

Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference



April 15, 2016

Indigent Representation Task Force

Table of Contents

• Biographies of Speakers	Page
○ Jeffery Harmon, President, 12 th Judicial District	1
○ Dawn Deaner, 20 th Judicial District	3
○ Craig Fickling, 13 th Judicial District	4
○ John Nicoll, 14 th Judicial District	5
○ Vanessa Bryan, 21 st Judicial District	11
○ William “Jake” Lockert, 23 rd Judicial District	14
• Staff and Financial Resources Summary	15
• History of Public Defenders Conference	16
• “What We Are” and “Who We Are”	17
• FY 15 Annual Open Cases Report	19
• FY 15 Annual Closed Cases Report	20
• FY 16 Midyear Open Cases Report	21
• FY 16 Midyear Closed Cases Report	22
• New Courts Since FY 08	23
Appendix	

JEFF HARMON

District Public Defender—12th Judicial District,

Year Elected/Appointed--2011

Current President Tennessee District Public Defender's Conference

Previous Employment:

Assistant Public Defender, 1992-2011

Associate Attorney—Greer & Smith, Dunlap, Tennessee, 1986-1992

Adjunct Instructor in American Government—Chattanooga State Community
College

Education

Memphis State University, J.D.--1986

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, B.S.--1983

Membership(s)

12th Judicial District Bar Association—Past President

Member, Dunlap Lions Club—Past President

Community Involvement:

City Commissioner—Dunlap, Tennessee

Chairman—Dunlap Municipal Planning Commission

Chairman—Long Range Planning Committee, Dunlap First Baptist Church

Contact Info:

423-942-3235 (Office)

Jeffery.Harmon@tn.gov

Office Address:

One Oak Avenue

P.O. Box 220

Jasper, TN 37347

Counties:

Bledsoe, Franklin, Grundy, Marion, Rhea, Sequatchie

Dawn Deaner is the Metropolitan Public Defender for Nashville-Davidson County, a position she has held since 2008. Before that, Dawn spent 11 years as an Assistant Public Defender in Nashville, and a year at the Metropolitan Department of Law. She also taught Trial Advocacy at Vanderbilt University Law School for many years. In addition to membership in several legal organizations, Dawn serves on the Family Reconciliation Center Board, the Mayor's Criminal Justice Steering Committee, and the Davidson County Community Corrections Advisory Board. She was recently elected to the Executive and Steering Committees of the National Association for Public Defense. She is a member of the 2015 Leadership Nashville Class, the 2009 Tennessee Bar Association Leadership Law Class, and the Harry Phillips American Inn of Court. In 2011, the TBA honored Dawn with its Ashley T. Wiltshire Public Service Attorney of the Year award, and in 2012, Gideon's Promise recognized Dawn's work to improve indigent defense in the South with its Stephen B. Bright Award. Dawn earned a B.A. in English from Columbia College in 1993, and her J.D. from George Washington University Law School in 1996.

Craig Fickling was elected District Public Defender for the 13th Judicial District in 2014. The 13th District, consisting of Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, and White Counties, has a land area larger than the state of Delaware. The District's total population is 212,626, with more than 46,000 people (21.8%) living below the poverty level.

A graduate of the University of Memphis School of Law and Millsaps College, Fickling has been in the continuous practice of law in Cookeville since 1991. His wife, Melaney Madewell Fickling, is also an attorney, and the two practiced together before Fickling took office. The Ficklings are the proud parents of twelve-year-old Lee, a middle school student in Cookeville.

Fickling has represented clients throughout Middle Tennessee for the past twenty-five years. He has tried numerous jury trials in both state and federal courts and has successfully argued cases before the Tennessee Court of Appeals, Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals, and the Tennessee Supreme Court, as well as the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. For several years, Fickling was one of the few attorneys selected by the United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee to be appointed to represent indigent criminal defendants.

Fickling is a member of the Tennessee Bar Association, the Putnam County Bar Association, and the Upper Cumberland Trial Lawyers Association. He has served on the boards of directors of Rural Legal Services, the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland, the Putnam County Rural Health Clinic, and the Cookeville Children's Museum, and is a former member of the Capshaw Elementary School PTO. Fickling also serves on the Church Vestry at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Cookeville, where he and his family are active members.

Fickling is a member of the Arsenal Football Club.

JOHN E. NICOLL

313 South Ramsey Street
Manchester, Tennessee 37355
John.Nicoll@Nicoll-Law.com
(931) 409-2977

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

JULY 2004- PRESENT

THE NICOLL LAW FIRM, PLLC

MANCHESTER, TN

Founder and Managing Partner

- Conducted all aspects of business operations including budgeting; purchasing and accountability of equipment and supplies; contracting of necessary utilities and services; record keeping and accounting; and preparation of financial statements, tax forms, and payroll.
- Responsible for hiring, training, and supervision of all employees and contractors.

