

Hon. Jennifer Smith
Judge, Division IV, Criminal Court, 20th Judicial District

Jennifer Smith is Judge of Division IV, Criminal Court, 20th Judicial District, serving Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County. She was originally appointed by Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam in 2018 to fill a vacancy created by the retirement of her predecessor, and she was elected in 2020 to serve the remainder of the term.

Before her appointment, Judge Smith served for many years in the Tennessee Attorney General's Office, most recently as Associate Solicitor General. During her time as a practicing attorney, she handled criminal law cases at all levels, including both prosecutorial and defense perspectives. She has argued three cases before the United States Supreme Court and numerous others in the state and federal appellate courts. She received her undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Mississippi and a Master of Science in Strategic Intelligence from the National Intelligence University in Washington, D.C.

Judge Smith has more than 22 years of military service and currently serves as an Intelligence Officer in the United States Navy Reserve. She has been twice deployed to conflict zones, including Afghanistan in 2011-2012. Judge Smith lives in Nashville with her son Daniel, who is a Junior at Hume-Fogg High School. Her adult son Thomas is on active duty with the U.S. Navy.