

United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee
Announcement: New Magistrate Judges to be Appointed

The United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee announces that Alistair Newbern and Jeffery S. (Chip) Frensley have been selected to fill the Magistrate Judge positions to be vacated by retiring Magistrate Judges John S. Bryant and E. Clifton Knowles.

Alistair Newbern will be filling the position to be vacated by Judge Bryant on August 31, 2016. Alistair earned her A.B. degree from Brown University, with honors, in 1995. She earned her Juris Doctor degree from the U.C. Berkeley School of Law in 2000, and followed that with an LL.M. in Advocacy from Georgetown University School of Law in 2010. She was a member of Law Review at U.C. Berkeley, serving as the Senior Notes and Comments Editor for the California Law Review. Alistair joined Vanderbilt University's law school faculty in the fall of 2008, and subsequently launched its Appellate Litigation Clinic, in which third-year law students work on behalf of clients who could not otherwise afford representation. In addition, Alistair has been an active leader in the George Barrett Social Justice Program at Vanderbilt, which is dedicated to providing students the education, mentoring, and practice experience they need to pursue careers in public interest law or to include public service in whatever career they choose. Her many career achievements include the publication of articles in the Clinical Law Review and the California Law Review. In 2015, she was named a Fellow of the Nashville Bar Foundation. Alistair has practiced in the areas of civil and criminal law with a heavy emphasis on litigation of cases, mostly at the federal appellate court level. The judges of the Court extend their welcome to the bench to Magistrate Judge Newbern.

Chip Frensley will be filling the position to be vacated by Judge Knowles on October 9, 2016. Frensley graduated from the University of Mississippi with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1992 and earned his Juris Doctor degree from Vanderbilt University in 1995. He has over twenty years of federal courtroom litigation experience in both civil and criminal law. He has been a member of the Criminal Justice Act (CJA) Panel for the Middle District of Tennessee since 1997, and been recognized as the panel lawyer of the year as well as being listed in Best Lawyers in America for criminal defense. Since 2009, Mr. Frensley has served as the Chief National CJA Representative to the Defender Services Committee of the United States Judicial Conference representing the nearly 14,000 private lawyers nationwide who represent indigent defendants in federal court. In 2015, Chip was one of eleven members selected to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Criminal Justice Act by United States Supreme Court Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. This is the first comprehensive review of the Act in over twenty years. In addition to his work in criminal defense, he has practiced in the areas of employment law, civil rights litigation, and administrative law at both the trial and appellate levels. He is a member of the American Bar Association and has served as a member of the Board of Trustees for the West End United Methodist Church. The Court welcomes Magistrate Judge Frensley to the Bench.