

Daviess County Circuit Judges



By Jerry Long

From book, Circuit Judges of Daviess County, Kentucky, Jerry Long, (Owensboro, KY: Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library, 1990, catalog # KR 976.9864 Circ) and subsequent updates:


		Born	Died
1815-1821	Henry Powell Brodnax	(15 Mar 1769	- 4 Feb 1857)
1822-1841	Alney McLean	(10 Jun 1779	- 30 Dec 1841)
1842-1851	John Calhoon	(13 Apr 1793	- 15 Oct 1852)
1851-1851	John Pierre Devereux	(29 Apr 1821	- 23 May 1881)
1851-1856	Jesse White Kincheloe	(22 Dec 1805	- 10 Aug 1887)
1856-1867	James A. Stuart	(22 Mar 1820	- 17 Oct 1891)
1867-1867	James Leeper Johnson	(30 Oct 1818	- 12 Feb 1877)
1867-1870	George Washington Williams	(27 Nov 1814	- 29 Sep 1890)
1870-1874	Martin Hardin Cofer	(1 Apr 1832	- 22 May 1881)
1874-1880	James A. Stuart	(22 Mar 1820	- 17 Oct 1891)
1880-1893	Lucius Powhattan Little	(15 Feb 1838	- 30 Dec 1918)
1893-1904	William T. Owen	(22 Jul 1830	- 26 Jul 1908)
1904-1916	Thomas Foreman Birkhead	(7 Nov 1856	- 29 Jun 1945)
1916-1922	Robert Winfield Slack	(11 Jul 1848	- 26 Dec 1924)
1922-1940	George Simpson Wilson	(14 Nov 1876	- 15 Oct 1948)
1940-1958	Sidney Bishop Neal	(28 Apr 1896	- 30 Jul 1983)

Two divisions – Divisions I & II, were established in 1962

Division I		
1958-1968	Thomas James Hennessy	(31 May 1917 - 1 Jan 1968)
1968-1968	David Clark Brodie	(6 Nov 1906 - 13 Feb 1989)
1968-1985	Henry McHenry Griffin	(26 Dec 1921 - 1 Dec 1991)
1985-1985	Calvin Ray Robinson	(17 Apr 1927 - 25 Mar 2024)
1985-1992	James Edward McDaniel	(14 Oct 1924 - 6 Oct 2017)
1992-1995	Joseph Henry McKinley	(9 Jun 1954 -)
1995-2000	Garland Whitt Howard	(24 Feb 1934 - 7 Oct 2009)
2000-2007	Henry McHenry Griffin, III	(19 May 1953 -)
2007-2022	James “Jay” Alexander Wethington	(7 Feb 1954 -)

Division II		
1962-1973	Daniel Moseley Griffith	(26 Aug 1906 - 14 May 1973)
	Calvin Ray Robinson	(17 Apr 1927 - 25 Mar 2024)
	[appointed but did not serve]	
1973-1995	Robert Maurice Short	(19 Aug 1931 - 16 Dec 2005)
1995-2008	Thomas O’Bryan Castlen	(30 Jul 1951 -)
2008-2019	Joseph William Castlen	(22 May 1948 -)
2019-2024	Lisa Ann Payne Jones	(15 Oct 1971 -)
2025-	David Charles Payne	(1 Feb 1955 -)

Circuit Judges of Daviess County, Kentucky

From	To	
9 Oct 1815	- 3 Oct 1821	<p>Henry P. Brodnax</p>  <p>first court: Monday, 9 Oct 1815 Daviess County Circuit Court Order Book A, p4 last court: Wednesday, 3 Oct 1821 Daviess County Circuit Court Order Book 1, p435</p>
1 Apr 1822	- 16 Oct 1841	<p>Alney McLean</p>



first court: Monday, 1 Apr 1822
 Daviess County Circuit Court Order Book A, p437
 last court: Saturday, 16 Oct 1841
 Daviess County Circuit Court Order Book E, p385

11 Apr 1842 - 21 Jan 1851

John Calhoon



first court: Monday, 11 Apr 1842
 Daviess County Circuit Court Order Book E, p398
 last court: Tuesday, 21 Jan 1851
 Daviess County Circuit Court Order Book H, p444

19 May 1851 - 7 Jun 1851

John P. Devereux



first court: Monday, 19 May 1851
 Daviess County Circuit Court Order Book H, p467
 last court: Saturday, 7 Jun 1851
 Daviess County Circuit Court Order Book H, p554

1 Sep 1851 - 1 Sep 1856

Jesse W. Kincheloe



elected: Monday, 4 Aug 1851
 Election on first Monday of August
 took office: Monday, 1 Sep 1851
 Daviess County Circuit Court Order Book H, p556

1 Sep 1856 - 1 Sep 1862

James Stuart



elected: Monday, 4 Aug 1856
 History of Daviess County, Kentucky, c1883, p101
 took office: Monday, 1 Sep 1856
 Daviess County Circuit Court Order Book L, p1

1 Sep 1862 - 9 Mar 1867

James Stuart



elected: Monday, 4 Aug 1862
 History of Daviess County, Kentucky, c1883, p101
 took office: Monday, 1 Sep 1862
 At time took office on first Monday in September
 resigned: Saturday, 9 Mar 1867
 Last court presided at – Daviess County Circuit
 Court Order Book Q, p579; Owensboro Monitor,
 27 Mar 1867, p3

4 May 1867 - 2 Sep 1867

James L. Johnson



appointed: April 1867
 Owensboro Monitor, Wednesday, 1 May 1867, p3
 took office: Saturday, 4 May 1867
 Owensboro Monitor, Wednesday, 1 May 1867, p3;
 Daviess County Circuit Court Order Book R, p7

2 Sep 1867 - 7 Sep 1868

George W. Williams



elected: Monday, 5 Aug 1867
 History of Daviess County, Kentucky, c1883, p102;
 Owensboro Monitor, Wednesday, 7 Aug 1867, p3
 [elected to fill final year of Judge Stuart's term]
 took office: Monday, 2 Sep 1867
 Owensboro Monitor, Wednesday, 4 Sep 1867, p3;
 Daviess County Circuit Court Order Book R, p78

7 Sep 1868 - Jan 1870

George W. Williams



elected: Monday, 3 Aug 1868
 History of Daviess County, Kentucky, c1883, p102
 took office: Monday, 7 Sep 1868
 At time took office on first Monday in September
 resigned: January 1870
 Historical Atlas Map of Daviess Co., Ky, c1876, p36

14 Feb 1870 - 5 Sep 1870

Martin H. Cofer



appointed: Saturday, 15 Jan 1870
 Daviess County Circuit Court Order Book T, p1
 took office: Monday, 14 Feb 1870
 Daviess County Circuit Court Order Book T, p1

5 Sep 1870 - 7 Sep 1874

Martin H. Cofer



elected: Monday, 1 Aug 1870
 History of Daviess County, Kentucky, c1883, p103
 [Elected to fill final 4 years of Judge Williams' term]
 took office: Monday, 5 Sep 1870
 At time took office on first Monday in September

7 Sep 1874 - 6 Sep 1880

James Stuart



elected: Monday, 3 Aug 1874
 Owensboro Monitor, Wednesday, 5 Aug 1874, p3
 took office: Monday, 7 Sep 1874
 At time took office on first Monday in September

6 Sep 1880 - 6 Sep 1886

Lucius P. Little



elected: Monday, 2 Aug 1880
 Messenger & Examiner, Wednesday, 4 Aug 1880, p3
 took office: Monday, 6 Sep 1880
 Daviess County Circuit Court Order Book 12, p206

6 Sep 1886 - 16 Jan 1893

Lucius P. Little



elected: Monday, 2 Aug 1886
 Election on first Monday of August
 took office: Monday, 6 Sep 1886
 Daviess County Circuit Court Order Book 24, p2

16 Jan 1893 - 17 Jan 1898

W. T. Owen



elected: Tuesday, 8 Nov 1892
 Owensboro Messenger, Wednesday, 9 Nov 1892, p5
 took office: Monday, 16 Jan 1893
 Daviess County Circuit Court Order Book 37, p2

17 Jan 1898 - 18 Jan 1904

W. T. Owen



elected: Tuesday, 2 Nov 1897

Owensboro Messenger, Wednesday, 3 Nov 1897, p1
took office: Monday, 17 Jan 1898
Daviness County Circuit Court Order Book 51, p1

18 Jan 1904 - 17 Jan 1910

Thomas F. Birkhead



elected: Tuesday, 3 Nov 1903
Owensboro Messenger, Wednesday, 4 Nov 1903, p1
took office: Monday, 18 Jan 1904
Owensboro Messenger, Sunday, 3 Jan 1904, p2
& Tuesday, 19 Jan 1904 p3

