

JUDICIAL SUMMARY



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Division Overview FY21

DIVISION MISSION STATEMENT AND STRATEGIC GOALS

The Judicial Division is the functional reporting group for the various courts and related agencies that serve Shelby County. There is no centralized administration for this Division because multiple elected officials are included. Offices of the Judicial Division support the following County strategic goals:



Enhance Public Safety and Support Criminal Justice Reform

- [2-a] Support effective jail diversion programs for adult non-violent offenders with substance abuse or mental health issues to reduce detention costs and promote rehabilitation.
- [2-b] Reduce the jail population by reforming the bail system to reduce or eliminate bail for individuals who don't pose a public safety risk and can be expected to show up or trial.
- [2-d] Reduce the number of youth that interact with the criminal justice system by implementing new diversion programs that focus on providing assistance and help to youth involved in minor crimes.
- [2-e] Reduce the recidivism rate of kids who are detained and in county custody.
- [2-f] Administer equitable civil and criminal justice court systems.
- [2-j] Ensure public safety through enforcement of fire, environmental, construction and zoning codes and regulations.



Provide Effective Governance and Sound Stewardship for County Resources

- [5-a] Ensure financial stability through sound oversight of fiscal operations, taxation, debt management and revenue collections. Maintain all records of public transactions as required by the State.
- [5-d] Build trust and confidence in government through transparent, accessible, and responsive interactions with all internal and external customers.

DEPARTMENTAL MISSION/GOALS:

The strategic goals of the division are achieved through the following departmental structure:

7011 Chancery Court – To provide efficient administration of courtroom operations and maintenance of all court records and documents for the three (3) parts of Chancery Court, which is a court of equity.

7021 Circuit Court – To efficiently administer courtroom operations for nine (9) divisions of the thirtieth Judicial Circuit Court and to maintain all official records, documents, and electronic filings from attorneys and pro se litigants.

7031 Criminal Court – To provide administrative support to the ten (10) Criminal Court divisions, to collect fines and fees as directed by the Tennessee Code Annotated, and to maintain all court records and documents.

7041 General Sessions Court – To provide judicial and administrative services for six (6) divisions of General Sessions Civil Court and nine (9) divisions of General Sessions Criminal Court.

7051 Probate Court – To administer estates, probate wills, appoint guardians and conservators for minors and incompetents, change names, approve the partition and sale of real estate, and file all petitions for judicial hospitalization under the Mental Health Law.

7061 Juvenile Court Judge – To protect, as well as correct and rehabilitate the child, to protect society, and to uphold the dignity of the law.

7071 Juvenile Court Clerk – To file all official documents for Shelby County Juvenile Court and to maintain the official court docket and journal.

JUDICIAL

7080 Public Defender – To provide independent and ethical client-centered representation to individuals who are unable to hire private counsel. Providing effective assistance of counsel is mandated under state and federal constitutions for individuals facing loss of liberty in adult and juvenile delinquency proceedings.

7085 Divorce Referee – To review and monitor all divorce complaints filed in Shelby County to assure compliance with local and state laws.

7087 Jury Commission – To maintain an optimal daily supply of eligible jurors allowing efficient court operations while minimizing service time spent by citizens and cost to Shelby County; to maintain accurate and complete records of jury service for the court, jurors, and jurors' employers.

7090 Attorney General – To hold individuals accountable for their crimes and to deter future criminal behavior; to combat violent crime caused by gangs, guns, and drugs.



The Shelby County Courthouse at 140 Adams Street was renamed in honor of Judge D'Army Bailey. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the courthouse was built in 1909 with extensive renovations completed in 1991.