

**Program Schedule
2023 Fall Meeting**

Thursday, October 12

5:00 pm–7:00 pm

Registration

5:30 pm–7:00 pm

Opening Reception

7:30 pm

Dine Around (*Optional*)

Friday, October 13

7:30 am–3:00 pm

Registration

7:30 am–8:45 am

Continental Breakfast

8:00 am–8:30 am

New Fellow Orientation

8:50 am–9:00 am

Welcome Remarks

Warren W. Harris, *Academy President*
Bracewell LLP
Houston, Texas

9:00 am–10:45 am

Tanco v. Haslam—How Part of Obergefell Originated in Nashville

Tanco v. Haslam challenged the same sex marriage restriction in Tennessee. Tennessee Federal District Court ordered recognition of same sex marriage, but Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed, upholding Tennessee’s restriction against same sex marriage. *Tanco* was consolidated with three other cases that became *Obergefell v. Hodges*, recognizing same sex marriage nationally. Trial and appellate counsel from that case will discuss *Tanco*’s origins, as well as the Sixth Circuit judge who wrote a dissenting opinion.

PANELISTS

William L. Harbison
Sherrard Roe Voigt & Harrison
Nashville, Tennessee

Abby R. Rubenfeld
Rubenfeld Law Office
Nashville, Tennessee

Hon. Martha Craig Daughtrey
Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
Nashville, Tennessee

John Bursch, *Academy Fellow*
Senior Counsel, Vice President of Appellate Advocacy for
Alliance Defending Freedom

Moderator

Dean William C. Koch, Jr.
Nashville School of Law, former Tennessee Supreme Court
Justice
Nashville, Tennessee

10:45 am–11:00 am

Break

11:00 am–Noon

Shakespeare’s *Merchant of Venice* Mock Trial and Appeal

Actors from the Nashville Shakespeare Festival will perform the trial scene from *Merchant of Venice*, followed by an appeal to the Tennessee Court of Appeals of the ruling against Master Shylock. The appellate judges will conference on their decision and give their ruling, as well as discuss how they handle controversial cases on appeal.

PANELISTS

Hon. Frank G. Clement, Jr.
Judge, Tennessee Court of Appeals
Nashville, Tennessee

Hon. Jill Bartee Ayers
Judge, Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals
Nashville, Tennessee

Hon. Jeffrey Usman
Judge, Tennessee Court of Appeals
Nashville, Tennessee

Donald Capparella, *Academy Fellow*
Dodson Parker Behm & Capparella PC
Nashville, Tennessee

Henry E. Hildebrand III
Chapter 13 Trustee
Professor, Nashville School of Law
Nashville, Tennessee

Noon–12:15 pm

Break

12:15 pm–1:30 pm

Luncheon

Hal D. Hardin, former U.S. attorney and distinguished member of the Tennessee Bar, will speak about his role in addressing the legal scandal involving former Tennessee Governor Ray Blanton. Governor Blanton was selling pardons for money during his term, and when it was discovered, lawyers worked to inaugurate Lamar Alexander as governor before Governor Blanton's term was up, in what some have called a "coup."

Hal D. Hardin
Hardin Law Offices
Nashville, Tennessee

1:30 pm–1:45 pm

Break

1:45 pm–3:00 pm

State Constitutional Law—Where Old is the New New

State constitutions have become a source for law development, requiring appellate lawyers to become more familiar with state constitutional law in both federal and state court. This emerging area of appellate practice will be discussed by both judges and appellate practitioners.

PANELISTS

Hon. Jane Branstetter Stranch
Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
Nashville, Tennessee

Hon. Andrew A. Pinson
Justice, Georgia Supreme Court
Atlanta, Georgia

Hon. Roger Page
Justice, Tennessee Supreme Court
Jackson, Tennessee

Hon. Michael P. Donnelly
Justice, Ohio Supreme Court
Columbus, Ohio

Moderator

Laurie Webb Daniel, *Academy Fellow*
Webb Daniel Friedlander LLP
Atlanta, Georgia

3:00 pm

Free Time

6:30 pm–7:15 pm

Reception

7:15 pm

Dinner and Induction Ceremony

7:15 pm

Dinner

Saturday, October 14

7:30 am

Registration

7:30 am–8:30 am

Continental Breakfast

8:30 am–10:00 am

Emerging Role of AI, ChatGPT on Appellate Practice

The tools arising from AI and ChatGPT could have a profound effect on the legal profession, including appellate practice. We will hear the perspective of lawyers, law firms, the judiciary, and law schools on this emerging technology.

PANELISTS

Professor Mark J. Williams

*Vanderbilt Law School
Nashville, Tennessee*

A.J. Bahou

*Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP
Nashville, Tennessee*

Hon. Herbert B. Dixon, Jr.

*Senior Judge, District of Columbia Superior Court
Washington, D.C.*

Moderator

Dan Polsenberg, Academy Fellow

*Lewis Roca
Las Vegas, Nevada*

10:00 am–11:00 am

Fellows Meeting and Forum

11:00 am–11:15 am

Break

11:15 am–12:30 pm

Business Development—How to Obtain and Serve Your Clients Better

Perspectives on developing an appellate practice, as well as personal development for each appellate lawyer.