State and Federal Criminal Defense Attorney

- Represented more than two hundred indigent criminal defendants in the state and federal courts of Tennessee on various criminal charges including capital murder, felony murder, second degree murder, aggravated arson, child abuse, felony weapons possession, sex trafficking of minors, felony theft, manufacture of methamphetamine, child pornography, burglary, domestic violence, and driving under the influence.
- Served as a member of the Criminal Justice Act Panels for both the United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee and the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee.
- Reviewed and analyzed indictments, discovery materials, and other legal documents/materials in order to identify relevant issues, analyze evidence, and provide informative advice to clients on a timely basis so as to meet all deadlines established by the Tennessee and Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, local rules, and various district courts.
- Served as lead trial counsel in numerous contested court hearings including trials, motion hearings, and sentencing hearings.
- Represented defendants on appeal to the Tennessee Court of Appeals and the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.
- Drafted three petitions for certiorari to the United States Supreme Court.
- Regularly performed legal research on a multitude of criminal law issues.

Practice Highlights

- Served as lead counsel in a five-day jury trial in Coffee County, Tennessee in which indigent defendant was acquitted of second degree murder in the shooting death of his girlfriend. (Sept. 2008)

- Represented indigent defendant in two-day jury trial in United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee in which defendant was acquitted of possession of a firearm in furtherance of drug trafficking. (Feb. 2011)
- Represented indigent defendant in six-week jury trial in a “mega-case” in which defendant was acquitted of three counts of the sex trafficking of a minor. The Court later granted motion for a post-trial judgment of acquittal on the only count of conviction. (May 2012)
- Represented indigent defendant in three-day trial in United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee in which defendant was acquitted of three counts including one count pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 924(c) carrying with it a mandatory minimum sentence of 25 years. (Oct 2013)
- Successfully presented mitigation arguments in several cases in federal court leading to sentences below the applicable guideline ranges:
 - Motion for variance granted and 24 months sentence imposed for indigent defendant convicted of a gun offense with a guideline range of 63 to 78 months. (July 2009)
 - Motion for variance granted and 48 months sentence imposed for an indigent defendant convicted of a felony drug offense with a guideline range of 135 to 168 months. (July 2009)
 - Motion for variance granted and 152 months sentence imposed for an indigent defendant qualifying as a “career offender” with a guideline range of 262 to 327 months. (July 2010)
 - Successfully challenged designation of indigent client as a “career offender” (with a corresponding guideline range of 188 to 235 months) resulting in the imposition of a sentence of 38 months. (Dec. 2010)
 - Successfully challenged designation of an indigent client as an “armed career criminal” (with a mandatory term of 15 years imprisonment and a guideline range of 180 to 210 months) resulting in the imposition of a sentence of 77 months. (Feb. 2011)
- Appointed to represent indigent defendant in federal death penalty case. (Apr. 2013)

JAN. 2000 – JAN. 2004

UNITED STATES ARMY JAG CORPS

FORT RILEY, KS

Brigade Trial Counsel

- Served as military justice attorney and legal advisor for 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division.
- Successfully prosecuted more than one hundred fifty felony cases serving as lead counsel in numerous jury trials and sentencing hearings involving such crimes as murder, rape, arson, sexual assault, theft, child molestation, child pornography, domestic violence, and drug distribution.

- Managed seven person staff responsible for the preparation and processing of all legal actions within the brigade in accordance with the Uniform Code of Military Justice and applicable regulations.
- Represented the United States Army in numerous contested hearings including courts-martial, administrative separation proceedings, and Article 32(b) investigations, requiring in-depth knowledge of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, the Manual for Courts- Martial, the Rules for Court-Martial, the Military Rules of Evidence, DA-PAM 27-9 (Military Judge's Benchbook), and applicable DOD and Army regulations and instructions.
- Drafted hundreds of legal documents including charge sheets, discovery responses, motions, memoranda of law, and sentencing documents.
- Provided legal advice and assistance to commanders and staff at company, battalion and brigade levels on all operational law and military justice matters including sexual assault prevention, domestic assault, and crimes against children.
- Served as Brigade Operations Counsel and supervised Brigade Operational Law Team during deployments to the National Training Center and two Warfighter exercises. Provided written and oral legal advice to all levels of command, participated in staff meetings, reviewed operational plans, prepared all necessary documentation for administrative and judicial proceedings, and advised officers tasked with investigating accidents, property losses, and claims for or against the government.

