



## THE TENNESSEE COURT OF THE JUDICIARY

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### JUDGES OF THE TENNESSEE COURT OF THE JUDICIARY

J. Steven Stafford  
Presiding Judge  
Don R. Ash  
Joyce C. Broffitt  
Sue McKnight Evans  
John W. Gill, Jr.  
David G. Hayes  
Jayne Johnston-Crowley  
William A. (Tinker) Kelly, Jr.  
Jane Latimer  
John S. McLellan, III  
Paul Neely  
Robert V. Redding  
Mary Martin Schaffner  
Gregory D. Smith  
D. Michael Swiney  
Thomas T. Woodall

DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL  
Joe G. Riley

## ANNUAL REPORT

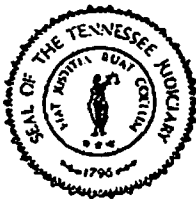
**JULY 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006**

**Complaints filed against Tennessee judges this past year decreased 10% from the prior year. There were 309 complaints filed this past year compared to 345 complaints filed the year before.**

**The Court disposed of 286 cases this past year. Disciplinary Counsel summarily dismissed 74% of these complaints without asking the judge to respond. An additional 17% were dismissed by an investigative panel after the judge responded. The Court entered into two Deferred Discipline Agreements, issued ten warnings, issued five Private Letter Reprimands, and issued one Private Censure. Three cases were closed due to the judge's retirement, and five cases involving campaign conduct were quickly and informally resolved by Disciplinary Counsel.**

**Budgetary restraints continued to be a major concern of the Court of the Judiciary. Although the Court of the Judiciary did not receive a budget improvement for the fiscal year 2005-2006, an emergency increase has been authorized to employ an Assistant Disciplinary Counsel on a part-time basis. A budget increase will also be sought for fiscal year 2006-2007 which would authorize employment of an investigator and other needed staff support.**

**J. Steven Stafford  
Presiding Judge**



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# THE TENNESSEE COURT OF THE JUDICIARY

JOE G. RILEY  
Disciplinary Counsel  
LINDA ROBINSON  
Administrative Assistant

## TENNESSEE COURT OF THE JUDICIARY STATISTICAL REPORT

(7/1/05 to 6/30/06)

**WRITTEN COMPLAINTS RECEIVED (7-1-05 to 6-30-06) ..... 309**

**AVERAGE COMPLAINTS RECEIVED PER WEEK ..... 5.9**

**PREVIOUS YEARS COMPLAINTS RECEIVED:**

2004 - 2005 .....	345
2003 - 2004 .....	333
2002 - 2003 .....	250
2001 - 2002 .....	312
2000 - 2001 .....	238
1999 - 2000 .....	202
1998 - 1999 .....	197
1997 - 1998 .....	224
1996 - 1997 .....	190
1995 - 1996 .....	209
1994 - 1995 .....	200
1993 - 1994 .....	181
1992 - 1993 .....	174
1991 - 1992 .....	161

**DISPOSITIONS (7-1-05 to 6-30-06):**

Dismissal by Disciplinary Counsel .....	200
Dismissal after preliminary investigation .....	48
Dismissal with warning after preliminary investigation .....	10
Dismissal after appeal of summary dismissal .....	11
Dismissal after full investigation without trial .....	1
Dismissal with warning after full investigation .....	0
Dismissal after trial .....	0
Dismissal due to Judge's Retirement .....	3
Dismissal - Campaign Conduct - Candidate Ceased Conduct .....	5
Deferred Discipline Agreement .....	2
Private reprimand .....	5
Private censure .....	1
Public reprimand .....	0
Public censure .....	0

**COMPLAINTS CLOSED (7-1-05 to 6-30-06) ..... 286**

**PENDING COMPLAINTS AS OF 7-1-06 ..... 46**

**NATURE OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED (7-1-05 to 6-30-06):**

Failure to comply with the law .....	111
Bias, prejudice, unfairness .....	52
Discourtesy .....	19
Abuse of office .....	52
Conflict of interest .....	19
Delay .....	33
<i>Ex parte</i> communication .....	8
Disability .....	1
Political violation .....	12
Miscellaneous .....	<u>2</u>
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>309</b>

**ACCUSED JUDGES (7-1-05 TO 6-30-06):**

General Sessions .....	76
Juvenile .....	13
Municipal .....	9
Referee .....	15
Special Judges .....	9
Circuit .....	36
Chancery .....	29
Criminal .....	99
Appellate .....	4
Commissioners .....	2
Probate .....	4
Federal Officials .....	4
Judicial Candidates - Attorneys .....	6
Other .....	<u>3</u>
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>309</b>

**STATUS OF PENDING COMPLAINTS (7-1-06):**

Awaiting further information from complainant for evaluation of complaint .....	16
Awaiting judge's initial response .....	4
Preliminary investigation in progress .....	14
Awaiting recommendation of dismissal from Investigative Panel .....	5
Awaiting recommendation of dismissal after appeal .....	3
Awaiting recommendation of full investigation from Investigative Panel .....	1
Full investigation in progress .....	3
Offer of settlement pending .....	0
Awaiting recommendation of Investigative Panel after full investigation .....	0
Deferred Discipline Agreement in circulation .....	0
Awaiting meeting of Investigative Panel with respondent judge .....	0
Other .....	<u>0</u>
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>46</b>