

#### STATE OF TENNESSEE

CIRCUIT JUDGES, TWENTY-FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT 135 FOURTH AVENUE SOUTH • SUITES 264 & 286 WILLIAMSON COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER • FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE 37064 (615) 790-5426 • FAX (615) 790-4424 • FAX (615) 790-5047

September 10, 2012

Barbara Hinson

Circuit Court Clerk Lewis County

Circuit Court Clerk Perry County

Tennessee Secretary of State

State Capitol Bldg 1st Floor

Nashville, TN 37243

Lewis County Courthouse Hohenwald, TN 38462

Perry County Courthouse

Peggy Smotherman

Linden, TN 37096

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MICHAEL W. BINKLEY JUDGE, DIVISION III

TIMOTHY L. EASTER JUDGE, DIVISION IV

Debbie McMillan Barrett Circuit Court Clerk Williamson County 135 Fourth Avenue South Franklin, TN 37064

Administrative Office of the Courts 511 Union Street, Ste 600 Nashville, TN 37219

Dana Nicholson Circuit Court Clerk Hickman County 104 College Avenue, Suite 204 Centerville, TN 37033

Elaine Anderson County Clerk 1320 West Main Street Ste 135 Franklin, TN 37064-3700

#### Re: Oath of Office Honorable Michael W. Binkley

Ladies and Sir:

Enclosed please find for filing with your office an original Oath of Office for the Honorable Michael W. Binkley, Circuit Court Judge for the 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jake

Debbie Rubenstein Legal Assistant

ROBBIE T. BEAL JUDGE, DIVISION I JAMES G. MARTIN III JUDGE, DIVISION II

/dmr Enclosure SECRETARY OF STATE

I, Michael W. Binkley, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of the State of Tennessee, that I will administer justice without respect of persons, and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge all the duties incumbent upon me as Judge of the Circuit and Chancery Courts, Division III, of the 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District of the State of Tennessee, to the best of my skill and ability, so help me God.

This the 31<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2012.

Michael W. Binkley

I, Judge Robbie T. Beal, have this day administered the Oath of Office to Michael W. Binkley, Judge of the Circuit and Chancery Courts, Division I, of the 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District of the State of Tennessee, as prescribed and required by law.



Robbie <u>T. Beal</u> Circuit Court Judge

I, Michael W. Binkley, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of the State of Tennessee, that I will administer justice without respect of persons, and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge all the duties incumbent upon me as Circuit Judge of Division III, of the 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District of the State of Tennessee, to the best of my skill and ability, so help me God.

This the 29th Day of August, 2014

Michael W. Binkley

 $I, \_DEP$  SiNKLey, JR, have this day administered the Oath of Office to Michael W. Binkley, Circuit Judge of Division III, of the 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District of the State of Tennessee, as prescribed and required by law.

This the 29th Day of August, 2014

Judge



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### JUDGE BINKLEY ADMINISTERS OATH TO JUDGE BINKLEY

October 11, 2012

It was all in the family at the recent swearing in of Circuit Court Judge Mike Binkley, the newest judge in the 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial Circuit.

Judge Binkley was sworn in by his brother, Davidson County 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court Judge Joe P. Binkley Jr. of the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit. The ceremony took place August 31 at the historic Franklin Courthouse in front of family, local officials and members of the legal community.

"Alright, Mike. We're very proud of you," said the older brother to the younger as the oath ceremony began.

Both Judge Binkleys are third generation attorneys with a prominent heritage in the legal community. Their father is the late Joe P. Binkley Sr., who is remembered as one of the most effective criminal defense attorneys to ever practice in Nashville. Their maternal grandfather was Homer B. Weimer, who served four years on the bench as judge of Criminal Court Division II in Davidson County.