Senior Trial Counsel

- Served as Senior Trial Counsel for an Installation Criminal Law Division responsible for the supervision, mentoring, training, and assistance of four subordinate military justice attorneys in the areas of criminal procedure and advocacy.
- Planned and conducted monthly officer professional development programs on policy, programs, and military justice issues.
- Taught a two-day trial advocacy seminar focusing on closing argument, cross examination, use of experts, the Military Rules of Evidence, and criminal procedure.
- Provided instruction and training to the tenant unit of the Criminal Investigation Division.

Chief, Criminal Law Division

- Served as Chief of Installation Criminal Law Division supporting two Brigade Combat Teams, an Engineer Group, and numerous tenant organizations (totaling more than 12,000 soldiers) providing support to the Command in the areas of courts-martial, non- judicial punishment, and adverse administrative actions.
- Led, managed, and supervised four military justice attorneys, a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, five enlisted soldiers, and four civilian personnel responsible for the preparation and processing of all legal actions within the installation.

- Routinely communicated with the Installation Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) in regard to all aspects of the installation's military justice program, including preparing weekly military justice reports and leading weekly staff meetings.
- Supervised the preparation of more than one hundred staffing packages to various senior leaders including the various General Courts-Martial Convening Authorities and the Installation's Commanding General in order to accomplish the military justice program's goals and responsibilities.
- Acted as liaison with external offices, agencies, and organizations including but not limited to various state district attorney's offices, the regional United States Attorney's office, and various police and law enforcement departments and agencies.
- Provided oversight of the Victim/Witness Assistance Programs.

Practice Highlights and Awards

- Selected by Staff Judge Advocate to serve as trial counsel for most active criminal jurisdiction at Fort Riley.
- Selected over more senior officers by Staff Judge Advocate to serve as Chief of Installation's Criminal Law Division.
- Awarded "one block" designation on Officer Evaluation Reports for exceptional performance.
- Awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

EDUCATION

1992– 1996

FURMAN UNIVERSITY

GREENVILLE, SC

- **Degree:** Bachelor of Arts, Accounting, *Magna Cum Laude*.
- **Accomplishments and Awards:** Graduated top 5% of graduating class (23 out of 518); Dean's List; Army ROTC 4 year scholarship winner; Phi Eta Sigma Academic Fraternity; Elliot Davis & Company Accounting Award; and Distinguished Military Graduate.

1996 – 1999

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE COLLEGE OF LAW

KNOXVILLE, TN

- **Degree:** Juris Doctor, *Magna Cum Laude*.
- **Accomplishments and Awards:** Graduated top 15% of graduating class (18 out of 152); Dean's List; Highest Honors; Four Certificates of Academic Excellence (Legal Process I, Property, Land Finance Law, and Advocacy Clinic); James L. Powers III Excellence in Criminal Advocacy Award (1998-1999 Year); and placed second in Ray H. Jenkins Trial Competition.

SPECIALIZED TRAINING AND CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

- United States Army Judge Advocate General’s Basic Course, Charlottesville, VA (2000) (4 months)
- United States Army Judge Advocate General’s Trial Counsel Assistance Program, Washington, DC (2002) (one week)
- The 7th Tennessee Criminal Defense College—TCDC (2007) (one week)
- Continuing Legal Education Classes including:
 - Trial Skills in Child Delinquency Cases (2006)
 - CJA Panel Seminar (2006)
 - Introduction to Appellate Practice (2006)
 - Orientation Seminar for Members of the CJA Training Panel (2007)
 - Effective Use of Courtroom Technology (2007)
 - Sentencing Seminar (2008)
 - Begay, Chambers, and Beyond- Your Client’s Prior Convictions may not be “Crimes of Violence” after all (2009)
 - Forensics for the 21st Century (2009)
 - Ethics on Appeal (2009)
 - Immigration- What Criminal Defense Counsel Needs to Know (2010)
 - Ethics and Attorney Fees (2010)
 - Trial Practice- Voir Dire, Cross-Examination and Technology (2011)
 - Obtaining Pretrial Release (2011)
 - Mega-cases: Ethics, Discovery, Speedy Trial, and Case Budgeting (2011)
 - Persuasive Advocacy in the Sixth Circuit (2011)
 - Communicating with Your Client and the Courts (2012)
 - Trying the Mega-case (2012)
 - Identifying Mental Disabilities in Your Client (2012)
 - Jury Selection (2013)
 - Federal Rules of Evidence (2013)
 - Alternatives to Incarceration and Dynamic Sentencing Hearings (2013)
 - Ethics in Criminal Law (2013)
 - Fake Drugs/Real Crimes (2014)
 - Constitutional Challenges to the Requirements under the Adam Walsh Act (2014)
 - Federal Sentencing: From Imposition of Sentence to Retroactive Relief (2014)
 - Defending a Capital Case (2014)
 - Death Penalty Cases: ABA Guidelines and Recent DOJ Protocol (2014)

