

A HISTORY OF THE ALABAMA APPELLATE COURTS¹

SUPREME COURT

Our state's first Constitution, the Alabama Constitution of 1819, under which the state was admitted to the Union, established the Judicial Department as one of the three branches of state government and provided that, "[u]ntil the General Assembly shall otherwise prescribe, the powers of the Supreme Court shall be vested in, and its duties shall be performed by, the Judges of several circuit courts, within this state." Art. V, § 3, Ala. Const. 1819. On December 14, 1819, Alabama officially became the 22d state, and the General Assembly enacted legislation dividing the counties of the state into 5 judicial circuits. On the second Monday in May 1820, the first term of the Supreme Court was held at Cahawba, then the state capital. Present were Clement C. Clay, Reuben Saffold, Henry Y. Webb, and Richard Ellis. Abner S. Lipscomb,

¹In 1955, then Chief Justice J. Ed Livingston initially compiled this history, which was originally entitled "A History of the Alabama Judicial System." Subsequently, former Associate Justice Pelham J. Merrill, as well as Tim Lewis, the state law librarian, and reporters of decisions George Earl Smith, Bilee Cauley, and Sean Blum, and their staffs, have contributed to updating this history.

the remaining circuit judge, was absent from that session. The circuit judges nominated and appointed Judge Clay as Chief Justice. Twenty-three opinions were written during that first term, 9 by Chief Justice Clay, 12 per curiam, and 1 each by Judge Saffold and Judge Lipscomb.

Between the adoption of the Alabama Constitution of 1819 and the adoption of the Alabama Constitution of 1868, the Judges of the Supreme Court were elected by joint vote of both houses of the General Assembly, and, until the adoption of the Alabama Constitution of 1901, with the exception of the Chief Justice, the members of the Supreme Court were referred to as "Judges" rather than as "Justices."

The following summary of the membership of the Court, from its foundation as previously indicated, includes many individuals whose names are familiar to the judicial history of the state. And, some of those individuals have left the impress of their thought and character upon the wider field of American law.

In 1821, a sixth circuit was created, for which Anderson Crenshaw was elected judge. Judge Webb died in September 1823 and was succeeded by Henry Minor, who had been the Supreme Court's first reporter of decisions. Judge Minor was in turn succeeded, as soon as the

General Assembly convened in December 1823, by John Gayle. Chief Justice Clay resigned in December 1823 and was succeeded in that office by Judge Lipscomb, and Henry Minor was elected to fill Chief Justice Clay's place on the Court. At the election held in 1825, the first regular election by the General Assembly under the Constitution since the creation of the Supreme Court, the following circuit judges were elected: Abner S. Lipscomb, Reuben Saffold, John Gayle, John White, John M. Taylor, and Anderson Crenshaw.

In 1826, Tuscaloosa became the state capital, and the Supreme Court convened there, although it is not known where the Judges met. The decision to change the capital from Cahawba to Tuscaloosa was mainly political: a rejection by the General Assembly of the late Governor William Wyatt Bibb's Georgia faction, which had dominated early Alabama politics. North Alabamians, especially those in the Tennessee Valley, supported the move since it brought the center of government closer to them. Once the General Assembly had voted to move the capital, a new capitol building became necessary. Building of the new capitol began in 1827, and when it was finished the Supreme Court, for the first time, had its own courtroom. In 1828, lawyers in Tuscaloosa established

the Library Society of the Bench and Bar of the Supreme Court of Alabama, and, also for the first time, the Judges on the Court and lawyers in the capital had access to necessary law books. Also in 1828, a seventh circuit was established, for which Sion L. Perry was elected judge. In the same year, Judge Gayle resigned and Henry W. Collier was elected to succeed him.

In 1832, the Court was entirely reorganized and made a separate Court, to consist of three judges with six-year terms of office. Judges Lipscomb, Saffold, and Taylor were elected, Judge Lipscomb again receiving the appointment as Chief Justice. In 1834, Judge Taylor resigned and was succeeded by Harry I. Thornton. In January 1835, Chief Justice Lipscomb resigned and was succeeded on the Court by Henry Hitchcock, Judge Saffold being promoted to the post of Chief Justice. In 1836, Arthur F. Hopkins succeeded Judge Thornton, and in the same year Chief Justice Saffold resigned, being succeeded on the Court by Henry W. Collier, who had previously served on the Court, and as Chief Justice by Judge Hitchcock. In 1837, Chief Justice Hitchcock resigned and was succeeded on the Court by Henry Goldthwaite, Judge Hopkins being advanced to the position of Chief Justice. In June of the

same year, Chief Justice Hopkins resigned, being succeeded on the Court by John J. Ormond, Judge Collier becoming Chief Justice.

In 1843, Judge Goldthwaite resigned and was succeeded by Clement C. Clay, the original Chief Justice of the Court. Judge Goldthwaite resigned to become his party's candidate for Congress in the Mobile District. However, after being defeated in the general election, he became a candidate for his previous place on the Court, defeating Judge Clay before the General Assembly.

In 1846, the General Assembly voted again to change the seat of government. The availability of former Native American land in East Alabama after the removal of Native Americans to lands across the Mississippi had caused a population shift from West Alabama to East Alabama and the Black Belt. Furthermore, the Black Warrior River (on which Tuscaloosa is located) was navigable for only a part of the year while the Alabama River was navigable all year and ran through the most heavily populated area of Alabama. The General Assembly chose Montgomery over Huntsville, Marion, Mobile, Selma, Statesville, Tuscaloosa, and Wetumpka as the new state capital. Alabama's new capitol building was completed in 1847 and, like the capitol in

Tuscaloosa, included quarters for the Supreme Court and the Library of the Society of the Bench and Bar.

Judge Goldthwaite died of yellow fever in 1847 and was succeeded by E.S. Dargan. Judge Ormond declined reelection and was succeeded by William P. Chilton in 1847. In 1849, when Chief Justice Collier left the Court, Judge Dargan succeeded him as Chief Justice and Silas Parsons filled the vacancy on the Court.