Judge Mike Binkley, his wife, Sandy, and Judge Joe P. Binkley, Jr. at Mike Binkley's swearing in.

www.tsc.state.tn.us/news/2012/10/11/judge-binkley-administers-oath-judge-binkley

JUDGE JOE P. BINKLEY, JR. 5th Circuit Court Room 509

#### I. Biography

Judge Joe P. Binkley, Jr. is a native Nashvillian. He attended high school at Montgomery Bell Academy and graduated in 1962. He received his B.A. from Vanderbilt University in 1966. He received his J.D. from Vanderbilt University School of Law and was admitted to the Tennessee Bar in 1969. During nearly 40 years of law practice, Judge Binkley was a sole practitioner trial attorney representing Plaintiffs in all types of simple as well as complex workers' compensation and personal injury cases, representing individuals in all types of simple and complex domestic relations matters as well as defendants in all types of simple and complex criminal cases from 1969 through early 2008 in the state trial courts, federal trial courts and all appellate courts. He is a member of the Tennessee and Nashville Bar Associations and the Tennessee Association for Justice. He is a Trustee of the Nashville Bar Foundation as well as a Board Member of the Nashville Bar Association. He is also an Emeritus member of the Harry Phillips American Inn of Court and a Fellow of both the Nashville and the Tennessee Bar Foundations.

Judge Binkley has served as the Fifth Circuit Court Judge since his appointment in March of 2008 and subsequent election in August of 2008 and re-election in August of 2014. He hears predominantly civil cases; however, upon request, he has also been available to hear DUI criminal cases, divorce cases, Chancery cases and Probate cases. In 2015, he is serving his fifth consecutive term as the Presiding Judge of the 18 State Trial Court Judges in the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.

Judge Binkley has been married to Suzanne Griffith Binkley since 1967. They have one son, Jay Binkley, who resides in Dallas, Texas with his wife Kristen, and two daughters, Holly Binkley Higgins along with her husband Mike and their two sons, Will and Jack, who live in Glenview, Illinois, and Ellie Binkley Fromherz along with her husband Bernard and their sons Joseph and Robert and daughter Claire who reside in Madisonville, Louisiana.

#### II. Preliminary General Matters

- A. Scheduling
  - 1. Trial dates for all jury and non-jury trials should be obtained from the Assignment Clerk at (615) 862-4209. All other scheduling should be done with Judge Binkley's Judicial Assistant, Marla Guinn at (615) 862-5915.
  - 2. In all jury cases, the Circuit Court Special Master, Marsh Nichols, will schedule a status conference/case management conference after the expiration of approximately 4-6 months from the initial filing of a jury case. These conferences are conducted by the Special Master. Each case is designated as either a general sessions appeal, expedited, standard, or complex pursuant to Local Rule §§ 27.06(f).

#### **B.** Correspondence with the Court

Judge Binkley prefers that all communication with the Court should be by pleadings, notices, memoranda and briefs. Letters sent to the Court will be placed in the case file.

#### C. Telephone Conferences with the Court

Judge Binkley will conduct status conferences or pre-trial conferences by telephone whenever out-of-town counsel are involved and/or the physical presence of in-town counsel is not feasible and/or necessary.

Judge Binkley generally will not resolve discovery disputes by telephone. Attorneys or parties must file the appropriate motion.

Judge Binkley will conduct emergency motions by telephone whenever it is necessary and/or appropriate.

#### D. Pro Hac Vice Admission

Judge Binkley is vigilant in requiring out-of-state counsel to comply with the requirements of Supreme Court Rule 19 before participating in a case.

#### III. Pretrial Matters

#### A. Pretrial Motions

- 1. Motions should be scheduled pursuant to Local Rule §26.03.
- 2. Judge Binkley will allow a motion to be heard earlier than the minimum notice if all parties agree. However, a waiver of Local Rule §26.01 (i.e. scheduling a dispositive motion within thirty (30) days of a trial date) will require permission from the Court.
- 3. In order to schedule a motion on an expedited basis without the agreement of all parties, a party must file a motion for an expedited hearing, along with the underlying motion. A proposed order granting the motion for an expedited hearing shall be filed as well, leaving the date of hearing blank for the Court to complete. The motion for an expedited hearing should fully explain why Local Rule §26.03(a) or (b) should be waived. If Judge Binkley grants the motion for an expedited hearing, he will enter the proposed order and schedule a hearing on the underlying motion. Counsel will be notified of the expedited hearing date by telephone, fax or e-mail.
- 4. Oral argument of a motion may be waived by agreement of counsel. See Local Rule §25.04.

