

A REVIEW OF THE CONFIGURATION OF THE
TRIAL LEVEL JUDICIARY OF THE STATE OF
TENNESSEE FROM 1978-2018 WITH
CITATIONS, MAPS AND
SUMMARY OF CHANGES THAT OCCURRED
IN 1984.

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Chancellor 29th Judicial District

JUDICIAL CIRCUITS IN 1978¹

CIRCUIT	COUNTIES
1	Washington, Johnson, Carter, Unicoi
2	Cocke, Union, Sevier, Jefferson, Grainger, Hancock
3	Knox
4	Loudon, Roane
5	Clay, White, Overton, Putnam, Cumberland, Pickett
6	Hamilton
7	Part 1: Warren, DeKalb, Van Buren; Part 2 Coffee
8	Rutherford, Cannon
9	Montgomery, Sumner, Robertson
10	Davidson
11	Lawrence, Giles, Maury, Wayne
12	Madison, Chester, Henderson
13	Crockett, Gibson, Henry, Haywood
14	Obion, Weakley
15	Shelby
16	Fayette, Hardeman, Lauderdale, McNairy, Tipton
17	Williamson, Hickman, Perry, Lewis
18	Franklin, Meigs, Rhea, Sequatchie, Bledsoe, Marion, Grundy
19	Fentress, Campbell, Scott, Morgan, Claiborne
20	Sullivan (circuit court only), Greene, Hamblen, Hawkins (criminal court only)
21	Dickson, Cheatham, Houston, Stewart, Humphreys
22	Carroll, Benton, Decatur, Hardin
23	Bedford, Marshall, Lincoln, Moore
24	McMinn, Monroe, Polk (circuit court): Bradley McMinn, Monroe, Polk (criminal court)
25	Jackson, Macon, Smith, Trousdale, Wilson
26	Sullivan (criminal court)
27	Greene, Hawkins, Hamblen (circuit court with civil jurisdiction only)
28	Anderson (civil, criminal, and chancery court)
29	Bradley(circuit court)
30	Blount
31	Dyer, Lake

¹ Tenn. Code Ann. § 16-207 to 236. (Supp. 1978).

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Circuit and Criminal Districts in 1978



- 1 - Washington, Johnson, Carter, Unicoi
- 2 - Cocke, Union, Sevier, Grainger, Hancock
- 3 - Knox
- 4 - Loudon, Roane
- 5 - Clay, White, Overton, Putnam, Pickett, Cumberland
- 6 - Hamilton
- 7 - Warren, DeKalb, Van Buren, Coffee
- 8 - Rutherford, Cannon
- 9 - Montgomery, Sumner, Robertson
- 10 - Davidson
- 11 - Lawrence, Giles, Maury, Wayne
- 12 - Madison, Chester, Henderson
- 13 - Crockett, Gibson, Haywood, Henry
- 14 - Obion, Weakley
- 15 - Shelby

- 16 - Fayette, Hardeman, Lauderdale, McNairy, Tipton
- 17 - Williamson, Hickman, Perry, Lewis
- 18 - Franklin, Meigs, Rhea, Sequatchie, Bledsoe, Marion, Grundy
- 19 - Campbell, Morgan, Scott, Claiborne, Fentress
- 20 - Sullivan at Bristol, Greene, Hamblen, Hawkins
- 21 - Dickson, Cheatham, Houston, Stewart, Humphreys
- 22 - Carroll, Benton, Decatur, Hardin
- 23 - Bedford, Marshall, Lincoln, Moore
- 24 - McMinn, Monroe, Polk, Bradley
- 25 - Jackson, Macon, Smith, Trousdale, Wilson
- 26 - Sullivan at Blountville
- 27 - Greene, Hawkins, Hamblen
- 28 - Anderson
- 29 - Bradley
- 30 - Blount
- 31 - Dyer, Lake