Wallace B. Jefferson, *Academy Fellow*
Former Chief Justice, Texas Supreme Court
Alexander Dubose Jefferson
Austin, Texas

Charles “Chip” Becker, *Academy Fellow*
Kline & Specter PC
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Laurie Webb Daniel, *Academy Fellow*
Webb Daniel Friedlander LLP
Atlanta, Georgia

Paul W. Flowers, *Academy Fellow*
Flowers & Grube
Cleveland, Ohio

Moderator

Susan F. Robertson, *Academy Fellow*
Robertson Law Group
Kansas City, Missouri

12:30 pm

Closing Remarks

Warren W. Harris, *Academy President*
Bracewell LLP
Houston, Texas

2:00 pm–3:00 pm

Free tour of the Parthenon in Nashville, a full-size replica of the Greek Parthenon, built in Nashville in 1896, containing a 50-foot sculpture of Athena and a museum.

Nashville Planning Committee (can put wherever there is room on the brochure)
Co-Chair: Donald N. Capparella
Co-Chair: Laurie Webb Daniel

Adam H. Charnes, Ex officio
Gregory C. Dyekman, Ex officio
Warren W. Harris, Ex officio
Kirk C. Jenkins
Anne Berleman Kearney
George (Buck) T. Lewis, III
Peter Stris
Benjamin C. Sassé
Stephen P. Groves, Sr.
Susan Ford Robertson

Speaker Bios

Hon. Jill Bartee Ayers

*Judge, Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals
Nashville, Tennessee*

Judge Ayers was appointed by Governor Bill Lee to the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals and confirmed by the Tennessee General Assembly in April 2021. She was sworn in April 12, 2021 and elected to an eight-year term in August of 2022. Prior to her appointment to the appellate bench, Judge Ayers served as Circuit Court Judge for the Nineteenth Judicial District (Montgomery and Robertson Counties) following her appointment to that position by Governor Bill Haslam in October 2015. On the circuit bench, Judge Ayers handled primarily criminal cases and presided over numerous criminal jury trials. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Ayers practiced law in Clarksville, Tennessee for 23 years at Batson Nolan PLC.

Judge Ayers has been actively involved in professional and civic activities. She currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Tennessee Judicial Conference and previously served on the Executive Committee of the Tennessee Trial Judges Association. Judge Ayers is a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow, a Tennessee Promise Mentor, a graduate of Leadership Clarksville and of Leadership Middle Tennessee, and she served as Board Chair of Leadership Middle Tennessee from July 2018–June 2020.

Judge Ayers holds a B.A. from Belmont University and a J.D. from University of Tennessee College of Law.

A.J. Bahou

*Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP
Nashville, Tennessee*

A.J. Bahou is an intellectual property attorney who focuses on the intersection of law and technology. A registered patent attorney, trial lawyer, mediator, and arbitrator, he has extensive experience in the areas of electrical and computer engineering technologies, including artificial intelligence, virtual reality, medical devices, computer hardware, blockchain, software, and internet security systems. With 20 years of patent litigation experience, A.J. handles the full spectrum of intellectual property litigation, from pre-complaint investigation through trial and appeal in matters involving patents, trademarks, trade secrets, and commercial disputes.

A.J. represents both plaintiffs and defendants in IP litigation in jurisdictions across the United States, including the U.S. Federal Circuit and U.S. Supreme Court. He has litigated cases with over a billion dollars of products at issue. He often serves as outside general counsel for technology companies that value his assistance with patent prosecution and enforcement, as well with the drafting of employment and independent contractor agreements that are critical tools in the protection of intellectual property assets.

A significant segment of his practice involves emerging technologies, most notably artificial intelligence and blockchain. A.J. has filed patent applications for clients that are utilizing artificial intelligence/machine learning tools and distributed ledger technology in various industries, including education, marketing, and healthcare contexts.

Charles “Chip” Becker, *Academy Fellow*
Kline & Specter PC
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Charles “Chip” Becker is an attorney at Kline & Specter P.C. He has responsibility for the firm’s post-trial and appellate practice and works on a broad range of procedural and substantive matters as they may arise in the firm’s representation of clients in personal injury matters. In December 2022, Mr. Becker was appointed by Governor Wolf to serve as a member of the Pennsylvania Court of Judicial Discipline, which adjudicates charges of judicial misconduct against Pennsylvania judges. Mr. Becker serves as a member of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania’s Commission on Judicial Independence and the Court’s Tricentennial Commission. He previously served on the Court’s Appellate Courts Procedural Rules Committee. He serves as an adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania Carey School of Law, where he teaches state constitutional law and formerly taught appellate advocacy. Mr. Becker is a Fellow of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers, a board member of the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association, and a board member of the Lawyers Club of Philadelphia. He is the past president of the Third Circuit Bar Association and past chair of the Appellate Courts Committee of the Philadelphia Bar Association. A graduate of Williams College and Yale Law School, Mr. Becker served as a law clerk for Judge Sandra Lynch of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

John Bursch, *Academy Fellow*
Senior Counsel, Vice President of Appellate Advocacy for Alliance Defending Freedom

John Bursch is Vice President of Appellate Advocacy and Senior Counsel for Alliance Defending Freedom, the world’s largest public-interest law firm defending religious liberty, free speech, the right to life, marriage and family, and parental rights. He is also the founder and owner of Bursch Law PLLC, a Michigan-based Supreme Court and appellate boutique.

