

The Knoxville Bar Foundation has instituted a Fellows Program designed to fulfill two purposes. The first is to support the community services and programs funded by the KBF through Fellows' contributions and, the second is to publicly honor and recognize those lawyers who have distinguished themselves in their practices and in their service to the Knoxville legal community. Since 1997, the KBF has awarded grants totaling approximately \$455,000 to fund local projects and programs seeking to improve the administration of justice, to enhance the public's understanding of and confidence in the legal system, and to serve the legal profession.

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Bar
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2019

The Program

Welcome - Reggie Keaton

Invocation - Wynne Caffey-Knight

Announcement of 2019 Grant Recipients

Presentation of 2019 Fellows

Fellows - Class of 2019

Keith H. Burroughs

Amelia G. Crotwell

Thomas H. Dickenson

Daniel M. Gass

Jackson G. Kramer

J. Douglas Overbey

Hon. Debra C. Poplin

Ann C. Short

Daniel T. Swanson

Hon. Steven W. Sword

Debra A. Thompson

Broderick L. Young

2019 Fellows

Judge Steven Sword is originally from Bluefield, West Virginia. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from King College in 1992 with a major in History and a minor in Bible and Religion. He graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1995. After a brief stint in a private law firm, Steve began working as an Assistant District Attorney in Knox County. He prosecuted well over 15,000 cases during his career from juvenile delinquency to first degree murder. Steve was appointed to the criminal court bench by Governor Bill Haslam in 2011. He has twice been elected to the same office. Judge Sword served for ten years in the United States Army Reserves JAG Corps. His primary assignment was with the 139th Legal Services Organization headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee. Judge Sword is active with the Knox County Bar Association where he has served as the co-chair of the Criminal Justice Section and on the Board of Governors. He also serves as a lay leader and Elder at Fellowship Evangelical Free Church. He serves on multiple boards and is a Trustee for King University. He has been married to Alice, a freelance calligrapher, for 25 years. They have two daughters, Lucy and Annalee.

Debby Thompson was born in Nashua, New Hampshire on January 25, 1960. She attended East Tennessee State University and received a B.S. in Biology in 1982. Ms. Thompson received a B.S. in Physical Therapy in 1984 from the University of Tennessee, Memphis and her JD from the UT College of Law in 1992. Ms. Thompson has been with Baker, O'Kane Atkins and Thompson since 1998, where her practice is concentrated primarily in medical malpractice defense. From 2008-2014 she served as a Board of Professional Responsibility Hearing Committee Member.

Broderick Young is a partner of Arnett, Draper and Hagood, and has been in practice since 1998. His career has been devoted exclusively to civil litigation, with an emphasis on tort and healthcare liability defense, employment and business litigation. He has litigated matters in courts throughout the nine county region surrounding Knoxville, Tennessee, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky at Lexington, and the Circuit Court for Bay County, Florida. Broderick has served as lead counsel in jury trials involving matters related to breach of contract, insurance defense, employment discrimination and personal injury. He has also tried numerous bench trials involving similar issues. In addition to his trial experience, he has represented clients in matters ranging from business torts, employment discrimination, estate litigation, and professional liability. Broderick is AV rated by Martindale Hubbell in the areas of Torts, Litigation, and General Practice. He is active with the Hamilton Burnett American Inn of Court, where he just recently concluded his term as its President. He also serves on the Judicial Committee of the Knoxville Bar Association. Outside of work, he enjoys his garden and spending time with his wife, Heather, and his two children, Hutton and Ann-Claire.

2019 Fellows

Debbie Poplin was sworn in as a United States Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee on February 13, 2018. Prior to her appointment, she served six years as the Clerk of Court. Judge Poplin received a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors from the University of Tennessee, and she earned her J.D. from the University of Cincinnati College of Law. Prior to joining the federal court, she served as the Law Director for the City of Knoxville, Tennessee. Debbie has served on the KBA Board of Governors and the Governors' Award Committee, and she has co-chaired the Government & Public Service Section. She is currently serving on the University of Tennessee Political Science Advisory Board and the Pellissippi Community College Criminal Justice Advisory Committee, and is actively involved in the District Court's Civics and Outreach Committee.

