

## **Speaker Biographies**

### **FCBA In-Person Bench & Bar CLE 2025**

June 25, 2025, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Fayette Circuit Courthouse Multi-Purpose Room

Total Hours: 6 (1 Ethics)

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9:00 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.

### **Supreme Court and Ky Ct of Appeals Update**

**Justice Pamela R. Goodwine** was elected to the Kentucky Supreme Court in November 2024 from the 5th Appellate District comprising Bourbon, Clark, Fayette, Franklin, Jessamine, Madison, Scott, and Woodford Counties. Upon taking office on January 6, 2025, she became the first woman and fifth Justice to serve at all four levels of the judiciary in Kentucky.

Prior to being elected to the Supreme Court, Justice Goodwine served six years as a Judge of the Kentucky Court of Appeals. She was elected in November 2018 and re-elected unopposed in 2022. She chaired the Prehearing Conference and Personnel Committees. In January 2023, Chief Judge Larry E. Thompson named her Deputy Chief Judge.

Prior to her election to the Court of Appeals, Justice Goodwine was the Chief Regional Circuit Judge for Fayette County. She has been a circuit court judge since November 2003 and a district court judge from August 1999 until November 2003.

Justice Goodwine was born and raised in Youngstown, Ohio. In November 1979, she moved to Lexington, Kentucky, to work as a court stenographer. Despite facing tragedy, obstacles, and a life-threatening illness, Justice Goodwine earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Kentucky, Carol Martin Gatton College of Business, in 1991. She graduated from the University of Kentucky College of Law in 1994 and was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Kentucky in October 1994. She was in private practice with the law firm Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs from 1994 until her appointment to the district court bench in August 1999, focusing primarily on labor and employment law. More recently, Justice Goodwine obtained her Master of Laws degree in Judicial Studies from Duke University School of Law in May 2023.

Before her appointment to the bench, Justice Goodwine chaired the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights and served as a commissioner of that agency. In February 2000, Justice Goodwine was inducted into the Carol Martin Gatton College of Business and Economics Alumni Hall of Fame, and in May 2000, she was named the Fayette County Bar Association's Outstanding Young Lawyer. On September 21, 2012, Justice Goodwine received the Henry V. Pennington Trial Judge of the Year Award from the Kentucky Justice Association. Justice Goodwine also served as a Fayette County Drug Court judge from 2011 until her election to the Kentucky Court of Appeals. In March 2018, Justice Goodwine received the 2018 "Women Making History" Award from the Kentucky Commission on Women, and in April 2018, she was honored with the Carl Brashear, "Walking by Faith" Award from the Carter G. Woodson Academy. In April 2019, she received the "Fair Administration of Justice" Award from the Kentucky Academy of Defense Lawyers, followed by the "Distinguished Jurist" Award from the UK College of Law Alumni Association in June 2019, and the "Torch of Excellence" Award from the UK College of Law Alumni Association in October 2019 at the 29th Annual Lyman T. Johnson Awards Banquet. She was named one of The Kentucky Gazette's 2020 Most Notable Women in Kentucky Politics and Government. In February 2025, Chief Justice Lambert awarded her the Justice William E. McNulty Award in grateful appreciation for her outstanding service and dedication to the Kentucky Court of Justice. In June 2025, she was awarded the Nathaniel Harper Award from the Kentucky Bar Association's Young Lawyers.

Justice Goodwine is a member of the National Bar Association, the Kentucky Bar Association, and the Fayette County Bar Association. She is a Life Fellow of the Kentucky Bar Foundation. Justice Goodwine is active in the community and is a member of Central Kentucky American Inns of Court, the Lexington Forum, and the Rotary Club of Lexington. She is a frequent motivational speaker and presenter for continuing legal education.

Justice Goodwine is married to Lee A. Padgett, Jr. They share a large family. In June 2012, Justice Goodwine was certified as a Jazzercise fitness instructor. She enjoys motivational speaking, interior design, and health, fitness, and wellness classes.

**Judge Glenn Acree** was first elected judge for the Kentucky Court of Appeals in November 2006 to serve Division 2 of the 5th Appellate District. He was appointed to that position in August 2006 to fill a vacancy created when by the retirement of Judge Julia K. Tackett. He was re-elected for another eight-year term in 2014. He served as chief judge of the Court of Appeals from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2016. Judge Glenn Acree is a 1973 Metcalfe County High School alum, a US Army veteran, and a 1980 UK graduate. He received a Master of Arts degree from the University of Maryland in the history of science and medicine before returning to the UK College of Law to obtain his Juris Doctorate in 1985.

He practiced law for nine (9) years at McBrayer, McGinnis, Leslie & Kirkland in Lexington before becoming a partner at Thomas, Stidham & Acree. In 1998, he went solo until his appointment and election to the Court of Appeals in 2006, where he has served ever since. In 2007, Judge Acree founded the Appellate Advocacy Section of the KBA, and he was a Founding Fellow of the Fayette County Bar Foundation in 2008. For seven years, beginning in 2012, he served on the Kentucky Bar Foundation Board. The judge's colleagues elected him Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and he served in that capacity from 2012 to 2016. In 2013, Judge Acree was elected a Fellow of the Advanced Science and Technology Adjudication Resource Center in Washington, DC. That same year, he founded the Central Kentucky American Inn of Court and served as its first president until 2016. He has been invited and will attend the American Inn of Court Amity Visit to London, England, on October 1, 2019. A frequent CLE presenter, Judge Acree received the KBA's Thomas B. Spain Award for Outstanding Service to Continuing Legal Education in 2014 and, in 2018, the University of Kentucky College of Law named Judge Acree its Distinguished Jurist. On the national level, Judge Acree served on the Board of Directors and chaired several committees of the National Center for State Courts' Council of Chief Judges. He was recently nominated to serve as the national organization's treasurer for 2019-2020. He currently serves on the Judicial Conduct Commission. He authored an inspiring article for the KBA's Bench & Bar entitled, Pro Bono: Getting to the Heart of a Little Latin, (Bench & Bar Vol. 77, No. 5 p.24 (Sept. 2013)), and a more scholarly work, Non-Cooperation Provisions in Settlement Agreements After Kentucky Bar Association v. Unnamed Attorney (Bench & Bar Vol. 79, No. 1, p. 8 (Jan. 2015)). The judge and his wife, the former Lisa Hahn of Versailles, raised two sons: Taylor, a 2017 Centre College graduate who lives in Lexington; and Matthew, a 2017 University of Wisconsin graduate who lives in Baraboo, Wisconsin with his wife, Andrea, and their daughters, Aimee and Ruby.

**10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Got Questions? Insights from the Courthouse**

**Judge Kimberly N. Bunnell** graduated from the University of Kentucky in 1985 with a degree in Business Administration, and the College of Law in 1988. She began her legal career as an Assistant Fayette County Attorney and then an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney. After being a prosecutor for eleven years, Governor Patton appointed her to the District Court bench in January, 2000. She was later elected Chief Judge in January 2002. In December 2002, she became one of Fayette County's first Family Court Judges. In January 2007, Judge Bunnell left Family Court to become a general jurisdiction judge. She is currently Chief Judge of the Fayette Circuit Court and Past President of the State Circuit Judges' Association. Besides her regular court activities, Judge Bunnell serves as president of the board for The Canaan House, a home for mentally ill adults and an Advisory Board Member for Sullivan University Legal Studies. Besides her legal duties, she also looks forward every year to the Christmas holidays when she plays the trumpet in the UK Alumni Pep Band for the UK Men's and Women's Basketball games. If you don't find her in court these days, you will probably find her on the Pickle Ball Court, her newest obsession.

**Vincent Riggs** was elected as the Fayette Circuit Court Clerk in November 2012 and re-elected for a second term in 2018. Prior to taking office as Circuit Court Clerk, Vince was a practicing attorney in the areas of family, domestic violence, immigration, and estate law. He is a member of the Fayette County Bar Association, Kentucky Bar Association, and the American Bar Association.

**11:05 – 12:05 p.m.**

**Fayette County Juvenile Treatment Court: Making Sure Our Kids Thrive**

**Judge Lindsay Hughes Thurston** was elected Fayette District Court Judge, 3rd Division in November of 2018. She has dedicated her entire career to public service. Previously, Judge Thurston served as an Assistant Fayette County Attorney and as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky. And from 2012-2018, Judge Thurston served as the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Assistant Secretary of State. Currently, Judge Thurston presides over District Court criminal and civil cases and also serves as one of four Fayette County Drug Court judges. Judge Thurston is perhaps most proud of the 2022 launch of Fayette County's first-ever Juvenile Treatment Court ("JTC"). JTC, a fresh, innovative alternative sentencing model that she and her esteemed colleague created, is meaningfully impacting our county's kids and the community at large.

Judge Thurston is committed to her community. She serves as a board member of The Well of Lexington, LexTran, the Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention Coalition, and the Kentucky District Judges Association. Judge Thurston is particularly passionate about our Nation's veterans. She is a Board Member of Honor Flight Kentucky and an honorary inductee of the Kentucky Veterans Hall of Fame. Judge Thurston is also a member of the Central Kentucky Inns of Court and the Rotary Club of Lexington.

Judge Thurston is a 2003 graduate of the University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in political science from Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri.

Judge Thurston and her husband, John, a Vietnam Veteran and retired police officer, and their beloved Labrador, King, reside in Lexington.

**The Honorable Judge Melissa Moore Murphy** was appointed to the Fayette District Court bench by Governor Andy Beshear in April of 2020. Since her appointment, Judge Murphy was elected in November 2020 and re-elected in November 2022. She has been appointed to serve on the Kentucky Judicial Commission on Mental Health, the Juvenile Justice Advisory Board, and the Specialty Courts Certification Advisory Board. She is the co-creator of Kentucky's first Juvenile Treatment Court with her judicial colleague Judge Lindsay Hughes Thurston. Juvenile Treatment Court's mission is to focus on the overall wellness of our court connected young people, by using an integrated approach involving court supervision, mental health treatment and services, education, and personal accountability.

Additionally, Judge Murphy currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors for CHI St. Joseph Health Board and a member of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence. Judge Murphy is an active mother member of the Central Kentucky Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., and is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

Judge Murphy was inducted into the Atherton High School Hall Fame in Louisville, Kentucky in 2006, named a McCracken County Alben W. Barkley Distinguished Citizen in 2007, the 2020 Fayette County Bar Women Lawyers Association 2020 Woman of the Year and the 2021 J. David Rosenberg College of Law Women's Law Caucus Outstanding Legal Professional.

Judge Murphy is a 1998 and 2001 graduate of the University of Kentucky. In 1998, she received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and History in the Honors Program with a minor in Vocal Music Performance. She received her Juris Doctor from the J. David Rosenberg College of Law in 2001.

**Lindsey Yates** earned both her Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Master of Science in Clinical Psychology from Morehead State University. She went on to obtain her Juris Doctor from Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University, graduating in 2021. Since then, she has served with the Kentucky Department of Public Advocacy, where she is currently the Fayette County Juvenile Specialist. In this role, she focuses exclusively on juvenile matters, ranging from truancy cases to representing youthful offenders facing charges in Circuit Court.

**1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.**

#### **Federal Court Update**

**Judge Matthew Stinnett** serves as a federal magistrate judge on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky. He was appointed to the court on October 26, 2018. Prior to his appointment, Judge Stinnett was a member of Dickinson Wright, PLLC, where he litigated a wide variety of complex business and commercial litigation matters. He was also an associate and member of Bingham Greenebaum & Doll, PLLC, where he served on the firm's governing Technology Committee, E-Discovery Committee, Associate Compensation Committee, and co-chaired the Recruitment Committee.

Other notable experiences include:

#### **Teaching Engagements**

Adjunct Faculty at Transylvania University teaching Introduction to Legal Skills

Adjunct Faculty at University of Kentucky's J. David Rosenberg College of Law teaching Litigation Skills

### **Selected Publications & Presentations**

- Organized and moderated E.D. of Kentucky's compliance with the POWER Act (2019-23), including "Victim Notification, Rights, and Representation", (Lexington, June 2023).
- "A View from the Magistrate Judge's Bench: Comments on Criminal Pretrial Procedure", Speaker, 2021 Federal Criminal Defense Training Symposium by E.D. of Kentucky's Criminal Justice Act Panel.
- "Federal Law Update", Speaker, Fayette County Bar Ass'n's Bench and Bar CLE (October 2020).
- "Meet the Magistrate Judges", Panel Member, Kentucky Bar Ass'n's 2019 Annual Convention.
- Stock Yards Bank & Trust Estate & Tax Seminar, "Trusts: From Good to Great", Speaker (Louisville and Cincinnati, November 2017) and "Issues and Trends in Trust & Estate Litigation", Speaker (Louisville, November 2016).
- "The Open-and-Obvious Threat to Businesses", BGD MAGAZINE (Spring 2014).

### **Community Engagement**

American Bar Association

Kentucky Bar Association

Federal Bar Association

Joint Local Rules Committee for the Eastern & Western Districts of Kentucky (2024-present)

Federal Magistrate Judges Association

- MJStar Review Committee (2020-2023)

- Rules Committee (2023-present)

Fayette County Bar Association

Transylvania University's Prelaw Society Community Advisory Board

Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church

- Senior High Youth Group Leader, 2010-14

Lexington Philharmonic, Board of Directors (2010-16; 2018)

- Treasurer, 2018

- Vice President of Strategic Planning, 2014-16

Greenhouse17 (f/k/a Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program), Board of Directors (2006-12)

- President, 2011-12

### **Acknowledgements**

Kentucky Super Lawyers Rising Star, 2013-2015

Kentucky Domestic Violence Association's Advocate of the Year, 2012

Leadership Lexington, Class of 2010

Judge Stinnett graduated from Transylvania University with a Bachelor of Arts in History and was a William T. Young Scholar. He received his Juris Doctor from Northern Kentucky University, Salmon P. Chase College of Law and also served as the Editor-In-Chief of the Northern Kentucky Law Review.

**2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**

**Title: Family Law Judges: Order in the Court! What every attorney needs to know about contempt proceedings**

**Fayette Family Court Judge Ross Ewing** is currently a family court judge in Lexington, Kentucky. Prior to his election in 2022, he was a family law attorney and mediator in private practice and held many leadership positions in the Kentucky bar and his local community. Judge Ewing was the founding president of the Kentucky Bar Association's LGBT Law Section and is a long-time volunteer with the Kentucky Lawyers Assistance Program. He is also an adjunct professor at the UK College of Law, teaching in the area of family law. In 2024, he was awarded the Raising the Bar Award by the Kentucky Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers in recognition of his contributions to elevating the practice of family law across the state. When not in court or chambers, Judge Ewing can usually be found outdoors – hiking, gardening, or reading a book in the shade.

**Hon. Traci H. Boyd Brislin** is a judge of the Kentucky 22nd Circuit Court 2nd Division. She assumed office in 2015 and her current term ends on January 6, 2031. Boyd Brislin ran for re-election for judge of the Kentucky 22nd Circuit Court 2nd Division and she won in the general election on November 8, 2022.

Boyd received her undergraduate degree from Murray State University in 1993 and her J.D. from the University of Kentucky College of Law in 2000.

Prior to her judicial election in 2014, Boyd ran her own law firm of Traci H. Boyd, PSC in Lexington, Kentucky, focusing on family law. She had also previously worked for the firms of McCoy, West, Franklin & Beal, and Boyd & Boyd, PLLC.

**3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

**Title: Other People's Money", AI, Prospective Clients, GALs, and "Is It Related**

**Larry Deener** is a partner of the law firm of Landrum & Shouse, LLP in Lexington, Kentucky where he has concentrated his practice in civil litigation since 1980. He was graduated from the University of Kentucky in 1971, before serving on active duty in the United States Air Force from 1972-76. He received his J.D. from Salmon P. Chase College of Law, Northern Kentucky University in 1979. He served as Law Clerk to the late Robert O. Lukowsky, Supreme Court of Kentucky, before joining Landrum & Shouse. He continued his military service in the United States Air Force Reserve, retiring as a Lt Col in 1999. Mr. Deener serves as an Ethics Hotline member of the KBA Ethics Committee.