PRESENTATIONS AS INVITED SPEAKER

- Federal Sentencing Laws and Rules that State Court Practitioners Need to Know (2012)
- Timeless Cross-Examination (2013)
- Dual Sovereigns Equals Double Trouble (2014)

BAR LICENSES

- State of Tennessee (Admitted 1999)
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee (Admitted 2005)
- United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee (Admitted 2007)
- United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit (Admitted 2010)

RESUME OF VANESSA PETTIGREW BRYAN

Work Address:

305 Public Sq., Suite 112, Franklin, TN 37065

Phone: Work (615) 790-5519 (ext. 106); fax 790-5524

E-mail: vanessa.bryan@ tn.gov

Married: Nelson Bryan, graduate of Vanderbilt University

Retired from Vanderbilt University after 30 years

Presently works part time as a bailiff in Williamson County Circuit Court

2 Children: Zachary Taylor Bryan, age 31; Joseph MacRae Bryan, age 25

EDUCATION

1972-1976	B.A.-Majors History & French	Maryville College Maryville, Tennessee
1978-1979	Paralegal Certification	University of Maryland College Park, Maryland
1982-1986	Doctor of Jurisprudence	Nashville School of Law Nashville, Tennessee.

WORK EXPERIENCE

1978-1979	Paralegal in Law Firm	Bell, Cornelius & Shore Rockville, Maryland
1979-1984	Judicial Commissioner	Hon. Judge Jane C. Franks, Franklin, TN
1985-1987	Law Clerk	U.S. Bankruptcy Trustee
1987-1989	Private Practice	Hon. William Carter Conway Attorney at Law, Franklin, Tennessee
1989- 2006	Assist. Public Defender	21st Judicial District
2006 to present	Public Defender, 21 st JD	Elected Twice for 8 year terms
2015 to present	Hearing Officer	Board of Professional Responsibility, Tennessee

ORGANIZATIONS

Board of Directors: 21st Drug Court, Franklin, TN.
Board of Directors: D.U.I. Drug Court
Barrister and Master: Inns of Court, John Marshall Chapter, Franklin, TN.
Williamson County Bar Association
Tri- County Bar Association
Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

Daughters of the American Revolution
Tennessee Bar Association
Women Are Safe of Centerville
Williamson County Republican Career Women, president (2012 term)
Marshall County Historical Society
Preservation Society of Colonial Williamsburg
Historical Society of the United States Supreme Court
Historical Society of the Tennessee Supreme Court
Historical Society of the White House
Leadership Franklin, 2009
Who's Who in Tennessee

SPECIALIZED TRAINING

The National Drug Court Institute, Judicial Trial College, Reno, Nevada
Veteran's Drug Court, Washington, D.C.
Department of Justice, Drug Court Training, Milwaukee, WI; St. Louis, Mo.; Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.;
Washington, D.C.

Narcotic Awareness & Resident Counterdrug Training, Franklin, TN.

I have practiced law since 1987 primarily in criminal law. My district includes Hickman, Perry, Lewis, and Williamson counties. Throughout twenty-six years as a public defender, I have handled countless murder trials, together with all courts throughout the district from General Sessions, Juvenile, Circuit, and cases on appeal to the State of Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals and the Tennessee Supreme Court. My practice centralizes around a holistic approach with respect to handling indigent clients. With a wonderful staff of paralegals and attorneys, we have found placement for our clients into alcohol and drug treatment; maternity care and long term placement of addicted mothers; literacy training to college and trade school placement; and mental health treatment.

I helped to start the 21st Drug Court and was on the Board of Directors and the team for over fifteen years. Currently I serve on the Board of Directors for the DUI Drug Court and place two attorneys on both teams for both drug courts in Williamson County.

William B. (Jake) Lockert, III

Graduated from the University of Memphis Law School in May 1983, Admitted to the Bar to practice law in October 1983. He was in private practice until he went to work for the 23rd District Attorney General's Office in 1986. He worked as an Assistant District Attorney from 1986-1998. He ran for the Office of District Public Defender for the 23rd District in 1998. He is now in his third eight year term as the District Public Defender for the 23rd District.