- 5. Parties are not required to appear on Friday mornings if no response to their motion has been timely filed. An order should be filed granting the motion within seven (7) days of the motion hearing date. See Local Rule § 33.01(a).
- 6. Late responses generally are not considered by the Court. If the parties agree to allow a non-movant to respond to a motion late, the Court will consider the late response so long as the Court has been notified of the agreement in advance.
- 7. Judge Binkley does not call either the no response docket or motions for summary judgment when no responses have been filed; however, prior to calling the response docket, Judge Binkley will address any questions and comments concerning the no response docket.
- B. Settlement Conferences/ADR

In order to schedule a judicial settlement conference for a case that has been assigned to the Fifth Circuit Court, contact the Special Master's Office at 880-2555.

- IV. Trial Procedure
  - A. Courtroom Decorum
    - 1. Please use the podium, and please stand behind the podium when addressing the Court.
    - 2. Do not bring gum, food or drink (other than water) in the courtroom.
    - 3. Please ask permission before approaching a witness or the judge.
    - 4. An attorney should never directly hand an exhibit to the judge or a witness. Please wait for the court officer to come forward and receive the exhibit. The court officer will then pass the exhibit to the witness.
  - B. Voir Dire
    - 1. Counsel should keep in mind that voir dire is not an opening statement. Fact specific questions are discouraged.
    - 2. Judge Binkley will conduct a short preliminary voir dire of jurors who are initially seated in the jury box as well as those who are subsequently seated in the jury box. One of the questions Judge Binkley will ask the prospective jurors is whether or not they have previously served on either a civil or a criminal jury and the verdicts rendered in those cases.
    - 3. Please address all of your general questions to the jurors seated in the jury box as well as to all prospective jurors seated in the courtroom.

4. You may use your challenges against any juror until your challenges are exhausted. (Back striking is permitted.)

#### C. Note Taking By Jurors

Judge Binkley will tell the jurors they are welcome to take notes during trials. Pen and paper are provided to the jurors by the Court for that purpose. The jurors are allowed to take their notes with them into the jury room when deliberations begin.

#### D. Opening Statement

Counsel should keep in mind that an opening statement is not a time for argument, but rather a presentation of anticipated facts.

#### E. Examination of Witness

If you plan to introduce evidence or cross examine about evidence admissible under T.R.E. 404(b), 405(a), 608(b) or 609, please obtain permission from the judge beforehand, out of the presence of the jury.

- F. Exhibits
  - 1. As a general rule, the Court Officer of the Fifth Circuit Court will mark/label all trial exhibits. If the Court Officer is unavailable and if a court reporter is present for a jury trial, the court reporter will mark/label all trial exhibits unless counsel have agreed in advance to pre-labeling of the exhibits. This same procedure applies to non-jury trials. Judge Binkley asks that counsel and the parties remain silent until each exhibit has been marked.
  - 2. A witness who wishes to use a diagram or drawing shall prepare the diagram or drawing prior to trial or at a recess or break prior to the testimony and allow all counsel to review the diagram before being introduced at trial.
  - 3. Counsel admitting documentary evidence which he or she wants the jury to read in court shall provide a sufficient number of copies to enable each juror in court to have his or her own copy plus one copy for the Court.

#### G. Closing Statement

Judge Binkley generally will not set a time limit for closing argument.

