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Tennessee Supreme Court justices vow to defend seats against Ramsey-led attacks

May 10th, 2014 9:07 pm *by* HANK HAYES



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KINGSPORT — Three Democratic Tennessee Supreme Court justices seeking to be retained on the August ballot promise they will mount a defense of their seats despite a GOP effort to unseat them.

Justices Sharon Lee of the Eastern Section, Cornelia Clark of the Middle Section and Chief Justice Gary Wade all said in short interviews at The Club at Ridgefields that they will campaign to keep their seats for another eight-year term.

"We're working hard," Lee said. "We're organizing a campaign. We're getting our message and the facts out. We trust that when the voters understand our records and the good work we have done, they'll vote to retain us. ... Lawyers support us. They are going to talk to their fellow attorneys. They will talk to their clients, their friends, their neighbors."

Said Clark: "I think we have a story to tell. ... We will talk about our desire to uphold our oaths and I trust Tennesseans to make good judgments about that. ... We will do advertising just like everybody else will."

Wade also insisted he has confidence in voters and in the quality of work the five-member Tennessee Supreme Court has done.

He pointed to a Tennessee Performance Evaluation Commission (TPEC) recommendation to retain him, Lee and Clark. The nine-member commission included lawyers, non-lawyers and state trial court judges. Sullivan County Criminal Court Judge Rob Montgomery Jr, who has been appointed to the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals by GOP Gov. Bill Haslam, was among those on the commission.

All three Democratic state Supreme Court justices, appointed by former Democratic Gov. Phil Bredesen, got an "above average" rating from the commission.

For an expanded version of this article, please see Sunday's print edition or our [expanded electronic edition](#).

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 **Karen in Kingsport** 2 months ago
Did anyone else watch the TV interview with the idiot Ramsey? He pretty much admitted that he was not being truthful. Duh! We know all politicians are pros at lying, but, I mean he pretty much admitted it on TV. The next time that he is up for election (or before) we'll get rid of him.....


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 **dave** 2 months ago
"Lawyers support us".....well, that says a mouthful doesn't it.


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 **ShadesOfGray** 2 months ago
It worked for Art Pope in North Carolina recently. He's a Koch brother from a different mother that turned NC politics into a whole lot of its hidden carpetbagging billionaire types like Art Pope that Ramsey is pandering to.


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 **the Morelock clan of Hawkins** 2 months ago
Anyone else notice when they use this Tennessee/Virginia map....its wrong? No Weber City

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 **Joseph Mccray** 2 months ago
Ron Ramsey never misses a chance to push the far-right Tea Party agenda, considering that he is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Tea Bagger. It doesn't matter if the judge has always been fair, is highly rated, or has the approval of his peers....Ramsey seeks every opportunity to drag his paid politics into the fray since apparently God died....and left Ron as the sole heir to the knowledge of good and evil. He doesn't care a bit if anyone has exceptional qualities, especially Appeals Court judges. If they aren't Tea Party ideologues they shouldn't have any part of government or the judiciary. Gee, he fits right in with much of Sullivan County!

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 **GOATDAD** 2 months ago
Ramsey is after the money and to get another 15 minutes of fame. Getting to where one can't believe what comes out of his mouth.

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Ann — Shame on you. That is one of the broadest and most ig statements I have ever heard. There ...

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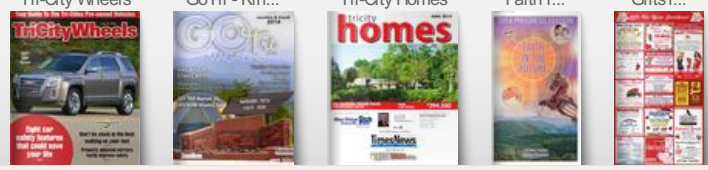
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