He has been married to Theresa Lockert for 36 years. They have three children and 4 grandchildren. He is a member of 24 Church located in Pleasant View. He has been very involved with the 23rd District Drug Court Program since its inception 13 years ago.

Jake has handled multiple Death Penalty cases and tried over 30 murder cases (none received the death penalty) , obtaining favorable jury verdicts in over 80% of his cases including two not guilty jury verdicts in first degree murder cases. He currently has a staff of six full time Assistant Public Defenders handling an annual caseload of around 8,000 cases in five counties and 20 Courts.

STAFF AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES SUMMARY

Staff resources:

29 – Elected District Public Defenders (does not include Davidson and Shelby)

211 – Assistant Public Defenders (includes attorneys in investigator positions) – 15 of which are part time

31 – Investigators – 1 of which is part time

90 – Administrative/Clerical Staff – 6 of which are part time

16 – Conference Office Support Staff – 1 of which is part time

Financial resources:

Fiscal Year 2015/16 Budget:

State Funds - \$50,576,654 (includes \$12.50 funding from multi-county districts)

City/County Appropriations - \$56,000 – these funds are transferred to the state budget and do not consider funds held in the county for PD use

Partial Indigency Fee Collections - \$460,000

Capital Case Training Funding - \$50,000

Note – of the \$50+M state dollars, \$5,081,700 flows through to Shelby County and \$2,219,700 flows through to Davidson County.

HISTORY OF PUBLIC DEFENDERS CONFERENCE

Prior to 1986 public defender offices existed only in the 20th (Metropolitan Nashville, Davidson County*) and the 30th (Shelby County**) districts. In 1986 a "Pilot Public Defender Program" was created in seven (7) judicial districts (7, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, & 29). A statewide public defender system was created by the General Assembly in 1989 consisting of a district public defender, assistant public defenders and district investigators for each judicial district, except the twentieth and thirtieth districts. The personnel of the public defenders are state employees, entitled to all state employee benefit programs.

Notes:

- * The Davidson County Public Defender's Office was created by a Private Act of the Tennessee Legislature in 1961 and the first Davidson County Public Defender was elected in 1962.
- ** Founded in 1917, Shelby County's Office of the Public Defender is the oldest such office in Tennessee and the third oldest in the United States.

The 29 DPDs are elected for 8 year terms, the current term ends 8/31/2022, Davidson County PD is elected for 4 year terms and the PD in Shelby County is appointed by the County Mayor.

The Public Defender Offices in Shelby & Davidson County are county offices, staffed by employees of the respective counties; the public defender of each county was made a member of the Conference in 1990.

Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference – What We Are

- The District Public Defenders Conference was created by Chapter 588, §11, of the Public Acts of 1989. The Conference is a statewide system of elected public defenders from each Judicial District, and the central administrative office of the Executive Director. The public defenders of Shelby and Davidson Counties were added to the Conference by Chapter 751, § 6, of the Public Acts of 1990.
- It is the duty of the Conference to give consideration to the enactment of such laws and rules of procedure as may be necessary to promote a more effective administration of justice and enhance the peace and good order in the State.
- Each District Public Defender's office facilitates the State's obligation, under the Constitution of the United States, to provide an attorney to a person charged with the commission of a crime who is determined to be indigent.
- District Public Defenders have a statutory duty to represent indigent persons for whom they have been appointed as counsel by the court:
 - (1) In any criminal prosecution or juvenile delinquency proceeding involving a possible deprivation of liberty; or
 - (2) in any habeas corpus or other post-conviction proceeding (T.C.A. § 8-14-201).
- District Public Defenders counsel the accused, representing the accused in the trial court. If the accused is determined to be guilty by the judgment of the trial court, and a sentence of imprisonment is imposed, or the court dismisses a habeas corpus or post-conviction petition, the District Public Defender must fully advise the accused of his or her right to appellate review.
- If the defendant wishes to appeal his or her case, the District Public Defender must reasonably take all steps necessary to perfect the appeal. This includes a motion for new trial when required, and the filing of all essential transcripts and records with the clerk of the appellate court. The District Public Defender has a continuing duty and responsibility to handle any appeals filed by the defendant whom they represented at trial.
- There are twenty-nine District Public Defenders in Tennessee and two local public defenders in Shelby and Davidson Counties. Each District Public Defender is elected by the citizens of his or her judicial district and serves an eight-year term. Public defenders and assistant Public Defenders are licensed attorneys, duly admitted to practice law before the courts of Tennessee.
- The District Public Defenders Conference employs 29 district public defenders, 211 assistant public defenders, 31 criminal investigators, 90 administrative personnel and 16 staff members in the Conference office. Currently there are 31 investigator positions filled by attorneys serving in the capacity of assistant public defenders.

Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference - Who We Are

- The District Public Defenders Conference consists of twenty-nine elected District Public Defenders in Tennessee and the two Public Defenders from Shelby and Davidson County. The Attorney General and Reporter is an *ex officio* member of the Conference and acts as its legal advisor.

- The District Public defenders are among the most experienced trial lawyers in Tennessee. Many Conference attorneys have been practicing law for more than 30 years, with an overall average experience of about 20 years.
- The Executive Director of the District Public Defenders Conference develops policy, provides administrative services and training, and coordinates multi-district cases.
- The Executive Director and his or her staff assist the District Public Defenders throughout the state, supporting the efforts of District Public Defenders in performance of their duties.
- The Executive Director serves in a liaison capacity among the various branches of state government, including, but not limited to, the courts, the General Assembly, the Executive Department, and the Office of the Attorney General and Reporter.
- The Executive Director administers the accounts which relate to the offices of the District Public Defenders within the judicial branch of Tennessee's government. In addition, the Executive Director prepares, approves, and submits budget estimates and appropriation requests necessary for the maintenance and operation of the District Public Defender offices, and makes recommendations with respect thereto.
- The Executive Director draws and approves all requisitions for the payment of public monies appropriated for the maintenance and operation costs of the District Public Defenders. Further, the Executive Director audits claims and prepares vouchers for presentation to the department of finance and administration, which may include payroll warrants, expense warrants, and warrants covering the necessary costs of supplies, materials and other obligations of the various District Public Defenders offices.
- The entire Conference is required by statute to meet once each year. However, the Conference typically gathers more frequently. Conference members, in a cohesive effort, strive to improve the criminal justice system. By pooling individual talents and expertise, the Conference has become an important participant in the legislative and judicial processes. Conference members meet regularly to consider Conference issues, pending legislation, and judicial actions. Three times a year the Conference convenes for intensive training sessions in areas such as management, updates to existing law, and technological advances.
- The Conference is led by an Executive Committee, elected by Conference members. The committee consists of a president, vice president, secretary/treasurer, the most recent past president, and a representative from each of the three grand divisions. Conference by-laws empower the Executive Committee to act on behalf of the full Conference in its day-to-day operations.
- A Legislative Committee, created by statute, considers the enactment of laws and changes to the rules of criminal procedure which are necessary to improve the administration of justice in Tennessee. The committee drafts legislation, and together with the full Conference submits the Conference's recommendations to the General Assembly. Additional committees are created, as needed, to consider issues such as internal training and work load determinations.

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDERS CONFERENCE
FY15 ANNUAL SUMMARY OF OPENED CASES REPORT
7/1/2014 THRU 6/30/2015

JUDICIAL DISTRICT	CAPITAL	1ST DEG MURDER	FELONY	MISD	JUVENILE	APPEAL	PROBATION	OTHER	TOTAL
1	0	0	1,626	2,590	0	2	1,043	33	5,294
2	0	1	1,205	3,392	1	14	1,565	79	6,257
3	0	4	2,147	4,192	335	3	1,075	29	7,785
4	0	3	1,534	2,836	113	5	1,026	80	5,597
5	0	1	524	1,023	126	10	1,118	620	3,422
6	0	6	2,573	6,003	604	8	1,216	77	10,487
7	0	1	1,063	2,444	44	28	866	0	4,446
8	0	5	1,058	1,976	87	0	511	28	3,665
9	0	2	566	976	112	6	229	51	1,942
10	4	5	2,066	2,054	99	2	1,258	209	5,697
11	0	8	4,453	8,298	406	17	2,447	0	15,629
12	0	7	1,544	3,135	27	0	1,318	38	6,069
13	0	3	1,611	3,867	81	4	1,697	190	7,453
14	0	1	726	1,715	147	0	607	26	3,222
15	0	5	1,544	3,086	62	5	1,017	46	5,765
16	0	0	1,882	3,039	870	3	1,911	238	7,943
17	0	0	1,479	3,072	469	11	834	45	5,910
18	0	1	1,430	1,451	15	4	550	55	3,506
19	0	4	1,307	1,896	2	15	923	19	4,166
20	0	15	5,385	21,680	821	10	2,082	1,921	31,914
21	0	0	1,029	1,062	34	8	593	33	2,759
22	0	9	1,909	3,274	0	6	1,705	1,013	7,916
23	0	0	833	1,843	65	12	1,003	37	3,793
24	0	4	873	849	50	6	427	37	2,246
25	0	1	1,111	1,163	57	4	676	68	3,080
26	0	8	1,165	1,635	11	20	812	67	3,718
27	0	0	684	688	15	4	137	21	1,549
28	0	3	723	711	70	3	261	16	1,787
29	0	2	636	571	41	5	245	12	1,512
30	1	47	6,878	19,304	458	42	2,130	605	29,465
31	0	1	349	448	39	3	537	9	1,386
TOTAL	5	147	51,913	110,273	5,261	260	31,819	5,702	205,380

