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Improving the Practice of Law through
Education, Service, and Fellowship.

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February 23, 2018

Senator Bill Ketron
425 5th Ave North, Suite 704
Nashville, TN 37243

Representative Glen Casada
425 5th Ave North, Suite 604
Nashville, TN 37243

Re: SB2511 (Ketron)/HB2679 (Casada)

Dear Senator Bill Ketron and Representative Glen Casada,

On behalf of the Nashville Bar Association, its Board of Directors expresses deep concern regarding the proposal in SB2511/HB2679 to strip the Twentieth Judicial District of a judgeship in September 2020, to fund the creation of a new judgeship in the Twenty-First Judicial District. While taking no issue with the need for additional judicial resources in the Twenty-First Judicial District, the Board believes that the piecemeal approach reflected in this bill will set a dangerous precedent for the following two reasons:

- (1) The Tennessee Judicial Weighted Caseload Study published by the Comptroller of the Treasury in February 2018 shows a 9.76 net deficit of judges across the state. This study finds that both the Twentieth and the Twenty-First Judicial District are under-judged. Accordingly, this bill, if enacted, will exacerbate the current deficit in the Twentieth Judicial District
- (2) The deployment of judicial resources, including redistricting, should be undertaken using a state-wide approach. It should take into consideration the need to provide new judgeships with the necessary support personnel, including clerks and office staff. In the case of courts with criminal jurisdiction, additional consideration must be given to providing prosecutorial, defense, and related support.

Rather than pursuing the robbing-Peter-to-pay-Paul approach to funding Tennessee's state courts reflected in this legislation, the Board urges the Tennessee General Assembly to

adequately fund Tennessee's courts and to adopt a state-wide process for determining how these resources should be deployed. This process should involve all the constituencies who play vital roles in the system.

Very truly yours,



Erin Palmer Polly
2018 NBA President