



LEGAL AID SOCIETY
OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE AND THE CUMBERLANDS

2026 EJC COMMITTEE



EJC Committee Chair, Wendy Longmire

Wendy Longmire is a seasoned litigator and partner at Ortale Kelley, where she has practiced since 1987. She focuses on complex civil litigation, including personal injury, healthcare liability, and employment disputes, and has tried hundreds of cases in jury and nonjury settings.

In addition to her legal practice, she is a Rule 31 General Civil Mediator and a frequent presenter on complex tort liability. Ms. Longmire is deeply engaged in the community, serving in leadership roles with the Tennessee Lawyers Association for Women and the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee, and supporting organizations including Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland.



Ann Ralls Brown

Ann Ralls Brown is an attorney in the firm's Nashville office where she concentrates her practice in the area of Family Law. She assists clients with domestic and family legal matters, including, but not limited to prenuptial and postnuptial agreements as well as divorce and post-divorce matters involving issues of child custody, child support, alimony, and financial and property disputes. She is a member of the firm's Trusts & Estate Planning Service Group.



Blair Durham

Blair Durham has completed Harvard Law School's Basic and Advanced Negotiation Workshops, the University of Virginia Trial Advocacy Institute, and the Trial Skills Workshop of the National Institute for Trial Advocacy.

Blair is licensed to practice in California, Kentucky, and Tennessee, and is a member of the Nashville Bar Association, Tennessee Bar Association, California Bar Association, Kentucky Bar Association, American Bar Association, and the American Trial Lawyers Association.



Elizabeth Adams

Elizabeth M. Adams is Managing Counsel at HCA Healthcare, overseeing legal aspects of real estate for the public company headquartered in Nashville. Prior to joining HCA, she was a partner at Stites & Harbison law firm.



Judge Lynne Ingram

Judge Lynne Tyler Ingram serves as Judge of the Eighth Circuit Court for Davidson County, having been elected in 2022. She brings a diverse legal background spanning public service, private practice, and nonprofit work.

Judge Ingram previously served as both a county prosecutor in Phoenix and a federal prosecutor in the Middle District of Tennessee, and later as Lead Family Law Attorney at Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland. She is also an Adjunct Professor at Vanderbilt Law School.

Recognized for her leadership and impact, she has received honors including Nashville Business Journal's Woman of Influence and the FBI Director's Award for Outstanding Prosecutive Skills in Human Trafficking.



Julie Peak

Julie Bhattacharya Peak is the Resident Attorney for Tennessee Field Legal at Liberty Mutual in Brentwood. A graduate of Rhodes College and the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, she began her career clerking for the Tennessee Court of Appeals.

Ms. Peak previously served as an equity partner at Ortale Kelley, where she focused on complex insurance defense and coverage litigation. She has extensive experience handling high-exposure cases through trial and appeal across Tennessee.

A respected leader in the legal community, she is a Fellow of the Nashville Bar Foundation and an active member of the Tennessee and Nashville Bar Associations. She also serves in leadership roles with the Tennessee Lawyers' Association for Women and contributes to several community organizations.



Kathy Pennington

Kathy Pennington, a graduate of Vanderbilt University Law School, currently works as in-house counsel for H.G. Hill Realty Company. While my background is mainly in real estate, I also served as a permanent law clerk in the US District Court for Middle Tennessee and have firsthand experience of how equal access to justice affects us all.



Laura Niewold

Laura Niewold is actively involved in the Nashville community and has served as Co-Chairman for numerous community events, including The Swan Ball, The Symphony Ball, The Symphony Fashion Show, The Hermitage Gala, La Bella Notte, The Main Event benefiting The Harpeth Hall School, and The Conservancy Gala.



Pooja Bery

Pooja Bery is the founder of Bery Law PLLC, where she represents clients in a range of civil litigation matters, including business, real estate, and domestic relations disputes. She is a proud graduate of the Nashville School of Law and holds an LL.M. from the University of Alabama School of Law. She also serves on the Board of the Nashville Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division and is committed to supporting access to justice initiatives in the Nashville community.