



**TITLE:** Making a Difference On and Off the Bench

**SESSION DATE:** October 7, 2021

**SESSION TIME:** 2:00 PM – 3:15 PM

**SESSION DESCRIPTION:**

How can judges assist with needs that surface in court but cannot be addressed with traditional court proceedings? Learn about three highly effective programs with distinct methodologies and assistance areas that operate inside and outside the courtroom.

Seniors: Vice Mayor of Nashville and President of Safe Haven Family Shelter and former Director of the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability Jim Shulman will explain a collaboration between a Tennessee chancery court, a state agency, and a consortium of leading nonprofits in Tennessee using a grant model to distribute \$36 million in litigation settlement funds to seniors statewide for dental, housing, legal, and transportation services.

New Lawyer Courtroom Experience: The Honorable Waverly Crenshaw, U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee will discuss the amended Criminal Justice Act (“CJA”) Plan for the United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee. The amended Plan has created a Fellows Program to prepare attorneys for criminal practice, to foster a client-centered approach to litigation, and to increase diversity on the CJA Panel. The Program provides CJA Fellows the opportunity to learn federal practice and ultimately to become a member of the CJA Panel through an intensive, one-year mentorship program. The CJA Fellow Program encourages all lawyers, but especially young lawyers, female lawyers, and lawyers of color to seek membership on the CJA Panel.

Opioid Addiction: Director of the Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts and Co-Chair of the National Opioid Task Force Deborah Taylor Tate will familiarize attendees with judges’ training as well as court programs for individualized opioid addiction and recovery services.

**PANELISTS:**



***Hon. Wavery Crenshaw—Chief District Judge, United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee***

Judge Crenshaw is a native Nashvillian. President Barack Obama nominated him as a Judge of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, and he took his seat on April 15, 2016. On April 15, 2017, he became Chief Judge of the Middle District of Tennessee.

Judge Crenshaw received his B.A. and J.D. degrees from Vanderbilt University. After receiving his J.D. he served as a law clerk for the Chancellors of the Chancery Court of Davidson County, Tennessee. He followed that to serve as a law clerk for United States District Judge John T. Nixon, before being appointed Assistant Attorney General for the State of Tennessee, before entering private practice.

For fun and relaxation, Judge Crenshaw heads to the American West, South America and various exotic locations to perfect his fly-fishing techniques.



***Hon. Jim Shulman—Vice Mayor of Nashville, Former Director of the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability and President and CEO of Safe Haven Family Shelter***

For over 35 years, Jim Shulman has been an invested member of our community, serving on boards of numerous organizations and being honored for his services.

A graduate of Vanderbilt Law School, Shulman has held a long career in Tennessee's state government, serving in many different capacities including as lead legal counsel for the state Department of Finance and Administration, chief of staff for then-Speaker of the House Jimmy Naifeh, deputy commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Health, and as executive director of the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability.

In 1999, he was elected to the Metro Council (25th District), where he served two four-year terms and chaired the Budget, Transportation and Public Works Committees, prioritizing city funding accountability and emergency preparedness.

In 2015, he was elected to the Metro Council as an At-large member and served in this position until May of 2018 when he was appointed as Nashville's Vice-Mayor. He was then elected as Nashville's 9th Vice Mayor after a 2018 special election to fill the remainder of the term. He was re-elected in 2019 for the new term and continues to serve in the position.

He currently serves as CEO of Safe Haven Family Shelter, the premier shelter-to-housing program in middle Tennessee that accommodates families experiencing homelessness.

Shulman and his wife Lori have two daughters, Madeline and Audrey. He is a Cincinnati Reds baseball fan and has run in many half-marathons.



***Deborah Taylor Tate—Director of the Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts and Co-Chair of the National Opioid Task Force***

The Tennessee Supreme Court appointed Deborah Taylor Tate as the Administrative Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts in January 2015. In addition to serving as chief operating officer for Tennessee’s Judiciary, she also serves on the National Board of the Conference of State Court Administrators. During the height of the opioid epidemic, Tate was tapped to Co-chair the National Judicial Opioid Task Force coordinating and publishing opioid-related resources for judges and court systems as well as a training curriculum used by the National Judicial College. She also serves on the Tennessee Safe Baby Court Council, Human Trafficking Council and the Domestic Violence State Coordinating Council.

Previously, she was twice-nominated by President George W. Bush and unanimously approved by the U.S. Senate as the only female Commissioner on the Federal Communications Commission, launching the first initiative regarding child online safety. Following the FCC, she was appointed as the first International Special Envoy for Children by the International Telecommunications Union in Geneva; with actress Geena Davis, she Co-Chaired the National Healthy Media initiative and helped launch Girls in ICT. She served as assistant legal counsel and senior policy advisor to two former Tennessee governors responsible for behavioral healthcare and child and family policy matters.

Tate is a co-founder of Renewal House, a residential recovery center for families impacted by addiction to heal together and is presently on the Advisory Board of the Firefly program providing assistance to pregnant women with opioid/addiction use disorder.

Tate received both her B.A. and J.D. from the University of Tennessee. She is married to Nashville Attorney and Mediator, William H. Tate, and they have 3 adult children and a brand-new grandson.

**INTRODUCERS & FACILITATORS:**



***Hon. Ellen Hobbs Lyle***

Ellen Hobbs Lyle is judge of Part III of the Chancery Court of Davidson County where she has served as a chancellor since 1995. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Tennessee, with a Phi Beta Kappa distinction. She received her law degree from the University of Tennessee where she was a member of the Tennessee Law Review, the International Moot Court Team, the Moot Court Board and Secretary of the Student Bar Association. Beginning her practice with the Texas law firm of Watergate prosecutor Leon Jaworski, Chancellor Lyle returned to Nashville in 1984 where she became a partner in the law firm of Trabue, Sturdivant & DeWitt until she went on the chancery bench in 1995. During her years as a judge, Chancellor Lyle was the first judge to preside over the Tennessee Supreme Court’s Business Court Pilot Project (2015 to 2018). In 2019 her court was awarded the Outstanding Community Service Award by the Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging. Chancellor Lyle is a fifth generation Nashvillian.



***Grace A. Fox***

Grace represents clients in complex litigation matters in state and federal courts. She has experience in a wide range of business and commercial disputes, including breach of contract claims, breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, and other business tort claims, enforcement of non-competition agreements and theft of trade secrets claims, as well as shareholder and corporate governance disputes. She also has experience in internal and regulatory investigations, white-collar criminal defense, antitrust matters, professional malpractice defense, and insurance coverage matters. Grace's experience prior to joining Sims|Funk included working in the Chicago office of the international law firm Winston & Strawn LLP.

Grace received her undergraduate degree with honors from Washington University in St. Louis, where she was a captain of the women's tennis team. She holds a Master of Science degree in Philosophy and Public Policy with Merit Honors from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Following completion of her Masters, Grace graduated cum laude from Notre Dame Law School, where she was president of the Moot Court Appellate Board. After graduating from law school, Grace completed a fellowship in the Federal Litigation Unit of the National Immigrant Justice Center.

**PRODUCERS:**

***Hon. Ellen Lyle Hobbs***

***Grace A. Fox***