Judge Parsons was succeeded in 1851 by Daniel Coleman, who was in turn succeeded by George Goldthwaite, the brother of Henry Goldthwaite, who had previously served on the Court. In the same year, 1851, the General Assembly increased the number of judges on the Court to five, David P. Ligon and John D. Phelan becoming the additional members in December 1851 and January 1852, respectively. Also in 1852, Chief Justice Dargan resigned and was succeeded in that office by Judge Chilton, Lyman Gibbons being appointed to fill the vacancy on the Court. In 1854, the membership of the Court was reduced by law to three, and Judge Phelan and Judge Gibbons resigned. Judge Ligon resigned effective January 1, 1855, and Samuel F. Rice became the third member of the Court. In January 1856, when Chief Justice Chilton left the Court,

Judge George Goldthwaite succeeded him as Chief Justice and A.J. Walker joined the Court. Chief Justice Goldthwaite resigned almost immediately and was succeeded on the Court by George W. Stone, with Judge Rice becoming Chief Justice. Chief Justice Rice, resigning in January 1859, was succeeded as Chief Justice by Judge A.J. Walker, and Richard W. Walker, Sr., received the appointment for the vacancy on the Court.

The Civil War brought no change to speak of in the judicial fabric during the existence of actual hostilities. In 1864, Judge Richard Walker resigned and was succeeded by John D. Phelan, who rejoined the Court. The Legislature that convened at the close of the war elected the following as members of the Supreme Court, effective January 1, 1866: A.J. Walker, William M. Byrd, and Thomas J. Judge.

The Constitution of 1868 provided for the election of all judges, including the members of the Supreme Court, by the voters of the state, and, on an election held, E. Wolsey Peck, Thomas M. Peters, and Benjamin F. Saffold were elected to the Supreme Court, Judge Peck becoming Chief Justice. In 1873, Chief Justice Peck resigned, Judge Peters became Chief Justice, and Robert C. Brickell was appointed to fill

the vacancy on the Court. At the general election of 1874, Judge Brickell was elected Chief Justice and Thomas J. Judge and Amos R. Manning were elected to the Court. In March 1876, Judge Judge died and was succeeded by George W. Stone, who had previously served on the Court.

In 1880, Judge Manning died and was succeeded by Henderson M. Somerville. On October 25, 1884, Chief Justice Brickell resigned, Judge Stone became Chief Justice, and David Clopton was appointed to the Court. In 1889, the number of judges on the Court was increased to four, marking the only time the number of members of the Court was an even number, and Thomas N. McClellan, then serving as attorney general, was appointed to the new place on the Court.

In July 1890, Judge Somerville resigned and Thomas. W. Coleman was appointed to succeed him. In February 1891, the number of judges on the Court was once more raised to five, and Richard W. Walker, Jr., whose father had previously served on the Court, was appointed to the new judgeship. Judge Clopton died in 1892, and W.S. Thorington was appointed to succeed him. At the August 1892 election, the following judges were elected: Chief Justice, George W. Stone; Judges, Thomas W. Coleman, Thomas N. McClellan, J.B. Head, and Jonathan Haralson.

Chief Justice Stone died in 1894, and Robert C. Brickell was appointed to rejoin the Court as Chief Justice. In 1898, Judge McClellan was elected Chief Justice and Jonathan Haralson, John R. Tyson, Henry A. Sharpe, and James R. Dowdell were elected to the Court.

After the adoption of the Constitution of 1901, the Legislature of 1903 increased the number of Justices from five to seven, the increase to go into effect after the general election of 1904. In the election of 1904, Thomas N. McClellan was elected Chief Justice and Jonathan Haralson, John R. Tyson, James R. Dowdell, R.T. Simpson, John C. Anderson, and N.D. Denson were elected Associate Justices. In order to comply with the Constitution as to the arrangement of the terms, and upon casting lots, Justices Anderson and Denson received six-year terms, Justices Haralson and Simpson four-year terms, and Justices Tyson and Dowdell two-year terms. Chief Justice McClellan died in 1906, and Samuel D. Weakley was appointed to succeed him until the next general election, at which Justice Tyson was elected Chief Justice, Justice Dowdell was reelected, and Thomas C. McClellan was elected as an Associate Justice. In 1908, Justice Simpson was reelected and J.J. Mayfield was elected as an Associate Justice. In 1909, Chief Justice Tyson resigned, Justice

Dowdell was appointed to succeed him, and Anthony D. Sayre was appointed to succeed Justice Dowdell as an Associate Justice. In September 1909, Justice Denson resigned, and A.A. Evans was appointed to succeed him.

Ormond Somerville, the son of former Judge Henderson M. Somerville, succeeded Justice Evans in 1911. Justice Simpson died in 1912 and was succeeded by Edward de Graffenried, and William H. Thomas succeeded Justice de Graffenried in 1915. Chief Justice Dowdell resigned in January 1914, and Justice Anderson became Chief Justice, Lucien D. Gardner succeeding Justice Anderson as an Associate Justice. Justice Mayfield resigned in 1919 and was succeeded by Joel B. Brown.

In 1921, B.M. Miller succeeded Justice Brown, and in 1923 Justice Thomas C. McClellan resigned, to be succeeded by Virgil Bouldin. Joel Brown returned to the Court in 1927, succeeding Justice Miller. Justice Ormond Somerville died in 1928 and was succeeded by Arthur B. Foster on September 10, 1928. Justice Sayre died in 1931 and was succeeded by Thomas E. Knight on November 30, 1931.

In 1940, Chief Justice Anderson announced his intention to retire at the close of his term, and Justice Gardner was elected without

opposition to succeed him as Chief Justice. Chief Justice Anderson died on April 27, 1940, however, before the expiration of his term, and Justice Gardner was appointed Chief Justice on April 30, 1940.

J. Ed Livingston, having been nominated in the Democratic primary to fill the vacancy occasioned by Justice Gardner's election to Chief Justice, was appointed as an Associate Justice on May 13, 1940. On October 1, 1942, Justice Knight resigned, and Thomas S. Lawson, the attorney general, was appointed to succeed Justice Knight. Early in 1943, Justice Lawson was granted a leave of absence to enter military service, and Davis F. Stakely was appointed as a temporary Acting Associate Justice. Justice Bouldin retired on May 1, 1944, and on July 12, 1944, Robert Tennent Simpson, Jr., was appointed to replace him as an Associate Justice.

On November 1, 1945, Justice Lawson returned from military service and Acting Associate Justice Stakely left the Court. Justice Stakely's absence from the Court was short, however, because on December 22, 1945, Justice Thomas died, and Justice Stakely was, on January 8, 1946, appointed as an Associate Justice to succeed Justice Thomas.

