

Judicial Candidate Responses

Ahead of the July 25th Forum, the Justice & Safety Alliance sent out a brief questionnaire to all of the judicial candidates. The table below includes all of the races in which some or all of the candidates answered, and they are listed in the order they appear on the ballot. For a complete list of all judicial races on the August 4th Ballot, please visit this link from the Election Commission: [August 4th Sample Ballot](#).

We asked each candidate the following questions:

- **Question 1:** How do you serve your community other than in the practice of law?
- **Question 2:** Please explain your judicial philosophy in simple terms and state how you reached that philosophy. If you are an incumbent, how have you implemented that philosophy in your courtroom? If you are a challenger, how do you plan to put your philosophy into practice in your courtroom?
- **Question 3:** What reforms do you support to increase access to justice for all? How will you fight for them?

We hope their responses are helpful as you're deciding who to vote for in this important election!

For the Justice & Safety Alliance's full Judicial Platform, please visit our website! <https://bit.ly/JSAjudges>

Circuit Court Judge Division VI District 30

Candidate/Pos./Links	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3
<p>Stuart Breakstone Circuit Court Judge Division VI District 30</p> <p>Website: www.stuartbreakstone.com</p>	<p>I do volunteer work for numerous organizations, I do pro bono mediations, I do pro bono legal work, I mentor students, I help people in need, and I look for other ways to help in the community and follow up with them.</p>	<p>My judicial philosophy is to give everyone an opportunity to be heard; listen to what each person has to say; apply the law to the facts; judge facts and not people; treat litigants and attorneys with courtesy and respect; work diligently; provide rulings timely; hold people accountable without regard to race, religion, sex, national origin or any other factor. I reached this philosophy from having practiced law, mediated and arbitrated cases for 31 years in Circuit Court and have seen good and bad judges. When elected, I will be sworn to follow the law and that is what I intend to do.</p>	<p>In Circuit Court, by law, the only time an attorney can be appointed is if a person is determined to be indigent when a criminal contempt is filed against them. As a judge, I will make certain that every litigant has enough time to retain counsel. On a different note, the other issue is to make certain that there is not unnecessary delay in bring matters to conclusion. I would like to implement scheduling orders in all contested matters wherein a trial date and other matters are scheduled at the onset so that parties can ensure their matters are heard expeditiously.</p>
<p>Cedrick D. Wooten Circuit Court Judge Division VI District 30</p>	No response	No response	No response

Circuit Court Judge Division VIII District 30

Candidate	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3
<p>Damita Dandridge Circuit Court Judge Division VIII District 30</p>	No response	No response	No response
<p>Larry E. Parrish Circuit Court Judge Division VIII District 30</p>	No response	No response	No response

<p>Robert “Bob” Weiss Circuit Court Judge Division VIII District 30</p> <p>Website: www.bobweissforjudge.com</p>	<p>I have served as a judge for the past twelve years. During that time, I have continued to serve the community by working with a number of organizations in fundraising and programming including, but not limited to: Memphis Area Legal Services, KIndred Place, Porter Leath and the Carnival Children's Charity Initiative. In addition, I have personally performed over 3,100 weddings for people who have chosen to get married at the Courthouse.</p>	<p>My judicial philosophy is to follow the law. As a trial judge it is my duty to listen to the facts presented by the parties and apply the law to the facts. While there have been times I personally disagreed with the law and its impact on a party, as a trial judge it is not my role to insert my personal beliefs or to redefine the law.</p>	<p>The Tennessee Supreme Court has implemented the Access to Justice program in order to help unrepresented parties navigate the civil courts. As a sitting judge I have actively worked with the Domestic Relations Committee of the Tennessee Trial Judges Association to develop forms and documents to help people represent their own interests in Court.</p>
Chancellor Part I District 30			
Candidate	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3
<p>Melanie Taylor Jefferson Chancellor Part I Dist. 30</p> <p>Website: www.mtj4chancery1.com</p> <p>Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100071159200838</p>	<p>I belong to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated whose motto is to be supreme in service to all mankind by nurturing friendship, sisterhood, service and leadership in the local and international arena. I am on the Board of Directors for Young Actor's Guild, they teach youth various forms of art, dance and theater who might not otherwise have access. They teach children how to be successful and productive citizens in society. Finally, being a mentor to youth I</p>	<p>I believe that a Judge should have an even temperament, know the law, be able to be fair and impartial and be able to apply the law to the facts. In Chancery court, the Chancellor should make situations right as equity would require in situations where they have that discretion. The Judge should also be willing to and be able to do the work.</p> <p>After thirty years of practicing law, I realize these are some of the qualities each attorney and individual before the Court expects and desires from</p>	<p>As a judicial candidate, I am not allowed to express support of a particular group or entity so that the bench can remain fair and impartial. However, as it relates to improving the judicial system and the administration of justice, I can do my best to ensure the laws are followed and applied fairly in each case that comes before the Court.</p>