John has argued 12 U.S. Supreme Court matters, three dozen state supreme court cases, and more than 100 other *en banc* and panel appeals in federal and state intermediate courts across the country. His cases involve complex constitutional matters and substantial publicity, frequently involving the most pressing social issues of the day, including a state’s right to define marriage in *Obergefell v. Hodges*.

A Fellow of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers and a Member of the American Law Institute, John appears regularly in *Best Lawyers* and *Benchmark Litigation*, and *Michigan Super Lawyers* has recognized him as one of Michigan’s Top 10 lawyers. A recent survey concluded that among frequent U.S. Supreme Court advocates who do not work for the federal government, John was the third-most successful lawyer in the nation at winning Justices’ votes for his positions.

Donald Capparella, *Academy Fellow*
Dodson Parker Behm & Capparella PC
Nashville, Tennessee

Recognized as one of Tennessee's preeminent appellate lawyers and trial lawyers, Donald Capparella has handled more than 500 appeals in state and federal courts. In 2016, he was elected to membership in the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers. Named the Best Lawyers 2020 Nashville Personal Injury Litigation for Plaintiffs "Lawyer of the Year," the Best Lawyers 2018 Nashville Appellate Practice "Lawyer of the Year," he leads the firm's appellate practice team which manages civil, domestic, and criminal appeals throughout Tennessee. Mr. Capparella regularly assists trial practitioners, providing services ranging from trial court preparation, post-trial motions, and handling of the entire appeal. A passionate supporter of the arts, Mr. Capparella founded the Nashville Shakespeare Festival in 1988 and has remained actively involved as a director, actor, fundraiser, and board member.

Hon. Frank G. Clement, Jr.

*Judge, Tennessee Court of Appeals
Nashville, Tennessee*

Judge Frank Clement is the Presiding Judge of the Middle Section of the Court of Appeals of Tennessee. He has served on the Court of Appeals since 2003, during which time he has authored more than a thousand majority opinions. He was the 2012 recipient of the Appellate Judge of the Year Award from the Tennessee Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates. Judge Clement previously served as a state trial court judge from 1995 to 2003 with exclusive probate jurisdiction and concurrent circuit, chancery, and criminal court jurisdiction. He presided over the administration of estates, will and trust contests, conservatorships, and domestic cases. He has served as a Special Justice on the Tennessee Supreme Court and as a Special Judge on the Court of Criminal Appeals of Tennessee. Judge Clement was engaged in the private practice of law for 16 years prior to serving on the trial bench.

He presently serves on the Board of Trustees of the Nashville School of Law. For the past 22 years, Judge Clement has served as the Master of Ceremonies of the Nashville Bar Association Law Day Luncheon. He is a Fellow of the Tennessee Bar Foundation and the Nashville Bar Foundation. Judge Clement previously served on the Tennessee Supreme Court Advisory Commission on the Rules of Practice & Procedure and as Treasurer of the Tennessee Judicial Conference. He was a member of the Harry Phillips American Inn of Court when it was founded in Nashville in 1990 and remained active as a Barrister and then as a Master of the Bench through 2000. His civic activities included service as President of the Nashville Bar Association, President of the Nashville City Club, Chair of the Nashville Area Chapter of the American Red Cross and Tennessee Valley Blood Region, and President of the Kiwanis Club of Nashville.

He has presented continuing legal education seminars for the Tennessee Judicial Conference, Tennessee Bar Association, Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association, Nashville School of Law, and Nashville Bar Association.

Laurie Webb Daniel, Academy Fellow

*Webb Daniel Friedlander LLP
Atlanta, Georgia*

Laurie Webb Daniel is a known resource for motions, appeals, and strategic trial support in high stakes litigation. She represents clients nationwide in state and federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, in cases ranging from complex business litigation to torts involving catastrophic injury such as products liability, premises liability, and wrongful death matters.

In other words, Ms. Daniel is a generalist with an appellate specialty. Her forte is combining appellate skills with substantive expertise to position cases for a successful outcome, often working with trial counsel from other firms to achieve the best results for their clients.

Hon. Martha Craig Daughtrey

*Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
Nashville, Tennessee*

Through a long and storied career, Martha Craig “Cissy” Daughtrey has left nary a shard of the glass ceiling over the law intact. At Vanderbilt University she became the first woman president *pro temp* of the student senate. After her graduation from Vanderbilt University Law School (where she started out as one of only three women in her class), she became the first woman to serve as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee. She became the first woman assistant district attorney in Nashville. In 1972, Judge Daughtrey joined the faculty of Vanderbilt University Law School as its first tenure-track female professor.

She was appointed to the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals in 1975, the first woman judge on that court, and the first woman judge to sit on the bench in a court of record in Tennessee. After 15 years, she was appointed to the Tennessee Supreme Court by Governor Ned McWherter. From there she went on to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, where she is currently a senior judge.

In 2014, Judge Daughtrey dissented from the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals’ ruling in *DeBoer v. Snyder*, which upheld same-sex marriage bans. Her dissent helped pave the way for the landmark 2015 Supreme Court ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges*.

Her portrait now hangs in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit’s Potter Stewart U.S. Courthouse in Cincinnati and the Nashville Supreme Court Building, a fitting testament to Judge Daughtrey’s fearless trailblazing, the careers she has inspired, and the myriad lives she has touched.