Chief Justice Gardner resigned on February 28, 1951, and Justice Livingston was appointed Chief Justice as of the same date. John L. Goodwyn was appointed as an Associate Justice on September 27, 1951, to fill the vacancy occasioned by Justice Livingston's appointment to Chief Justice. In the election of 1952, Justice Foster did not seek reelection as an Associate Justice, and on January 20, 1953, Pelham J. Merrill succeeded Justice Foster. Justice Brown died on April 12, 1953, and on October 6, 1953, Preston C. Clayton was appointed as an Associate Justice to succeed Justice Brown. On November 12, 1954, James J. Mayfield, the son of former Justice J.J. Mayfield, took office as an Associate Justice pursuant to his election to succeed Justice Clayton. Justice James J. Mayfield died on April 4, 1956, and Norman T. Spann was appointed to succeed him on April 16, 1956. Justice Spann resigned, and on January 15, 1957, James S. Coleman, Jr., took office as an Associate Justice pursuant to his election to succeed Justice Spann. In 1962, Justice Stakely resigned, and on May 16, 1962, Robert B. Harwood was appointed to succeed him as an Associate Justice. Justice Goodwyn, who had qualified for reelection without opposition, died on April 22, 1968, and John P. Kohn was appointed to succeed him until the next

general election. Justice Kohn took office on May 13, 1968, and served less than a year, leaving the Court upon the termination of his interim appointment. James N. Bloodworth was elected to succeed Justice Kohn; he took office on November 15, 1968.

Pursuant to Act No. 602, Ala. Acts 1969, the number of Associate Justices of the Supreme Court was increased to eight, so the Supreme Court now consists of a Chief Justice and eight Associate Justices. In October 1969, Governor Albert Brewer appointed Alva Hugh Maddox and Daniel T. McCall, Jr., to fill the two newly created Associate Justice positions.

At the general election of 1970, Howell T. Heflin was elected Chief Justice. When Chief Justice Heflin assumed office on January 19, 1971, Chief Justice Livingston retired. Justice Lawson retired on May 3, 1972, and was succeeded by Ormond Somerville, Jr., the son and grandson, respectively, of former Justice Ormond Somerville and former Judge Henderson M. Somerville, and he took office on August 3, 1972. Justice Somerville resigned effective December 1, 1972. During that same year, Justice Simpson retired. In the general election of 1972, James H. Faulkner and Richard L. Jones were elected to fill the Associate Justice

positions vacated by Justice Simpson and Justice Somerville. Justice Faulkner and Justice Jones took office on January 15, 1973.

On December 27, 1973, Amendment No. 328 to the Alabama Constitution of 1901 was proclaimed ratified. That amendment, proposed by Act No. 1051, Ala. Acts 1973, repealed Article VI of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended, and Amendments No. 317 and No. 323 thereto and placed in their stead a new judicial article.²

In 1975, Justices Coleman, Harwood, and McCall retired at the expiration of their respective terms. Those vacant Associate Justice positions were filled by Reneau P. Almon, Janie L. Shores, and T. Eric Embry, who were all elected to their positions and who took office effective January 21, 1975. Justice Shores became the first woman to serve as a Justice on the Alabama Supreme Court.

Justice Merrill retired effective May 31, 1976, and Samuel A. Beatty was appointed to succeed him as an Associate Justice. Justice Beatty assumed office on June 1, 1976. He was elected to a full term later that year.

²Amendment No. 328 now appears in the Official Recompilation of the Alabama Constitution at Art. VI, § 139 et seq., Ala. Const. 1901.

Chief Justice Heflin chose not to seek reelection as Chief Justice in 1976. He retired from the Court effective January 17, 1977, and was elected in 1978 to the United States Senate. Chief Justice Heflin was succeeded by C.C. Torbert, Jr., who had been elected to that position.

Justice Bloodworth retired effective September 16, 1980, and was succeeded as an Associate Justice by Oscar W. Adams, Jr., upon appointment by Governor Fob James. Justice Adams became the first African-American Justice in the state's history, and two years later, upon his election to a full term, he became the first African-American to be elected to statewide office in Alabama. Justice Embry retired effective September 16, 1985, and J. Gorman Houston, Jr., was appointed by Governor George Wallace to succeed him as an Associate Justice. Justice Houston was elected to a full term the next year. Effective April 1, 1986, Justice Faulkner retired, and Governor Wallace appointed Henry B. Steagall II to succeed him, effective May 1, 1986; Justice Steagall was elected to a full term in 1988.

Chief Justice Torbert decided not to seek reelection in 1988, and his term expired January 16, 1989. In the 1988 general election, Sonny Hornsby was elected Chief Justice to succeed Chief Justice Torbert. Chief

Justice Hornsby took office on January 17, 1989. Justice Beatty also did not seek reelection in 1988; he was succeeded by Mark Kennedy, who was elected to the position of Associate Justice and who took office on January 17, 1989.

In 1991, Justice Jones retired, and he was succeeded by Kenneth F. Ingram, formerly Presiding Judge of the Court of Civil Appeals, who was elected to the Associate Justice position in the 1990 election. Justice Adams retired in 1993, and he was succeeded by Ralph D. Cook, a circuit judge who was appointed to the office and elected to a full term in 1994. Justice Steagall did not run for reelection in 1994, and Terry L. Butts, a circuit judge, was elected to the vacant position.

The result of the November 1994 election for Chief Justice was contested. Montgomery County Probate Judge Perry O. Hooper, Sr., ran as a Republican in a very close race against Chief Justice Hornsby, a Democrat. Less than 300 votes separated the candidates, with Hooper having the most votes. Chief Justice Hornsby remained in office during the ensuing 11-month legal contest. He left office on October 20, 1995, when Hooper was certified as the winner of the election. Hooper took the oath of office as Chief Justice that same day.

Justice Ingram's term expired in 1997, after he was defeated by Harold F. See, Jr., in the 1996 election for that seat on the Court. Justice See's term began on January 21, 1997. Justice Butts retired in 1998, and Champ Lyons, Jr., the author of Alabama Rules of Civil Procedure Annotated, was appointed effective March 23, 1998, to fill the seat left vacant by Justice Butts's retirement.

Justices Almon and Shores both retired in 1999. Jean Williams Brown, a judge on the Court of Criminal Appeals, was elected in 1998 to the seat made vacant by Justice Shores's retirement; she began her term on January 19, 1999. Douglas Inge Johnstone was elected in 1998 to the seat left vacant by Justice Almon's retirement; he began his term on January 19, 1999. Justice Kennedy also retired in 1999, and John H. England, Jr., a Tuscaloosa circuit court judge, was appointed to that seat on September 2, 1999.

In 2001, Justice Maddox retired after serving on the Court for 32 years. Chief Justice Hooper also retired, and Roy S. Moore, a circuit judge in Etowah County, was elected Chief Justice. Justice Cook was defeated in the election of 2000 and retired at the end of his term, and Justice England was also defeated in the election of 2000. The three new Justices

who began their terms on the Court on January 16, 2001, were Robert Bernard Harwood, Jr., whose father had served as an Associate Justice from 1962-1975, Thomas A. Woodall, a circuit judge in Jefferson County, and Lyn Stuart, a circuit judge in Baldwin County. Chief Justice Moore was removed from office on November 13, 2003, following a finding by the Court of the Judiciary that he had violated the Canons of Judicial Ethics. See Moore v. Judicial Inquiry Comm'n, 891 So. 2d 848 (Ala. 2004). Justice Houston, the senior Associate Justice, became the Acting Chief Justice of the Court until January 22, 2004, when Drayton Nabers, Jr., was appointed Chief Justice. The election in November 2004 brought changes to the Court. Justices Houston and Johnstone retired, and Patricia M. Smith, a district court judge in Shelby County, and Michael F. Bolin, a Jefferson County probate judge, were elected to fill their seats effective January 17, 2005. Justice Jean Williams Brown was defeated in the primary election by Tom Parker, who then went on to win the general election and took office on January 17, 2005.

Glenn Murdock, a judge on the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals, was elected to fill the seat left vacant by the retirement of Justice Robert Bernard Harwood, Jr.; he took office on January 16, 2007. Also in 2007,

Chief Justice Nabers left office, having been defeated in the general election by Sue Bell Cobb, a judge on the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals, who became the first woman Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court.

Justice See retired in January 2009, and Greg Shaw, a judge on the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals, was elected to fill the seat left vacant by Justice See's retirement; he took office on January 20, 2009. Justice Lyons retired on January 14, 2011, and James Allen Main, a judge on the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals, was appointed that day to succeed him. Justice Smith also retired in January 2011, and A. Kelli Wise, a judge on the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals, was elected for a term starting on January 17, 2011. Effective August 1, 2011, Chief Justice Cobb retired, and Charles R. Malone, a circuit judge in Tuscaloosa County, was appointed Chief Justice. Chief Justice Malone was defeated in the 2012 primary election by Roy S. Moore, who was again elected Chief Justice in the 2012 general election and began his second term in that office on January 15, 2013. Justice Woodall retired, and Tommy Elias Bryan, a judge on the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals, was elected to fill his position for a term that began on January 15, 2013.

Chief Justice Moore, on September 16, 2016, was suspended from office without pay for the remainder of his term of office, following a finding by the Court of the Judiciary that he had again violated the Canons of Judicial Ethics (see Moore v. Judicial Inquiry Comm'n, 234 So. 3d 458 (Ala. 2017)), and he retired effective April 26, 2017; Justice Stuart, who had been Acting Chief Justice following Chief Justice Moore's suspension, was appointed Chief Justice on that day. William B. Sellers was appointed on May 25, 2017, to take the Associate Justice position vacated when Justice Stuart was appointed Chief Justice. Justice Murdock retired effective January 17, 2018, and Brady E. Mendheim, Jr., a circuit judge in Houston County, was appointed on January 19, 2018, for the vacant position and took office on January 23, 2018. Justice Mendheim was defeated in the June 2018 primary election by Sarah H. Stewart, a Mobile circuit court judge, who assumed office as an Associate Justice in January 2019. Chief Justice Stuart was defeated in the June 2018 primary election by Associate Justice Tom Parker, who became Chief Justice on January 15, 2019. Justice Main retired in January 2019, and Jay Mitchell was elected to fill his position. In January 2019, Justice Mendheim was again appointed as an Associate Justice to fill the seat

vacated by Chief Justice Parker. Justice Bolin retired in January 2023, and Gregory C. Cook was elected to fill his position. On January 20, 2025, Chief Justice Tom Parker retired. Associate Justice Sarah H. Stewart was elected Chief Justice in November 2024 and assumed that position in January 2025. J. Chris McCool, a Judge on the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals, was elected to become an Associate Justice to fill the seat vacated by Justice Stewart.

Taking up some of the curious, if not important, facts touching the composition of the Supreme Court, note may be made of the nativity of the Chief Justices: Sarah H. Stewart was born in Arkansas. Clement C. Clay, Arthur F. Hopkins, Henry W. Collier, and George W. Stone were born in Virginia; Abner S. Lipscomb and Samuel F. Rice in South Carolina; Reuben Saffold and Howell T. Heflin in Georgia; Henry Hitchcock in Vermont; E. S. Dargan in North Carolina; William P. Chilton in Kentucky; George Goldthwaite in Massachusetts; A.J. Walker and Thomas M. Peters in Tennessee; E. Wolsey Peck in New York; Robert C. Brickell, Thomas N. McClellan, Samuel D. Weakley, John R. Tyson, James R. Dowdell, John C. Anderson, Lucien D. Gardner, J. Ed Livingston, C.C. Torbert, Jr., Sonny Hornsby, Perry O. Hooper, Sr., Roy

Moore, Drayton Nabers, Jr., Sue Bell Cobb, Charles R. Malone, Lyn Stuart, and Tom Parker in Alabama.

The following Justices of the Supreme Court were at one time or another judges of the circuit court: Henry W. Collier, E.S. Dargan, John D. Phelan, Daniel Coleman, George W. Stone, George Goldthwaite, Lyman Gibbons, Benjamin F. Saffold, J.B. Head, John R. Tyson, James R. Dowdell, John C. Anderson, N.D. Denson, A.A. Evans, B.M. Miller, Arthur B. Foster, Thomas E. Knight, James N. Bloodworth, Daniel T. McCall, Jr., Reneau P. Almon, Mark Kennedy, Kenneth F. Ingram, Ralph D. Cook, Terry L. Butts, Douglas Inge Johnstone, John H. England, Jr., Roy S. Moore, Robert Bernard Harwood, Jr., Thomas A. Woodall, Charles R. Malone, Lyn Stuart, Brady E. Mendheim, Jr., and Sarah H. Stewart. Justice Mark Kennedy, Justice Douglas Inge Johnstone, Justice Patricia Smith, Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb, Chief Justice Lyn Stuart, and Justice Brady E. Mendheim, Jr., each served as a judge of the district court, and Justices Jonathan Haralson, Henry A. Sharpe, J.J. Mayfield, Anthony D. Sayre, William H. Thomas, James N. Bloodworth, James H. Faulkner, Sonny Hornsby, Perry O. Hooper, Sr., and Michael F. Bolin each served as a county or city court judge.

The following Justices of the Supreme Court also served as chancellors: E. Wolsey Peck, David P. Ligon, William M. Byrd, Anderson Crenshaw, A.J. Walker, Thomas W. Coleman, James R. Dowdell, and Lucien D. Gardner. James R. Dowdell is the only member who had previously served both as a circuit judge and as a chancellor.

