



Paine | Tarwater | Bickers, LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

## GOVERNOR BILL LEE APPOINTS DWIGHT TARWATER AS SUPREME COURT JUSTICE



Dwight E. Tarwater, founding partner in the Knoxville, Tennessee firm Paine, Tarwater, and Bickers, LLP has been appointed to the position of Justice on the Tennessee Supreme Court by Governor Bill Lee. His appointment is subject to confirmation by the General Assembly during the 2023 legislative session.

Tarwater formed the litigation firm with Donald F. Paine and others in April of 1987. In 2014, he was asked to serve as General Counsel to Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam. He served in that role through Haslam's final term.

Returning to the firm in February 2019, Tarwater resumed his position as Senior Partner and furthered his reputation as one of the most respected litigators among his colleagues and peers. In 2002, he was first listed in the *Best Lawyers in America*, compiled through an exhaustive peer review survey of thousands of top lawyers. Since 2002, he has been selected by *Best Lawyers* as Lawyer of the Year for the Knoxville area on five occasions across seven different categories. In 2006, he became a fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Managing Partner Michael King expressed the thoughts of the law firm: "We are thrilled for Dwight. The Tennessee judicial system is gaining a lawyer with unique experience and a passion for the law. Dwight's exemplary personal qualities - leadership, integrity, humility, and wisdom – have been a part of our law firm for over thirty years. He will now dedicate those qualities in service to the State of Tennessee. Our law firm will miss Dwight greatly, but we are excited for Dwight and this opportunity to play a vital role in our judiciary."

Tarwater has extensive and wide-ranging trial and appellate experience in Tennessee and several other states representing Fortune 500 companies and other businesses in mass tort, product liability, pharmaceutical, and commercial cases. On appeal, he has represented clients before the Tennessee Court of Appeals, the Tennessee Supreme Court and in the United States Courts of Appeals for the Fourth, Sixth, Tenth, and Eleventh Circuits.

Tarwater has been a member of the Knoxville and Tennessee Bar Associations since his licensure in 1980. He has served as a board member and President of the Knoxville Barristers (Young Lawyers Division). With the Knoxville Bar Association, he served on the Board of Governors for nine years including service as the Bar's President. He served as East Tennessee Governor of the Tennessee Bar Association and on the Board of the Tennessee Young Lawyers Conference. He has served many professional associations including the American Bar Association, Tennessee Association for Justice, the Defense Research Institute, the International Association of Defense Counsel, Litigation Counsel of America, and the Trial Attorneys of America. He is a fellow in the Knoxville, Tennessee, and American Bar Foundations. He has been an invited guest lecturer at The University of Tennessee College of Law, and he has been asked to speak at various meetings of his professional colleagues.

Dwight and his firm have devoted a great number of hours to the pro bono representation of indigent persons. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Knoxville Legal Aid Society, Volunteer Legal Assistance Program, and Pro Bono Project. His firm has been honored several times with the Pro Bono Law Firm of the Year Award presented by Legal Aid of East Tennessee. He is a graduate of both Leadership Tennessee and Leadership Knoxville and has served multiple boards throughout the community.