17 Jan 1910 - 3 Jan 1916

Thomas F. Birkhead



elected: Tuesday, 2 Nov 1909
Owensboro Messenger, Wednesday, 3 Nov 1909, p1
took office: Monday, 17 Jan 1910
Owensboro Messenger, Tuesday, 18 Jan 1910, p6 &
Daviness County Circuit Court Order Book 68 p1

3 Jan 1916 - 2 Jan 1922

Robert W. Slack



elected: Tuesday, 2 Nov 1915
Owensboro Messenger, Wednesday, 3 Nov 1915, p1
took office: Monday, 3 Jan 1916
Owensboro Messenger, Tuesday, 4 Jan 1916, p2

2 Jan 1922 - 2 Jan 1928

George S. Wilson



elected: Tuesday, 8 Nov 1921
Owensboro Messenger, Wednesday, 9 Nov 1921, p1
took office: Monday, 2 Jan 1922
Owensboro Messenger, Tuesday, 3 Jan 1922, p3

2 Jan 1928 - 1 Jan 1934

George S. Wilson



elected: Tuesday, 8 Nov 1927
Owensboro Messenger, Wednesday, 9 Nov 1927, p1
took office: Monday, 2 Jan 1928
Owensboro Messenger, Tuesday, 3 Jan 1928, p8

1 Jan 1934 - 1 Jan 1940

George S. Wilson



elected: Tuesday, 7 Nov 1933
Owensboro Messenger, Friday, 10 Nov 1933, p1
took office: Monday, 1 Jan 1934
Owensboro Messenger, Tuesday, 2 Jan 1934, p1

1 Jan 1940 - 7 Jan 1946

Sidney B. Neal



elected: Tuesday, 7 Nov 1939
Owensboro Messenger, Wednesday, 8 Nov 1939, p1
took office: Monday, 1 Jan 1940
Owensboro Messenger, Tuesday, 2 Jan 1940, p1

7 Jan 1946 - 7 Jan 1952

Sidney B. Neal



elected: Tuesday, 6 Nov 1945
Owensboro Messenger, Wednesday, 7 Nov 1945, p1
took office: Monday, 7 Jan 1946
Owensboro Messenger, Tuesday, 8 Jan 1946, p1

7 Jan 1952 - 6 Jan 1958

Sidney B. Neal



elected: Tuesday, 6 Nov 1951
Owensboro Messenger, Thursday, 8 Nov 1951, p3
took office: Monday, 7 Jan 1952
Owensboro Messenger, Tuesday, 8 Jan 1952, p3

6 Jan 1958 - 6 Jan 1964

Thomas J. Hennessy



elected: Tuesday, 5 Nov 1957
Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 6 Nov 1957, p1
took office: Monday, 6 Jan 1958
Messenger-Inquirer, Tuesday, 7 Jan 1958, p1

Division I

6 Jan 1964 - 1 Jan 1968

Thomas J. Hennessy (Division I)



elected: Tuesday, 5 Nov 1963
Messenger-Inquirer, Monday, 4 Nov 1963, p6A
took office: Monday, 6 Jan 1964
Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 8 Jan 1964, p2A
died in office: Monday, 1 Jan 1968
Messenger-Inquirer, Tuesday, 2 Jan 1968, p1A

8 Jan 1968 - 23 Nov 1968

David C. Brodie (Division I)



appointed: Friday, 5 Jan 1968
Messenger-Inquirer, Saturday, 6 Jan 1968, p1A
took office: Monday, 8 Jan 1968
Messenger-Inquirer, Tuesday, 9 Jan 1968, p1A

23 Nov 1968 - 5 Jan 1970

Henry M. Griffin (Division I)



elected: Tuesday, 5 Nov 1968
Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 6 Nov 1968, p1A
[Elected to fill final year of Judge Hennessy's term]
took office: Saturday, 23 Nov 1968
Messenger-Inquirer, Sunday, 24 Nov 1968, p1A

5 Jan 1970 - 5 Jan 1976

Henry M. Griffin (Division I)



elected: Tuesday, 4 Nov 1969
Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 5 Nov 1969, p2A
took office: Monday, 5 Jan 1970
At time took office on first Monday in January