CHANCERY DIVISIONS IN 1978²

DIVISION	COUNTIES
1	Washington, Johnson, Carter, Unicoi, Sullivan
2	Loudon, Hawkins, Claiborne, Hancock, Campbell, Roane, Scott, Morgan
3	Hamilton
4	Overton, Clay, Pickett, Fentress, Jackson, Cumberland, DeKalb, White, Putnam
5	Marshall, Bedford, Moore, Lincoln
6	Robertson, Montgomery, Hickman, Stewart, Humphreys, Dickson, Cheatham, Houston
7	Davidson
8	Carroll, Henry, Henderson, Decatur, Benton
9	Part 1: Fayette, Hardeman, McNairy, Hardin, Chester; Part 2: Haywood, Lauderdale, Tipton, Crockett
10	Shelby
11	Knox
12	Rhea, McMinn, Warren, Bledsoe, Sequatchie, Marion, Van Buren, Bradley, Meigs, Polk, Grundy, Coffee, Monroe, Franklin
13	Cocke, Blount, Sevier, Jefferson
14	Madison
15	Greene, Hamblen, Grainger, Union
16	Obion, Lake, Weakley
17	Wilson, Sumner, Trousdale, Macon, Smith

Special Chancery division within the 11th circuit: Chancery Court for Giles, Lawrence, Maury and Wayne held by circuit judges of the 11th Judicial Circuit.

Special Chancery division within the 17th circuit: Chancery Court for Williamson, Perry, and Lewis held by the circuit judges of the 17th Judicial circuit.

Law and Equity Court of Dyer County: Jurisdiction of all chancery cases; concurrent jurisdiction with circuit court of Dyer County.

Law and Equity Court of Gibson County: Jurisdiction of all chancery cases; concurrent jurisdiction with circuit and law court of Gibson County.

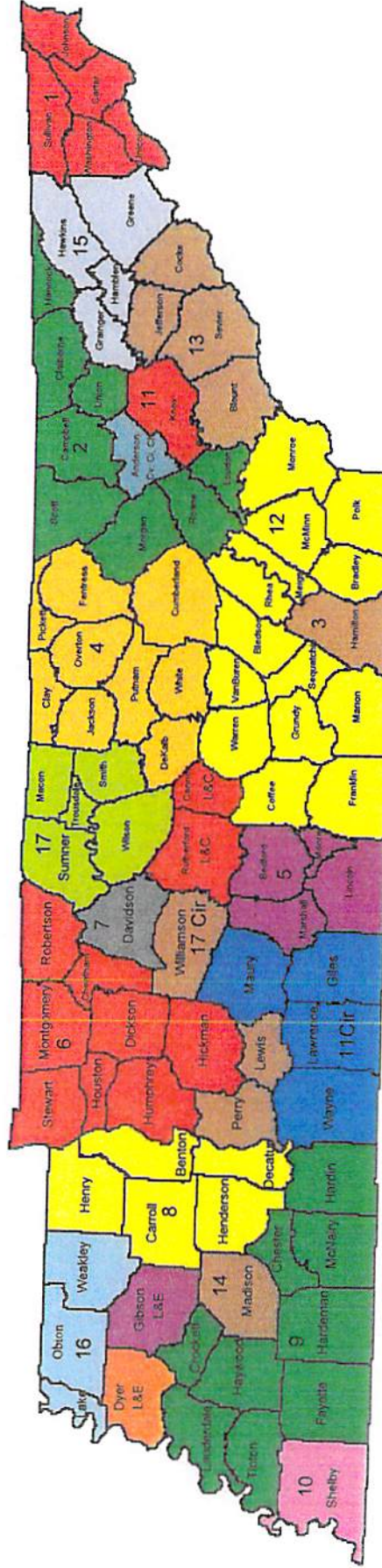
Law and Equity Court of Montgomery County: Held criminal court for Montgomery County; concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit and chancery court; interchange with chancellor of 6th Chancery Division upon that Chancellor's request.