Justices Edward de Graffenried, Joel B. Brown, Robert Tennent Simpson, Jr., Robert B. Harwood, and Reneau P. Almon each served the Court of Appeals before becoming a member of the Supreme Court. Justice Almon also served on the Court of Criminal Appeals, as did Justice Jean Brown, Chief Justice Cobb, Justice Shaw, Justice Main, Justice Wise, and Justice McCool, and Justice Ingram, Justice Murdock, and Justice Bryan each served on the Court of Civil Appeals before becoming a member of the Supreme Court.

MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COURT

CHIEF JUSTICES, 1820-PRESENT

Name	Begin Date	End Date
Clement C. Clay	1820	1823
Abner S. Lipscomb	1823	1835
Reuben Saffold	1835	1836
Henry Hitchcock	1836	1837
Arthur F. Hopkins	1837	1837*
Henry W. Collier	1837	1849
E.S. Dargan	1849	1852
William P. Chilton	1852	1856
George Goldthwaite	1856	1956*
Samuel F. Rice	1856	1859
A.J. Walker	1859	1868
E. Wolsey Peck	1868	1873
Thomas M. Peters	1873	1874
Robert C. Brickell	1874	1884
	1894	1898

George W. Stone	1884	1894
Thomas N. McClellan	1898	1906
Samuel D. Weakley	1906	1906*
John R. Tyson	1906	1909
James R. Dowdell	1909	1914
John C. Anderson	1914	1940
Lucien D. Gardner	1940	1951
J. Ed Livingston	1951	1971
Howell T. Heflin	1971	1977
C.C. Torbert, Jr.	1977	1989
Sonny Hornsby	1989	1995
Perry O. Hooper, Sr.	1995	2001
Roy S. Moore	2001	2003
	2013	2017
Drayton Nabers, Jr.	2004	2007
Sue Bell Cobb	2007	2011
Charles R. Malone	2011	2013
Lyn Stuart	2017	2019

Tom Parker	2019	2025
Sarah H. Stewart	2025	Present

*Served a portion of that year.

JUDGES AND ASSOCIATE JUSTICES, 1820-PRESENT

Name	Begin Date	End Date
Henry Y. Webb	1820	1823
Abner S. Lipscomb	1820	1823
Richard Ellis	1820	1825
Reuben Saffold	1820	1835
Anderson Crenshaw	1821	1832
Henry Minor	1823	1823*
	1823	1825
John Gayle	1823	1828
John White	1825	1832
John M. Taylor	1825	1834

Sion L. Perry	1828	1832
Henry W. Collier	1828	1832
	1836	1837
Harry I. Thornton	1834	1836
Henry Hitchcock	1835	1836
Arthur F. Hopkins	1836	1837
Henry Goldthwaite	1837	1843
	1843	1847
John J. Ormond	1837	1847
Clement C. Clay	1843	1843*
E.S. Dargan	1847	1849
William P. Chilton	1847	1852
Silas Parsons	1849	1851
Daniel Coleman	1851	1851*
David P. Ligon	1851	1854
John D. Phelan	1852	1854
	1864	1865
George Goldthwaite	1852	1856

Lyman Gibbons	1852	1854
Samuel F. Rice	1855	1856
A.J. Walker	1856	1859
George W. Stone	1856	1865
	1876	1884
Richard W. Walker, Sr.	1859	1864
William M. Byrd	1866	1868
Thomas J. Judge	1866	1868
	1874	1876
Thomas M. Peters	1868	1873
Benjamin F. Saffold	1868	1874
Robert C. Brickell	1873	1874
Amos R. Manning	1874	1880
Henderson M. Somerville	1880	1890
David Clopton	1884	1892
Thomas N. McClellan	1889	1898
Thomas W. Coleman	1890	1898
Richard W. Walker, Jr.	1891	1892

W.S. Thorington	1892	1892*
J.B. Head	1892	1898
Jonathan Haralson	1892	1909
John R. Tyson	1898	1906
Henry A. Sharpe	1898	1904
James R. Dowdell	1898	1909
N.D. Denson	1904	1909
R.T. Simpson	1904	1912
John C. Anderson	1904	1914
Thomas C. McClellan	1906	1923
J.J. Mayfield	1909	1919
A.A. Evans	1909	1911
Anthony D. Sayre	1909	1931
Ormond Somerville	1911	1928
Edward de Graffenried	1912	1915
Lucien D. Gardner	1914	1940
William H. Thomas	1915	1945
Joel B. Brown	1919	1921

	1927	1953
B.M. Miller	1921	1927
Virgil Bouldin	1923	1944
Arthur B. Foster	1928	1953
Thomas E. Knight	1931	1942
J. Ed Livingston	1940	1951
Thomas S. Lawson	1942	1972 (temporary leave of absence for military service: 1943-1945)
Davis F. Stakely	1943	1945 (served as a temporary Acting Associate Justice during Justice Lawson's leave of absence for military service)
	1946	1962
Robert Tennent Simpson, Jr.	1944	1972
John L. Goodwyn	1951	1968
Pelham J. Merrill	1953	1976
Preston C. Clayton	1953	1954
James J. Mayfield	1954	1956
Norman T. Spann	1956	1957

James S. Coleman, Jr.	1957	1975
Robert B. Harwood	1962	1975
John P. Kohn	1968	1968*
James N. Bloodworth	1968	1980
Alva Hugh Maddox	1969	2001
Daniel T. McCall, Jr.	1969	1975
Ormond Somerville, Jr.	1972	1972*
James H. Faulkner	1973	1986
Richard L. Jones	1973	1991
Reneau P. Almon	1975	1999
Janie L. Shores	1975	1999
T. Eric Embry	1975	1985
Samuel A. Beatty	1976	1989
Oscar W. Adams, Jr.	1980	1993
J. Gorman Houston, Jr.	1985	2005
Henry B. Steagall II	1986	1995
Mark Kennedy	1989	1999
Kenneth F. Ingram	1991	1997

Ralph D. Cook	1993	2001
Terry L. Butts	1995	1998
Harold F. See, Jr.	1997	2009
Champ Lyons, Jr.	1998	2011
Jean Williams Brown	1999	2005
Douglas Inge Johnstone	1999	2005
John H. England, Jr.	1999	2001
Robert Bernard Harwood, Jr.	2001	2007
Thomas A. Woodall	2001	2013
Lyn Stuart	2001	2017
Patricia M. Smith	2005	2011
Michael F. Bolin	2005	2023
Tom Parker	2005	2019
Glenn Murdock	2007	2018
Greg Shaw	2009	Present
James Allen Main	2011	2019
A. Kelli Wise	2011	Present
Tommy Elias Bryan	2013	Present

William B. Sellers	2017	Present
Brady E. Mendheim, Jr.	2018	Present
Sarah H. Stewart	2019	2025
Jay Mitchell	2019	Present
Gregory C. Cook	2023	Present
J. Chris McCool	2025	Present

*Served a portion of that year.

