

# JUDGE JEFFREY S. BIVINS

**Recommendation: RETAIN**

**Commission Vote: 9 FOR RETENTION • 0 FOR REPLACEMENT**

## **Legal Education and Experience**

Judge Jeffrey S. Bivins received his law degree from Vanderbilt University School of Law in 1986. He engaged in the private practice of law from 1986 until 1994 and again from 2002 until 2005. Judge Bivins served as Assistant Commissioner and General Counsel for the State of Tennessee, Department of Personnel from 1995 until 1999 and again from 2000 until 2002, serving as Circuit Court Judge for the 21st Judicial District during 1999 and 2000. Judge Bivins returned to serve as Circuit Court Judge for the 21st Judicial District in 2005, where he served until he was appointed as a Judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals in August 2011. He was elected to that position in 2012.

## **Service to the Profession**

Judge Bivins is a member of the Tennessee Bar Association and a Fellow in both the Tennessee Bar Foundation and the Nashville Bar Foundation. He is a member and past president of the John Marshall American Inn of Court and is also a member of the Harry Phillips American Inn of Court. Judge Bivins served on the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission from 2009 until he was appointed to the Court of Criminal Appeals. He is a current member of the Board of Judicial Conduct,

and serves as its legislative liaison. Judge Bivins is an active member of the Tennessee Judicial Conference, serving on the Executive Committee currently as the Moving Vice-President and serving as the Co-Chair of the Compensation and Retirement Committee.

## **Survey Results and Interview**

Judge Bivins' survey ratings from appellate judges, trial judges, attorneys and court personnel reflect an excellent performance. His ratings among attorneys showed room for improvement in the structure and reasoning of his opinions, but his courtroom demeanor received higher ratings from that same group. His overall survey ratings were outstanding. His interview confirmed the survey results. Judge Bivins has carefully chosen qualified staff to assist him and has made a commendable transition to the appellate bench. Judge Bivins has completed his work in a timely manner, a fact that demonstrates his impressive work ethic.

## **Recommendation**

**The Commission unanimously recommends Judge Jeffrey S. Bivins be retained on the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals**