

Speaker Biographies



Sandy Garrett is Chief Disciplinary Counsel for the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Supreme Court of Tennessee. Sandy has been with the Board of Professional Responsibility since October, 1992. She serves as the Executive Director of Tennessee Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection and as the Southeast Regional Vice President of National Client Protection Organization. She earned her J.D. degree from Vanderbilt University. She is an emeritus member of the Harry Phillips American Inn of Court, a current member of the Tennessee Bar Association (TBA) Committee on Ethics, and an honorary TBA Young Lawyers Fellow.



James J. Grogan is an Illinois lawyer and educator who concentrates his practice in professional responsibility and lawyer ethics law. Mr. Grogan received an undergraduate degree from Lewis University in 1977 and his J.D. degree from the Loyola University of Chicago School of Law in 1980. He retired in 2019 as the Deputy Administrator and the Chief Counsel of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission of the Supreme Court of Illinois (ARDC) where, for almost 40 years, he investigated and prosecuted hundreds of charges of lawyer misconduct and argued dozens of disciplinary cases in the Supreme Court of Illinois. Mr. Grogan is a Past President of the National Organization of Bar Counsel (NOBC), the bar association of lawyer regulators. For over 36 years he has taught legal ethics, first at the DePaul University College of Law and then at the Loyola University of Chicago School of Law, where he is an Adjunct Professor. Over the course of his career, he has presented over twelve-hundred speeches, lectures and workshops to law firms, bar associations, corporations and judicial and governmental groups and agencies on various lawyer regulation topics. He has also served as an ethics consultant and an expert witness regarding a variety of lawyer regulatory concerns.



Chief Justice Holly Kirby In 1995, at the age of 38, Chief Justice Holly Kirby became a gender milestone, the first woman in Tennessee history to serve on the Tennessee Court of Appeals. In 2014, after she had served on the intermediate appellate court for almost 19 years, Justice Kirby was appointed to the Tennessee Supreme Court by Governor Bill Haslam. She was elected Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in 2023.

A lifelong Tennessean, Justice Kirby was born in Memphis and graduated from high school in Columbia, Tennessee. She graduated from the University of Memphis in 1979 with high honors, with a B.S. in mechanical engineering. In 1982, Justice Kirby graduated from the University of Memphis School of Law with high honors. Upon graduation, she served as judicial law clerk on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

After her clerkship, Justice Kirby joined the Memphis law firm of Burch, Porter & Johnson. When the firm selected Justice Kirby as a partner in 1990, she became the firm's first female partner. A

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career appellate jurist, Justice Kirby has won 6 statewide elections, in 1996, 1998, 2006, 2014, 2016, and 2022.

Chief Justice Kirby has received numerous awards, including most recently the Tennessee Bar Association's 2024 Justice Frank F. Drowota III Outstanding Judicial Service Award. She and her family live in Memphis.



Mark Lanterman is the Chief Technology Officer of Computer Forensic Services. Before entering the private sector, Mark was a sworn member of the U.S. Secret Service Electronic Crimes Taskforce. Mark has over 30 years of security and forensic experience and has testified in over 2000 cases.

Mark is faculty for the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada, and has conducted training for members of the federal judiciary through the Federal Judicial Center in Washington, D.C. Mark is a professor in the cybersecurity program at the St. Thomas School of Law in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Mark has provided training in digital evidence, computer forensics and cyber security to the United States Supreme Court.

Mark completed his postgrad studies in cybersecurity at Harvard University and is certified as a Seized Computer Evidence Recovery Specialist (SCERS) by the Department of Homeland Security.

Mark is a member of the Sedona Conference steering committee on the use of Artificial Intelligence. Mark was recently appointed by the Arizona Supreme Court to the Court's steering committee on the use of Artificial Intelligence.



Bill Ramsey is a member of the firm Neal & Harwell. The primary focus of Mr. Ramsey's professional practice is complex civil and criminal litigation. He attended the Georgia Institute of Technology where he graduated with high honors in Mechanical Engineering. He 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 has represented a wide variety of defendants in federal white-collar prosecutions and investigations. He has extensive civil jury trial experience in a wide variety of cases, including personal injury, business torts, computer and technology litigation and complex commercial transactions.

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Buddy Stockwell was appointed by the Tennessee Supreme Court on July 1, 2020, as the new Executive Director of the Tennessee Lawyers Assistance Program (TLAP). Stockwell comes from south Louisiana where he has been a volunteer and program monitor for the state's Committee on Alcohol and Drug Abuse since 1993, and the Executive Director of Louisiana's comprehensive Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program (JLAP) peer professionals' program for the last ten years. He is a Certified Clinical Interventionist through "Love First" training at the Betty Ford Center and has personally been in recovery from alcoholism for over 37 years. Over the years he has supported hundreds of bar members, bar applicants, and family members of the bar with a wide range of substance use disorders and mental health issues. Stockwell earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Management from Louisiana State University in 1989 and a Juris Doctor degree from LSU Law School in 1993. Post-law school, he practiced in both large and small firm settings, but ultimately opened a solo practice in Baton Rouge where he focused heavily on domestic litigation until 2004 when he sold his Baton Rouge law office, home, and vehicles and he and his wife, Melissa, moved aboard a large catamaran and sailed the seas for six years, covering 19,000 nautical miles. Stockwell is a U.S. Coast Guard Licensed Captain and seasoned ocean mariner. He also served in the Navy prior to college. He is dedicated to TLAP's mission and very excited to serve the Tennessee Supreme Court, the TLAP Commission, and stakeholders in the profession as the new TLAP Executive Director.



Michael Virzi teaches courses in Professional Responsibility and Advanced Legal Writing and at the University of South Carolina Joseph F. Rice School of Law, where he has also taught Fundamentals of Law Practice and Professionalism. He also maintains a solo practice in Columbia, focusing on lawyer ethics, discipline, and malpractice since 2006. Prior to that, Michael worked as an Assistant Disciplinary Counsel in the South Carolina Supreme Court's Office of Disciplinary Counsel. He has served on the Bar's Professional Responsibility Committee since 2011, including two years as Chair, and the Ethics Advisory Committee since 2003, including three years as Chair. Michael also served on the Board of Governors of the South Carolina Association for Justice for four years as Chair of the Ethics Committee and on the South Carolina Bar's House of Delegates since 2020. Michael is a frequent CLE speaker and law school guest lecturer on the topics of ethics, malpractice, and lawyer discipline. He is a member of the ABA Center for Professional Responsibility, the Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers, the South Carolina Association of Ethics Counsel, and Phi Delta Phi. He graduated *cum laude* from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 2000, after which he practiced primarily business litigation for several years before joining the Office of Disciplinary Counsel.