

## THE COMMITTEE

**Chair: Katie Edge** is a partner in the Nashville office of Miller & Martin LLP and concentrates her practice in the area of Financial Institutions law and regulation. A former general counsel and deputy commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Financial Institutions, Katie is a past president of the Lawyers Association for Women, Marion Griffin Chapter; the Tennessee Lawyers Association for Women; and the Tennessee Bar Association. She serves on the board of the Tennessee Bar Foundation and is foundation's treasurer and chairman of the audit committee. She is also a member of the board and first vice president for the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlands and served as the 2003 chairman of the annual Access to Justice fund raising campaign. She is on the board of the Community Care Fellowship, a ministry of the United Methodist Church that oversees a day shelter for the homeless and poor in East Nashville and is a member of the Tennessee Post-Conviction Defenders Commission.

She is a member of the American Bar Association Tennessee Assessment Team for the ABA's Death Penalty Moratorium Implementation Project. Also with Professor Donald J. Hall, she co-chaired the Tennessee Supreme Court's Commission on Gender Fairness in the Legal Profession, and co-chaired, along with Prince Chambliss, the Tennessee Bar Association's Commission on Gender and Racial Fairness in the Profession. A former high school teacher of English, theatre and journalism, Katie graduated from the Nashville School of Law in 1983 and from George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University in 1967. She is an instructor of law at the Nashville School of Law in Banking Law.

**Don Dawson** has been Tennessee's Post Conviction Defender since April 1996. He holds a B.S. from the United States Air Force Academy and a J.D. from Western New England College, School of Law. He served as an Assistant Public Defender, Louisville, KY, from June 1978 until November 1982, and as an Assistant Federal Public Defender, Middle District of Tennessee, from November 1982 until August 1988. Between 1988 and 1996, he was in private practice in Nashville, Tennessee.

While in private practice, Mr. Dawson handled death penalty cases at the trial, state post-conviction and federal habeas corpus level. His practice as the Tennessee Post-Conviction Defender is limited to the representation of indigent Tennessee death-sentenced inmates in state and federal post-conviction proceedings. He has also participated in planning and as a speaker at the annual death penalty seminar presented by the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

**Gary Gerbitz** concentrates his practice in the area of litigation with emphasis in the Special Matters practice group. Mr. Gerbitz handles criminal matters for corporate and individual clients charged with complex white collar crime including fraud, immigration violations, bankruptcy fraud, theft, bank fraud, R.I.C.O., environmental violations, money laundering, postal and wire transmission violations, Medicare fraud,

tax violations, forfeitures and grand jury witness assistance. Additionally, Mr. Gerbitz assists clients by advising them regarding legal and regulatory compliance.

Mr. Gerbitz served as District Attorney General for the Eleventh Judicial District of Tennessee for 21 years. He also served as Criminal Court Judge for Hamilton County, Tennessee. He has been appointed Special Justice for the Tennessee Supreme Court and also a special prosecutor for the United States Attorneys office. Mr. Gerbitz has served on gubernatorial appointed boards and committees dealing with Prisons and Corrections.

Mr. Gerbitz is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*. Mr. Gerbitz is a member of the American, Tennessee and Chattanooga Bar Associations and a Fellow of the Tennessee Bar Foundation. He is a member of the Tennessee and National Criminal Defense Attorneys Association, and is a past member of the National District Attorneys Association and a past member and past president of the Tennessee District Attorneys General Association.

Mr. Gerbitz received a B.S. from David Lipscomb College (1965), and a J. D. from the University of Tennessee College of Law (1968).

**Jeffrey S. Henry** is Director of Research & Training for the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference. He holds both a B.S. and J.D. from the University of Tennessee.

He began his legal career in 1971 defending and prosecuting cases before military courts-martial. He also served as claims officer, investigating and resolving claims against the U.S. Government and supervised initiation of government recovery claims against third parties.

He served as an Assistant District Attorney General from 1976 until 1980 and engaged in the private practice of law until 1989, when he assumed the position of full time legal counsel for the Tennessee National Guard. He returned to private practice in February of 1997 with Trail and Taylor, an Association of Attorneys. In November 1998, he joined the staff of the District Public Defender's Office for Rutherford & Cannon Counties and became Director of Research & Training for Tennessee District Public Defenders in September 2001.

Mr. Henry's background includes trial and appellate practice, supervision of lawyers and support personnel, teaching, training, research, participation in military exercises in U.S. and Europe, serving as protocol officer, leadership training, contingency planning, Government Ethics, Total Quality Management Seminars, Government Contract and Environmental Law Programs and extensive community involvement.

Mr. Henry currently serves as chair of the Tennessee Bar Association's Criminal Justice Section and is a past president of the Rutherford-Cannon County Bar Association.

**Claudia Spence Jack** is the elected Public Defender for the Twenty-second Judicial District. Prior to her election, she was engaged in the private practice of law in Columbia Tennessee. Ms. Jack is a graduate of Vanderbilt University Law School. She is a member of the Board of Governors of the Tennessee Bar Association and serves on the board of directors of Tennessee Lawyers' Association for Women.

**Teresa Dyann Jones** was appointed chief prosecutor for the City of Memphis on May 19, 2003. She holds a B.A. from Lane College and a J.D. from the University of Memphis. She was adjunct professor at the University of Memphis, in the Tennessee Pre-Professional Program from 1991-1992. Since 2001 she had been an adjunct professor at LeMoyne Owen College teaching Labor Relations and Negotiations and Business Law. Ms. Jones was a board member of Memphis Regional Sickle Cell Council, Tennessee Association for Memphis Youth (TAMY), Memphis Area Legal Services and Correctional Alternatives, Inc. She has been a board member of the Alcohol & Chemical Abuse Rehab Center, Inc. (ACAR) since 2003 and was appointed by the Tennessee Supreme Court as a commissioner for the Tennessee Lawyer Assistance Program (TLAP) in 1999. She has memberships in the Ben F. Jones Chapter National Bar Association, Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the National Bar Association. She is also a Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. From 1988-2003 she was an assistant public defender and criminal court supervisor with the Shelby County Public Defender Office where she represented indigent defendants exclusively in the area of criminal law.