Hon. Herbert B. Dixon, Jr.

*Senior Judge, District of Columbia Superior Court
Washington, D.C.*

Judge Herbert Dixon is a senior judge with the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. He retired in 2015 after serving successive 15-year terms on the court, first appointed by President Ronald Reagan and subsequently by President Bill Clinton. Upon Judge Dixon’s retirement announcement, the *Legal Times/National Law Journal* referred to him as the “Technology Judge.” Judge Dixon’s Twitter handle is @Jhbdixon.

Judge Dixon is the chair of the *ABA Journal* Board of Editors, the flagship magazine of the American Bar Association, the technology columnist for *The Judges’ Journal*, and a former member of the ABA Techshow® Planning Board. He is a former chair of the National Conference of State Trial Judges, former chair of the ABA Standing Committee on the American Judicial System, and former chair of the Judicial Division’s Book Editorial Board.

Hon. Michael P. Donnelly

*Justice, Ohio Supreme Court
Columbus, Ohio*

Justice Michael P. Donnelly, now the 160th justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio, sat as a judge for Cuyahoga County on the Court of Common Pleas and the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Court. He also worked as an assistant Cuyahoga County Prosecutor and practiced civil litigation, first at an insurance-defense firm, and later representing plaintiffs in asbestos litigation, personal injury lawsuits, and workers' compensation claims.

Justice Donnelly served on the Ohio Supreme Court's Commission on Professionalism, was appointed to the Ohio Supreme Court Death Penalty Task Force and worked as the Ohio Supreme Court's liaison to the Task Force on Conviction Integrity and Post-Conviction review. He has been a faculty member of the Ohio Judicial College and served as a member of the Ohio State Board of Bar Examiners and the Ohio Jury Instruction Committee. He is a recipient of the 2015 Honorable William K. Thomas

Professionalism Award from the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, the 2017 Public Service Award from the Ohio Association of Civil Trial Attorneys, and the 2020 Alumni of the Year Award from Cleveland State University College of Law. He was inducted into Cleveland State University College of Law Hall of Fame in 2020.

Justice Donnelly currently serves as a board member of Chagrin Arts, a nonprofit founded in 2007 that promotes arts programming and is committed to diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice in all its forms. He and his wife, Nancy, reside in Cleveland Heights. They have two children.

Paul W. Flowers, *Academy Fellow*
Flowers & Grube
Cleveland, Ohio

William L. Harbison
Sherrard Roe Voigt & Harrison
Nashville, Tennessee

Bill Harbison works primarily in the areas of corporate law and trusts and estates. He also handles litigation in those same practice categories.

Mr. Harbison graduated cum laude from Harvard Law School and received his bachelor's degree with highest honors in English from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

Hal D. Hardin
Hardin Law Offices
Nashville, Tennessee

Hal Hardin has served as a district attorney pro tem, a U.S. attorney appointed by President Jimmy Carter, a Circuit Court Judge, a Presiding Judge of Trial Courts, and a Special Judge for the Court of Appeals. He has practiced law in Tennessee, Texas, Kentucky, Michigan, and the District of Columbia. He has also worked as a wheat harvester, an FBI Fingerprint Technician, and a volunteer for the Peace Corps in South America. He taught as an emeritus professor at the Nashville School of Law and an adjunct professor at the University of Tennessee and Aquinas College. He acted as President for the National Association of Former U.S. Attorneys, the Tennessee Supreme Court Historical Society, and the Tennessee American Board of Trial Advocates.

Hardin worked alongside special prosecutor John Jay Hooker, Sr. as an investigator in the famous 1969 murder trial *State v. Powell*. In 1979, as a U.S. attorney, he made that call that initiated the ouster of infamous former-governor Ray Blanton.

A modest sampling of his list of honors includes the John C. Tune Public Service Award from the Nashville Bar Association, the Tennessee Supreme Court Historical Society Leadership Award, the Distinguished Faculty Award from the Nashville School of Law, and the Tennessee Bar Association Award of Merit. He presently runs a private practice in Nashville, TN.

Henry E. Hildebrand III
Chapter 13 Trustee
Professor, Nashville School of Law
Nashville, Tennessee

Henry E. Hildebrand, III has served as Standing Trustee for Chapter 13 matters in the Middle District of Tennessee since 1982 and as Standing Chapter 12 Trustee for that district since 1986. He also is of counsel to the Nashville law firm of Belcher Sykes Harrington PLLC.

Mr. Hildebrand graduated from Vanderbilt University and received his J.D. from the National Law Center of George Washington University. He is a fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and the Nashville Bar Foundation. He is Board Certified in consumer bankruptcy law by the American Board of Certification and serves on its faculty committee. He is Chairman of the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee for the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees (NACTT).

Mr. Hildebrand has written extensively for the NACTT Academy for Consumer Bankruptcy Education and serves on its board of directors. He is a contributor to the American Bankruptcy Institute Journal. He is an adjunct faculty member for the Nashville School of Law and St. Johns University School of Law. Mr. Hildebrand served as a commissioner to the American Bankruptcy Institute's Commission on Consumer Bankruptcy.

Wallace B. Jefferson, *Academy Fellow*
Former Chief Justice, Texas Supreme Court
Alexander Dubose Jefferson
Austin, Texas

Now a partner at Alexander Dubose & Jefferson, Wallace B. Jefferson served as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Texas, making Texas judicial history as the court's first African American Justice and Chief Justice. He led the court's efforts to fund access to justice programs, helped reform juvenile justice, and inaugurated a statewide electronic filing system for Texas courts. During his time on the bench, Chief Justice Jefferson was elected President of the Conference of Chief Justices, an association of chief justices from the 50 states and U.S. territories.

A graduate of the James Madison College at Michigan State University and the University of Texas School of Law, Chief Justice Jefferson is the namesake for *Wallace B. Jefferson Middle School* in San Antonio.

Chief Justice Jefferson is Chair of the Texas Commission to Expand Civil Legal Services, a Fellow of the by-invitation-only American Academy of Appellate Lawyers, and a member of the American Law Institute. He serves on the Board of Lexitas and the Project on Government Oversight. He is certified in Civil Appellate Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and is licensed to practice in the U.S. Supreme Court, the Supreme Court of Texas, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

He has twice won cases he argued in the Supreme Court of the United States.

Dean William C. Koch, Jr.
Nashville School of Law, former Tennessee Supreme Court Justice
Nashville, Tennessee

Currently the President and Dean of the Nashville School of Law, Bill Koch served on the Tennessee Supreme Court and the Tennessee Court of Appeals. During his 30-year judicial career, Dean Koch was recognized as one of the 500 Leading Judges in America and as Tennessee Appellate Judge of the Year. He also received the TBA's Justice Frank F. Drowota III Outstanding Judicial Service Award and the NBA's Liberty Bell Award. Before becoming a judge, Dean Koch served as counsel to Tennessee Governor Lamar Alexander, Commissioner of Personnel, and Deputy Attorney General.

Born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii, Dean Koch earned his B.A. degree from Trinity College; his J.D. degree from Vanderbilt University; and his LL.M. from the University of Virginia. He teaches Constitutional Law and Tennessee Constitutional Law at NSL. He has also received appointments as an adjunct professor at Vanderbilt School of Law and Belmont College of Law.

Dean Koch is a local and national leader in the American Inns of Court movement, chairs the Tennessee Trial Court Vacancy Commission, and serves on the Tennessee Board of Judicial Conduct. He is also on the boards of Cumberland University, the United Way of Metropolitan Nashville, and the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee. Dean Koch has been married to Deborah Patterson Koch since 1985. They reside in Nashville and attends Christ Church Cathedral.

Hon. Roger Page

*Justice, Tennessee Supreme Court
Jackson, Tennessee*

First appointed by Governor Bill Haslam, Justice Roger A. Page has been a member of the Tennessee Supreme Court from 2016 to the present. Prior to this, he served as an appellate judge on the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals, writing more than 330 appellate opinions. Justice Page began his judicial career as a Circuit Court Judge, presiding over both civil and criminal trials in the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District. Prior to his bench experience, he worked as a law clerk in the U.S. District Court, practiced as an attorney at firms in Atlanta, Georgia and Jackson, Tennessee, served as an assistant attorney general for the State of Tennessee, and was a chief pharmacist and assistant store manager for Walgreens in Memphis. He received his law degree with high honors in 1984 from the University of Memphis School of Law.

Justice Page is President of the Howell Edmunds Jackson American Inn of Court, has been honored as a Tennessee Bar Foundation Fellow, has chaired the joint Tennessee Bar Association/Tennessee Judicial Conference (TJC) Bench-Bar Committee, has served on the TJC Executive Committee, the TJC Compensation and Retirement Committee and has co-chaired the TJC Legislative Committee. As a trial judge he served on the Tennessee Performance Evaluation Commission that evaluated all Tennessee appellate judges.

Justice Page's family has lived in West Tennessee for at least seven generations. He is married to Chancellor Carol McCoy and has two sons and three grandchildren. He is a member of First Baptist Church in Jackson, Tennessee.

Hon. Andrew A. Pinson

*Justice, Georgia Supreme Court
Atlanta, Georgia*

Justice Andrew A. Pinson was appointed to the Supreme Court of Georgia by Governor Brian Kemp and was sworn in on July 20, 2022. Governor Kemp appointed Justice Pinson to the Courts of Appeals in August 2021. In 2018, he was appointed Solicitor General of Georgia, where he led the State's appellate and multistate litigation practice and served as the Attorney General's chief constitutional advisor. He personally handled appeals in the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, and several other courts in Georgia and across the country. He oversaw the successful defense of the State's water resources in the critical "water wars" litigation in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Justice Pinson holds a Finance Degree from the University of Georgia's Terry School of Business and a law degree from the University of Georgia's Lumpkin School of Law. He graduated at the top of his class in law school and interned with Governor Sonny Perdue, Jones Day in Atlanta, and Fortson, Bentley, & Griffin in Athens. After graduating from law school, Justice Pinson served as a law clerk at the U.S.

Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit for then-Chief Judge David B. Sentelle, and later served as a law clerk at the U.S. Supreme Court for Justice Clarence Thomas.

Justice Pinson currently serves as an advisor to the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism, as a Master of the Clarke-Carley Inn of Court and the Bleckley Inn of Court, and on the Advisory Board for the Atlanta Lawyers Chapter of the Federalist Society. He and his wife Sara Beth live just north of Tucker in DeKalb County. They attend Embry Hills United Methodist Church.

