

COMMITTEE TO ELECT RENE' WILLIAMS

P.O. Box 325
Providence, Kentucky 42450

Ben Taylor
Director of Content and Engagement
Commonwealth Policy Center
P.O. Box 4172
Frankfort, Kentucky 40604

Re: Elect Judge C. Rene' Williams to the Kentucky Court of Appeals

Dear First District Voters:

I am in my 30th year as a trial judge having served fifteen years as a District Judge and fifteen years as a Circuit Judge in the 5th Judicial Circuit covering Crittenden, Union, and Webster Counties. I also have served as Chief Regional District Judge for the Purchase Area (20 counties) and currently serve as Chief Regional Circuit Judge since being appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in 2007. I established a Drug Court Program for my circuit in 2005 and continue to volunteer as Judge for that program. I recently became a member of the Judicial Ethics Committee as the Circuit Judge representative. I am the only candidate with extensive judicial experience.

I live in Dixon (Webster County) and have lived my whole life in western Kentucky. I was born to young parents, who both worked hard to provide for my brother and me. Raised on a farm outside of Clay, my dad worked many jobs in addition to farming which included a pig farm and later cows. My parents taught me the value of working hard and I consider them a great success story. My dad, Bob Williams, still works everyday running several businesses – he is the smartest person I have ever known. Unfortunately my mom passed away in 2005 – still miss her everyday. I was also fortunate to live near my grandparents, aunts, uncles, and lots of cousins. Sunday dinners after church and family gatherings are my fondest childhood memories. My family is my foundation.

I do not remember ever NOT going to church – its just what we did. I attended First Baptist Church in Clay until I returned home after law school and settled in Dixon where we are members of Dixon General Baptist Church. I am blessed to see my grandchildren being raised in the same church were their parents grew up.

My husband, Brent Green and I were married in the First Baptist Church almost 39 years ago. He is the manager of First Choice Finance Company in Providence. He was raised in Providence and we both graduated from Webster County High School in 1976. He is a member of the Dixon Masonic Lodge and a Shriner. He is an avid hunter and life member of the National Rifle Association and has worked with Ducks Unlimited (DU) and National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF). We are the proud parents of two beautiful daughters; Ellie and her husband Brent Stewart who have blessed us with three precious grandchildren, Claire (5), Max (4) and Luke 17 months; Natalie and her husband Brant Green who have blessed us with sweet Blaine (3 months). We are very fortunate to have them living and working in our community. Spending time with my babies is my favorite thing to do! I have been involved in many community activities over the years and currently serve on the Happy Feet Learning Program, the Health Coalition, "GrowWebCo" and the Distinguished Young Woman Program (Jr. Miss) Scholarship Program.

I attended Henderson Community College and then transferred to Murray State University. I received my bachelor of science degree in Business Administration in 1980 with a minor in Social Work. I served as President of Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority. I received my law degree from the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law where I was a member of the Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity.

I started my law career in Henderson, Kentucky with Attorney Elizabeth Vaughn where I engaged in a general practice of law which included domestics, civil, criminal, worker's compensation, real estate/titles, and my favorite – Social Security Disability cases in Federal Court. It was extremely satisfying to help people and their families receive benefits they deserved. Prior to my election as District Judge in 1989, the firm had become Vaughn, Bishop and Williams. I served as President of the Henderson County Bar Association while still in private practice. I also served as President of the Providence Chamber of Commerce and President of the Woman's Club in Dixon. I was named as Ky's Outstanding Young Careerist in 1987. I am currently a member of the Kentucky Bar Association, the Circuit Judges Association, and the Webster County Bar Association.

In 1989, I successfully ran against an incumbent for District Judge for Crittenden, Union and Webster Counties. As District Judge, I handled all traffic offenses, fish and wildlife violations and all misdemeanor crimes, including DUIs. I also held preliminary hearings for felony charges, issued search warrants, and set bonds. Prior to our Circuit getting a Family Court Judge in 2002, I presided over dependency neglect and abuse cases, all juvenile matters, paternity and child support, and domestic violence cases. I also handled civil matters, small claims court, and probate court. Involuntary hospitalizations and guardianships were a part of my docket as well as jury trials. During this time, I worked with social workers, teachers, counselors, juvenile officers, and law enforcement to provide the best services possible for all those involved with the courts. In 1991, I served on the Attorney General's task force to address Domestic Violence Laws. I have also served on the Governor's Judicial Advisory Committee of Sexual Abuse and Domestic Violence Services. I have been a member of the KBA legislative team for the 1st Supreme Court District. I served on the District Judge Education Committee and served as an instructor at Judicial Colleges.

In 2004, I was appointed to serve as Circuit Judge for the 5th Judicial Circuit. I immediately began the process of establishing a Drug Court Program and was accepted to attend Federal Training. After seeing the devastation substance abuse has on families, I felt it was incumbent upon me to use my position as a judge to help folks with their addiction issues thus building stronger families and protecting our children. I consider Drug Court to be a great tool in the war against drugs and am very passionate about the program.

As Circuit Judge, I handle all civil litigation involving money matters over \$5,000.00 as well as property issues. This can include personal injury, wrongful death, foreclosures, contract disputes, and boundary disputes just to name a few. I preside over all Felony cases which means a person can be facing from one (1) year in prison up to the death penalty. I set and review bonds and also handle Probation Revocation hearings. I also serve as an Appellate Judge for appeals from District Court. I have had decisions appealed to the Court of Appeals and to the Supreme Court. I have had decisions affirmed, some reversed, and some remanded so I know what that experience is like. After so many years, I have not compiled statistics but appreciate the role of the appellate courts. I think it is important that our system has checks and balances. While I strive to make sound decisions based on the Constitution and the facts before me, I welcome a review of my work in hopes that citizens receive a fair evaluation of their cases. It is not my job to legislate, it is my job as a judge to adjudicate in the most fair and impartial way I can based on our Constitution, giving no preference to any person or special agenda.

Again, I believe our Founding Fathers were brilliant to establish a system full of checks and balances so that people have the opportunity to have opinions reviewed. Making decisions that affect the lives of citizens is difficult so I am hesitant to criticize other courts on matters I was not involved in. As a Court of Appeals Judge, I would exercise due diligence to review matters before the Court and give respect to the situation as a whole as every case is important to the parties involved, just as I have done for the past 30 years.

I admire Chief Justice John Marshall because of his Opinion in the case of Marbury vs. Madison decided in 1803. This case established the principal of judicial review and established the importance of the U.S. Constitution as "law." It established the roles of the branches of government and held that the courts have the power to invalidate laws that they find violate the Constitution. This case clarified the role of the Courts that we still adhere today, again, providing checks and balance for the protection of citizens rights.

I believe the voters should elect me as their next Court of Appeals Judge because of my 30 years of Judicial experience. I have handled everything from a speeding ticket to a murder trial. I am the only candidate with real trial court experience and appellate experience. I have worked hard to establish my role as a fair judge who upholds the law and respects the people. I am honored to serve and appreciate that I have not been opposed since 1989. I believe that establishes that the people are satisfied with the job I have done and I would continue to do as a Judge on the Court of Appeals. I humbly ask for your vote.

Thank you.

Judge C. Rene' Williams

Candidate for Kentucky Court of Appeals Judge