COURT OF APPEALS, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS,
AND COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS

COURT OF APPEALS

In 1911, the Alabama Legislature, acting largely upon the suggestion of the Alabama Bar Association, established, by Act No. 121, Ala. Acts 1911, a Court of Appeals composed of three judges, which was intended to relieve the Supreme Court of some of its workload.

Richard W. Walker, Jr., who had previously served on the Supreme Court, Edward de Graffenried, and John Pelham were appointed judges upon the creation of that court, and Judge Walker served as the court's first Presiding Judge. Judge de Graffenried was appointed to the Supreme Court upon the death of Justice R.T. Simpson in 1912, and E. Perry Thomas succeeded Judge de Graffenried. In 1914, Presiding Judge Walker left the court, Judge Pelham succeeded him as Presiding Judge, B.P. Crum served briefly on the court, and Joel B. Brown became a member of the court by election. Judge Thomas resigned in 1916 and was succeeded briefly by Richard V. Evans. Presiding Judge Pelham, Judge Brown, and Charles R. Bricken were elected in the general election of

1916. Presiding Judge Pelham died in 1917 and was succeeded on the court by William H. Samford. Judge Brown, who had become Presiding Judge in 1917, was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1919 to succeed Justice J.J. Mayfield, and he was succeeded on the court by Henry P. Merritt and as Presiding Judge by Judge Bricken. Judge Merritt left the court in 1922, and he was succeeded in 1923 by Henry B. Foster. Judge Foster resigned in 1925, and James Rice was appointed to succeed him.

Judge Samford died February 2, 1940, and on February 12, 1940, Robert Tennent Simpson, Jr., was appointed to succeed Judge Samford. On June 12, 1944, Judge Simpson resigned to join the Supreme Court, and on the same date Robert B. Carr was appointed to fill the vacancy occasioned by Judge Simpson's elevation to the Supreme Court.

Judge Rice died September 28, 1945. Subsequently, Robert B. Harwood, the attorney general on military leave, returned from military service, and on October 10, 1945, he resigned as attorney general and was appointed to succeed Judge Rice. On January 11, 1951, Presiding Judge Bricken died, and Judge Carr became Presiding Judge. On January 12, 1951, Annie Lola Price was appointed to fill the vacancy occasioned by Judge Carr's elevation to Presiding Judge. Judge Price

thus became the first woman in the history of Alabama to serve as an appellate judge.

Presiding Judge Carr died on May 2, 1955, and Judge Harwood became Presiding Judge. On June 15, 1955, Rowan S. Bone was appointed to fill the vacancy occasioned by the elevation of Judge Harwood to Presiding Judge. Judge Bone left the court in November 1956 and was succeeded by Aubrey M. Cates, Jr., who had been elected and who took office on November 15, 1956.

Presiding Judge Harwood was appointed to the Alabama Supreme Court on May 16, 1962, and Judge Price became Presiding Judge. George C. Johnson was appointed to fill the vacancy on the court and took office on May 16, 1962. Judge Johnson resigned on February 3, 1969, and Reneau P. Almon was appointed to fill that vacancy, taking office on March 4, 1969.

In its 1969 regular session, the Legislature, by Act No. 987, Ala. Acts 1969, abolished the Court of Appeals and created two intermediate appellate courts: the Court of Criminal Appeals and the Court of Civil Appeals.

MEMBERS OF THE COURT OF APPEALS

PRESIDING JUDGES, 1911-1969

Name	Begin Date	End Date
Richard W. Walker, Jr.	1911	1914
John Pelham	1914	1917
Joel B. Brown	1917	1919
Charles R. Bricken	1919	1951
Robert B. Carr	1951	1955
Robert B. Harwood	1955	1962
Annie Lola Price	1962	1969

ASSOCIATE JUDGES, 1911-1969

Name	Begin Date	End Date
Edward de Graffenried	1911	1912
John Pelham	1911	1914
E. Perry Thomas	1912	1916
B.P. Crum	1914	1914*
Joel B. Brown	1914	1917

Richard V. Evans	1916	1916*
Charles R. Bricken	1917	1919
William H. Samford	1917	1940
Henry P. Merritt	1919	1922
Henry B. Foster	1923	1925
James Rice	1925	1945
Robert Tennent Simpson, Jr.	1940	1944
Robert B. Carr	1944	1951
Robert B. Harwood	1945	1955
Annie Lola Price	1951	1962
Rowan S. Bone	1955	1956
Aubrey M. Cates, Jr.	1956	1969
George C. Johnson	1962	1969
Reneau P. Almon	1969	1969*

*Served a portion of the year.

COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

In 1969, the three judges formerly on the Court of Appeals became the first judges on the newly created Court of Criminal Appeals: Judge Annie Lola Price, Presiding Judge; Judge Aubrey M. Cates, Jr.; and Judge Reneau P. Almon.

The Alabama Legislature in 1971 increased the number of judges on the Court of Criminal Appeals from three judges to five judges. In January 1972, Governor George Wallace appointed John C. Tyson III and John O. Harris to those newly created positions.

Presiding Judge Price died on June 18, 1972. Governor Wallace appointed John Paul DeCarlo to fill the position on the court left vacant by Presiding Judge Price's death, and he took office on July 7, 1972. Judge Cates succeeded Presiding Judge Price as Presiding Judge on June 19, 1972.

In 1974, Judge Almon was elected to the Alabama Supreme Court, and he resigned from the Court of Criminal Appeals on January 20, 1975. John G. Bookout was appointed to succeed Judge Almon. On December 1, 1976, Judge Tyson succeeded Presiding Judge Cates as Presiding Judge. Judge Cates continued to serve as a judge on the court until he

retired on January 17, 1977. William M. Bowen, Jr., who had been elected to the court, replaced Judge Cates on January 18, 1977. At the time he was sworn in, Judge Bowen was 29 years old and was the youngest appellate judge in the country. On December 1, 1977, Judge Harris succeeded Presiding Judge Tyson as Presiding Judge, although Judge Tyson remained on the court.