Rutherford/Cannon counties: Chancery Court addressed in statute that created the 8th Judicial Circuit.
Anderson County: Chancery Court addressed in statute that created the 28th Judicial Circuit.

² Tenn. Code Ann. § 16-237to 255. (Supp. 1978).

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Chancery Divisions in 1978



- 1 - Carter Johnson, Unicoi, Washington, Sullivan
 - 2 - Loudon, Union, Claiborne, Hancock, Campbell, Roane, Scott, Morgan
 - 3 - Hamilton
 - 4 - Overton, Clay, Pickett, Fentress, Jackson, Cumberland, DeKalb, White, Putnam
 - 5 - Marshall, Bedford, Moore, Lincoln
 - 6 - Robertson, Montgomery, Hickman, Stewart, Humphreys, Dickson, Cheatham, Houston
 - 7 - Davidson
 - 8 - Carroll, Henry, Henderson, Decatur, Benton
 - 9 - Fayette, Hardeman, McNairy, Hardin, Chester, Haywood, Lauderdale, Tipton, Crockett
 - 10 - Shelby
 - 11 - Knox
 - 12 - Rhea, McMinn, Warren, Bledsoe, Sequatchie, Marion, VanBuren, Bradley, Meigs, Polk, Grundy, Coffee, Monroe, Franklin
 - 13 - Cocke, Blount, Sevier, Jefferson
 - 14 - Madison
 - 15 - Greene, Hamblen, Grainger, Hawkins
 - 16 - Obion, Lake, Weakley
 - 17 - Wilson, Sumner, Trousdale, Macon, Smith
- Special Chancery within Division 11th Circuit - Giles, Lawrence, Maury, Wayne
- Special Chancery within Division 17th Circuit - Williamson, Perry, Lewis
- Law and Equity Court - Dyer
- Law and Equity Court - Gibson
- Law and Chancery Court - Rutherford, Cannon
- Civil, Criminal, Chancery - Anderson