**Sue Palmer** is a member of Stites & Harbison, PLLC. She concentrates her practice in the area of Contracts and Distribution Agreements, Business Organizations and Mergers and Acquisitions. She serves as the Business Services Group Leader for the Nashville office of Stites & Harbison. Sue is a past president of Tennessee Lawyers' Association for Women and past Treasurer for Lawyers' Association for Women, Marion Griffin Chapter. She serves on the Board of Governors of the Tennessee Bar Association as Governor for the Middle Grand Division and is a member of the TBA's Criminal Justice Section's Death Penalty Study Committee. Sue also serves on the Board of Pro Bono, Inc. and is a member of CABLE in Nashville. She was a co-recipient of the Nashville Bar Association's Liberty Bell Award in 1997. She is also active in the United Methodist Church as a Certified Lay Speaker and Co-Chair of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee and adult Sunday School teacher for Madison Street United Methodist Church in Clarksville, Tennessee. Sue graduated from Vanderbilt University School of Law in 1990, the recipient of the *Founder's Medal*. From 1990-1992, Sue served as law clerk to the Honorable Gilbert S. Merritt. Prior to entering the legal profession, Sue taught at several schools including Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee and Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, Alabama.

**Michael J. Passino** is a Sole Practitioner who concentrates in the area of labor and employment law, but has also represented several death-sentenced inmates. He holds a B.A. and J.D. from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. While at the University of Tennessee College of Law, he served as Editor-In-Chief of the Tennessee Law Review and as an Instructor in Legal Research and Writing. Mr. Passino served as an Assistant

Attorney General from 1977-80. He is listed among the Best Lawyers in America in Labor and Employment Law.

**Jim Ramsey** is the elected District Attorney General for the Seventh Judicial District, which is Anderson County in East Tennessee (Oak Ridge, Clinton, Lake City, Norris, and Oliver Springs).

Mr. Ramsey holds a B. A. degree in Government from Dartmouth College and a J.D. from the University of Tennessee College of Law.

While in Private Practice, General Ramsey served as County Attorney for the Anderson County Quarterly Court from 1974 until 1978, and as Municipal Judge for Lake City from 1976 through 1978. He has held the office of District Attorney General since September 1, 1978, and in addition to membership with the District Attorneys General Conference he has been active with the Tennessee Bar, serving on the Executive Councils of the Juvenile and Children's Law Section and the Criminal Justice Section, where he was chair during 2003-2004.

**William T. Ramsey** graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology and received his law degree from the University of Tennessee where he was a member of the Order of the Coif and the University of Tennessee Law Review. He received the Michie Law Publishing Award for graduating first in his law school class. After graduating, Mr. Ramsey served as a law clerk for the Honorable Harry Phillips of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. After his clerkship, he joined Neal & Harwell. He is a co-author of Tennessee Forms, published by LEXIS Law Publishing.

Mr. Ramsey is a Fellow in the Nashville Bar Foundation, and a member of the American Bar Association, and active in the Tennessee Bar Association and the Nashville Bar Association. He is President for the Nashville Bar Association 2005.

The primary focus of Mr. Ramsey's professional practice is complex civil and criminal litigation. Mr. Ramsey has had extensive involvement in securities litigation and in securities and business dispute arbitration, both as an arbitrator and an advocate; healthcare investigations and litigation, particularly those involving Medicare or Medicaid fraud; and civil and criminal tax litigation.

**Dianne Thackery** holds a B.A. in History from Christian Brothers College, Memphis, Tennessee, and a J. D. from the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, Memphis State University. She has been employed by the Shelby Public Defender Office, Memphis, Tennessee, since June of 1990 and has served on its Capital Defense Team since 1998. She is a member of TACDL, TBA and National Legal Aid and Defender Association (NLADA).

## THE REPORTERS

**Donald J. Hall** holds a B.S. from Florida State and a J.D. from the University of Florida and has served on the Vanderbilt Law School faculty since 1970. Professor Hall is the inaugural holder of the Vanderbilt University Chair for Teaching Excellence. His teaching and scholarship focuses on criminal law and procedure, particularly victims' rights in the criminal process. His casebook on criminal procedure is widely used in American law schools. Active in Tennessee criminal justice issues, he has served as co-chair of the Tennessee Commission on Gender Fairness, was the reporter for the state's pattern instructions in criminal cases, and, while a member of the Tennessee Sentencing Commission, helped to shape the state's revised penal code. Additionally, Professor Hall served as a member of the Governor's Commission on Juvenile Justice Reform and was recently appointed to the Governor's Task Force on the Use of Enhancement Factors in Criminal Sentencing.

**Susan L. Kay** holds a B.A. from Williams College and a J.D. from Vanderbilt University School of Law. She has taught at Vanderbilt Law School since 1980, and since 2001 has been the Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs. In addition to teaching in the Criminal Practice Clinic, Professor Kay supervises the Trial Advocacy courses, and teaches courses on Professional Responsibility and Criminal Law. Professor Kay has worked with the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund and has conducted major public law litigation concerning jail overcrowding and juvenile justice. She is a co-author of Tennessee Evidence Courtroom Manual and of Clinical Anthology: Readings for Live-Client Clinics. Professor Kay served as a member of the Governor's Commission on Juvenile Justice Reform and is currently a board member of the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland, the Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services, the ACLU of Tennessee, and the Clinical Legal Education Association.