5 Jan 1976 - 2 Jan 1984

Henry M. Griffin (Division I)



elected: Tuesday, 4 Nov 1975
Messenger-Inquirer, Sunday, 2 Nov 1975, p9
[Term of office changed from 6 to 8 years]
took office: Monday, 5 Jan 1976
At time took office on first Monday in January

2 Jan 1984 - 3 Jun 1985

Henry M. Griffin (Division I)



elected: Tuesday, 8 Nov 1983
Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 9 Nov 1983, p1C
took office: Monday, 2 Jan 1984
At time took office on first Monday in January
retired: Monday, 3 Jun 1985
Messenger-Inquirer, Thursday, 2 May 1985, p1A
& Friday, 14 Jun 1985, p1A

19 Jun 1985 - 21 Nov 1985

Calvin Ray Robinson (Division I)



appointed: Wednesday, 12 Jun 1985
Messenger-Inquirer, Friday, 14 Jun 1985, p1A
took office: Wednesday, 19 Jun 1985
Messenger-Inquirer, Thursday, 20 Jun 1985, p1C

21 Nov 1985 - 6 Jan 1992

James E. McDaniel (Division I)



elected: Tuesday, 5 Nov 1985
Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 6 Nov 1985, p1A
took office: Thursday, 21 Nov 1985
Messenger-Inquirer, Tuesday, 19 Nov 1985, p2B
& Friday, 22 Nov 1985, p2C

6 Jan 1992 - 25 Aug 1995

Joseph McKinley (Division I)



elected: Tuesday, 5 Nov 1991
 Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 6 Nov 1991, p1A
 took office: Monday, 6 Jan 1992
 Messenger-Inquirer, Saturday, 4 Jan 1992, p1B
 resigned: Friday, 25 Aug 1995
 Messenger-Inquirer, Saturday, 26 Aug 1995, p1A

30 Oct 1995 - 6 Jan 1997

Garland Howard (Division I)



appointed: Friday, 6 Oct 1995
 Messenger-Inquirer, Saturday, 7 Oct 1995, p1C
 took office: Monday, 30 Oct 1995
 Messenger-Inquirer, Tuesday, 31 Oct 1995, p1C

6 Jan 1997 - 3 Jan 2000

Garland Howard (Division I)



elected: Tuesday, 5 Nov 1996
 Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 6 Nov 1996, p9A
 took office: Monday, 6 Jan 1997
 At time took office on first Monday in January

3 Jan 2000 - 1 Jan 2007

Henry M. Griffin (Division I)



elected: Tuesday, 2 Nov 1999
 Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 3 Nov 1999, p1A
 took office: Monday, 3 Jan 2000

at time took office on first Monday in January

1 Jan 2007 - 6 Nov 2007

Henry M. Griffin (Division I)



elected: Tuesday, 7 Nov 2006
Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 8 Nov 2006, p4B
took office: Monday, 1 Jan 2007
At time took office on first Monday in January
resigned: Sunday, 10 Jun 2007
Messenger-Inquirer, Thursday, 24 May 2007, p1A
[Served until November election]

6 Nov 2007 - 5 Jan 2015

Jay Wethington (Division I)



elected: Tuesday, 6 Nov 2007
Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 7 Nov 2007, p2A
took office: Tuesday, 6 Nov 2007
Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 7 Nov 2007, p2A

5 Jan 2015 - 31 Aug 2022

Jay Wethington (Division I)



elected: Tuesday, 4 Nov 2014
unopposed in general election
took office: 5 Jan 2015
at time took office on first Monday in January
resigned: 31 Aug 2022

Messenger-Inquirer, 2 Aug 2022, p1A
(retired Circuit Judge Tom Castlen
completed Judge Wethington's
unexpired term)

2 Jan 2023 -

Jay Wethington (Division I)



elected: Tuesday, 8 Nov 2022
Messenger-Inquirer, 9 Nov 2022, p1A
took office: 2 Jan 2023
at time took office on first Monday in January

Division II

20 Mar 1962 - 6 Jan 1964

Dan M. Griffith (Division II)



appointed: Tuesday, 20 Mar 1962
Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 21 Mar 1962, p1A
took office: Tuesday, 20 Mar 1962
Messenger-Inquirer, Tuesday, 21 Mar 1962, p1A