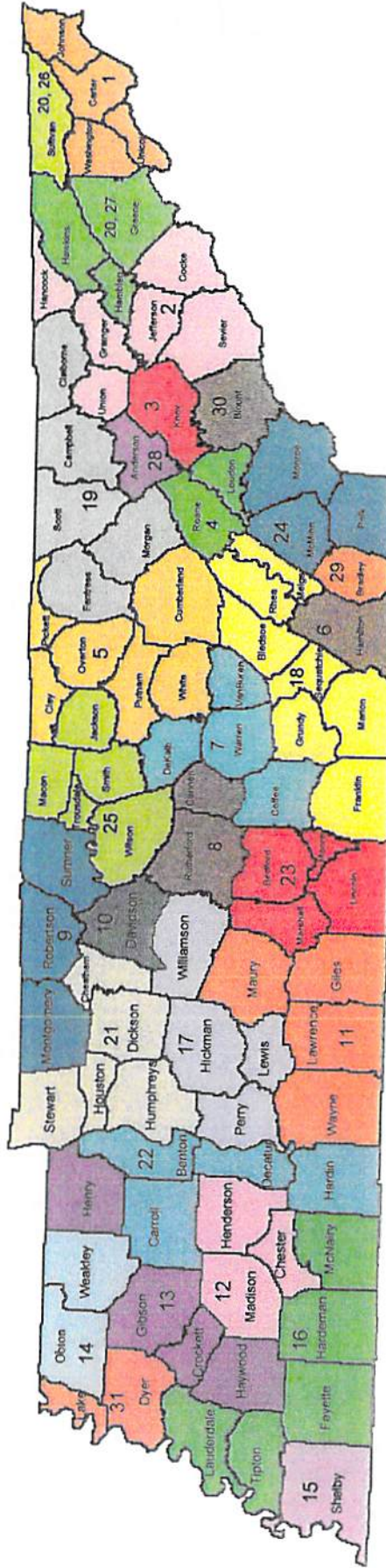
JUDICIAL CIRCUITS IN 1980³

CIRCUIT NUMBER	COUNTIES
1	Washington, Johnson, Carter, Unicoi
2	Cocke, Union, Sevier, Jefferson, Grainger, Hancock
3	Knox
4	Loudon, Roane
5	Clay, White, Overton, Putnam, Pickett, Cumberland
6	Hamilton
7	Part 1: Warren, DeKalb, Van Buren; Part 2 Coffee
8	Rutherford, Cannon
9	Montgomery, Sumner, Robertson
10	Davidson
11	Lawrence, Giles, Maury, Wayne
12	Madison, Chester, Henderson
13	Crockett, Gibson, Haywood, Henry
14	Obion, Weakley
15	Shelby
16	Fayette, Hardeman, Lauderdale, McNairy, Tipton
17	Williamson, Hickman, Perry, Lewis
18	Franklin, Meigs, Rhea, Sequatchie, Bledsoe, Marion, Grundy
19	Campbell, Morgan, Scott, Claiborne, Fentress
20	Sullivan (circuit only), Greene, Hamblen, Hawkins (criminal court)
21	Dickson, Cheatham, Houston, Stewart, Humphreys
22	Carroll, Benton, Decatur, Hardin
23	Bedford, Marshall, Lincoln, Moore
24	McMinn, Monroe, Polk (circuit court): Bradley McMinn, Monroe, Polk (criminal court)
25	Jackson, Macon, Smith, Trousdale, Wilson
26	Sullivan (criminal court)
27	Greene, Hawkins, Hamblen (circuit court with civil jurisdiction only)
28	Anderson (civil, criminal, and chancery court)
29	Bradley(circuit court)
30	Blount
31	Dyer, Lake

³ Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 16-2-201 to 231 (1980)

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Circuit and Criminal Districts in 1980



- 1 - Washington, Johnson, Carter, Unicoi
- 2 - Cocke, Union, Sevier, Jefferson, Grainger, Hancock
- 3 - Knox
- 4 - Loudon, Roane
- 5 - Clay, White, Overton, Putnam, Pickett, Cumberland
- 6 - Hamilton
- 7 - Warren, DeKalb, Van Buren, Coffee
- 8 - Rutherford, Cannon
- 9 - Montgomery, Sumner, Robertson
- 10 - Davidson
- 11 - Lawrence, Giles, Maury, Wayne
- 12 - Madison, Chester, Henderson
- 13 - Crockett, Gibson, Haywood, Henry
- 14 - Obion, Weakley
- 15 - Shelby

- 16 - Fayette, Hardeman, Lauderdale, McNairy, Tipton
- 17 - Williamson, Hickman, Perry, Lewis
- 18 - Franklin, Meigs, Rhea, Sequatchie, Bledsoe, Marion, Grundy
- 19 - Campbell, Morgan, Scott, Claiborne, Fentress
- 20 - Sullivan at Bristol, Greene, Hamblen, Hawkins
- 21 - Dickson, Cheatham, Houston, Stewart, Humphreys
- 22 - Carroll, Benton, Decatur, Hardin
- 23 - Bedford, Marshall, Lincoln, Moore
- 24 - McMinn, Monroe, Polk, Bradley
- 25 - Jackson, Macon, Smith, Trousdale, Wilson
- 26 - Sullivan at Blountville
- 27 - Greene, Hawkins, Hamblen
- 28 - Anderson
- 29 - Bradley
- 30 - Blount
- 31 - Dyer, Lake