Dan Polsenberg, Academy Fellow

Lewis Roca

Las Vegas, Nevada

Dan Polsenberg is a partner in the Appellate Practice Group of Lewis Roca in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Past President of the State Bar of Nevada, Mr. Polsenberg is the first Nevadan named a fellow of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers. He has more than 30 years of experience representing clients in cases ranging from tort to tax and constitutional to commercial law. He has personally argued over 250 appeals and has written briefs in hundreds more. Dan had previously been president of Beckley Singleton, which partnered with Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie in 2007. He has 200 reported decisions.

In addition to issues of public importance, he often handles appeals regarding large awards, punitive damages, and other untoward results.

Susan F. Robertson, Academy Fellow

Robertson Law Group

Kansas City, Missouri

Susan Ford Robertson serves as appellate counsel in state and federal courts, working with trial counsel to protect and preserve the record prior to and during trial, as well as presenting appeals to all levels of appellate courts. She is an elected Fellow in the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers, a past Chair of the Rules Committee, is recognized by Best Lawyers in America for Appellate Practice, is a Senior Fellow in the American Institute of Appellate Practice and the Litigation Counsel of America, is an elected member of International Association of Defense Counsel, is a member of Defense Research Institute, is the current Litigation Division Chair of The Missouri Bar and is the immediate past Chair and continues to serve as a current board member of the Kansas City Streetcar Authority.

In 2020, Missouri Lawyers Media named Ms. Robertson Lawyer of the Year for her work in *State ex rel. Johnson & Johnson, et al. v. Burlison*, codified by the Missouri Legislature in Section 507.040.2 R.S.Mo. In 2014 she was featured on the cover of the Super Lawyers Top Missouri and Kansas magazine, which highlighted her development of a boutique firm devoted exclusively to serving as appellate counsel in all phases of complex civil litigation. She is the recipient of the 2011 Women's Justice Awards Litigation Practitioner of the Year, an Honorary Initiate of the Order of the Barrister awarded by the University of Missouri, the 2009 and 2005 recipient of The Missouri Bar President's Award, the 2009 recipient of the Kansas City Legal Leaders Award for Civil Justice, the 2005 Defense Research Institute's Excellence Award, and the 1996 recipient of the David A. Dixon Appellate Advocacy Award. Susan was recognized by Missouri Lawyers' Weekly as the private attorney who had appeared the most before the Missouri Supreme Court in 2007–2008 with five cases presented.

Susan is the past Chair of the Appellate Judicial Retention Committee and Member of the Missouri Supreme Court Advisory Committee, the past president of the Missouri Board of Law Examiners and the Missouri Organization of Defense Lawyers, the past Chair of The Missouri Bar Civil Practice and Procedure Committee, served on the U.S. Magistrate Merit Selection Committee for the U.S. District Court

for the Western District of Missouri, served on The Missouri Bar Blue Ribbon Commission on the Independence of the Judiciary, The Missouri Bar Special Committee on the Rules of Professional Conduct, The Missouri Bar Special Committee on Funding for Legal Services, The Missouri Bar Special Committee of the Rules of Professional Conduct, The Missouri Bar Special Committee on Ethics, and the U.S. District Court, Western District Federal Practice Advisory Committee.

Abby R. Rubenfeld
Rubenfeld Law Office
Nashville, Tennessee

Abby R. Rubenfeld is an attorney in Nashville, Tennessee. Her general practice includes an emphasis on family law, LGBT and AIDS-related issues, and civil rights cases. She was the founding Chair of the Tennessee Bar Association Section on LGBT Rights in 2015–2016. Ms. Rubenfeld also was an Adjunct Professor at the Vanderbilt University Law School in Nashville for seven years, teaching a course on Sexual Orientation and the Law. She served for seven years on the Board of Directors of the Human Rights Campaign, a national civil rights organization and the largest lesbian and gay political organization in the world, and for many years on the Board of Directors of the ACLU of Tennessee. She has also served as Chair of the American Bar Association (ABA) Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities (IRR—now called the Section on Civil Rights and Social Justice) and as Chair of the Nashville Bar Association Family Law Committee. From 2007 to 2009, she was appointed by the President of the ABA to serve on the then-newly created ABA Commission on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. She was also formerly a member of the Tennessee Bar Association Committee on Racial and Ethnic Diversity and on the Executive Committee of its Family Law Section. In 2014, she was honored to be inducted into the YWCA Nashville Academy of Women of Achievement. In 2017, she joined the Board of Directors of the YWCA of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. She is extremely proud to have been co-counsel for the Tennessee plaintiffs in *Obergefell v. Hodges* (*Tanco v. Haslam*), the cases that brought full marriage equality to the United States on June 26, 2015. She was named Nashvillian of the Year for 2015 by the Nashville Scene magazine, along with *Tanco* co-counsel Bill Harbison, and also received the 2016 Tune Award from the Nashville Bar Association (also along with co-counsel Bill Harbison), the highest award given by the Nashville Bar Association.

In 2014, she was honored with a Legacy Award from Nashville Black Pride. In 2015, she was also honored with several awards, including the Justice Award from the National Center for Lesbian Rights (given to the plaintiffs and attorneys from *Tanco v. Haslam*, the successful companion case to *Obergefell* that brought marriage equality to the country) and the Bill of Rights Award from the ACLU of Tennessee (also given to the Tennessee plaintiffs and attorneys from *Tanco v. Haslam*). In 2016, she also received the prestigious Stonewall Award from the American Bar Association Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Commission. In 1996, Ms. Rubenfeld was also successful in a four-year effort to overturn the Tennessee statute that criminalized private same sex consensual adult sexual behavior, representing five plaintiffs who obtained a statewide judicial determination that the Tennessee "Homosexual Acts" criminal statute unconstitutionally violates the fundamental right to privacy protected by the Tennessee Constitution. Because of that significant civil rights victory, she received the 1996 Bill of Rights Award from the ACLU of Tennessee. In October 1997, the National Lesbian and Gay Law Association (NLGLA) awarded her its highest honor, the Dan Bradley Award, recognizing her outstanding efforts on behalf of equality under the law. For many years, she has been a member of the National Family Law Advisory Council for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, and a cooperating attorney with NCLR (which co-counseled an unfortunately unsuccessful challenge to the constitutionality of a Tennessee statute that overturned a local non-discrimination ordinance because it includes sexual orientation and gender identity).

Ms. Rubenfeld formerly served from 1983–1988 as Legal Director of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc., a national civil rights organization that conducts test-case litigation across the country on behalf of lesbian and gay rights and AIDS issues. While at Lambda, among other things, she created the Lesbian

and Gay Civil Rights Roundtable, which continues as an essential vehicle to coordinate legal efforts around the country and helped build the Lambda legal program from a small local docket to a nationally respected legal entity. She was the editor of the *AIDS Legal Guide*, first and second editions (1984 and 1988), the first AIDS-related legal publication in the country. She was appointed by New York Governor Mario Cuomo to serve on the Governor's Task Force on Gay Issues from 1983 to 1986. In 1988, she received the Harvey Milk Award from the National Lesbian and Gay Health Foundation in recognition of her "precedent setting civil rights efforts that have enhanced the lives of lesbians and gay men". She was the Co-Chair of both Lavender Law I (San Francisco 1988) and Lavender Law II (Atlanta 1990), the national conferences on lesbian and gay legal issues sponsored by NLGLA. She served on the Board of Directors of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force from 1988–1992, and in 1993–1994 was the General Counsel to the Nashville-based Lesbian and Gay Coalition for Justice, a local educational and political organization which she helped create in 1993. From 1990 through 1992, she was the Co-Chair of NLGLA, which she also helped create in 1988. She was also the Co-Chair of the Tennessee Gay Coalition for Human Rights from 1980–1982, and the Co-Chair of the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance from 1990–1992.

She served on the governing Council of IRR from 1987–1997, and formerly chaired the IRR Committee on the Rights of Lesbians and Gay Men (1985–1987). The ABA AIDS Coordinating Committee was created at her suggestion in 1987, and she was a member of that Committee from its creation until 1991. In 1992, she was appointed to serve as the first delegate from the NLGLA to the ABA House of Delegates and became the first openly lesbian member of that body; she served as that delegate for three years. In 1992 and 1993, she was nominated by the IRR Section for the ABA national Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award. In 1997, she was nominated for the ABA Thurgood Marshall Award, an award "to recognize substantial and long-term contributions to the furtherance of civil rights, civil liberties, or human rights in the United States". Ms. Rubinfeld also served on the ABA Standing Committee on Solo and Small Firm Practitioners from 1995 to 1997.

In 1992, she was appointed to serve on the Tennessee Bar Association Commission on Minorities in the Profession, the first such body appointed in the state. In 1994, she was appointed by the Tennessee Supreme Court to serve on a its statewide Commission on Racial and Ethnic Fairness, and served on that Commission until it concluded its work in 1997. She has been a consultant with the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada, and is the editor of the AIDS Bench book published by the College in 1991 for use by state trial judges throughout the country. She is a member of the American Bar Association, the Tennessee Bar Association, the Nashville Bar Association, the Lawyers Association for Women in Nashville, and the National Lesbian and Gay Law Association, as well as a Fellow of the Nashville Bar Foundation.

She is currently (and also was from 1997 to 2003) a Hearing Committee member for disciplinary enforcement by the Board of Professional Responsibility of Tennessee (appointed by the Supreme Court of Tennessee). In 1996, Ms. Rubinfeld was appointed by the Nashville Mayor and approved by the Davidson County Metropolitan Council to serve for two years on the Davidson County Board of Equalization. She was a participant in the Middle Tennessee Community AIDS Partnership, a project of United Way for Middle Tennessee, in the 1990s. She has served on the Professional Advisory Committee of the Nashville Community Foundation since 1996. She has also served on the Advisory Boards of Nashville CARES, a local AIDS service organization, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, a national public interest law firm, and the Franklin Brooks Philanthropic Fund in Nashville. She was a member of the West Group Tennessee Editorial Advisory Board for 1997. In 1994, she became the first openly gay or lesbian individual to be invited to participate in Leadership Nashville, a training program for established leaders in the Nashville community.

