



James M. Hivner, Clerk

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## STATE OF TENNESSEE BOARD OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Mailing Address: P.O.Box 92276 Nashville, TN 37209

MEMBERS OF THE TENNESSEE BOARD OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Dee David Gay Board Chair

Andrew G. Brigham Vice Chair

Marshall L. Davidson, III Disciplinary Counsel

Shane Hutton Assistant Disciplinary Counsel

Jeffrey M. Atherton H. Allen Bray Robert Carter, Jr. Edwena L. Crowe Rita Ellison William C. Koch, Jr. Camille R. McMullen Albert Mosley Benjamin Purser, Jr. Richard Rogers Dan Springer Terica Smith John Whitworth Robert W. Wilkinson April 16, 2021

Judiciary Committee of the Senate Senator Mike Bell 716 Cordell Hull Building Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Senator Bell:

Please find enclosed the Quarterly Report of the Board of Judicial Conduct covering the period of January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021 for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021, as mandated by Tenn. Code Ann. § 17-5-207.

**Board Chair** 

DDG/sp Enclosure



## STATE OF TENNESSEE BOARD OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT



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April 16, 2021

Judiciary Committee of the House Representative Michael Curcio 630 Cordell Hull Building Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Representative Curcio:

Please find enclosed the Quarterly Report of the Board of Judicial Conduct covering the period of January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021 for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021, as mandated by Tenn. Code Ann. § 17-5-207.

**Board Chair** 

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Robert W. Wilkinson

APR 19 2021
Clerk of the Appellate Courts
Rec'd By

## BOARD OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT OUARTERLY REPORT

(For the period 1/1/2021 through 3/31/2021) Due 4/20/2021

The number of complaints OPENED<sup>1</sup> this quarter is 82. Year to date the number is 82.

The number of complaints CLOSED this quarter is 96. Year to date the number is 96.

The DISPOSITION of the complaints closed this quarter is:

	YTD (Year to Date)
Dismissed, complaint about court ruling 55	55
Dismissed, no jurisdiction 0	0
Dismissed, inadequate factual basis 30	30
Dismissal with warning 5	5
Dismissal after full investigation 0	0
Deferred discipline agreement 1	1
Private reprimand 0	0
Public reprimand 0	0
Other 5	5
Retired complaint, no longer a judge0	0
Cease and Desist Order 0	0
Suspension 0	0
Recommendation of removal from office 0	0
TOTAL 96	96

The number of complaints PENDING on the last day of this quarter is 15.

The number of complaints for which PROBABLE CAUSE WAS FOUND<sup>2</sup> this quarter is 2. The number year to date is 2.

<sup>1.</sup> A single complaint naming several judges is counted as a separate complaint against each judge. A complaint whose allegations encompass more than one category is listed under the most serious category alleged. This Board came into existence on July 1, 2019. Therefore, there is no five-year statistical data to compare. On March 13, 2020, the Tennessee Supreme Court declared a state of Emergency for the Judicial Branch of Tennessee government and suspended in-person court proceedings, with certain exceptions through March 31, 2020. See In re: Covid-19 Pandemic, No. ADM2020-00428 (Tenn. 2020). On March 25, 2020, the Tennessee Supreme Court continued the suspension of in-court proceedings through April 30, 2020. Id.

<sup>2. &</sup>quot;Probable cause was found" means that Disciplinary Counsel and the investigative panel believe that there is evidence supporting the allegations against a judge and the investigative panel has authorized a full investigation pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 17-5-303 (c)(2).

The number of complaints for which FORMAL CHARGES WERE FILED this quarter is 0. The number year to date is 0.