CHANCERY DIVISIONS IN 1980

DIVISION NUMBER	COUNTIES ⁴
1	Carter, Johnson, Unicoi, Washington, Sullivan
2	Loudon, Union, Claiborne, Hancock, Campbell, Roane, Scott, Morgan
3	Hamilton
4	Overton, Clay, Pickett, Fentress, Jackson, Cumberland, DeKalb, White, Putnam
5	Marshall, Bedford, Moore, Lincoln
6	Robertson, Montgomery, Hickman, Stewart, Humphreys, Dickson, Cheatham, Houston
7	Davidson
8	Carroll, Henry, Henderson, Decatur, Benton
9	PART I: Fayette, Hardeman, McNairy, Hardin, Chester PART II: Haywood, Lauderdale, Tipton, Crockett
10	Shelby
11	Knox
12	Rhea, McMinn, Warren, Bledsoe, Sequatchie, Marion, Van Buren, Bradley, Meigs, Polk, Grundy, Coffee, Monroe, Franklin
13	Cocke, Blount, Sevier, Jefferson
14	Madison
15	Greene, Hamblen, Grainger, Hawkins
16	Obion, Lake, Weakley
17	Wilson, Sumner, Trousdale, Macon, Smith
Law and Equity Court:	Dyer
Law and Equity Court:	Gibson
Law and Equity Court:	Montgomery
Division in 11 th circuit:	Giles, Lawrence, Maury, Wayne ⁵
Division in 17 th circuit:	Williamson, Perry, Lewis ⁶
Law and Chancery Court:	Rutherford, Cannon ⁷
Civil, Criminal, Chancery:	Anderson ⁸

⁴ Tenn. Code Ann. § 16-2-301-317 (1980)

⁵ Tenn. Code Ann. § 16-2-401(1980)

⁶ Tenn. Code Ann. § 16-2-402(1980)

⁷Tenn. Code Ann. § 16-2-208 (1980)

⁸Tenn. Code Ann. § 16-2-228(1980)

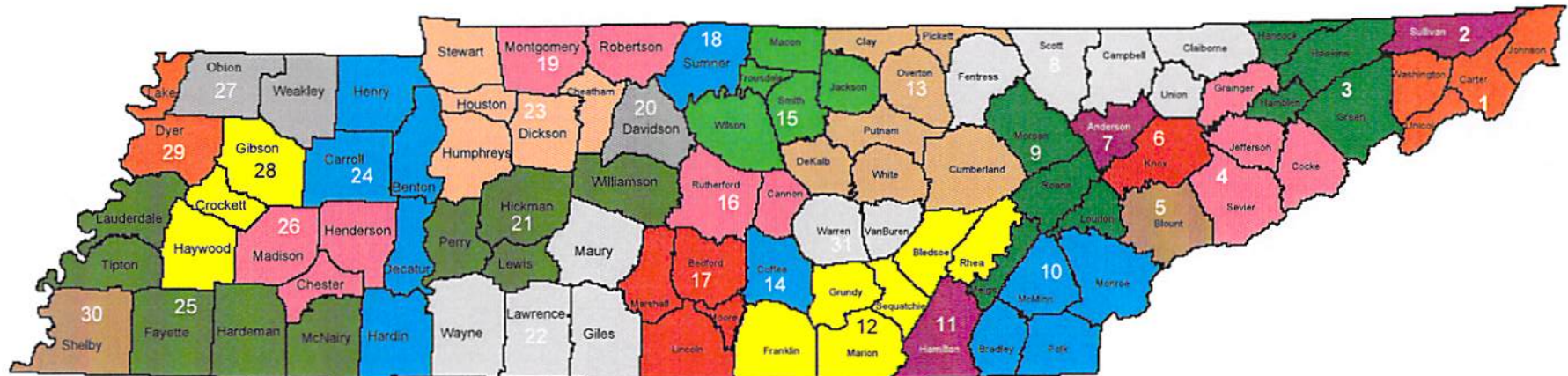
JUDICIAL DISTRICTS AFTER 1984 REDISTRICTING ⁹