	am a member of the Curve Optimist Club. An organization of volunteers dedicated to bringing out the best in children and the community.	the Court. I also intend to treat each person with dignity and respect.	
Gadson William Perry Chancellor Part I Dist. 30 Website: https://www.chancellorwillperry.com/ Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/chancellorperry LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/gadson-william-perry-209b0a49/	As a former MCS middle school teacher, I volunteer with several organizations that serve children. I have served on the boards of REACH Memphis (f/k/a Memphis PREP), with whom I also teach a debate course, and Facing History & Ourselves for eight and six years, respectively. I also am a former board member of the Sycamore View Boys and Girls Club. For the past ten years, I have coached moot court and mock trial teams at Memphis Law, where I've also taught as an adjunct professor. The Memphis Law Professional Development Program named me its 2021 "Mentor of the Year."	The role of courts is to protect democracy and justice. Courts interpret and apply existing laws; they "say what the law is." Marbury v. Madison (1803). They also strike down laws that violate constitutional rights. These responsibilities are unique. As Alexander Hamilton remarked in Federalist No. 78, "there is no liberty, if the power of judging be not separated from the legislative and executive powers." I understand these responsibilities as a former partner at a 400-lawyer firm, former federal law clerk, and former law professor. I work to fulfill them in clear, correct rulings each day as a sitting judge.	COVID-19 has been devastating. But one positive outcome of the pandemic for access to justice was the transition from in-person to virtual court proceedings. Virtual proceedings increase access to courts because they require less travel, less money, and less time. They also make it easier for non-parties to observe what happens in court. As the pandemic has receded, most courts have started to return to in-person proceedings. But my court and others have maintained both virtual and in-person proceedings, depending on the needs of the parties. Fully 50% of my docket remains virtual, and I will keep it that way.
Chancellor Part III District 30			
Candidate	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3
Joe Jenkins Chancellor Part III Dist. 30	I am the assistant Pastor at Oak Grove M.B. Church. I am a board member for Memphis Bar Association and the Center for Excellence in Decision Making.	I follow established precedence. I have ruled on cases consistent with that philosophy.	I believe the pro bono model provides the best opportunity for access to justice. I encourage attorneys to provide some hours to pro se litigants.
Richard Parks Chancellor Part III Dist. 30	No response	No response	No response

Criminal Court Judge Division II District 30

Candidate	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3
<p>Gregory Thomas Carman Criminal Court Judge Division II District 30</p> <p>Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100081114681192</p>	<p>I have served my community by donating to the local United Way for 20 years, by coaching College and High School Mock Trial teams, by judging local Mock Trial events, and by mentoring law students and young attorneys.</p>	<p>To run an efficient courtroom that exhibits professionalism that is needed to be a fair judge, while balancing the rights of victims and the accused.</p> <p>By practicing criminal law for the past 26 years in front of over 50 Judges, including being a prosecutor, a private attorney, and by currently being a Supervisor in the Public Defender's Office.</p> <p>By opening court on time, by requiring attorneys to be punctual, by efficiently handling the cases before me, by treating court personnel and court attendees in professional manner, and by using my experience and temperament to be a fair and impartial judge.</p>	<p>Reasonable bonds. By taking account of all of the statutory factors when setting appropriate bonds.</p> <p>Preventing racial bias when selecting jurors. By making sure preemptory challenges are properly used by attorneys when selecting jurors.</p> <p>Properly dealing with individuals who suffer from mental illness and/or drug addiction. By using the Mental Health Court and Drug Court for these individuals to address their conditions through treatment.</p>
<p>Jennifer Fitzgerald Criminal Court Judge Division II District 30</p> <p>Website: www.Jenniferfitzgeraldforjudge.com</p> <p>Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/jennifer.fitzgerald.5055</p> <p>Instagram:</p>	<p>I am actively involved in helping to improve the Memphis community. I am a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., where I served as Chair of the Delta Gems Mentoring Program and Social Action Co-Chair. Also, I volunteered as a mentor for Girls, Inc., TN Achieves, and the Shelby County Youth Court. Also, I have volunteered with MICAH and the Shelby County Voter Alliance. I have raised thousands of dollars</p>	<p>My judicial philosophy is that a judge should be fair, follow the law, and have a great judicial temperament. Also, a judge should always have courage to follow the law and do what is right. I have reached this philosophy because I have observed how the qualities of good and bad judges can have a negative impact on the criminal justice system.</p>	<p>I support victims and defendants receiving all the rights they are entitled to under the law.</p>

https://www.instagram.com/jenniferfitzgeraldforjudge/	for St. Jude Children’s Hospital as a St. Jude Hero. I am former Board Member of the Downtown Boys and Girls Club.		
Amy G. Mayne Criminal Court Judge Division II District 30	No response	No response	No response
Joe Ozment Criminal Court Judge Division II District 30	I have been involved in organizations in the community and have helped raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Shelby County Drug Court Foundation and other local charitable causes through my involvement with local charitable groups such as The Mystic Krewe of Pegasus. I am also current president of the Shelby County Drug Court Foundation and the Mystic Krewe of Pegasus, both of which are 501(c) charitable organizations..	Originalism and judicial restraint. Also, a criminal court judge should protect the constitutional rights of defendants and victims. In cases involving violent crime and repeat offenders and in setting bonds and sentencing, a judge should follow the law while taking into account the significant need to protect the public.	As a judicial candidate for criminal court judge, I support the need for more funding for indigent representation and services in general and the need for more rehabilitative programs including increased funding for alcohol and drug rehabilitation, mental health assessment and treatment, adult educational programs and other programs that can help foster the rehabilitation process for those offenders that are in the justice system. Successful rehabilitation for those desiring to change their path in life prevents future crime and future victims.
Samuel D. Winnig Criminal Court Judge Division II District 30	No response	No response	No response