Judge Bookout resigned from the court on February 1, 1982, and Bishop Barron was appointed to succeed him, effective March 12, 1982. On March 9, 1983, Judge Barron died. Sam W. Taylor, who had been a circuit judge in Montgomery County, was appointed on March 18, 1983, to succeed Judge Barron. On February 1, 1983, Judge DeCarlo became Presiding Judge, succeeding Judge Harris, who continued serving on the court, and Judge DeCarlo remained Presiding Judge until he resigned from the court on March 29, 1983. Hubert Taylor was appointed on March 31, 1983, to succeed Presiding Judge DeCarlo on the court, and Judge Bowen became Presiding Judge, effective April 18, 1983. Judge Hubert Taylor resigned on April 2, 1984, and John Patterson, former Governor of Alabama, was appointed on April 3, 1984, to succeed him. On January 14, 1985, Judge Harris retired. H. Ward McMillan, Jr., who

had been elected in 1984, succeeded Judge Harris, taking office on January 15, 1985. Judge Sam Taylor became Presiding Judge in 1988, with Judge Bowen remaining on the court, and on November 16, 1990, Judge Patterson became Presiding Judge, with Judge Sam Taylor remaining on the court. Judge Tyson retired on October 1, 1991, and Mark G. Montiel was appointed to succeed him on November 29, 1991. On November 18, 1992, Judge Bowen again became Presiding Judge, and Judge Patterson continued to serve on the court. Presiding Judge Bowen's term expired on January 16, 1995, and he retired effective January 17, 1995. Judge Sam Taylor again became Presiding Judge on January 18, 1995. Judge Montiel's term expired on January 16, 1995. Sue Bell Cobb and Francis A. Long, Sr., were elected in November 1994 and began serving their terms on the court on January 17, 1995. Presiding Judge Sam Taylor retired effective January 21, 1997, and Judge Long became the Presiding Judge. Judge Patterson retired effective January 21, 1997. Jean Williams Brown and Pamela Willis Baschab were elected in November 1996 to fill the seats vacated by the retirements of Judge Patterson and Presiding Judge Sam Taylor. Their terms began on January 21, 1997. Judge Brown resigned effective

January 19, 1999, to become an Associate Justice on the Alabama Supreme Court. James H. Fry was appointed on February 15, 1999, to fill her vacant position.

Presiding Judge Long's term expired on January 15, 2001, and Judge McMillan became Presiding Judge on January 16, 2001. Judge Fry's term also expired January 15, 2001. Greg Shaw and A. Kelli Wise were elected in November 2000 to begin terms on January 16, 2001. Judge Cobb resigned on January 15, 2007, following her election to the position of Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court. Samuel Henry Welch was elected to fill Judge Cobb's vacant position, and he began his term January 15, 2007. Also on January 15, 2007, Judge Baschab became Presiding Judge, and Judge McMillan continued to serve on the court. Presiding Judge Baschab retired effective January 20, 2009, and Judge Wise became Presiding Judge of the court. Judge McMillan also retired effective January 20, 2009. Mary Becker Windom and J. Elizabeth Kellum were elected in November 2008 to terms beginning January 20, 2009. Judge Shaw resigned effective January 20, 2009, to become an Associate Justice on the Alabama Supreme Court, and James Allen Main was appointed on May 15, 2009, to replace Judge Shaw. Judge Main

resigned effective January 14, 2011, to accept an appointment as an Associate Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court, and Presiding Judge Wise resigned effective January 17, 2011, to become an Associate Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court. Judge Welch became Presiding Judge on January 18, 2011, and Liles C. Burke was appointed to fill the vacancy created by Presiding Judge Wise's resignation. He took the oath of office on February 18, 2011. J. Michael Joiner was appointed to fill the vacancy created by Judge Main's resignation. He took the oath of office on March 1, 2011. Judge Windom became Presiding Judge on February 1, 2012, with Judge Welch remaining on the court. Judge Burke left the court on October 17, 2018, to accept an appointment as a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama. J. Chris McCool, who was elected to the Court of Criminal Appeals in the general election held on November 6, 2018, was sworn in early, in November 2018, to fill the seat left vacant by Judge Burke's federal appointment. Judge Welch and Judge Joiner retired effective January 15, 2019. Richard J. Minor and J. William Cole were elected in November 2018 and took office in January 2019. Judge J. Chris McCool's term expired in January 2025, and he was elected to the Alabama Supreme Court. Richard D. Anderson was

elected in November 2024 to fill Judge McCool's seat. His term began January 2025.

MEMBERS OF THE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS
PRESIDING JUDGES, 1969-PRESENT

Name	Begin Date	End Date
Annie Lola Price	1969	1972
Aubrey M. Cates, Jr.	1972	1976
John C. Tyson III	1976	1977
John O. Harris	1977	1983
John Paul DeCarlo	1983	1983*
William M. Bowen, Jr.	1983	1988
	1992	1995
Sam W. Taylor	1988	1990
	1995	1997
John Patterson	1990	1992
Francis A. Long, Sr.	1997	2001
H. Ward McMillan, Jr.	2001	2007

Pamela Willis Baschab	2007	2009
A. Kelli Wise	2009	2011
Samuel Henry Welch	2011	2012
Mary Becker Windom	2012	Present

*Served a portion of the year.

ASSOCIATE JUDGES, 1969-PRESENT

Name	Begin Date	End Date
Aubrey M. Cates, Jr.	1969	1972
	1976	1977
Reneau P. Almon	1969	1975
John C. Tyson III	1972	1976
	1977	1991
John O. Harris	1972	1977
	1983	1985
John Paul DeCarlo	1972	1983
John G. Bookout	1975	1982

William M. Bowen, Jr.	1977	1983
	1988	1992
Bishop Barron	1982	1983
Sam W. Taylor	1983	1988
	1990	1995
Hubert Taylor	1983	1984
John Patterson	1984	1990
	1992	1997
H. Ward McMillan, Jr.	1985	2001
	2007	2009
Mark G. Montiel	1991	1995
Sue Bell Cobb	1995	2007
Francis A. Long, Sr.	1995	1997
Jean Williams Brown	1997	1999
Pamela Willis Baschab	1997	2007
James H. Fry	1999	2001
Greg Shaw	2001	2009
A. Kelli Wise	2001	2009

Samuel Henry Welch	2007	2011
	2012	2019
Mary Becker Windom	2009	2012
J. Elizabeth Kellum	2009	Present
James Allen Main	2009	2011
Liles C. Burke	2011	2018
J. Michael Joiner	2011	2019
J. Chris McCool	2018	2025
J. William Cole	2019	Present
Richard J. Minor	2019	Present
Richard D. Anderson	2025	Present

COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS

In 1969, Governor Albert Brewer appointed three judges to serve on the newly created Court of Civil Appeals: Thomas Werth Thagard, who served as the first Presiding Judge of that court; L. Charles Wright; and Robert P. Bradley. On May 3, 1972, Presiding Judge Thagard retired and Judge Wright became Presiding Judge. Richard L. Holmes was appointed to fill the vacancy created by Presiding Judge Thagard's retirement. Judge Holmes took office on May 18, 1972. Presiding Judge Wright retired effective January 20, 1987, and Judge Bradley became Presiding Judge effective on that date. Kenneth F. Ingram, formerly a circuit judge, was elected to the position left vacant by Presiding Judge Wright's retirement, and his term began on January 20, 1987.