- H. Jury Instructions and Verdict Forms
  - 1. If counsel wishes to submit them, proposed jury instructions and a verdict form should be given to Judge Binkley's law clerk as soon as practicable either before trial begins, but certainly before the end of the trial.
  - 2. A jury charge conference will be held with the attorneys to discuss the jury instructions and verdict form. These conferences are held on the record in the courtroom.
  - 3. In all cases a copy of the finalized jury instructions and verdict form is provided for each juror to follow along as Judge Binkley reads them. Each juror is then allowed to bring their copy of the instructions and verdict form into the jury deliberation room, and the jurors may refer to their copies at any time during their deliberations.
- I. Jury Deliberation and Verdict
  - 1. Counsel are not required to remain in the courtroom or at the courthouse while the jury is deliberating; however, all counsel shall inform the court officers of where they will be and how they can be contacted throughout the jury deliberations.
  - 2. All appropriate exhibits are given to the jury as they begin their deliberations.
  - 3. All questions from and requests by the jury are submitted in writing to Judge Binkley. Judge Binkley will provide copies of all juror questions and requests to counsel and will meet and confer with counsel before making any replies.
  - 4. Transcripts of audio and video testimony are not given to the jurors with other exhibits. If the jurors request to see a transcript or rehear such testimony, Judge Binkley will review such a request with counsel.
  - 5. After the verdict has been announced by the presiding juror, as a general rule the jury will be polled by Judge Binkley.
  - 6. After the jury has announced its verdict and court has recessed, Judge Binkley prefers to speak with the jurors and to answer their questions to the extent appropriate.
- V. Other Comments
  - 1. If counsel or a party expects that they will be late to court, please notify the Court as soon as possible. If a civil motion is called on a Friday morning and the movant is not present without having notified the Court, the motion may be stricken. If a non-movant is not present without having notified the Court, the motion may be granted.

I, Joseph P. Binkley, Jr., do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of the State of Tennessee, that I will administer justice without respect of persons, and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge all the duties incumbent upon me as Judge of the Fifth Circuit Court, Twentieth Judicial District, of the State of Tennessee, to the best of my skill and ability, so help me God.

This the 29th Day of August, 2008.

Joseph P. Binkley, Jr., Judge

I, J. Randall Wyatt, Jr., Judge, have this day administered the Oath of Office to Joseph P. Binkley, Jr., Judge of the Fifth Circuit Court, Twentieth Judicial District, of the State of Tennessee, as prescribed and required by law.

This the 29tht Day of August, 2008.

J. Randall Wyath Jr., Judge

Criminal Court, Div. II Twentieth Judicial District

I, Judge Joe P. Binkley, Jr., do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of the State of Tennessee, that I will administer justice without respect of persons, and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge all the duties incumbent upon me as Judge of the Circuit Court for the  $20^{th}$  Judicial District, Division V, of the State of Tennessee, to the best of my skill and ability, so help me God.

This the3/ day of August, 2014.

Judge Joe P. Binkley, Jr.

I, MIKE W. Binkley, have this day administered the Oath of Office to Joe P. Binkley, Jr., Judge of the Circuit Court for the  $20^{th}$  Judicial District, Division V, of the State of Tennessee, as prescribed and required by law.

This the day of August, 2014.



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Oath of Of fice

I, Andy D. Bennett, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of the State of Tennessee, that I will administer justice without respect of persons, and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge all the duties incumbent upon me as Judge of the Court of Appeals, Middle Section, of the State of Tennessee, to the best of my skill and ability, so help me God.

This the 2nd Day of September, 2014.

Andv D. Bennet

I, Frank G. Clement, Judge, Tennessee Court of Appeals, have this day administered the Oath of Office to Andy D. Bennett, Judge of the Court of Appeals, Middle Section, of the State of Tennessee, as prescribed and required by law.

This the 2nd Day of September, 2014.

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I, Frank G. Clement, Jr., do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of the State of Tennessee, that I will administer justice without respect of persons, and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge all the duties incumbent upon me as Judge of the Court of Appeals, of the State of Tennessee, to the best of my skill and ability, so help me God.

This the 29th day of August, 2014.

Clement, Jr., P. J., M. S.

I, Richard H. Dinkins, have this day administered the Oath of Office to Frank G. Clement, Jr., Judge of the Court of Appeals, of the State of Tennessee, as prescribed and required by law.

This the 29th day of August, 2014.

Richard H. Dinkins, Judge

I, William Neal McBrayer, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of the State of Tennessee, that I will administer justice without respect of persons, and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge all the duties incumbent upon me as Judge of the Court of Appeals of the State of Tennessee, to the best of my skill and ability, so help me God.

This the  $\frac{54}{2}$  day of May, 2014.

William Neal McBrayer

I, Jeffrey S. Bivins, Judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals of the State of Tennessee, have this day administered the Oath of Office to William Neal McBrayer, Judge of the Court of Appeals of the State of Tennessee, as prescribed and required by law.

