

Memorial Resolution

HONORABLE O. DUANE SLONE

JANUARY 19, 1963 -AUGUST 25, 2024

JUNE 11, 2025

O. Duane Slone was born in Jefferson County, Tennessee, the son of Wesokie Slone and Carol Slone. He grew up in Jefferson City, Tennessee, the eldest of four children. He was

educated in the public schools of Jefferson County. Duane Slone graduated from Jefferson County High School, attended Walters State Community College, and graduated from Carson-Newman College with a degree in Business Administration. Slone graduated from the Cecil L. Humphreys School of Law at Memphis State University in 1990.

After practicing law in a private firm, Slone was appointed Assistant District Attorney General for the Fourth Judicial District of Tennessee. After distinguishing himself as a prosecutor, Slone entered the private practice of law with offices in Dandridge and Sevierville. In 1998, Judge

Slone was elected Circuit Court Judge for the Fourth Judicial District. He was subsequently reelected in 2006, 2014, and 2022.

Judge Slone served with excellence for over twenty-five years on the bench. He was known for his fairness, knowledge of the law, open-mindedness, and intellectual courage. He

pioneered numerous programs and initiatives aimed at improving the lives of those in his community.

Judge Slone was driven to address substance abuse and addiction. In 2009 he established the Drug Recovery Court for the Fourth Judicial District, offering those in the criminal justice system an opportunity to address drug and alcohol addictions and co-occurring mental health

issues. Judge Slone founded Fourth Judicial District Recovery Services to help address the issue of neonatal abstinence syndrome.

In 2013 Judge Slone created and implemented TN-ROCS, Tennessee Recovery Oriented Compliance Strategy, which has resulted in reduction of crime, reduced jail population, and an

increase in healthy births. In 2014, Judge Slone established the Recovery Cabin in Jefferson County which provides housing and recovery support for women. More than 20 healthy babies have been born to residents of the Recovery Cabin. The Fourth Judicial District Drug Recovery Court and the TN-ROCS initiative have been models for other Judicial Districts across the State of Tennessee, the Southeast, and the United States.

Judge Slone served as the Chairman of the Tennessee Judicial Opioid Initiative, Chairman of the Tennessee Judicial Conference Problem Solving Committee, and Chairman of the 8 State Appalachian-Midwest Regional Judicial Opioid Initiative. He served as a member of the National

Judicial Opioid Task Force, the SAMHSA Advisory Committee for Women's Services, the Substance Misuse and Addiction Resources for Tennessee Justice Network, and assisted numerous other local, state, and national efforts.

Judge Slone was the recipient of many awards throughout his career, including the 2015 Tennessee Public Health Association's "Partners and Leadership Award," the 2016 Tennessee Public Health Association's "Visionary Award," the Tennessee Association of Alcohol, Drug and other Addiction Services "Voice of Recovery Award," as well as the "Jefferson Countian of the Year Award." The National Center for State Courts awarded Judge Slone the nation's highest judicial honor for state courts in 2019, when he was recognized with the "William H. Rehnquist

Award for Judicial Excellence."

Judge Slone was also active in his community. In 1998, Judge Slone began the process of establishing the Boys & Girls Clubs of Dumplin Valley. Because of his leadership and influence, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Dumplin Valley grew and prospered with clubs now in Jefferson City, White Pine, Strawberry Plains, and Newport. He served on their Board of Directors for twenty- five years. In 2020, Judge Slone was inducted into the Tennessee Boys & Girls Clubs Hall of Fame.

Judge Duane Slone is survived by his wife, Dara Palmer Slone, and his three children, Oakland, Joseph, and Estella. Of all of Judge Slone's accomplishments, his finest, and the ones he most cherished, were his three beloved children, Oakland Matthew Slone, Joseph Booker Slone, and Estella Claireanne Slone. They were the delight of his life and the inspiration and motivation

for much of the work he undertook.

Judge Slone was a follower of Jesus Christ. His faith and his love for others were reflected through his life's work.


Judge Slone leaves behind a legacy of excellence, integrity, humility, and service to others.

He was a highly respected jurist and was known for his fair and impartial administration of justice. He was loved by his family and friends, admired by his colleagues, and respected by those who had the privilege to know him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Tennessee Judicial Conference that the foregoing Memorial Resolution in honor of our departed colleague, 0. Duane Slone, be entered on the

minutes of this conference, that a copy be furnished to West Publishing Company for publication in Tennessee Decisions, and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this tribute be furnished to his family.

Respectfully submitted this the 11th day of June 2025.


Jeremy D. Ball

Circuit Court Judge, Part IV Fourth Judicial District