Criminal Court Judge Division III District 30

Candidate	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3
<p>James Jones Criminal Court Judge Division III District 30</p> <p>Website: votejonesforjudge.com</p>	<p>I work with the youth ministry at my church and mentor young men. I participate in programs and events at several schools. Being fluent in Spanish, I have taught English classes and job training classes for Spanish speaking individuals.</p>	<p>It is obvious that we must be tough on crime, but my philosophy is that the way to protect and better our community is by focusing more on prevention and rehabilitation. Working with the youth, I believe judges can do more in the community to help prevent these youths from ever getting to court. Should they reach the courts, we can do better to rehabilitate and equip these youth, and people in general, to exit the system permanently. Judges, being elective officials, should have contact with the community outside the courtroom.</p>	<p>I believe we need to better in supporting the pro bono clinics and the "attorney for a day" programs which allow members in the community to have more access to attorneys to receive guidance and directions with their cases. I also believe we need to work on increasing the fees paid to appointed counsel. Currently, the fees are at a level so low that more experienced attorneys do not participate in the representation of individuals needing appointed counsel. These cases are then given to less experienced attorneys who often times are not prepared to handle such matters. I look to change that.</p>
<p>Michael R. McCusker Criminal Court Judge Division III District 30</p> <p>Website: https://www.mccuskerforjudge.com/</p>	<p>Have organized winter coat drives for the past three years in Binghamton. Active with the VFW in their efforts to serve the needs of veterans. I am very active in the Knights of Columbus, which is one of the largest charitable organizations in the world. I have volunteered my time and money to support community activities through the Memphis Police Department's Tillman Precinct including the Boys and Girls Summer Camps. I have volunteered at the St. Mary's Soup Kitchen and supported the</p>	<p>This is an open seat. My legal philosophy is to follow the law while ensuring due process of law. To do what is right even when it is not popular, and I have endeavored to be respectful toward all parties whether we agree or not. I have worked hard for many years to safeguard the rights of the accused but to be equally mindful of the rights of victims. I reached this philosophy by never forgetting that everybody deserves to be treated with dignity, even those who have done terrible things, and to the extent possible to seek to rehabilitate them.</p>	<p>There is a lot of attention given to bail reform, but I believe what needs reformed is how we apply the rules of criminal procedure, which provide specific demands of a court in considering bonds, which if uniformly followed will alleviate the need for bail reform. I also believe the current courts are too loose in their application of the rules of criminal procedure and evidence, which contributes to the current backlog of cases in the system. I further believe the programs used to rehabilitate individuals fail to comprehend why the behavior is occurring in the first</p>

	Dorothy Day Home. Volunteer each morning to teach a law and public speaking class at St Benedict.		place.
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Criminal Court Judge Division V District 30

Candidate	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3
Carlyn Addison Criminal Court Judge Division V District 30	No response	No response	No response
Christopher J. Lareau Criminal Court Judge Division V District 30 Website: www.lareauforjudge.com Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Lareau4Judge Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/clareau4/	I mentored young men at Streets Ministries for six years. I am still very close with Robert and Taurean, now both 31 years old. For ten plus years, I have coached girls youth soccer both in church leagues and in club leagues focusing on providing opportunities for young ladies in urban environments. I've served on various boards over the years, including STAND For Children's endorsement committee during the last election cycle.	Do justice (protect victims and uphold defendant's constitutional rights). Love mercy (look for ways to rehabilitate people and bring restorative justice to communities). Walk humbly (recognize that judges are on the bench to serve their communities, not their egos).	I support restorative justice programs, lowering bonds for nonviolent, non-repeat offenders and increased use of GPS monitoring to monitor those individuals while on bond. I support increased courtroom transparency and will welcome citizens who want to observe the daily activities of the court. I support increasing victim awareness of their rights and inviting them to speak at bond hearings when violent defendants request bond reductions. I support the addition of Spanish interpreters at 201 Poplar. There are currently only two full time interpreters.

Criminal Court Judge Division VIII District 30

Candidate	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3
Chris Craft Criminal Court Judge Division VIII District 30	No response	No response	No response

<p>Sanjeev Memula Criminal Court Judge Division VIII District 30</p> <p>Website: sanjeevmemulaforjudge.com</p>	<p>Volunteer at Mock trial events, volunteer reading at schools. I have been advocating in the past for social justice issues and other issues that concern the community. I have worked to expand health care access and I am committed to treating everyone with compassion, dignity and respect</p>	<p>My judicial philosophy is try try to do what is right at all times and treat everyone with compassion, dignity and respect. People need to trust that they will be treated fairly and impartially. I plan to put my philosophy into play by being kind and courteous at all times and allowing all participants to be heard.</p>	<p>Everyone has a right to counsel and I will ensure that if clients are appointed an attorney, they receive the best representation.</p>
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Criminal Court Judge Division IX District 30

Candidate	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3
<p>A. Melissa Boyd Criminal Court Judge Division IX District 30</p>	<p>No response</p>	<p>No response</p>	<p>No response</p>
<p>Mark Ward Criminal Court Judge Division IX District 30</p> <p>Website: reelectmarkward.com</p>	<p>As a practicing lawyer I participated in programs such as Habitat for Humanity and Adopt-A-School Program, served as a member of the Kiwanis Club and on the Boards of Dismas House Inc. and Community Legal Center, where I was Chairman of the Board for two years. As a judge I have devoted my energy toward improvement of the law and the betterment of the legal profession. For the last 22 years I have taught Criminal Procedure at the Law School, I have taught 82 CLE seminars, and I have authored the leading Criminal Procedure treatise in the State.</p>	<p>Socrates said "Four things belong to a judge: to hear courteously; to speak wisely; to consider soberly; to decide impartially." I have served as judge for 18 years and have demonstrated these characteristics on the bench. Twice during my tenure, the Memphis Bar Association has evaluated all the judges in Shelby County and in both evaluations I was the "Highest Rated Judge in Shelby County." Most importantly to me, I received the highest rating in the following categories: knowledge of the law, sound legal reasoning, maintaining proper judicial demeanor, remaining fair and impartial, and being courteous and respectful to all.</p>	<p>Although I have worked in the past to ensure access to justice in the civil arena my focus as a Criminal Court Judge is now in the criminal arena. Having served as a public defender for 21 years I know there needs to be both increased funding for public defender agencies but also increased funding for the private bar when they are required to represent indigent defendants, for instance when there is a conflict with the public defender's office. I have served on the Supreme Court's Indigent Defense Commission and will continue to voice my support for such increased funding.</p>

General Sessions Civil Court Judge, Division 1

Candidate	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3
<p>Lynn Cobb General Sessions Civil Court Judge, Division 1</p>	<p>Served as deacon in my church for 28 years. Trustee at Union University and Creighton College. On Board of Love Worth Finding Ministry .</p>	<p>In every decision that comes before me, I apply the law of Tennessee and also take into consideration any equitable factors that should be considered in order to dispense justice. By following this as a consistent practice, I have implemented this as my daily courtroom practice.</p>	<p>This would be more of a legislative consideration which the court would gladly follow if any aspect became law.</p>
<p>Victoria Gillard General Sessions Civil Court Judge, Division 1</p>	<p>I am an usher, Helps Ministry and Youth Church volunteer with my Church. We have many community outreach programs including feeding the hungry (partnership w/MIFA), single women with children, food pantry, I volunteer for legal clinics and sponsor programs/projects at the church as well.</p>	<p>I have dedicated a large percentage of my time/practice to helping and/or representing indigent individuals. I plan to extend this commitment by assisting all that I can that appear in my courtroom with practical assistance involving housing, utility programs/assistance, etc.</p>	<p>My position is civil and/or small claims therefore, I would support any reform as long as it is what's fair and equitable (housing, contract disputes) and/or in the person's best interest(mental health matters).</p>
<p>Lawrence A. Pivnick General Sessions Civil Court Judge, Division 1</p>	<p>No response</p>	<p>No response</p>	<p>No response</p>

General Sessions Civil Court Judge, Division 3

Candidate	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3
<p>Lincoln Hodges General Sessions Civil Court Judge, Division 3</p> <p>Website: www.votelincolnhodges.com</p>	<p>I am a supporter of Access to Justice, which helps promote accessibility to the courts and ensures fairness. I dedicate pro bono hours to assist the underprivileged, which includes providing real estate closing services, court representation, and settlement of cases. I have provided free will services for church fundraisers and helped my old boy scout troop construct a stone bridge at a boy scout camp near Hardy, Arkansas. I am also a member of the following: Germantown Area Chamber of Commerce, Memphis Area Association of Realtors, Mortgage Bankers Association of Memphis, American Land Title Association, and Land Title Association of Mississippi.</p>	<p>My judicial philosophy has always been to serve with integrity, which translates into being fair and impartial, being courteous to the litigants and their counsel, listening to all the facts, and ruling in accordance with the law. In General Sessions civil court, hundreds of cases are heard each week, more than any other court of our county. Many litigants are represented by attorneys, but many are not, and this may be the only glimpse of the American judicial system that many people will ever see, so delivering fair and just outcomes for all parties should be the primary goal.</p>	<p>Because General Sessions court is a court of law and is governed by the rules of evidence, pro bono litigants, in certain cases, have difficulty in presenting their proof at trial. Most attorneys provide pro bono services each year as part of their civic duty, and, having court advocates for the indigent in the form of attorneys providing pro bono services to help them present their cases would help eliminate barriers, ensure fairness, and increase courtroom efficiency.</p>
<p>William “Bill” Larsha General Sessions Civil Court Judge, Division 3</p>	<p>No Response</p>	<p>No Response</p>	<p>No Response</p>
<p>Danielle Mitchell Sims General Sessions Civil Court Judge, Division 3</p> <p>Website: www.daniellemitchellsims.com</p>	<p>I am the Administrator at Mt. Moriah-East Baptist Church where I facilitate ministry work and church activities. I am also a member of Women United with the United Way.</p>	<p>My judicial philosophy is based on duty to the law, patience and impartiality. A judge must be fair and dedicated to the law; allow for all parties to be heard rather than rushing to judgment; and objectively examine the facts and rule fairly.</p>	<p>I support the expansion of technology in our local courts. We learned from the pandemic that it is far easier now to meet litigants where they are as opposed to bringing every person to the courthouse. In my court specifically, I will push to move to an electronic</p>