DISTRICT NUMBER	COUNTIES
1	Carter, Johnson, Unicoi, Washington
2	Sullivan
3	Green, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins
4	Cocke, Grainger, Jefferson, Sevier
5	Blount
6	Knox
7	Anderson
8	Campbell, Claiborne, Fentress, Scott, Union
9	Loudon, Meigs, Morgan, Roane
10	Bradley, McMinn, Monroe, Polk
11	Hamilton
12	Bledsoe, Franklin, Grundy, Marion, Rhea, Sequatchie
13	Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, White
14	Coffee
15	Jackson, Macon, Smith, Trousdale, Wilson
16	Cannon, Rutherford
17	Bedford, Lincoln, Marshall, Moore
18	Sumner
19	Montgomery, Robertson
20	Davidson
21	Williamson, Hickman, Perry, Lewis
22	Lawrence, Giles, Maury, Wayne
23	Dickson, Cheatham, Houston, Stewart, Humphreys
24	Carroll, Benton, Decatur, Hardin, Henry
25	Fayette, Hardeman, Lauderdale, McNairy, Tipton
26	Madison, Chester, Henderson
27	Obion, Weakley
28	Crockett, Gibson, Haywood
29	Dyer, Lake
30	Shelby
31	Warren, Van Buren

⁹ Tenn. Code Ann. § 16-2-506 (Supp. 1984); Tenn. Code Ann. § 16-2-506 (Supp. 2018)

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Judicial Districts 1984 - 2018



- 1 - Washington, Carter, Johnson, Unicoi
- 2 - Sullivan
- 3 - Hancock, Hawkins, Hamblen, Green
- 4 - Grainger, Jefferson, Sevier, Cocke
- 5 - Blount
- 6 - Knox
- 7 - Anderson
- 8 - Fentress, Scott, Campbell, Claiborne, Union
- 9 - Morgan, Roane, Loudon, Meigs
- 10 - McMinn, Monroe, Bradley, Polk
- 11 - Hamilton
- 12 - Franklin, Marion, Grundy, Sequatchie, Bledsoe, Rhea
- 13 - Clay, Pickett, Overton, Putnam, DeKalb, White, Cumberland
- 14 - Coffee
- 15 - Macon, Trousdale, Wilson, Smith, Jackson

- 16 - Rutherford, Cannon
- 17 - Marshall, Bedford, Moore, Lincoln
- 18 - Sumner
- 19 - Montgomery, Robertson
- 20 - Davidson
- 21 - Perry, Hickman, Lewis, Williamson
- 22 - Wayne, Lawrence, Giles, Maury
- 23 - Stewart, Houston, Humphreys, Dickson, Cheatham
- 24 - Henry, Carroll, Benton, Decatur, Hardin
- 25 - Lauderdale, Tipton, Fayette, Hardeman, McNairy
- 26 - Madison, Henderson, Chester
- 27 - Obion, Weakley
- 28 - Gibson, Crockett, Haywood
- 29 - Lake, Dyer
- 30 - Shelby
- 31 - Warren, Van Buren

SUMMARY OF CHANGES THAT OCCURRED IN 1984

The Judicial District structure that Tennessee currently has was ushered in with the judicial redistricting that occurred in 1984. The combinations of counties that make up the judicial district structure, however, were mostly identical to the combinations of counties that made up the judicial circuit structure that had existed since at least 1978. Only fourteen (14) of Tennessee's ninety-five (95) counties were moved from one combination of counties that had made a judicial circuit to another combination of counties that made a judicial district with three (3) of those fourteen counties becoming single county judicial districts. Those fourteen counties and how they were effected are:

I. East Tennessee:

Bradley County:

In 1978 the criminal court for Bradley County was in the 24th judicial circuit with McMinn, Monroe and Polk counties, and the circuit court for Bradley County was the 29th judicial circuit. In 1984 Bradley County became a part of the 10th Judicial District with McMinn, Monroe and Polk counties.

Meigs County:

In 1978 Meigs County was part of the 18th judicial circuit with Franklin, Rhea, Sequatchie, Bledsoe, Marion, and Grundy counties. In 1984 Meigs County became part of the 9th Judicial District with Loudon, Morgan, and Roane counties.

Morgan County:

In 1978 Morgan County was part of the 19th judicial circuit with Campbell, Scott, Claiborne, and Fentress counties. In 1984 Morgan County became part of the 9th Judicial District with Loudon, Meigs, and Roane counties.