The NATURE of the complaints filed and the TYPE OF JUDGE according to the following categories is:

A) Failure to comply with the law:	<u>YTD</u>
Criminal 8	8
Circuit 18	18
Chancery 3	3
General Sessions 10	10
Juvenile 0	0
Magistrate and Referee 1	1
Municipal 0	0
Commissioner 0	0
Probate 1	1
Appellate Court 3	3
Senior and Retired 1	1
Other 0	0 (Non-judge, deceased judge, judge from another
TOTAL 45	45 state, etc.)
B) Bias, prejudice and unfairness:	<u>YTD</u>
Criminal 4	4
	4
Circuit 2	2
Circuit 2 Chancery 1	2 1
	2 1 2
Chancery 1	2 1 2 0
Chancery       1         General Sessions       2         Juvenile       0	2 1 2 0 0
Chancery       1         General Sessions       2         Juvenile       0	2 1 2 0 0
Chancery       1         General Sessions       2         Juvenile       0         Magistrate and Referee       0	2 1 2 0 0 1 1
Chancery       1         General Sessions       2         Juvenile       0         Magistrate and Referee       0         Municipal       1	2 1 2 0 0 1 1 1
Chancery       1         General Sessions       2         Juvenile       0         Magistrate and Referee       0         Municipal       1         Commissioner       1	2 1 2 0 0 1 1 1 0
Chancery	2 1 2 0 0 1 1 1 0 0
Chancery       1         General Sessions       2         Juvenile       0         Magistrate and Referee       0         Municipal       1         Commissioner       1         Probate       0         Appellate Court	2 1 2 0 0 1 1 1 0

C) Discourtesy:		<u>YTD</u>
Criminal	0	0
Circuit	0	0
Chancery	0	. 0
General Sessions		0
Juvenile	1	1
Magistrate and Referee	0	0
Municipal	0	0
Commissioner	0	0
Probate	Ö	0
Appellate Court	Ŏ	0
Senior and Retired		0
Other		
TOTAL	1	$\frac{0}{1}$
IOIAL	1	1
D) Abuse of office:	_	<u>YTD</u>
Criminal	0	0
Circuit	4	4
Chancery		0
General Sessions	7	7
Juvenile	0	0
Magistrate and Referee	0	0
Municipal	1	1
Commissioner	0	0
Probate	0	0
Appellate Court	0	0
Senior and Retired		1
Other	0	Ō
TOTAL	13	13
101712	.5	
E) Delay:		YTD
Criminal	3	3
Circuit		1
Chancery		0
General Sessions		1
Juvenile	0	0
Magistrate and Referee	0	0
Municipal	0	0
Commissioner	0	0
Probate	=	
	0	0
Appellate Court	0	0
Senior and Retired	0	0
Other	0	0
TOTAL	6	6

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F) Ex parte communication		YTD
Criminal	0	0
Change	0	0
Chancery	0	0
General Sessions	0	0
Juvenile	0	0
Magistrate and Referee	0	0
Municipal	0	0
Commissioner	0	0
Probate	0	0
Appellate Court	0	0
Senior and Retired	0	0
Other		0
TOTAL	0	0
G) Disability:		YTD
Criminal	0	0
Circuit	Ö	0
Chancery	0	0
General Sessions	Ö	0
Juvenile	Ŏ	0
Magistrate and Referee	0	0
Municipal	Ö	0
Commissioner	Ö	ő
Probate	0	0
Appellate Court	0	0
Senior and Retired	0	0
Other	=	0
TOTAL	0	$\frac{0}{0}$
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H) Political violation:		<u>YTD</u>
Criminal	0	0
Circuit	0	0
Chancery	0	0
General Sessions	0	0
Juvenile	0	0
Magistrate and Referee	0	0
Municipal	0	0
Commissioner	0	0
Probate	0	0
Appellate Court	0	0
Senior and Retired	0	0
Other	0_	0
TOTAL	0	0

I) Recusal:		<u>YTD</u>
Criminal	0	0
Circuit	2	2
Chancery	0	0
General Sessions	0	0
Juvenile	1	1
Magistrate and Referee	0	0
Municipal	0	0
Commissioner	0	0
Probate	0	0
Appellate Court	0	0
Senior and Retired	0	0
Other	0_	0
TOTAL	3	3

J) Miscellaneous:		<u>YTD</u>
Criminal	0	0
Circuit	1	1
Chancery	0	0
General Sessions	0	0
Juvenile	0	0
Magistrate and Referee	0	0
Municipal	0	0
Commissioner	0	0
Probate	0	0
Appellate Court	0	0
Senior and Retired	0	0
Other	0	0
TOTAL	1	1

Respectfully submitted,

Dee David Gay, Board Chair BOARD OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT