

TENNESSEE

Although Tennessee was admitted into the Union in 1796,¹ provision for a judiciary was not made until a year later, when it was organized as a single district with full federal jurisdiction.² Five years later it was reorganized into the Eastern and Western Districts with one judge serving both (see Judge McNairy's succession line),³ and in 1839 further division occurred with the addition of the Middle District,⁴ albeit still with one judge for the entire state (see Judge Morgan Brown's succession line). TN.ED.01 is the original judgeship. The provision for a separate judge for the Western District in 1878⁵ left TN.ED.01 with jurisdiction over the other two districts. When a judgeship was authorized for the Middle District in 1922,⁶ each district had its own judge.

TN.ED.02 was created as a temporary and transient position in 1938 to serve both the Eastern and Middle Districts.⁷ Two years later Congress moved it solely to the Eastern District and converted it to permanent.⁸ TN.MD.02 was authorized in 1954, with the proviso that the next vacancy on the court would not be filled. When Judge Davies died in office in 1957, TN.MD.01 ended and TN.MD.02 effectively became the permanent line.

Tennessee is in the Sixth Circuit and has fourteen judgeships: five in the Eastern District, four in the Middle and five in the Western District.⁹

Statutory History		
<i>Seat</i>	<i>Legislation</i>	<i>Authority</i>
TN.ED.01	Act of January 31, 1797	1 STAT. 496

¹Act of June 1, 1796, 1 STAT. 491.

²Act of January 31, 1797, 1 STAT. 496.

³Act of April 29, 1802, 2 STAT. 165. See Patricia E. Brake, *Justice in the Valley* (Franklin, TN: Providence House Publishers, 1998).

⁴Act of June 18, 1839, 5 STAT. 313.

⁵Act of June 14, 1878, 20 STAT. 132.

⁶Act of September 14, 1922, 42 STAT. 838.

⁷Act of May 31, 1938, 52 STAT. 584.

⁸Act of November 27, 1940, 54 STAT. 1216.

⁹Harry Phillips, Samuel S. Wilson, et al., *History of the Sixth Circuit* (Washington: Judicial Conference of the United States, 1977).

TN.ED.02	Act of May 31, 1938	52 STAT. 584
TN.ED.03	Act of May 19, 1961	75 STAT. 80
TN.ED.04	Act of July 10, 1984	98 STAT. 333
TN.ED.05	Act of December 1, 1990	104 STAT. 5089
TN.MD.01	Act of September 14, 1922	42 STAT. 838
TN.MD.02	Act of February 10, 1954	68 STAT. 8
TN.MD.03	Act of May 19, 1961	75 STAT. 80
TN.MD.04	October 20, 1978	92 STAT. 1629
TN.MD.05	Act of December 1, 1990	104 STAT. 5089
TN.WD.01	Act of June 14, 1878	20 STAT. 132
TN.WD.02	Act of May 19, 1961	75 STAT. 80
TN.WD.03	Act of June 2, 1970	84 STAT. 294
TN.WD.04	Act of July 10, 1984	98 STAT. 333
TN.WD.05	Act of December 1, 1990	104 STAT. 5089

Seat Histories					
<i>Position #</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Confirmation</i>	<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Party</i>
TN.ED.01.01	McNairy, John	February 20, 1797	September 1, 1833	Resigned	Federalist
TN.ED.01.02	Brown, Morgan Welles	December 31, 1833	March 6, 1853	Deceased	Democrat
TN.ED.01.03	Humphreys, West Hughes	March 26, 1853	June 26, 1862	Impeached	Democrat
TN.ED.01.04	Trigg, Connally Findlay	July 17, 1862	April 25, 1880	Deceased	Republican
TN.ED.01.05	Key, David McKendree	May 27, 1880	January 28, 1895	Retired	Democrat

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TN.ED.01.06	Clark, Charles Dickens	January 21, 1895	March 15, 1908	Deceased	Democrat
TN.ED.01.07	Sanford, Edward Terry	May 18, 1908	January 29, 1923	Elevated to U.S. Supreme Court	Republican
TN.ED.01.08	Hicks, Xenophen	March 2, 1923	May 23, 1928	Elevated to Sixth Circuit	Republican
TN.ED.01.09	Taylor, George Caldwell	May 26, 1928	November 24, 1949	Retired	Republican
TN.ED.01.10	Taylor, Robert Love, Jr.	March 8, 1950 ¹⁰	January 15, 1985	Retired	Democrat
TN.ED.01.11	Jordan, Robert Leon	October 14, 1988	November 30, 2001	Retired	Republican
TN.ED.01.12	Varlan, Thomas A.	March 13, 2003	Active	Active	Republican
TN.ED.02.01	Darr, Leslie Rogers	May 31, 1939	March 15, 1961	Retired	Democrat
TN.ED.02.02	Wilson, Frank W.	June 14, 1961	September 29, 1982	Deceased	Democrat
TN.ED.02.03	Hull, Thomas Gray	November 9, 1983	October 1, 2002	Retired	Republican
TN.ED.02.04	Greer, J. Ronnie	June 11, 2003	Active	Active	Republican
TN.ED.03.01	Neese, Charles G.	February 7, 1962 ¹¹	August 31, 1982	Retired	Democrat

¹⁰Recess appointment, November 2, 1949.

