

# Court of Criminal Appeals

Constitution, Article 7 § 1

**History and Function**—The Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals is the highest court in Oklahoma with appellate jurisdiction in criminal cases. It is the state court of last resort in criminal matters. The court derives its origin and jurisdiction from the state constitution, which was formulated by the constitutional convention and submitted to and adopted by the people of Oklahoma at the first election on September 17, 1907. Members of this court are appointed by the governor from a list of three names submitted by the Oklahoma Judicial Nominating Commission.

Name	City	District
Vacant		1
Charles A. Johnson, Presiding Judge	Norman	2
Gary L. Lumpkin	Madill	3
Arlene Johnson Vice-Presiding Judge	Oklahoma City	4
David Lewis	Lawton	5

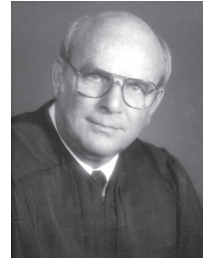
**Administration Office**—State Capitol Building, Room 230, Oklahoma City, OK 73105 • 405/521-2156 • [www.okcca.net](http://www.okcca.net) • Agency Code 199, IA

## Staff Attorneys

Lendell S. Blosser	Gaylene Henley
David C. Bugg	Lou Ann Kohlman
Brant Elmore	Maria Kolar
Hillary C. Stolzenberg	Brad Little
Pete Gelvin	Melanie Stucky
Patty Grotta	M. Caroline Mitchell
Suzanne Heggy	Allen Smith
Russ Wheeler	Bryan Dupler

# Judges of the Court of Criminal Appeals

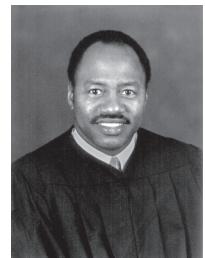
**Charles A. Johnson, Presiding Judge,** District 2. Johnson was born in Kansas City, Missouri, and graduated from Ponca City High School. He attended the University of Oklahoma, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Bachelor of Laws degree in 1955. Johnson served in the United States Air Force and retired with the rank of colonel from the United States Air Force Reserve, having received the Meritorious Service Medal and the Legion of Merit. Following his release from active duty, Johnson practiced law in Pawhuska. He later moved to Ponca City and began his own law practice. He was a senior partner of Phipps, Johnson, Holmes & Hermanson, later Johnson & Hermanson, and finally the Johnson Law Firm. Johnson continued to be a private practitioner of law until Governor Henry Bellmon appointed him to the Court of Criminal Appeals in 1989. Johnson was honored as one of three Outstanding Young Oklahomans by the Oklahoma Junior Chamber of Commerce, and was selected the 1993 Oklahoma Trial Lawyer Association Outstanding Appellate Judge of the Year. He is a member of the American and Oklahoma bar associations. Johnson and his wife Janis have three children—Mike, Jill, and Eddie. Johnson can be reached at Room 233, State Capitol Building, Oklahoma City, OK 73105, or 405/521-2159.



**Arlene Johnson, Vice-Presiding Judge,** District 4. Johnson received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Oklahoma and Juris Doctor degree from the OU School of Law. After admission to the Oklahoma Bar on July 29, 1971, she practiced law with the Oklahoma City law firm of Bulla and Horning, and subsequently served as judicial law clerk to the Court of Criminal Appeals. Johnson worked as Oklahoma County assistant district attorney and as assistant Oklahoma Attorney General. She served as assistant United States attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma for twenty-one years. She received the U.S. Attorney General's John Marshall Award for Outstanding Legal Achievement (1998), and the FBI's Commendation for Exceptional Service in the Public Interest (1998). Johnson is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States District Court for the Western District. Governor Brad Henry appointed Johnson to the Court of Criminal Appeals, District 4, on February 18, 2005. She is a former member of the Tenth Circuit Uniform Criminal Jury Instruction Committee, the Admissions and Grievance Committee for the Western District of Oklahoma, and is a former member of the United States Magistrate Merit Selection Panel for the Western District of Oklahoma. Johnson has also served as an adjunct professor at the University of Oklahoma College of Law. Johnson may be reached at Room 230, State Capitol Building, Oklahoma City, OK 73105, or 405/521-2157.



**Judge David Lewis,** District 5. Lewis was born in Ardmore, Oklahoma, and is the first African American to serve on the Court of Criminal Appeals. Governor Brad Henry appointed him to the position on August 4, 2005. Lewis earned a bachelor's degree with high honors from the University of Oklahoma in 1980. He also earned his law degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Law in 1983. He spent four years in private practice. He served four years as

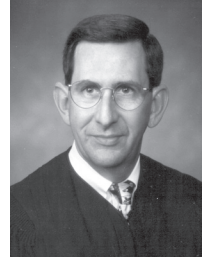


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a Comanche County prosecutor. Lewis served as Comanche County special district judge from 1991 to 1999. He was a district judge for Comanche, Stephens, Jefferson, and Cotton counties from 1999 to 2005. Moreover, he has served as president of the Oklahoma Judicial Conference and is a fellow of the Oklahoma Bar Association. Most recently, Lewis was selected as a member of the Class of 2008 Henry Toll Fellowship Program of the Council of State Governments. Lewis and his wife Dr. Sharon Lewis have a son, David Jr., and a daughter, Danielle. Lewis can be reached at Room 230, State Capitol Building, Oklahoma City, OK 73105, or 405/521-3606.

**Judge Gary L. Lumpkin**, District 3. Originally a native of Sentinel, Oklahoma, Lumpkin graduated from Weatherford High School in 1964. He received a bachelor's degree in business administration from Southwestern State College in 1968, and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Oklahoma School of Law in 1974. Lumpkin served in the United States Marine Corps from 1968 to 1971, serving eighteen months in Vietnam. He retired in 1998, after thirty years of service, with the rank of colonel in the Marine Corps Reserves. He completed his military service as one of only two Marine Reserve judges assigned to the Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals. Lumpkin worked as a staff attorney for the Oklahoma Department of Consumer Affairs.



He was appointed assistant district attorney for Marshall County in 1976, and subsequently first assistant district attorney for the Twentieth District. Lumpkin served as associate district judge for Marshall County from 1982 to 1985, and as district judge, Twentieth Judicial District, Division II from 1985 to 1989. Governor Henry Bellmon appointed him to the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals, and he began his service on the court in January 1989. Lumpkin was named Outstanding Young Man of America by the U.S. Jaycees in 1979, and Outstanding Assistant District Attorney of the Third Congressional District by the Oklahoma District Attorneys Association in 1981. He also received the 1999 William J. Holloway Jr. Professionalism Award from the William J. Holloway Jr. American Inn of Court. Southwestern Oklahoma State University selected him as their 2007 Distinguished Alumnus and inducted him into the University Hall of Fame. Lumpkin is a member of the Marine Corps Reserve Association; Oklahoma, Oklahoma County, and Marshall County bar associations; Oklahoma Bar Foundation; Oklahoma Judicial Conference; Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4611; and the William J. Holloway Jr. American Inns of Court CV. From 2001 to 2007, he was a member of the National Center for State Courts Board of Directors in Williamsburg, Virginia. He is a current member of the advisory board for the Trinity Legal Clinic. Lumpkin and his wife, Barbara, are from Madill and have one child. Lumpkin can be reached at Room 230, State Capitol Building, Oklahoma City, OK 73105, or 405/521-4956.