

# JUDGE NORMA MCGEE OGLE

**Recommendation: RETAIN**

**Commission Vote: 6 FOR RETENTION • 3 FOR REPLACEMENT**

## **Legal Education and Experience**

Judge Norma McGee Ogle received a law degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1977. She practiced law with the Memphis Area Legal Services, Inc. from 1977 to 1979, and engaged in the private practice of law from 1979 to 1998, during which time she served as the City Attorney for Pigeon Forge and the Town of Pittman Center. Judge Ogle was appointed to the Court of Criminal Appeals in November 1998 and elected in August 2000, and was re-elected in 2006.

## **Service to the Profession**

Judge Ogle is a member of the Sevier County, Knox County and Tennessee Bar Associations. She was a member of the Tennessee Human Rights Commission from 1995 to 1998 and served as its chair in 1998. She regularly lectures on legal topics as well as speaking to lay groups on the role of judges and the courts.

## **Survey Results and Interview**

Judge Ogle's survey ratings from appellate judges, trial judges, attorneys and court personnel reflect a satisfactory performance. Her ratings in oral argument and appropriate judicial temperament are particularly noteworthy. The Commission did express concern about the promptness of Judge Ogle's written opinions during the judicial term. From 2010 to 2011 Judge Ogle was aver-

age 6 to 9 months after oral argument to submit her opinions. She did improve from 2012 to 2013 with an average of 5 to 6 months after oral argument to submit her opinions. Judge Ogle did express concern over the timeliness of her opinions and a commitment to continue improving the promptness of her written opinions without sacrificing the quality of the opinion.

## **Comments and Recommendation**

The majority of the Commission found Judge Ogle to easily meet and exceed the criteria of integrity, knowledge of the law, ability to communicate and service to the profession. Judge Ogle noted that she initially was concerned that the emphasis on timeliness of opinions would cause the quality of opinions to suffer. The minority of the Commission was concerned that Judge Ogle had not met the criteria of preparation, attentiveness and effectiveness of working with other judges as demonstrated by the length of time she took in finalizing her opinions. However, her average may have been influenced by her willingness to accept reassignment of cases from other judges. Judge Ogle affirmed her commitment to meet or exceed the standards for appellate judges in promptness and quality of opinions.

**The Commission recommends Judge Norma McGee Ogle be retained on the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals.**