Ann Short received her doctor of jurisprudence degree in 1981 from the U.T. College of Law where she served as Editor-in-Chief of the Tennessee Law Review, a member of the Moot Court Board, and a student instructor in legal research and writing. Ms. Short is a former senior judicial clerk to the Honorable James Curwood Witt, Jr., Judge of the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals. She served as the first female President of the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. She was appointed and served as a member of the Indigent Defense Commission created by the Tennessee Supreme Court to identify problems and make recommendations regarding the delivery of indigent defense services in Tennessee. From 1996 until 2009, Ms. Short was an Assistant Law Examiner for the Tennessee Supreme Court's Board of Law Examiners, and she currently serves as a Proctor for the Tennessee Bar Examinations. She is an active member of the Knoxville Bar Association and writes a recurring column, "Time Out," for DICTA. By virtue of her trial and appellate practice, Ms. Short is admitted to practice before the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee, the United States Courts of Appeals for the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits, the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, and the United States Supreme Court.

Daniel T. Swanson was born in Ducktown, Tennessee. He attended the University of Tennessee where he received a B.A. in Anthropology in 1999. Mr. Swanson obtained his law degree in 2003 from the University of Baltimore where he served on the Moot Court Board and completed a dual concentration in Business Law and Intellectual Property. Mr. Swanson has been with London Amburn since 2007. His practice focuses on medical malpractice defense, healthcare and business litigation, and regulatory compliance matters. He chairs the firm's Business Litigation practice group and co-chairs the firm's Regulatory and Medical Staff Issues practice groups. Mr. Swanson is admitted to practice in the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern, Middle, and Western Districts of Tennessee, and the U.S. District Courts for the Western and Middle Districts of North Carolina. Mr. Swanson is a member of the American, Tennessee and Knoxville Bar Associations and the Hamilton Burnett American Inn of Court. He is a contributor to the Knoxville Business Journal and has presented on issues including cybersecurity and healthcare regulatory actions. He has been married to his wife Jenny for 18 years. They have three children, Abigail, Lily and William.

FELLOWS & FOUNDERS 2000 – 2018

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2019 Fellows

Keith H. Burroughs received his Bachelor's Degree in Accounting (1984) and his Master of Accountancy with a concentration in Taxation (1985) from the University of Tennessee College of Business, and his Juris Doctorate (1990) from the University of Tennessee College of Law. Keith is a shareholder of Egerton, McAfee, Armistead & Davis, PC., and served as President of the Knoxville Bar Association for 2018. He has been practicing since 1990 in the areas of Estate Planning, Trusts, Probate, Taxation, Business Organization and Planning, and Trust and Estate Litigation. Keith is a frequent speaker regarding Estate Planning and Administration to both professional and lay audiences. Keith is admitted to the Tennessee Bar, the United States Tax Court, and the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee. He is a member of the Knoxville, Tennessee, and American Bar Associations. He is actively involved in the Knoxville Community, serving on the Boards of several local charities and organizations, and is an active member of Fountain City United Methodist Church and its Chancel Choir. Keith has been recognized several years as a Top Attorney for Estate Planning and Trust and Estate Administration in the annual City View Magazine attorney poll.

Amelia Crotwell, owner and founder of Elder Law of East Tennessee, helps families overcome the legal, financial, long-term care, and health care challenges associated with aging and disability. Her practice areas include Life Care Planning, elder law, wills and trusts, special needs trusts, Medicare, Medicaid planning, and veterans benefits planning. She is a Certified Elder Law Attorney by the National Elder Law Foundation and is an active member of several national and local organizations, including the Life Care Planning Law Firms Association, the Special Needs Alliance, the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, and the Tennessee Bar Association. She participates in a number of volunteer programs in the community. Ms. Crotwell also offers pro bono legal services through Legal Aid of East Tennessee, Inc., and through the Tennessee Family Justice Center. Additionally, she takes a very active role in the community by teaching other lawyers about elder law topics and speaking to community groups about life care planning and elder law issues. Ms. Crotwell earned her B.A. degree, magna cum laude, from the University of Tennessee and her J.D. degree, summa cum laude, from the University of Tennessee College of Law.

Thomas H. Dickenson was born in Knoxville, but was raised in Jefferson City, Tennessee as the son of a Professor of Biology and Botany and a mom who worked for TVA. He graduated in 1976 from Carson Newman with a degree in accounting and from the University of Tennessee Law School in 1979. His practice started with Morrison, Morrison and Morrow and in 1986 he moved to Hodges, Doughty & Carson, PLLC, where he has been member since 1989 and currently serves as the firm's chief manager. He is a former chapter 7 bankruptcy trustee for the Eastern District of Tennessee and served for several years as an Assistant Bar Examiner for the State of Tennessee. He concentrates his practice in creditors' rights, real estate and other commercial law areas. He is an adjunct professor of law at LMU Duncan School of Law where he teaches bankruptcy and has been a frequent lecturer on bankruptcy and foreclosure related topics. He serves of the board of directors of TnBank, a community bank headquartered in Oak Ridge. He also currently serves as co-chair of the KBA bankruptcy section and volunteers at the quarterly Debt Relief Clinic jointly sponsored by KBA, LAET and U.S. Bankruptcy Judge, Suzanne Bauknight. He is admitted to practice in the Eastern and Middle Districts of Tennessee, the Sixth and Eighth Circuit Courts of Appeals and is a member of the Knoxville Bar Association. His wife is Sandy; they have been married for 43 years; and have 3 sons and 6 grandchildren. He is a member of Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church.

2019 Fellows

Daniel M. Gass is a native of Jefferson County, TN. Dan graduated from Samford University with a B.S. in 1985 and from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1988. He began his practice with O'Neil, Parker & Williamson in 1988 and has continuously practiced law with the same firm for 30 years. He is married to Anne Gass and they have two children, Elizabeth and William. Elizabeth is a Geologist and William is a CPA. Dan devotes his practice to general civil litigation with a focus on personal injury litigation. He also handles cases in the areas of products liability, premises liability, insurance defense, insurance coverage, insurance subrogation, contract law, construction law and amusement attraction litigation. He is admitted to the U.S. District Court for East Tennessee and the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals and is a Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 31 approved civil mediator. Dan has served as the president of the Barristers Club of the Knoxville Bar Association and also served as a member of the Knoxville Bar Association Board of Governors. He is a member of the Tennessee Bar Association, Knoxville Bar Association, American Bar Association and a Member of the American Inns of Court.

Jackson G. Kramer is a native Knoxvilleian. He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Vanderbilt University in 1980, and his Juris Doctor Degree from Southern Methodist University School of Law in 1983. He followed his grandfather, father, uncle and other family members in the practice of law and upon graduating from law school, joined the firm of Kramer Rayson LLP. He continues to practice at Kramer Rayson today, where he currently serves as a Member of the Firm's Management Committee. Mr. Kramer concentrates his practice in probate and estate administration matters, real property transactions and real property tax issues, sales and use tax issues, general business matters and tax-exempt organizations. Mr. Kramer is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* and has been recognized in *Cityview Magazine* as one of Knoxville's top estate planning attorneys. Mr. Kramer is the President and a Director of the Melrose Foundation, Inc. and is the Treasurer and a Member of the Board of the Directors of the Knoxville Convention and Visitors Bureau, Inc., d/b/a Visit Knoxville. He is a former Member of the Board of Trustees of Tennessee Wesleyan University, and he has held numerous leadership positions at Church Street United Methodist Church. His wife Elizabeth is also a native Knoxvilleian, and they are the parents of three children, daughters Carlisle and Margaret Gray, and son Jackson.

J. Douglas Overbey took the oath of office as United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Tennessee on November 21, 2017. He received his undergraduate degree, magna cum laude, from Carson-Newman College and graduated first in his class from the University of Tennessee, College of Law, where he received the Order of the Coif. This marks his 40th year in the practice of law. He co-founded the law firm of Robertson Overbey in 1982. Prior to being appointed U.S. Attorney, Doug was serving his third term in the Tennessee State Senate, after previously serving four terms in the State House. He served on the Finance and Health Committees in both chambers and was Chairman of the Senate Ethics Committee. Among his honors and awards, Doug received the Bud Cramer Award from the National Children's Alliance (2011), the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Carson-Newman University (2012), and the KBA's Law through Liberty Award (2009). Doug resides in Maryville with his wife, Kay. They have three married daughters and five grandchildren. They are parishioners of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Maryville, and Doug served ten years as Chancellor of the Episcopal Diocese of East Tennessee.