This the  $\frac{5t}{2}$  day of May, 2014.

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STATE OF TENNESSEE

Oath

I, William Neal McBrayer, do solemnly swear that as Judge of the Tennessee Court of Appeals, Middle Section of the State of Tennessee, I will support the Constitution of the State of Tennessee and the Constitution of the United States, and that I will perform with fidelity and faithfully execute the duties of the office to which I have been appointed, and which I am about to assume. So help me God.

This the 29<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2014.

William Neal McBrayer

STATE OF TENNESSEE )

COUNTY OF DAVIDSON)

I, *Bill Haslam*, Governor of the State of Tennessee, have this day administered the Oath of Office to William Neal McBrayer as prescribed by law. This the 29<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2014.

Oath of Office



I, William Neal McBrayer, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of the State of Tennessee, that I will administer justice without respect of persons, and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge all the duties incumbent upon me as Judge of the Court of Appeals of the State of Tennessee, to the best of my skill and ability, so help me God.

This the 10<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2014.

<u>Villiam Heal Hols</u> William Neal McBrayer

I, Andy D. Bennett, Judge of the Court of Appeals of the State of Tennessee, have this day administered the Oath of Office to William Neal McBrayer, Judge of the Court of Appeals of the State of Tennessee, as prescribed and required by law.

This the 10<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2014.

Andy D. Bennett

#### OATHS OF OFFICE

The oath of office for any elected or appointed county official may be administered by the county mayor, the county clerk, a judge of any court of record in the county, or the current or a retired judge of the general sessions court. T.C.A. § 8-18-109.

All elected county officials and the appointed officers such as clerk and master, and deputies to these officers, are required to take an oath of office that actually consists of two oaths: the constitutional oath and an oath for the particular office or fidelity oath (TENN. CONST. Art. X, Sec. 1).

The following is a combination fidelity and constitutional oath:

I do solemnly swear that I will perform with fidelity the duties of the office to which I have been elected, and which I am about to assume. I do solemnly swear to support the constitutions of Tennessee and the United States and to faithfully perform the duties of the office of \_\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ County, Tennessee.

The simple constitutional oath and fidelity oath are taken by those who do not have a more specific oath prescribed by law (T.C.A. § 8-18-111). This basic oath is used upon entering the following offices:

#### County Mayor County Clerk (or deputy county clerk by substituting the word "appointed" for "elected") County Register (or deputy register by substituting the word "appointed" for "elected")

Chief administrative officer of the county highway department

**County commissioners** may the use the same basic oath as noted above but phrased as follows:

I do solemnly swear that I will perform with fidelity the duties of the office to which I have been elected, and which I am about to assume. I do solemnly swear to support the constitutions of Tennessee and the United States and to faithfully perform the duties of the office of county commissioner representing the \_\_\_\_\_ district of \_\_\_\_\_ County, Tennessee.

Clerks of court take the following oath prescribed by T.C.A. § 18-1-103:

I do solemnly swear to support the constitutions of Tennessee and the United States. I do solemnly swear that I will execute the duties of the office of \_\_\_\_\_\_ without prejudice, partiality, or favor, to the best of my skill and ability; that I have neither given nor will give any person any gratuity, gift, fee or reward in consideration of support for this office and I have neither sold nor offered to sell, nor will sell, my interest in this office. Deputy clerks of court must take the following oath prescribed by T.C.A. § 18-1-104:

I do solemnly swear that I will perform with fidelity the duties of the office to which I have been appointed and which I am about to assume and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of \_\_\_\_\_\_ to the best of my skill and ability. I do solemnly swear to support the constitutions of Tennessee and the United States.

Sheriffs take the following oath according to T.C.A. § 8-8-104:

I do solemnly swear that I will perform with fidelity the duties of the office to which I have been elected, and which I am about to assume. I do solemnly swear to support the constitutions of Tennessee and the United States and to faithfully perform the duties of the office of sheriff for \_\_\_\_\_County, Tennessee. I further swear that I have not promised or given, nor will I give any fee, gift, gratuity, or reward for this office or for aid in procuring this office; that I will not take any fee, gift, or bribe, or gratuity for returning any person as a juror or for making any false return of any process and that I will faithfully execute the office of sheriff to the best of my knowledge and ability, agreeably to law.

