

JUDGE JAMES CURWOOD WITT, JR.

Recommendation: RETAIN

Commission Vote: 9 FOR RETENTION • 0 FOR REPLACEMENT

Legal Education and Experience

Judge James Curwood Witt, Jr. received a law degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1973. He served as Juvenile Court Referee in Monroe County from 1974 to 1979 and was Juvenile Court Judge from 1979 to 1982. Judge Witt also served as counsel for the Monroe County Board of Education from 1989 until 1997. He was appointed to the Court of Criminal Appeals in January 1997 and was elected August 1998 and re-elected in 2006.

Service to the Profession

Judge Witt has served on the Judicial Council and on the Court of the Judiciary. He is a Fellow of the Tennessee Bar Foundation. He is a member and Past President of the Monroe County Bar Association. He has served as a Hearing Committee Member for the Board of Professional Responsibility. Judge Witt has served on the Faculty of the Tennessee Judicial Academy and regularly lectures on legal topics. Since 2001, he has served as an adjunct professor at the University of Tennessee College of Law.

Survey Results and Interview

Judge Witt's survey ratings from appellate judges, trial judges, attorneys and court personnel reflect an excellent performance. His ratings in oral argument and ethical conduct were particularly noteworthy. The interview with Judge Witt supported the survey results. In describing his approach to his work, Judge Witt noted that he has developed a personal process of reviewing cases that substantially reduces the opportunity for technical errors, thus reducing the likelihood of applications to re-hear or reconsider cases.

Recommendation

The Commission unanimously recommends Judge James Curwood Witt, Jr. be retained on the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals.

COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS