

**JUSTIN C. ANGEL**  
CIRCUIT JUDGE, PART III

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PIKEVILLE, TENNESSEE 37367

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**THE CIRCUIT COURT OF TENNESSEE**  
FOR THE  
**TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

COUNTIES SERVED:

BLEDSOE  
FRANKLIN  
GRUNDY  
MARION  
RHEA  
SEQUATCHIE

February 13, 2019

Chairman Chancellor Telford Forgety  
1222 Circle Drive  
P.O. Box 1370  
Dandridge, TN 37725

Mr. Bo Burk  
District Public Defender  
P.O. Box 700  
Somerville, TN 38068

Chancellor James B. Cox  
P.O. Box 713  
Fayetteville, TN 37334

Mr. Mark E. Davidson  
District Attorney General  
121 North Main Street  
Ripley, TN 38063

Mr. Craig Fickling  
District Public Defender  
215 Reagan Street  
Cookeville, TN 38501

Mr. John Fine, Clerk & Master  
1475 Market Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Dayton, TN 37321

Ms. Kim R. Helper  
District Attorney General  
P.O. Box 937  
Franklin, TN 37064

Mr. Russell Johnson  
District Attorney General  
1008 Bradford Way  
Kingston, TN 37763

Honorable Jim Kyle, Chancellor  
Vasco A. Smith, Jr.  
County Administration Bldg.  
160 N. Main Street  
Memphis, TN 38103

Ms. Kim Nelson  
District Public Defender  
1013 Brentwood Way  
Kingston, TN 37763

Mr. John L. Ryder  
40 S. Main Street, #2700  
Memphis, TN 38103

*Re: The Twelfth Judicial District of Tennessee*

Members of the Advisory Taskforce,

I hope this letter finds you all well and in a good health. The judges of the Twelfth Judicial District want to thank you for your service on the committee and your diligence in making the best decision for the fine citizens of our great state.

I, Circuit Judge Justin C. Angel, am the Presiding Judge of the twelfth judicial district. Our district is comprised of Bledsoe, Rhea, Sequatchie, Marion, Franklin, and Grundy Counties. Recently, the three Circuit Judges and the Chancellor, met to discuss the composition of our district and conducted an honest evaluation of its functionality. After that meeting, we concluded that our district is perfect as is, and provides litigants and defendants with an abundance of efficient service and unlimited access to justice.

For decades our district has operated at a high level of judicial economy. We have devised a schedule and a docket system that keeps all six counties moving at a quick pace. We have less than a twelve month trial docket, meaning if a defendant is indicted for a crime in January, we can docket a jury trial for that individual well before December. This system is praised by attorneys and fellow jurists from across the state. We never have any speedy trial issues and our attorneys are always able to locate a judge whenever the need arises.

Every year when the weighted caseload study is released, our district's efficiency is showcased. We are disposing of cases in an equal and timely fashion, while remaining "under judged" every year. Meaning, our county composition, caseload, and judicial allotment is actually saving taxpayer money due to its effectiveness. There are no geographical or time zone concerns amongst the bench and bar. I have never heard anyone, as an attorney or a judge in the Twelfth Judicial District complain that Rhea County is in the Eastern Time zone. It's simply a non-issue.

In conclusion, I will end with a simple but applicable phrase. If it isn't broke, don't fix it. We are proud of our work in the Twelfth Judicial District and ask you sincerely, please leave our district as is.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience if I can be of any assistance.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Justin C. Angel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "A".

HON. JUSTIN C. ANGEL  
Presiding Judge, TN-12<sup>th</sup>

cc: Judge Thomas W. Graham  
Judge J. Curtis Smith  
Chancellor Melissa Blevins-Willis