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDERS CONFERENCE
FY15 ANNUAL SUMMARY OF CLOSED CASES REPORT
7/1/2014 THRU 6/30/2015

JUDICIAL DISTRICT	CAPITAL	1ST DEG MURDER	FELONY	MISD	JUVENILE	APPEAL	PROBATION	OTHER	TOTAL
1	0	0	1,371	2,595	0	2	888	657	5,513
2	0	1	988	3,293	0	12	1,288	70	5,652
3	0	1	1,640	4,588	332	3	1,079	42	7,685
4	0	1	1,322	3,074	127	7	1,035	75	5,641
5	0	1	445	1,114	169	16	1,098	616	3,459
6	0	3	2,473	5,762	693	12	1,246	76	10,265
7	0	1	775	2,063	32	1	828	139	3,839
8	0	2	712	1,823	68	0	470	428	3,503
9	0	2	510	805	83	5	195	141	1,741
10	1	3	1,446	1,864	64	6	1,218	465	5,067
11	0	6	4,026	7,734	382	12	2,289	0	14,449
12	0	7	1,307	3,298	21	1	1,342	38	6,014
13	0	0	1,282	3,503	72	8	1,430	115	6,410
14	0	2	617	2,270	239	0	620	73	3,821
15	0	4	1,187	3,148	48	6	953	46	5,392
16	0	0	1,596	3,115	900	1	1,889	430	7,931
17	0	0	1,206	3,337	438	19	833	46	5,879
18	0	0	1,380	1,564	17	2	553	55	3,571
19	0	2	1,080	2,167	2	15	967	12	4,245
20	0	12	5,515	19,591	904	11	2,135	1,666	29,834
21	0	0	923	1,163	33	11	605	29	2,764
22	0	6	1,616	3,612	0	7	1,693	1,014	7,948
23	0	0	689	1,963	57	9	977	22	3,717
24	0	2	691	870	44	4	411	31	2,053
25	0	2	1,051	1,388	58	7	738	49	3,293
26	0	7	986	1,901	17	19	815	41	3,786
27	0	0	484	749	10	4	115	28	1,390
28	0	3	520	865	70	2	244	14	1,718
29	0	0	499	609	28	6	212	11	1,365
30	2	55	6,406	20,280	386	54	2,168	572	29,923
31	0	0	276	492	40	1	528	15	1,352
TOTAL	3	123	45,019	110,600	5,334	263	30,862	7,016	199,220

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDERS CONFERENCE
FY16 MIDYEAR SUMMARY OF OPENED CASES REPORT
7/1/2015 THRU 12/31/2015

JUDICIAL DISTRICT	CAPITAL	1ST DEG MURDER	FELONY	MISD	JUVENILE	APPEAL	PROBATION	OTHER	TOTAL
1	0	2	739	1,287	0	0	550	13	2,591
2	0	1	611	1,301	1	11	646	31	2,602
3	0	0	925	1,822	122	2	621	23	3,515
4	0	0	764	1,342	38	3	571	49	2,767
5	0	1	315	570	88	7	542	300	1,823
6	0	2	1,494	2,714	276	2	568	51	5,107
7	0	0	551	1,134	30	0	425	15	2,155
8	0	0	521	962	56	0	296	10	1,845
9	0	3	247	431	64	0	116	15	876
10	3	1	1,224	1,272	109	0	694	24	3,327
11	0	1	2,344	4,339	254	2	1,321	0	8,261
12	0	0	668	1,363	12	0	622	19	2,684
13	0	2	738	1,677	29	1	869	56	3,372
14	0	0	393	815	98	0	274	8	1,588
15	0	1	682	1,654	24	2	542	18	2,923
16	0	0	1,053	1,494	437	0	398	303	3,685
17	0	0	794	1,512	212	4	429	54	3,005
18	0	0	756	716	0	0	251	151	1,874
19	0	1	592	988	3	0	541	5	2,130
20	0	9	2,289	10,027	529	5	1,123	1,381	15,363
21	0	3	527	490	15	2	361	9	1,407
22	0	2	983	1,562	0	4	767	441	3,759
23	0	0	484	1,098	37	1	494	15	2,129
24	0	0	492	545	30	5	309	19	1,400
25	0	0	612	672	57	1	267	49	1,658
26	0	6	630	870	17	9	365	37	1,934
27	0	0	344	350	22	1	94	11	822
28	0	0	368	385	37	2	121	3	916
29	0	0	327	294	24	2	133	2	782
30	0	24	3,418	9,642	383	22	1,086	329	14,904
31	0	2	222	272	17	2	324	29	868
TOTAL	3	61	26,107	53,600	3,021	90	15,720	3,470	102,072

