

**Judge Robin Kimbrough Hayes** is a Judge for Division V, General Sessions Court Metropolitan Nashville & Davidson County, Tennessee. She was elected to the bench in 2022. During her time on the bench, Judge Hayes implemented the Courtroom Buddy Program, staffed by volunteers, who call persons to remind them of their court date, increasing court attendance. She implemented Court Officer of the Day to invite elementary and high school students to observe everyday court proceedings. Since its implementation, over 100 students have participated in the program.

Judge Hayes launched the first Convenience Court Virtual Traffic Court which allows people to attend court without risking their jobs, incurring costs to attend court, and creating access for those with physical challenges or other barriers that would keep them from making it to court. Since taking office Judge Hayes has hired and mentored more than four interns from various local area law schools as well as interns outside of Tennessee. Judge Hayes created various legal projects and legal surveys along with the interns that promote the overall welfare of the court.

Before becoming a judge, Judge Hayes served in the Tennessee Attorney General's Office as an Assistant

Attorney General in the Criminal Justice Division and was later appointed to the position of Associate General Counsel for the Tennessee Department of Children's Services. After practicing with the Department of Children's Services, Judge Hayes stayed at home with her two children for a few years. She returned to the practice of law as the Legal Counsel for the Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence. As Legal Counsel, Judge Hayes influenced, wrote, and trained on legislation having an impact on Tennessee's domestic and sexual violence laws.

Judge Hayes is an ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church. She has served as Chaplain and Special Advisor to the President on United Methodist Affairs at Meharry Medical College.

Judge Hayes graduated from Emory University School of Law. She received her bachelor's degree in English language and literature/letters from Fisk University and her Master of Divinity from Vanderbilt Divinity School. Judge Hayes has two self-published books, *Be Encouraged: 100 Messages of Hope and Healing* and *Exercise Your Faith: A 21-Day Journey to Physical and Spiritual Fitness*.

Judge Hayes is a recipient of the Napier-Looby Bar Association A.A. Birch Service Award and received the Nashville Coalition Against Domestic Violence Advocate of the Year. She is a past committee co-chair for LAW's Litigation and Legislation Committee. Judge Hayes was instrumental in encouraging LAW's DEI Committee to reinstate LAW's Diversity Essay Scholarship Contest in 2022-2023.