<p>Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/JudgeDanielleMitchellSims</p>		<p>My philosophy is based on my legal training, experience and the values that were instilled in me by my family and community. Judicial service requires deep knowledge of the law and a compassion for your fellow man. I apply this philosophy by making sure each litigant is not treated like a case number and gets the attention they deserve.</p>	<p>filing system that is certainly more efficient than having to file paper at the counter downtown. I will push to improve our ability to hear cases virtually - through better teleconferencing software and improving the court's processes to accommodate those hearings.</p>
<p>Lisa N. Stanley General Sessions Civil Court Judge, Division 3</p> <p>Website: www.elect-stanley.com</p> <p>Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ElectLisaStanley</p>	<p>I volunteer for MALS Legal Clinic, volunteered for the Eviction Settlement Program, and am a founding member of Breakfast for Dinner: A Benefit for Room in the Inn.</p>	<p>It is important to me that all litigants, represented or not, understand the process of what, procedurally, is happening. Court can be a scary place, and anxiety can prevent some, especially pro se litigants, from effectively conveying the facts. Thus, should I be elected, everyone will be heard - and everyone will be treated with respect. If they do not understand procedurally what is occurring, I will take the time to educate them so they may proceed with their case to the best of their ability.</p>	<p>I think that the courts need to make more proactive use of pro bono mediators who can sit down with litigants, especially pro se litigants without the benefit of an attorney, and discuss the facts and laws surrounding the case. I would invite more mediators to appear a certain day each week, and offer those services to pro se litigants to have a chance at resolving their issues before being required to represent themselves in a trial.</p>
General Sessions Civil Court Judge, Division 4			
Candidate	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3
<p>Deborah Anne Means Henderson General Sessions Civil Court Judge, Division 4</p> <p>Website: https://www.judgedeborahhenderson.com/</p>	<p>I am a member of several organizations where public service is a priority, such as Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and the National Council of Negro Women.</p>	<p>My Judicial philosophy is that every litigant deserves an opportunity to be heard.. I allow every litigant to express their position before ruling on the case.</p>	<p>I encourage more attorneys to donate pro bono hours. I have also established a mediation program for litigants in General Sessions Court.</p>

Eran E Julian General Sessions Civil Court Judge, Division 4	No response	No response	No response
General Sessions Criminal Court Judge, Division 7			
Candidate	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3
Bill Anderson General Sessions Criminal Court Judge, Division 7 Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ JudgeBillAndersonJr	Participate in numerous community requests for explaining both the general criminal court operations and, specifically, the operation of The Shelby County Veterans Court which I created 10 years ago and operates within my regular Court responsibilities.	I am an incumbent. My judicial philosophy was honed in my 28 years of private practice as a criminal defense lawyer. I saw some of the best and worst Judges. I try to emulate the best ones, because my beliefs are most in line with them: fairness, impartiality and justice tempered with mercy and common sense for all who appear in my Court.	Bail reform is at the top of my list. Making sure that we make the bail laws fair to all and they are evenly applied to all without discrimination of any type. I am also in favor of any criminal justice reform that is non-discriminatory in either its wording, intent or practice.
Handel R. Durham General Sessions Criminal Court Judge, Division 7	No response	No response	No response
General Sessions Criminal Court Judge, Division 8			
Candidate	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3
Perry S. Hayes General Sessions Criminal Court Judge, Division 8	No response	No response	No response
John "Jay" H. Parker II General Sessions Criminal Court Judge, Division 8	No response	No response	No response

<p>Lee Wilson General Sessions Criminal Court Judge, Division 8 Website: www.voteleewilson.com</p> <p>Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/VoteLeeWilson</p>	<p>I bring awareness of drug addiction to the community by speaking to community organization about the various programs available in the Judge Court. There has been a rise in the number overdoses cases. This increase in the number of cases is partly due to the increase in the number of street drugs that are now laced with fentanyl. Most people are not aware of of this fact.</p>	<p>I believe that a Judge should have a through knowledge of the law . The Judge should then apply that knowledge of the law to the facts and evidence. The law should be applied fairly and equitably to each case. I have tried about one hundred Jury trials and this has help me to reach this philosophy. As a Judicial Commissioner, I have been task with the review of initial arrest. I apply this philosophy to each and every case that comes before me.</p>	<p>I will push for more training for all criminal defense attorneys so that every defendant that comes before me is represented by qualified and competent counsel. I will contact and work with our local bar associations to add more criminal defense related training .</p>
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General Sessions Criminal Court Judge, Division 9

Candidate	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3
<p>Sheila Bruce-Renfroe General Sessions Criminal Court Judge, Division 9</p>	<p>No response</p>	<p>No response</p>	<p>No response</p>
<p>Gerald Skahan General Sessions Criminal Court Judge, Division 9</p> <p>Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/gerald.skahan</p>	<p>I am the current elected judge of General Sessions Criminal Court Division 9. I preside over a full-time criminal court docket five days a week. Since 2016, we have also operated the only part time Mental Health Court in this part of the country. I stay very active in the community by appearing and speaking at many social and civic events around town. I speak at places ranging from churches and neighborhood associations to schools and volunteer groups. It is important to carry the message to the public about what we do. I also coach</p>	<p>Practicing law shaped my Judicial Philosophy . First of all, I believe that the courts are here to help people. Whether it is getting somebody off of drugs, or to stop stealing, or to address a mental health issue, or any other reason that will improve the lives of a citizen, the courts have an obligation and a duty to participate. Punishment is certainly necessary sometimes but should never be the goal. We implement this philosophy daily in the regular criminal record and in the Mental Health Court in Division 9.</p>	<p>It begins with education of the Public on the roles of Judges, lawyers, and law enforcement. We are still increasing the number of street courts that we have that do things ranging from Expungements to helping people get their drivers license back. These clinics need to be increased and there needs to be more participation from the judiciary in the legal community. We must also educate school students on the Constitution and the Courts. I will continue to participate in the clinics and as an adjunct professor. Inform the public & remove the negative stigma</p>

	youth sports and belong to civic groups		
General Sessions Criminal Court Judge, Division 10			
Candidate	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3
Cathy Anderson General Sessions Criminal Court Judge, Division 10	No response	No response	No response
Patience “Missy” Branham General Sessions Criminal Court Judge, Division 10	No response	No response	No response
Greg Gilbert General Sessions Criminal Court Judge, Division 10 Website: https://greggilbertforjudge.com/ Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ggilbert4judge Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/ggilbert4judge/	Shelby Farms Conservancy, St Jude, Ronald Mc Donald House, Family Safety Center, Judge High School Mock trial	Respect to parties, open to each interpretation of the law with an open mind. I will not hesitate to rule! Agreement of parties will be encouraged, but I will resolve conflicts. Indecisive judges breed chaos and acrimony. Decisions will respect rights of defendants and victims. But, victims rights shall not undermine rights of the accused. Confidence in court system the paramount goal. Implicit racial bias pervade courts. Race, gender, ethnicity, financial means will not determine outcomes. DV sentencing presumes alternatives to jail. Justice system must produce citizens able to resolve dispute without violence. But, Repeat offenders must be separated and incarcerated.	DV court does the most preliminary hearings. Hearings should be separate from regular report cases like drug court for the good of defendants and victims. I have gotten approval from Dist Attorney, Current Judge, Magistrates for this. I intend to approach County Commission for funding after the election. Also, Victim advocates should be dispatched to the actual crime scene to more quickly and better serve Victims as well as increase their confidence and participation in prosecution. I am actively fighting for a 24 hour Family Safety Center like Nashville because DV occurs after the hours of 8:00 to 4:30
Rhonda Wilson Harris	No response	No response	No response

<p>Kevin Reed General Sessions Criminal Court Judge, Division 10</p> <p>Website: KevinReedforjudge.com</p>	<p>I have a unique blend of judicial and community experience fighting against domestic violence. I've been a magistrate in General Sessions Criminal Court for over 13 years. In the community I have been president and vice president of the Domestic Violence Council. I currently serve on the shelter advisory for the YWCA. And I cofounded ReportDV901, an advocacy services that helps people in abusive relationships transitions into safety. I've been working as a domestic violence advocate in the community for 10 years.</p>	<p>My judicial philosophy is to know the law and apply the law extremely well while being fair and impartial to all those that come before me. As a magistrate I make decisions on orders of protection and preliminary hearings regularly. I always listen to both sides before making a decision and I follow the law. I enjoy a reputation among lawyers as being fair and having the right temperament.</p>	<p>The vast majority of domestic violence that happens in our community never sees the inside of a courtroom. Many victims suffer in abusive relationships for years before they successfully escape. I believe the domestic violence court should try to help everyone struggling in an abusive relationship, not just the cases that make it to court. If elected I will have a strong community outreach program associated with the court. I already have relationships with those on the frontlines fighting against domestic violence everyday. The court will partner with community agencies to strengthen the fight against domestic violence for all victims.</p>
<p>Erim Sarinoglu General Sessions Criminal Court Judge, Division 10</p> <p>Website: www.voteshelbycountyjudge.com</p> <p>Facebook: www.facebook.com/VoteErimSarinoglu</p> <p>Instagram: www.instagram.com/voteerimsarinoglu/</p>	<p>Outside of his law practice as an Assistant Public Defender, Erim coaches the Memphis University School mock trial team, has served on Mayor Lee Harris' Young Professionals Council, and is a dedicated volunteer and supporter of the Dixon Gallery and Gardens.</p>	<p>In my analysis of the law, my philosophy is that of strict constructionism. Judges have a responsibility to enforce the laws as written and to respect the constitutional rights of both victims and defendants regardless of convenience to the court. Concerning the criminal justice system itself however, my philosophy is legal realism. I believe Judges should pursue public policy objectives (such as speedy hearings or protecting victims) through intentional design of criminal justice procedures. I don't believe it's enough that a Judge gives precise legal rulings if they neglect their responsibilities to design just and efficient overall systems.</p>	<p>I'm running for a position that hears 150 exclusively domestic violence cases in the span of 3 hours every morning. This severe daily overload of cases reduces access to justice for victims and stakeholders causing dangerous delays as citizens seek justice for domestic abuse. I aim to reduce this overload by instating a judicial magistrate structure used by retiring Judge Tim Dwyer in the Drug Court Program that assigns additional courtrooms to speed up cases. I think it's wrong to prioritize judicial effort into drug cases while domestic violence cases don't receive this equal investment.</p>

General Sessions Criminal Court Judge, Division 11

Candidate	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3
<p>Terita M. Hewlett General Sessions Criminal Court Judge, Division 11</p> <p>Website: www.hewlettforjudge.com</p>	<p>I take advantage of volunteer opportunities in the community. I mentor paralegal students, law students and new attorneys. I serve on the board of Shelby PALS program which mentors at-risk youth in the Memphis community.</p>	<p>Justice is blind on all issues. My rulings will be based on the law, facts and arguments presented before me in Court. Everyone will be treated with dignity and respect.</p>	<p>The courtroom should be transparent to all citizens. I would encourage observation from court watchers and those interested in the criminal litigation process.</p>
<p>Karen L. Massey General Sessions Criminal Court Judge, Division 11</p> <p>Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/judgekarenlmassey/</p> <p>Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/reelectjudgekarenmassey/</p>	<p>Volunteer work with Dorothy Day House. Occasionally participate in litter pick up. Supply food to food banks. Occasionally Judge in student Mock Trial competitions.</p>	<p>I have a passion for the administration of criminal justice that follows the Constitution of the United States and the State of Tennessee. The most important factor is ensuring that Lady Justice is truly blind in General Sessions Criminal Court Division 11. I do not care what you look like, your social status in society, who you choose to love everyone is treated with dignity and respect in Division 11. I have a 16 year record demonstrating my dedication to ensure all litigants are heard and treated fairly.</p>	<p>In General Sessions Criminal Court swift appointments of Public Defenders for the indigent. Public education and awareness of the need for more Mental Health resources and Drug Addiction Rehabilitation opportunities. Engagement with our elected legislative officials to enact laws and provide funding for services in those 2 areas which are major drivers of criminal behavior.</p>
<p>Jimmy Thomas General Sessions Criminal Court Judge, Division 11</p>	<p>No response</p>	<p>No response</p>	<p>No response</p>

General Sessions Criminal Court Judge, Division 12

Candidate	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3
<p>Mischelle Alexander-Best General Sessions Criminal Court Judge, Division 12</p> <p>Website: www.mab4gs12.com</p>	<p>Yes I am a college professor, former public defender, teacher and social worker. All my life I have been a public servant,</p>	<p>I believe a judge should be fair and impartial. Firm but fair. Utilize every opportunity they have to make a different. Maintain proper judicial temperament and offer compassion when appropriate. I have been a judge before I know the importance to these principles.</p>	<p>They bail needs to be reformed and we need to spend more time educating the public as well start having civic classes as well.</p>
<p>Ronald Lucchesi General Sessions Criminal Court Judge, Division 12</p>	<p>No response</p>	<p>No response</p>	<p>No response</p>

General Sessions Criminal Court Judge, Division 13

Candidate	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3
<p>Louis Montesi General Sessions Criminal Court Judge, Division 13</p> <p>Website: Judgelouismontesi.com</p>	<p>I have been a judge for 32 years. I am not permitted to practice law. Most of my service, outside my service to the community as as a judge, has been through and associated with my church. I have participated in preparing food packages to feed the hungry on an annual basis for many years. I have presented seminars on ethics and professionalism for lawyers and judges for over 25 years which have raised funds for scholarships for those in need, food for the homeless and safe shelter for abused women and their children.</p>	<p>My judicial philosophy is based upon the mandates of the The Tennessee Supreme Court as set forth in the Cannons of Judicial Conduct and Ethics. I am bound to uphold the honor and dignity of the judiciary. I am bound to be fair, impartial, and independent. I am required to be competent, honest and trustworthy in all that I do both in my public and private life. I treat every person with dignity and respect. I uphold the rights of all persons and administer justice with the goal for equal justice, access to justice and justice for all.</p>	<p>I served on the Tennessee Supreme Court Committee which drafted court Rules that were adopted for the appointment and certification of foreign language interpreters for those who could not speak or understand English. Access to justice begins with an understanding of the language used by the court. I served on the Safety and Justice Committee funded by a grant given to Shelby County to reduce the jail population for persons charged with nonviolent crimes. I support these goals and initiatives.</p>

<p>Terrance Tatum General Sessions Criminal Court Judge, Division 13</p> <p>Website: www.Tatumforjudge.com</p> <p>Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100067981262213</p> <p>Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/tatumforjudge/</p>	<p>For the past 35 years, I have mentored, coached and counseled young men through sports and activities. By teaching them different sports, ie...baseball, basketball and football, I have been able to teach them to apply the values of life to the successes and failures of each sport.</p>	<p>Listen before you speak. I have always thought that a Judge's role is similar to an umpire at a baseball game. A good judge should be there to call the balls and strikes and the foul balls, and not try to determine the outcome of the game, but if you listen to all of the litigants before you speak, you allow everyone to be heard and justice will prevail.</p>	<p>I support the modernization of the court system. There are plenty of electronic changes that could open the court to all of the public to be better aware of what is going in the courtroom and the court system.</p>
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General Sessions Criminal Court Judge, Division 15

Candidate	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3
<p>Christian Johnson General Sessions Criminal Court Judge, Division 15</p> <p>Facebook: www.facebook.com/ChristianforJudge</p>	<p>I have served my community and country since I was a young man. I am an Eagle Scout, a former volunteer and paid firefightherr, and a United States Marine. I am currently a Captain in the Tennessee State Guard and volunteer and the veteran's legal clinic.</p>	<p>As a judge I would be required to follow the law.</p>	<p>Congress has the obligation to make and reform the law. Not Judges.</p>
<p>Loyce Lambert-Ryan General Sessions Criminal Court Judge, Division 15</p> <p>Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/JudgeLoyceLambertRyan</p>	<p>I am a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. River City Chapter of the Links, Inc., Top Teens of America and Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. I am active in my church, Parkway Gardens United Presbyterian Church. I previously served as Treasurer of the Deacons Board, as a Sunday</p>	<p>My mantra is "I am your Judge in General Sessions Division XV ". My job is to be a just judge to all persons that appear before me. I my job is to give all persons a clear understanding of what the law dictates and why my rulings are reflective of the rule of law. I have focused my efforts on the administration of justice. It is my</p>	<p>I served on the Governor's Task Force on Sentencing Guidelines that reviewed and revised the sentencing guidelines in the state of Tennessee and in 2015 to the Indigent Defense Task Force that developed guidelines for indigent Representation in all aspects of the legal system. These are core issues</p>

<p>Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/judgeloycelambertryan/</p> <p>Twitter: https://twitter.com/JudgeLLRyan</p>	<p>school teacher, an Elder and Chairperson of the Commitment Committee. I have served on the Permanent Judicial Commission for the Presbytery of Memphis and Synlod and several other regional committees. I have been nominated to serve on the Advisory Committee on Litigation of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church</p>	<p>responsibility to assure it is done in a logical and efficient manner. I am a humble servant and remember that I am bless to assume the role that I have been elected.</p>	<p>in the administration of criminal justice. I have lobbied legislators to implement the policies promulgated from these commissions. I have encouraged organization that I am apart of to lobby legislators on these issues. I do believe the pandemic has proven the need for virtual alternative methods of access to the courts.</p>
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Environmental Court Judge, Division 14