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDERS CONFERENCE
FY16 MIDYEAR SUMMARY OF CLOSED CASES REPORT
7/1/2015 THRU 12/31/2015

JUDICIAL DISTRICT	CAPITAL	1ST DEG MURDER	FELONY	MISD	JUVENILE	APPEAL	PROBATION	OTHER	TOTAL
1	0	0	560	1,307	0	0	438	278	2,583
2	0	0	472	1,258	0	5	595	21	2,351
3	0	0	767	2,051	123	2	608	25	3,576
4	0	0	691	1,620	44	1	571	48	2,975
5	0	0	256	590	82	3	537	289	1,757
6	0	2	1,413	2,770	336	2	558	46	5,127
7	0	0	383	1,019	17	1	354	46	1,820
8	0	1	391	1,030	55	0	278	35	1,790
9	0	0	205	480	46	0	125	11	867
10	0	4	660	1,125	104	1	676	589	3,159
11	0	1	1,953	3,755	218	2	1,158	0	7,087
12	0	1	573	1,424	17	0	614	12	2,641
13	0	0	620	1,739	27	1	868	34	3,289
14	0	0	337	881	94	0	290	8	1,610
15	0	1	609	1,526	26	3	486	16	2,667
16	0	0	975	1,557	437	2	531	653	4,155
17	0	0	709	1,595	220	6	427	26	2,983
18	0	1	616	807	0	0	279	66	1,769
19	0	2	582	988	0	3	469	9	2,053
20	0	8	2,239	9,962	360	25	681	875	14,150
21	0	1	447	573	10	2	366	6	1,405
22	0	2	856	1,702	0	2	767	510	3,839
23	0	0	352	1,082	24	4	470	20	1,952
24	0	0	383	588	31	2	280	26	1,310
25	0	0	484	651	55	1	296	29	1,516
26	0	3	559	1,067	16	6	404	16	2,071
27	0	0	300	370	20	1	85	8	784
28	0	1	268	470	34	3	130	8	914
29	0	0	278	296	19	2	131	3	729
30	0	29	3,200	9,824	219	17	1,101	263	14,653
31	0	1	175	289	12	2	312	8	799
TOTAL	0	58	22,313	54,396	2,646	99	14,885	3,984	98,381

NEW COURTS ESTABLISHED SINCE FY08

The Conference has not received new positions since FY2008. Since the Conference started keeping case statistics in FY1997, attorney positions have increased by 52%, but workload has increased by 68%. Additionally, since the last new allocation of positions, the following new court responsibilities have been created for Public Defender attorneys:

Dist 1	2012	General Sessions Court
	2014	Drug Court
Dist 2	2015	Drug Court
Dist 3	2015	Increase in the number of dates court is held in each county
	2015	General Sessions Court
Dist 4	2010	4 new Drug Courts - one in each county
Dist 9	2015	Oliver Springs Municipal Court with General Sessions jurisdiction
Dist 13	2015	2 General Sessions Courts 3 Drug Courts 1 Veterans Court
Dist 14	2009	Mental Health Court
Dist 18	2015	General Sessions Court
Dist 19	2014	Juvenile/General Sessions Court
	2012	Veterans Court
Dist 21	2010	DUI/Drug Court
	2013	Juvenile Court
Dist 23	2011	City Court with General Sessions jurisdiction - Humphreys County
Dist 25	2010	Drug Court - Fayette County
	2015	Drug Court - Hardeman County

APPENDIX

CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information for staffing and financial resources or caseload information, please contact:

Jeffrey S. Henry, Executive Director
TN District Public Defenders Conference
615-741-5562 ext. 110
615-741-5568 fax
Jeffrey.Henry@tn.gov

Paige Edwards, Assistant Executive Director
TN District Public Defenders Conference
615-741-5562 ext. 113
615-741-5568 fax
Paige.X.Edwards@tn.gov

For further information day-to-day challenges faced by Public Defenders, please contact:

Jeffery Harmon, President, TN District Public Defenders Conference
District Public Defender, 12th, Judicial District
423-942-3235
423-942-6777 fax
Jeffery.Harmon@tn.gov