Presiding Judge Bradley retired on January 17, 1989, and he was succeeded as Presiding Judge by Judge Holmes. William E. Robertson, formerly a Talladega County district judge, was elected to the position left vacant by Presiding Judge Bradley's retirement, and he assumed office on January 17, 1989. Presiding Judge Holmes retired on April 16, 1989, and Judge Ingram became Presiding Judge on that date. Robert J. Russell was appointed effective April 16, 1989, to fill the vacancy on the

court created by Presiding Judge Holmes's retirement. In the general election of 1990, Presiding Judge Ingram was elected to the seat on the Supreme Court being vacated by Justice Richard L. Jones: he resigned from the Court of Civil Appeals in January 1991 and became an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court on January 15, 1991. Charles A. Thigpen, formerly a circuit judge of the 4th Judicial Circuit, was elected to the court in 1990 and took office on January 15, 1991, succeeding Judge Russell, who had served on an interim appointment that expired on January 14, 1991. Judge Robertson became Presiding Judge on that date. Judge Russell was reappointed on January 15, 1991, by Governor Guy Hunt, this time to the vacancy created by Presiding Judge Ingram's resignation.

In the general election of 1992, Sharon G. Yates was the first woman elected to serve on the Court of Civil Appeals. She assumed office on January 19, 1993, at the expiration of Judge Russell's second appointed term. In 1993, the Alabama Legislature increased the number of judges on the court to five judges. See Act No. 93-346, Ala. Acts 1993. Roger M. Monroe, a former circuit judge for the 10th Judicial Circuit, and John Brantley Crawley, a former circuit judge for the 12th Judicial

Circuit, were elected to fill those newly created judgeships in the 1994 general election; their terms began on January 17, 1995. William C. Thompson was elected to the court in the 1996 general election; he assumed office on January 21, 1997, at the expiration of Judge Thigpen's term of office.

Upon Presiding Judge Robertson's retirement, which became effective on January 16, 2001, Judge Yates became the first woman to serve as Presiding Judge of the Court of Civil Appeals. Glenn Murdock, who had been elected to Presiding Judge Robertson's place on the court in the 2000 general election, assumed office on January 16, 2001. Craig S. Pittman was also elected to the court in the 2000 general election; he assumed office on January 16, 2001, at the expiration of Judge Monroe's term of office. On January 16, 2005, Presiding Judge Yates's term of office expired, and Judge Crawley became Presiding Judge on January 17, 2005. Tommy Elias Bryan, who had been elected to Presiding Judge Yates's place on the court in the 2004 general election, assumed office on January 17, 2005.

Presiding Judge Crawley retired effective January 15, 2007, and Judge Thompson became Presiding Judge. In the 2006 general election,

Judge Murdock was elected to the seat on the Supreme Court being vacated by Justice Robert Bernard Harwood, Jr.; Judge Murdock resigned from the Court of Civil Appeals in January 2007, and he became an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court on January 15, 2007. Also in the 2006 general election, Terri Willingham Thomas, a former judge for the Cullman District Court, and Terry A. Moore were elected to fill the vacancies caused by the departures of Judge Murdock and Presiding Judge Crawley, respectively; their terms began on January 15, 2007.

In the 2012 general election, Judge Bryan was elected to the seat on the Supreme Court being vacated by Justice Thomas A. Woodall; Judge Bryan resigned from the Court of Civil Appeals in January 2013, and he became an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court on January 15, 2013. Scott Donaldson, a former circuit judge for the 6th Judicial Circuit, was appointed to the court effective January 15, 2013, to fill the vacancy created by the departure of Judge Bryan. Judge Thomas was defeated in the primary election in June 2018; she left office effective January 15, 2019. Judge Pittman retired effective January 15, 2019. Christy O. Edwards and Chad A. Hanson were elected to the Court of Civil Appeals in the general election held in November 2018; they took

office on January 15, 2019. In January 2021, Judge Donaldson retired at the expiration of his term of office; Matthew D. Fridy, a former member of the Alabama House of Representatives, was elected to fill the vacancy created by Judge Donaldson's retirement, and he assumed office on January 19, 2021. Presiding Judge Thompson retired in February 2024, and Judge Terry Moore was appointed presiding judge. Bill Lewis, a circuit judge in the 19th Judicial Circuit, was appointed in March 2024 to fill the vacancy created by Judge Thompson's retirement.

MEMBERS OF THE COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS

PRESIDING JUDGES, 1969-PRESENT

Name	Begin Date	End Date
Thomas Werth Thagard	1969	1972
L. Charles Wright	1972	1987
Robert P. Bradley	1987	1989
Richard L. Holmes	1989	1989*
Kenneth F. Ingram	1989	1991
William E. Robertson	1991	2001
Sharon G. Yates	2001	2005
John Brantley Crawley	2005	2007
William C. Thompson	2007	2024
Terry A. Moore	2024	Present

*Served a portion of the year.

ASSOCIATE JUDGES, 1969-PRESENT

Name	Begin Date	End Date
L. Charles Wright	1969	1972

Robert P. Bradley	1969	1987
Richard L. Holmes	1972	1989
Kenneth F. Ingram	1987	1989
William E. Robertson	1989	1991
Robert J. Russell	1989	1991
	1991	1993
Charles A. Thigpen	1991	1997
Sharon G. Yates	1993	2001
Roger M. Monroe	1995	2001
John Brantley Crawley	1995	2005
William C. Thompson	1997	2007
Craig S. Pittman	2001	2019
Glenn Murdock	2001	2007
Tommy Elias Bryan	2005	2013
Terri Willingham Thomas	2007	2019
Terry A. Moore	2007	2024
Scott Donaldson	2013	2021
Christy O. Edwards	2019	Present

Chad A. Hanson	2019	Present
Matthew D. Fridy	2021	Present
Bill Lewis	2024	Present