6 Jan 1964 - 5 Jan 1970

Dan M. Griffith (Division II)



elected: Tuesday, 5 Nov 1963

Messenger-Inquirer, Monday, 4 Nov 1963, p6A
took office: Monday, 6 Jan 1964
Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 8 Jan 1964, p2A

5 Jan 1970 - 14 May 1973

Dan M. Griffith (Division II)



elected: Tuesday, 4 Nov 1969
Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 5 Nov 1969, p2A
took office: Monday, 5 Jan 1970
At time took office on first Monday in January
died in office: Monday, 14 May 1973
Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 16 May 1973, p1A

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Calvin Ray Robinson (Division II)



appointed: Friday, 6 Jul 1973
Messenger-Inquirer, Saturday, 7 Jul 1973, p1A
declined appointment: 23 Jul 1973
Messenger-Inquirer, Tuesday, 24 Jul 1973, p1A

16 Nov 1973 - 5 Jan 1976

Robert M. Short (Division II)



elected: Tuesday, 6 Nov 1973
Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 7 Nov 1973, p1A
took office: Friday, 16 Nov 1973
Messenger-Inquirer, Saturday, 17 Nov 1973, p1B

5 Jan 1976 - 2 Jan 1984

Robert M. Short (Division II)



elected: Tuesday, 4 Nov 1975
Messenger-Inquirer, 2 Nov 1975, Supplement, p9
took office: Monday, 5 Jan 1976
At time took office on first Monday in January

2 Jan 1984 - 6 Jan 1992

Robert M. Short (Division II)



elected: Tuesday, 8 Nov 1983
Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 9 Nov 1983, p1C
took office: Monday, 2 Jan 1984
At time took office on first Monday in January

6 Jan 1992 - 1 Jun 1995

Robert M. Short (Division II)



elected: Tuesday, 5 Nov 1991
Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 6 Nov 1991, p1A
took office: Monday, 6 Jan 1992
Messenger-Inquirer, Saturday, 4 Jan 1992, p1B
retired: Thursday, 1 Jun 1995
Messenger-Inquirer, Friday, 2 Jun 1995, p1B

14 Aug 1995 - 1 Jan 1996

Tom Castlen (Division II)



appointed: Monday, 14 Aug 1995
Messenger-Inquirer, Tuesday, 15 Aug 1995, p1A
took office: Monday, 14 Aug 1995
Messenger-Inquirer, Tuesday, 15 Aug 1995, p1A

1 Jan 1996 - 3 Jan 2000

Tom Castlen (Division II)



elected: Tuesday, 7 Nov 1995
Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 8 Nov 1995, p1C
took office: Monday, 1 Jan 1996
at time took office on first Monday in January

3 Jan 2000 - 1 Jan 2007

Tom Castlen (Division II)



elected: Tuesday, 2 Nov 1999
Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 3 Nov 1999, p1A
took office: Monday, 3 Jan 2000
at time took office on first Monday in January

1 Jan 2007 - 26 Nov 2008

Tom Castlen (Division II)



elected: Tuesday, 7 Nov 2006
 Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 8 Nov 2006, p4B
 took office: Monday, 1 Jan 2007
 At time took office on first Monday in January
 resigned: May 2008
 Messenger-Inquirer, 15 May 2008, p1A
 served until 4 Nov 2008 election

26 Nov 2008 - 5 Jan 2015

Joe Castlen (Division II)



elected: Tuesday, 4 Nov 2008
 Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 5 Nov 2008, p1B
 took office: Wednesday, 26 Nov 2008
 Judge Joe Castlen interview on 28 Apr 2009

5 Jan 2015 - 26 Nov 2019

Joe Castlen (Division II)



elected: Tuesday, 4 Nov 2014
 unopposed in general election
 took office: Monday, 5 Jan 2015
 at time took office on first Monday in January

26 Nov 2019 - 29 Apr 2024

Lisa Payne Jones (Division II)



elected Tuesday, 5 Nov 2019
 Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 27 Nov 2019, p1A
 took office: Tuesday, 26 Nov 2019
 Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 27 Nov 2019, p1A
 vacated office: Monday, 29 Apr 2024
 Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 1 May 2024, p.1A
 [Joe Castlen filled her position until following election]

6 Jan 2025 -

David Payne (Division II)



elected: Tuesday, 5 Nov 2024
 Messenger-Inquirer, Wednesday, 6 Nov 2024. p1B
 took office: Monday, 6 Jan 2025
 at time took office on first Monday in January