

## BILLY J. STOKES

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### PROFESSIONAL HISTORY:

**December 1, 2014 – Present:**

Mediation practice known as Rocky Hill Mediation Center; Tennessee Supreme Court R. 31 Listed Mediator, Civil/Family. Still involved with general practice as well. Martindale-Hubbell AV peer rating (Preeminent). “Of Counsel” to Stokes, Williams, Sharp, Cope & Mann, P.C.

**May 1, 1999 – December 1, 2014:**

Shareholder, Stokes, Williams, Sharp & Cope & Mann, P.C. Practiced litigation in areas of personal injury, transportation law, employment issues, environmental, and governmental relations/administrative law. Represented individuals, insureds, insurance companies, self-insureds, employers, manufacturers, and service providers. Lead counsel in a large number of jury and non-jury cases litigated to conclusion in State and Federal Courts throughout the region.

**February, 1997 – May, 1999:**

Partner, Stokes, Fansler & Williams (Daryl Fansler elected Chancellor in '98). Similar practice areas as above.

**January, 1995 – February, 1997:**

Cabinet & Senior Staff, State of Tennessee. Initially appointed Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Employment Security, later promoted to Governor Sundquist's Senior Staff as Special Assistant to the Governor. Administration's "Point Man" on Worker's

Compensation Reform Act of 1996; coordinated State's involvement in 1996 Olympic Games, overseeing the canoe/kayak events on the Ocoee River, the only Gold Medal venue outside the State of Georgia; instrumental in developing programs to encourage beneficial end use for discarded tires; and served as Governor's Appointee to the Board of the Duck River Agency. Assigned to TVA related issues and development of "Families First" Welfare Reform Program. After return to private practice, served as Governor's Appointee to the Juvenile Justice Reform Commission (1998-99) charged with rewriting the Juvenile Code.

**March, 1989 –  
January, 1995:**

Partner, Stokes and Fansler. Practice similar to that listed above, with more emphasis on personal injury litigation and worker's compensation defense.

**August, 1982 –  
February, 1989:**

Bond, Carpenter & O'Connor (later Carpenter & O'Connor). Associate in insurance defense firm, became partner in 1985. Left to form Stokes and Fansler in 1989.

**October, 1979 –  
August, 1982:**

Captain, U.S. Army, Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAGC). Primarily administrative law, including representation of the Ballistic Missile Defense Systems Command (BMDSCOM) in labor relations issues with civilian employees union. Honorable Discharge, October 1982.

**Prior Employment:**

**August, 1976 –  
October, 1979:**

East Tennessee Regional Juvenile Detention Center and Knox County Juvenile Court. Worked fulltime throughout law school as shift supervisor, responsible for staff of 8-10 employees and up to 40 juvenile detainees. Upon graduation from law school, served as intake counselor for the Court, with responsibility for drafting juvenile petitions for social service agencies, parents, and law enforcement. Left for active duty military service.

**1975-1976:** Knoxville Police Department, Juvenile Counselor. Bonded police officer with full arrest powers. Left KPD to attend law school.

**1970-1975:** Held various jobs through college, to include farm labor, truck driver, warehouse worker, bartender, athletics official, retail sales, etc.

**Education:** J. D., University of Tennessee College of Law, 1979.

B. A., University of Tennessee, 1975. Major: Psychology  
Minors: Political Science and Sociology

Current or ahead of schedule with CLE requirements. Attended numerous seminars related to trial practice, truck related accidents, etc. Served as “faculty” at several legal seminars.

**Associations & Activities:** Tennessee Supreme Court Listed Rule 31 Mediator; Listed as Civil (2005); Family (2015).

Martindale Hubbell AV Rated Lawyer (Pre-eminent peer rating).

Member of the American, Tennessee and Knoxville Bar Associations; Member of the Hamilton Burnett Chapter of the American Inns of Court; served as the Mayor’s appointee to the City of Knoxville Civil Service Merit System Board, 2000-2010; Governor’s appointee to the Knoxville-Knox County Community Services Agency; Appointed to Knox County Charter Review Commission by Knox County Mayor in 2012; Served on City-County Efficiency Committee jointly appointed by City and County Mayors. Previously served on several Boards of Directors for non-profit organizations.

Appointed to Knoxville/Knox County Public Building Authority (PBA) by Knox County Mayor in 2007; Vice Chair 2009, Chair 2010-2011. Now in second appointed term on PBA. Presently on Boards of The Museum of Appalachia and Golden Gloves Charities, Inc. Fellow, U. S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, PA. (Seminar Nine, Class of 2000). Member, American Legion Post 2 and American

Legion Riders. Longtime member of Master's Lodge #244, F & AM and Knoxville Scottish Rite.

**Publications:**

*Unemployment Compensation, Survey and Update, Labor Law Journal*, 47(9) at 602-612, Sept. 1996 (co-author). *Bad Faith: General Application in the Insurer-Insured Relationship*, Lorman Education Services, 2007. Various letters and guest columns published in magazines and newspapers.

**Hobbies:**

Motorcycling, boating, travel and reading.

**Personal:**

Wife – Bay, retired Reading Recovery Specialist with Knox County Schools. Daughter, Angie Hood and husband, Lieutenant Colonel William D. Hood, United States Marine Corps, and daughters, Maddie and Caroline. Daughter, Amy Hickerson, and husband, Scott Hickerson. Amy is a Law Clerk, United States District Court, Knoxville, TN. Scott is a lawyer with Shuttleworth-Williams, based in Memphis, but the Hickersons reside in Knoxville with daughter, Bailey, and son, Stokes. Emmylou, Black and Tan Coonhound rescued in 2007.

The Stokes family are fans of the University of Tennessee Volunteers and Lady Vols, as well as the Tennessee Titans.