

By: Bill Vines

*Butler, Vines & Babb, P.L.L.C.*

## E. BRUCE FOSTER, JR. 2009 Governors' Award Recipient

At the annual meeting of the Knoxville Bar Association on December 11, 2009, E. Bruce Foster, Jr. was awarded the prestigious Governors' Award. Designated the association's highest award, recipients are considered based upon their work as an attorney and their community service.

You can almost describe E. Bruce Foster, Jr. fully by saying the word "dignified." Not only does he act with dignity, but he looks dignified. Who would not be proud to point out Bruce Foster as their lawyer? His towering presence commands respect before he says a word. When he speaks, it is always politely and professionally - and so people listen. The Governors' Award salutes persons with such personal presence - men and women who are good lawyers and who are good persons.

Bruce is a good lawyer. He has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* since 1987 and designated Corporate Lawyer of the Year in 2009. He served as President of the Knoxville Bar Association from 1980-1981. He served as Special Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court from 1980-1981. Further, he was President of the Young Lawyers Conference of the Tennessee Bar Association and has been a member of the Tennessee Appellate Court Nominating Commission. He served in the Tennessee State Constitutional Convention of 1977.

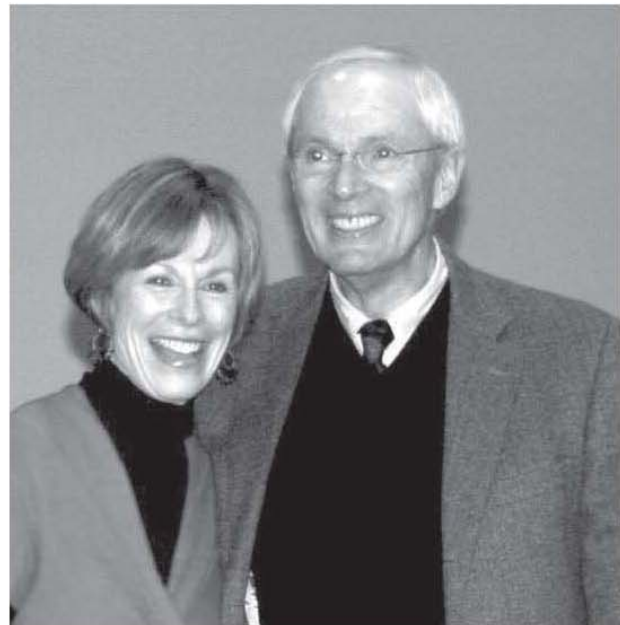
Bruce is a 1958 graduate of the University of Tennessee and began his career at the firm of Frantz, McConnell & Seymour where his father, E. Bruce Foster, Sr., was a highly respected partner. He practiced at Frantz, McConnell & Seymour until 1991, when he was asked to be founding attorney of the Knoxville office of the firm, Bass, Berry & Sims.

Bruce's career as a corporate lawyer has been very interesting. He formed the Knoxville Central **Business Improvement District** and served as General Counsel to it for many years. For more than twenty-five (25) years he has served as General Counsel to the Knoxville Airport Authority. He has been General Counsel for United Way and serves on the Board. He is a passionate supporter of United Way.

Bruce is very active at Second Presbyterian Church and has served in almost every lay capacity in that Church. Bruce and his wife, Betsy, have been married for forty (40) years. They have two children, Benjamin, a specialist in international environmental policy and a daughter, Bailey, is a medical insurance consultant in San Francisco.

Bruce is an avid outdoorsman. When asked to describe Bruce's most significant accomplishments, one of his prior partners said, tongue in cheek, "He's an excellent trout fisherman." Bruce is a really good trout fisherman. But, he is an excellent attorney and an excellent person. He deserves the Governors' Award.

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Governors' Award - 2009  
E. Bruce Foster Jr.