In 1990, 1994, 1995, and 1996, Ms. Rubinfeld was named as "Tennessean of the Year" by *Qym*, Tennessee's then lesbian and gay news weekly. In 1995 and 1996, she was honored by *Out Magazine* as one of "The Out 100", a list of the "100 most impressive, influential, or in-the-news" gay men and lesbians around the world. She was honored as "Nashvillian of the Year" by Tennessee's *Out and About Newspaper* in 2004,

and further honored by that publication in both 2004 and 2005 as "Businesswoman of the Year". She was also honored as "Activist of the Year" in 2005 by *Church Street Freedom Press*, Tennessee's weekly LGBT newspaper. In 2004, she received the Transie Award from the Tennessee Vais for her services to the transgender community. She was also honored to receive the 2003 Equality Award from the Tennessee chapter of the Human Rights Campaign.

Ms. Rubenfeld received a J.D. from Boston University School of Law in 1979. While at law school, she helped create the Boston University Gay and Lesbian Law Association. She received an A.B. with honors from Princeton University, and while there, lettered in basketball and crew and was the first woman elected as a class president in more than 225 years of Princeton history. She is also very proud to be the shortest person ever to letter in basketball at Princeton University (a record that will probably never be broken).

Hon. Jane Branstetter Stranch

*Judge, U.S. Court of appeals for the Sixth Circuit
Nashville, Tennessee*

Jane Branstetter Stranch was nominated by President Barack Obama to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in August 2009 and was confirmed in September 2010. Stranch was the managing partner of the Nashville law firm Branstetter, Stranch & Jennings PLLC where she engaged in a national practice in labor and employment law. The White House cited Stranch's extensive knowledge of ERISA when announcing her nomination. She was in the second class of women admitted to the University of Virginia, is a summa cum laude graduate of Vanderbilt University and received her J.D. from Vanderbilt School of Law in 1978, Order of the Coif. She is a member of the Nashville, Tennessee, and American Bar Associations, Federal Judges Association, National Association of Women Judges, Lawyers' Association for Women and a Fellow of the Nashville and Tennessee Bar Foundations.

Stranch has been a frequent speaker at seminars and special events. She taught labor law at Belmont University, served on the AFL-CIO Lawyers Coordinating Committee, and has served in a number of leadership positions in her church and in the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee. Stranch has been an active participant in the Nashville community, serving as the first board chair of the Bellevue YMCA, leading capital campaigns for the YMCA and St. Luke's Community House, and serving on PTA executive boards for Metro Nashville Public Schools for over a decade.

Hon. Jeffrey Usman

*Judge, Tennessee Court of Appeals
Nashville, Tennessee*

Judge Jeffrey Usman is the newest member of the Tennessee Court of Appeals. He earned his bachelor's degree from Georgetown University, his J.D. from Vanderbilt Law School, and his LL.M. from Harvard Law School. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa, magna cum laude, and Order of the Coif. He clerked for Judge W. Harold Albritton of the U.S District Court for the Middle District of Alabama and Judge Mary Beck Briscoe of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. He also previously served as a career clerk for Justice William C. Koch, Jr. of the Tennessee Supreme Court and as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Tennessee. Most recently, he was a professor at the Belmont University College of Law for over a decade. At Belmont, he was a founding faculty member of the law school, taught constitutional law related courses, and was recognized five times with the best professor award.

Professor Mark J. Williams

*Vanderbilt Law School
Nashville, Tennessee*

Mark Williams oversees the collections services department for Vanderbilt Law School's Massey Law Library and teaches courses in Advanced Legal Research in Business and Securities and Legal Practice Technology.

Prior to joining Vanderbilt's law faculty in 2017, Williams spent four years at Cornell Law Library, where he served as a digital resources and outreach librarian and taught first-year legal research. He also taught courses in Law Practice Technology, Advanced Legal Research in Intellectual Property, and Advanced Legal Research in Administrative Law.

Hotel Information

Loews Vanderbilt Hotel

2100 West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37203

Book by phone: (615) 340-5778

Book online: <https://www.loewshotels.com/vanderbilt-hotel/group-2023-aaal-fall-meeting>

Room Rate	\$279 per night, single/double occupancy
Reservation Deadline	Monday, September 11, 2023, 5:00 pm CDT
Check-in	4:00 pm
Checkout	11:00 am

When you call the hotel to make your reservation, please remember to mention the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers to obtain the group rate. If you choose to book online, please book directly through the hotel website to ensure that your room is included in the Academy room block.

Please do not book through a third-party site (e.g., Expedia, Kayak).

Hotel reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis until Monday, September 11, 2023, 5:00 pm CDT, or until the block has sold out. The Academy cannot guarantee the group rate if rooms are still available in the Academy block after Monday, September 11, 2023, 5:00 pm CDT.

Travel Information

Located across from Vanderbilt University, just off the path of legendary music venues and honky-tonks, Loews Vanderbilt is in a desirable location away from tourists but just minutes from Nashville's most renowned attractions.

Airport Nashville International Airport (BNA): 9.4 miles (20 minutes) from the Loews Vanderbilt Hotel.

United Discount  has partnered with The Academy and is offering discounted airfare to all attendees traveling to Nashville. To make flight reservations online please click on discount code [ZMQ6631080](#).

Uber & Lyft \$35-\$40 (one way)

Taxi Approx. \$35 (one way)

Valet Parking \$49 per night

Self-parking \$45 per day

Weather

The temperature in Nashville, TN in mid-October averages in the low 70s during the day and high 40s at night.

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