Candidate	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3
<p>Addie M. Burks Environmental Court Judge, Division 14</p> <p>Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100081252398724</p>	<p>I try to serve the community by being a good steward with what God has blessed me with through my church, by treating people with respect, giving care packages to people I see on the street, sometimes when I am in a store, I may give someone money or at the register pay all or part of someone's bill. I believe that if we focus on treating people right and helping with what you have and where you are is how real betterment of the communities occurs.</p>	<p>My judicial philosophy is to give strong deference to the law. To try and understand what the purpose for the law is and it's direct and indirect impact in it's application. Then, when applying the law to the facts of the case , I will stand firm on the law. My rulings will be tempered in wisdom, and compassion to reach a just result. Environmental is not a punitive court but the goal to improve our quality of life, enable a healthy a lifestyle, and increase property values,</p>	<p>To me, access to justice means that ability of people to navigate the judicial system the administrative procedure and be positioned to utilize all three to achieve the goals of improved quality of life, partake in a healthy lifestyle, and position themselves so that they are able to prosper. I fight for those things by educating the community. There has to be some engagement with the people. listening to what people see as problems and solutions. Then, I would coordinate and mediate the varying resources to assist those individuals to make change . Power to the people. Rebuild communities.</p>
<p>Patrick M. Dandridge Environmental Court Judge, Division 14</p>	<p>No response</p>	<p>No response</p>	<p>No response</p>

Danny W. Kail Environmental Court Judge, Division 14	No response	No response	No response
Juvenile Court Judge			
Candidate	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3
William “Ray” Glasgow Juvenile Court Judge	No response	No response	No response
Dan Michael Juvenile Court Judge Website: https://www.shelbycountytngov/382/Juvenile-Court-Judge	I speak regularly at various town halls and community groups. I speak about the court and it’s structure and other areas concerning personal safety. I am the past president of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. I’m active in the ABA, TBA, MBA NBA. I am a Board Fellow with the local bar and an emeritus member of the Inns of Court. I’m a member of the Crime Commission & Alliance Group /Youth Villages. I serve on the Executive Committee of the TCJFCJ. My wife and I have fostered over 15 children. I also serve through my faith.	The Tennessee Code, the Rules of Judicial Conduct and human nature are the basis for my judicial philosophy which I have taught to my magistrate judges so that it’s observed in all of our courtrooms. My philosophy is to provide all litigants the right to be heard and to reach a fair and unbiased opinion based on the facts and application of the law. My instructions to the magistrates is to “judge the act, not the person.” The act should not define the future for that person. We are a court of rehabilitation. The Tennessee Code, Title 37 tells us so.	I support the appointment of counsel for every person that appears in court if they can’t afford an attorney. Not just criminal cases. ALL CASES! In addition I would require intensive out of custody drug rehabilitation services for those stuck in addiction. We need to convince society that not every crime requires incarceration. And that mental health and addiction should be treated in the community. Prisons for the violent and the persistent violator. Stop assessing fees. We ceased fees 4 years ago. Government offices is paid with taxes. Supplementing with fines creates a literal debtors prison. Make public education go viral.
Dee Shawn Peoples Juvenile Court Judge Website: peoples4thepeople.com	I mentor at risk high school students. I volunteer my time working with community agencies focused on rehabilitating young people.	I would say that my Judicial philosophy is to apply the law equally I am a candidate and the way I would apply that is that I would utilize the same effort zeal and resources to help the poorest uncared for person as I would the child or family members of a politician	We need transparency and the real numbers regarding every aspect of the Court I would fight for that by having independent audits of not just the funding but of judicial outcomes I would have regular Town Hall meetings on a monthly basis We need to reduce the number of children transferred to adult Court. I

			<p>have no idea how I would rule but I would look at each request to transfer a child individually I would pay attention to the legal factors that are required. I would pay attention to those children with similar circumstances who are not requested to be transferred.</p>
<p>Tarik Sugarmon Juvenile Court Judge</p> <p>Email: Info@votejudgesugarmon.com</p> <p>Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/voteforjudgesugarmon</p> <p>Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/electjudgesugarmon/</p>	<p>I have served on boards and actively participated in training and mentoring programs that serve youth and their families. Mid-South Junior Golf Chapter of First Tee, Boy Scouts of America Mid-South Region-Finance Committee and assisting during camp outs, Southwest College welding class-assisting Instructor Dan Spencer(State Grant training program), Bei Shaolin Kung Fu, Instructor for beginners, kids classes and personal safety, Amani Youth Foundation(friends non-profit) program introducing youth to the outdoors, hunting and firearms safety(TWRA instructor) hunting guide for youth hunt. Supporting my churches community outreach programs like Room in The Inn and financial donations to nonprofit organizations.</p>	<p>Don't lose sight that I am a public servant and I expect staff and personnel to be courteous, respectful and helpful to the citizens that come to court. This is reflected in small ways like providing instruction or direction to departments or services to meet their legal needs. I do my best to explain my rulings based upon the applicable law(s) and the facts of the case in plain English. If a litigant understands the legal basis of their ruling the more confidence they'll have that they've had a fair day in court.</p>	<p>From personal experience I realize that defense attorneys, public or private, are under resourced in comparison to the District Attorney's office. The uneven playing field often results in disproportionate outcomes, especially for indigent litigants. I will request commensurate funding for investigative services, counseling services and community based diversionary programs. This will achieve better outcomes and expedite disposition from court to rehabilitation.</p>