Roane and Loudon counties:

In 1978 Roane and Loudon counties were the 4th judicial circuit. In 1984 Roane and Loudon counties became part of the 9th Judicial District with Meigs and Morgan counties.

Union County:

In 1978 Union county was part of the 2nd judicial circuit with Cocke, Sevier, Jefferson, Grainger, and Hancock counties. In 1984 Union County became part of the 8th Judicial District with Campbell, Claiborne, Fentress, and Scott counties.

Hancock County:

In 1978 Hancock County was part of the 2nd judicial circuit with Cocke, Sevier,

Jefferson, Grainger, and Union Counties. In 1984 Hancock County became part of the 3rd Judicial District with Green, Hamblen, and Hawkins counties.

Sullivan County: (It became a single county judicial district)

In 1978 the circuit court of Sullivan County was part of the 20th judicial circuit with Greene, Hamblen, Hawkins, and the criminal court of Sullivan County was the 26th judicial circuit. In 1984 Sullivan County became the 2nd Judicial district.

II. Middle Tennessee:

DeKalb County:

In 1978 Dekalb County was part of the 7th judicial circuit with Coffee, Warren, and Van Buren counties. In 1984 Dekalb County became part of the 13th Judicial District with Clay, Cumberland, Jackson, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, and White counties.

Coffee County: (It became a single county judicial district)

In 1978 Coffee County was part of the 7th judicial circuit with DeKalb, Warren, and Van Buren counties. In 1984 Coffee County became the 14th Judicial District.

Warren and Van Buren Counties:

In 1978 Warren and Van Buren counties were part of the part 7th judicial circuit with DeKalb and Coffee. In 1984 Warren and Van Buren Counties became the 31st Judicial District.

Sumner County: (It became a single county judicial district)

In 1978 Sumner County was part of the 9th judicial circuit with Montgomery and Robertson counties. In 1984 Sumner County became the 18th Judicial District.

III. West Tennessee:

Henry County:

In 1978 Henry County was part of the 13th judicial circuit with Crockett, Gibson, and Haywood counties. In 1984 Henry County became part of the 24th Judicial District with Carroll, Benton, Decatur, and Hardin counties.

The chancery court division structure disappeared when the Judicial District structure was created. The only vestige of the combination of counties that had made up a Chancery Division, Special Chancery Division, Law & Chancery Court, Civil, Criminal & Chancery Court or Law & Equity Court in 1978 that survived the 1984 redistricting were those combination of counties that had also made up a judicial circuit in 1978. Those combination of counties were:

1. **Knox County:** In 1978 it was the 11th Chancery Division and the 3 Judicial Circuit, and in 1984 it became the 6th Judicial District.
2. **Anderson County:** In 1978 it was in the 28th Judicial Circuit that had Civil, Criminal & Chancery Courts, and in 1984 it became the 7th Judicial District.
3. **Hamilton County:** In 1978 it was the 3rd Chancery Division and the 6th Judicial Circuit, and in 1984 it became the 11th Judicial District.
4. **Rutherford and Cannon Counties:** In 1978 these counties were the 8th Judicial Circuit which included a Chancery Court, and in 1984 these counties became the 16th Judicial District.
5. **Davidson County:** In 1978 it was the 7th Chancery Division, the 10th Judicial Circuit, and in 1984 it became the 20th Judicial District.
6. **Bedford, Lincoln, Marshall, and Moore counties:** In 1978 these counties were the 5th Chancery Division and the 23rd Judicial Circuit, and in 1984 they became the 17th Judicial District.
7. **Giles, Lawrence, Maury, and Wayne:** In 1978 these counties were the 11th Judicial Circuit and were a Special Chancery Division within that Judicial Circuit, and in 1984 they became the 22nd Judicial District.
8. **Shelby County:** In 1978 it was the 10th Chancery Division and the 15th Judicial Circuit, and in 1984 it became the 30th Judicial District.