¹¹Recess appointment, November 20, 1961.

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TN.ED.03.02	Milburn, H. Ted	June 6, 1983	October 4, 1984	Elevated to Sixth Circuit	Republican
TN.ED.03.03	Edgar, R. Allan	April 15, 1985	October 7, 2005	Retired	Republican
TN.ED.03.04	Mattice, Harry Sandlin, Jr.	October 24, 2005	Active	Active	Republican
TN.ED.04.01	Jarvis, James H., II	October 11, 1984	February 28, 2002	Retired	Republican
TN.ED.04.02	Phillips, Thomas W.	November 14, 2002	Active	Active	Republican
TN.ED.05.01	Collier, Curtis L.	May 8, 1995	Active	Active	Democrat
TN.MD.01.01	Gore, John J.	March 2, 1923	February 21, 1939	Deceased	Republican
TN.MD.01.02	Davies, Elmer David	July 12, 1939	January 7, 1957	Deceased	Democrat
TN.MD.02.01	Miller, William Ernest	March 14, 1955	July 8, 1970	Elevated to Sixth Circuit	Republican
TN.MD.02.02	Morton, L. Clure	October 8, 1970	July 31, 1984	Retired	Republican
TN.MD.02.03	Higgins, Thomas A.	October 3, 1984	February 28, 1999	Retired	Republican
TN.MD.02.04	Haynes, William Joseph, Jr.	November 10, 1999	Active	Active	Democrat

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TN.MD.03.01	Gray, Frank, Jr.	February 7, 1962 ¹²	July 15, 1977	Retired	Democrat
TN.MD.03.02	Wiseman, Thomas A., Jr.	August 11, 1978	November 3, 1995	Retired	Democrat
TN.MD.03.03	Campbell, Todd J.	December 22, 1995	Active	Active	Democrat
TN.MD.04.01	Nixon, John T.	May 9, 1980	August 15, 1998	Retired	Democrat
TN.MD.04.02	Trauger, Aleta A.	October 21, 1998	Active	Active	Democrat
TN.MD.05.01	Echols, Robert Lynn	March 13, 1992	Active	Active	Republican
TN.WD.01.01	Hammond, Eli Shelby	June 17, 1878	December 17, 1904	Deceased	Republican
TN.WD.01.02	McCall, John E.	January 17, 1905	August 8, 1920	Deceased	Republican
TN.WD.01.03	Ross, John William	May 31, 1921	July 9, 1925	Deceased	Republican
TN.WD.01.04	Anderson, Harry Bennett	January 29, 1926 ¹³	April 5, 1935	Deceased	Republican
TN.WD.01.05	Martin, John Donelson, Sr.	April 30, 1935	September 4, 1940	Elevated to Sixth Circuit	Democrat
TN.WD.01.06	Boyd, Marion Speed	September 18, 1940	August 1, 1966	Retired	Democrat

¹²Recess appointment, November 20, 1961.

¹³Recess appointment, September 12, 1925.

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TN.WD.01.07	McRae, Robert M., Jr.	October 20, 1966	December 31, 1986	Retired	Democrat
TN.WD.01.08	Turner, Jerome	December 8, 1987	February 12, 2000	Deceased	Republican
TN.WD.01.09	Mays, Samuel H., Jr.	May 9, 2002	Active	Active	Republican
TN.WD.02.01	Brown, Bailey	August 21, 1961	September 26, 1979	Elevated to Sixth Circuit	Democrat
TN.WD.02.02	Horton, Odell ¹⁴	May 9, 1980	May 16, 1995	Retired	Democrat
TN.WD.02.03	Donald, Bernice B.	December 22, 1995	Active	Active	Democrat
TN.WD.03.01	Wellford, Harry W.	December 11, 1970	August 20, 1982	Elevated to Sixth Circuit	Republican
TN.WD.03.02	Gibbons, Julia Smith ¹⁵	June 6, 1983	July 29, 2002	Elevated to Sixth Circuit	Republican
TN.WD.03.03	Breen, J. Daniel	March 13, 2003	Active	Active	Republican
TN.WD.04.01	Todd, James D.	July 10, 1985	Active	Active	Republican
TN.WD.05.01	McCalla, Jon P.	February 6, 1992	Active	Active	Republican

¹⁴First African American district judge appointed from Tennessee.

¹⁵First female district judge appointed from Tennessee.