**Deputy sheriffs** take an oath similar to the sheriff (according to T.C.A. § 8-18-112) as follows:

I do solemnly swear that I will perform with fidelity the duties of the office to which I have been appointed, and which I am about to assume. I do solemnly swear to support the constitutions of Tennessee and the United States and to faithfully perform the duties of the office of deputy sheriff for \_\_\_\_\_\_County, Tennessee. I further swear that I have not promised or given, nor will I give any fee, gift, gratuity, or reward for this office or for aid in procuring this office; that I will not take any fee, gift, or bribe, or gratuity for returning any person as a juror or for making any false return of any process and that I will faithfully execute the office of deputy sheriff to the best of my knowledge and ability, agreeably to law.

#### County trustees takes the following oath:

I do solemnly swear that I will perform with fidelity the duties of the office to which I have been elected, and which I am about to assume. I do solemnly swear to support the constitutions of Tennessee and the United States and to faithfully perform the duties of the office of trustee for \_\_\_\_\_County, Tennessee.

Deputy trustees take the same oath but substitute the word "appointed" for "elected."

Additionally, at the time of executing bonds, the trustee must take an additional oath according to T.C.A. § 67-5-1901, as follows:

I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully collect and account for all taxes for my county, or cause the same to be done, according to law, and that I will use all lawful means in my power to find out and assess such property as may not have been assessed for taxation in my county, and return a list of the same on settlement.

**Assessors of property and deputy assessors** must take and subscribe an oath of office according to T.C.A. § 67-1-507 as follows:

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_, assessor of property (or deputy assessor) of the County of \_\_\_\_\_\_, State of Tennessee, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will appraise, classify, and assess all taxable property of the County of \_\_\_\_\_\_, according to the Constitution of Tennessee and the laws of the state; that I will truly report all persons who fail or refuse to list their taxable property or who have to my knowledge returned a fraudulent list, and that I will faithfully, impartially, and honestly discharge my duties as assessor of property according to the law, to the best of my knowledge and ability, without fear, favor, or affection, so help me God.

Assessors and their deputies must also take the constitutional oath, to wit:

I do solemnly swear to support the constitutions of Tennessee and of the United States and to faithfully perform the duties of assessor (or deputy assessor) which I am about to assume.

**Constables without law enforcement powers** take the following oath according to T.C.A. § 8-10-108(a):

I do solemnly swear that I will well and truly serve the state of Tennessee in the office of constable and that I will faithfully, and without delay, execute and return all lawful process directed to me, and that I will well and truly, according to my power and ability, do and execute all other duties of the office of constable. I do solemnly swear to support the constitutions of Tennessee and the United States.

**Constables with law enforcement powers** take the following oath according to T.C.A. § 8-10-108(b):

I do solemnly swear that I will well and truly serve the state of Tennessee in the office of constable, will cause the peace of the state to be kept to the best of my power and that I will arrest all persons that go in my sight armed offensively or who commit any riot, affray, or other breach of the peace, and will use my best endeavor, on complaint made, to apprehend all felons, rioters, or persons riotously assembled; and if such persons flee or make resistance, I will pursue and make hue and cry, according to law; and that I will faithfully, and without delay, execute and return all lawful process directed to me, and that I will well and truly, according to my power and ability, do and execute all other duties of the office of constable. I do solemnly swear to support the constitutions of Tennessee and the United States.

**General sessions court judges** take an oath of office (usually administered by a chancellor or circuit judge) pursuant to T.C.A. §§ 16-15-203 and 17-1-104, as follows:

I do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Tennessee, and that I will administer justice without respect of persons and impartially discharge all of the duties incumbent upon a judge of a general sessions court in the State of Tennessee to the best of my skill and ability.

#### School board members:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear that I will perform with fidelity the duties of the office to which I have been elected, and which I am about to assume. I do solemnly swear to support the constitutions of Tennessee and the United States and to faithfully perform the duties of the office of member of the board of education representing the\_\_\_\_ education district of \_\_\_\_\_County, Tennessee.