

ALUMNI PROFILE



Holly M. Kirby Tennessee Court of Appeals

Herff College of Engineering Experience

“My time as an undergraduate in the Herff College of Engineering was one of the most fun times in my life! The faculty was so supportive that I left the College feeling as though I could do anything, and I really enjoyed my coursework. Engineering is so disciplined – it’s like Olympic training for the mind. It taught me analytical skills and the importance of deductive reasoning which are skills I use every day in law. As a judge, the ability to problem solve is essential. Everyday I am presented with problems that do not have one clear solution, and I have to rely on logic and deduction to come up with a solution. I believe my engineering background prepared me well for my work as a judge.”

Professional History

- Judge, Tennessee Court of Appeals, Western Section, 1995 - present
- Partner, Burch, Porter & Johnson, PLC Law Firm, 1992 - 1995
- Attorney, Burch, Porter & Johnson, PLC Law Firm, 1983 - 1992
- Assistant County Attorney, Shelby County, 1995
- Judicial Clerk to Honorable Harry W. Wellford, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, 1982 – 1983

Significant Accomplishments

- First woman to serve on the Tennessee Court of Appeals
- Herff College of Engineering Outstanding Alumna, 2002
- University of Memphis Distinguished Young Alumni Award, 1996
- Tennessee Appellate Court Nominating Committee Chairperson, 1994
- Merit Selection Panel for Replacement of United States Magistrate Judge, 1994
- Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)'s Outstanding Service Award, 1994
- Elected delegate for the Shelby County Republican Party Convention, 1985, 1987, 1989 & 1991

Education

- Bachelor of science in mechanical engineering, 1979, the University of Memphis
- Juris Doctor, 1982, University of Memphis School of Law



Dreamers. Thinkers. Doers.