 years as a judge without ever having opposition in an election. Judge Beasley was also highly regarded by his judicial colleagues across the entire state as evidenced by his election in 2011 to serve as President of the Tennessee Judicial Conference.

Judge Beasley was a devoted member of Grace Evangelical Church and his love of the law was only surpassed by his love of God and his family. With his passing, Judge Beasley left a legacy of more than 40 years of faithful service in the administration of criminal justice in Shelby County. He will be missed by all who knew and respected him.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tennessee Judicial Conference that the foregoing memorial resolution in honor of our dear departed colleague, **JAMES C. BEASLEY, Jr.** be entered on the minutes of the Conference, that a copy be furnished to Thomson West Publishing Company for publication in *Tennessee Decisions* and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this tribute and resolution be furnished to his family.

Respectfully submitted this the 16<sup>th</sup> day of June 2021 in Memphis, Tennessee at the Annual Meeting of the Tennessee Judicial Conference.

Judge W. Mark Ward

Criminal Court

30<sup>th</sup> Judicial District