

More sports, law, and military news...

Tennessee Supreme Court approves an implementation plan and rate changes for indigent representation

Nashville, Tenn. - The Tennessee Supreme Court has approved the statewide implementation plan from the Appointed Counsel Commission (ACC) following an initial launch in the 8th Judicial District.

The new system will change how attorneys are selected and paid for representing Tennesseans who don't have the ability to pay. Under this plan, there will be three types of payment: flat fees for misdemeanors in General Sessions Courts, caseload agreements for attorneys paid based on a set number of cases, and hourly payments for counsel as needed.

These payments will follow a new experienced-based fee schedule ranging from \$75 to \$95 per hour. The full attorney compensation policy for districts using the ACC model is available at this link: [App-6_01-001-2026-Attorney-Rates-and-Case-Weights_Approved_100126.pdf](#)

The ACC will start the implementation process in three districts in the fall of 2026. The ACC will launch in 18 judicial

“The Court appreciates those attorneys who have been willing to accept appointments at rates much less than they could receive from private clients,” said Chief Justice Jeff Bivins. “While this increase does not close that gap, it uses the appropriation approved by the legislature in a way that moves us forward.”

Because implementation will take several years, the Court also approved the Commission's recommendation to amend Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 13 and increase the current rates. The hourly rate for non-capital cases will rise from \$60 to \$70 with proportionate increases to payment caps.

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ceive from private clients,” said Chief Justice Jeff Bivins. “While this increase does not close that gap, it uses the appropriation approved by the legislature in a way that moves us forward.”

Justice Mary Wagner, the Court's liaison to the Commission noted, “The ACC model will be refined as implementation expands, and the staff navigates the complexities of the various courts. The Commission members are very thoughtful about issues and recommendations during its meetings, and the Court recognizes their work in approving these recommendations.”

Commission Chair, Mark Mesler, expressed his appreciation to the Court for affirming the efforts of the Commission and staff of the Office of the Appointed Counsel Commission. “We are looking forward to the continued implementation and refinement of the new system to improve indigent representation across the state.”

For more information visit the ACC website.

SAF files brief urging Supreme Court to reject liability firearms advertising

BELLEVUE, Wash. — Sept. 28, 2026 — The Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) filed an amicus brief with the National Rifle Association (NRA) in the U.S. Supreme Court case Daniel Defense v. Lowy supporting petitioners' request for review of a Fourth Circuit decision.

The plaintiffs in the case seek to hold lawful firearms manufacturers liable for a third party's crime on the theory that advertisements using military, patriotic, or law-enforcement themes promoted a “warrior mentality” and appealed to “militaristic fantasies.” The plaintiffs have never so much as proven the suspect in the crime even saw the ads in question, let alone that he was influenced by them to commit a heinous crime. The Fourth Circuit held that allegations the shooter was “exposed to and influenced by” such ads satisfy Article III standing.

The brief argues that military themes have long accompanied civilian arms commerce. That's appropriate given the Second Amendment's militia clause, the Founding-era duty of militiamen to bring their own combat-suitable arms, civilian participation in posse comitatus and home-guard service, and Congress' longstanding Civilian Marksmanship Program and surplus-service-arm sales to the public.

“This is not a new kind of speech. It is how Americans have sold and described arms since the Founding,” said SAF Director of Legal Research and Education Kostas Moros. “Traceability re-



quires more than a distant ripple through someone else's criminal choice. If commonplace military or law-enforcement themes in lawful advertising are enough for standing, every manufacturer becomes a defendant after a crime committed with a similar product.”

The same models sold to civilians such as Colt revolvers, Spencer and Henry rifles, Winchester lever-actions and others were also used by the military. For centuries advertisements have emphasized military adoption, combat imagery and readiness, from colonial muskets “fitted with bayonets,” through Colt's battle-scene engravings, and Henry's “Always Loaded and Always Ready” ad campaigns. Treating those ordinary themes as the cause of a third party's independent crime would haul manufacturers into court after nearly every tragedy.

“Lawsuits that treat ordinary marketing as the cause of a third party's crime threaten lawful arms commerce and the right that depends on it,” said SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut. “Lawmakers will stop at nothing to throttle the Second Amendment, even if it means trying to prove marketing campaigns are the reason people commit crimes. We feel this case provides the perfect vehicle for the Court to make clear that historically ordinary

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speech about lawful arms does not make people break the law.”

For more information visit [SAF.org](#).

The Second Amendment Foundation ([saf.org](#)) is the nation's oldest and largest tax-exempt education, research, publishing and legal action group dedicated to safeguarding and promoting the fundamental rights of individuals enshrined in the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution. SAF engages in aggressive legal action to ensure the principles of armed self-defense, personal liberty, and the ownership of arms are defended, secured, and restored. Through public education initiatives, SAF teaches the importance of the Second Amendment to promote a society that values and exercises the right to keep and bear arms.

Congratulations to the Memphis Safe Task Force on making Memphis Safe and Great Again!

See *MSTF's One Year Report on sports-Military 2*.

B.A.S.S. continues 50/50 technology format for the 2027 Elite series from sports page 1

fans responded enthusiastically to both. Guntersville highlighted traditional decision-making, shallow-water instincts and the ability to adapt as conditions changed. The St. Lawrence showcased the precision, boat control and interpretation of electronics utilized to locate and catch roaming smallmouth. Together, the results reinforced the purpose of the 50/50 format: to test the complete skill set of the world's best bass anglers while giving fans access to a wider variety of strategies and educational content.

“Fans loved both tournaments and learned from both events,” Anderson said. “That is exactly what we hoped this structure would accomplish. It created different challenges for our anglers without diminishing the excitement of the competition.”

The 2027 schedule is positioned to deliver an equally diverse test.

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From the vegetation and heavy-weight largemouth of Lake Okeechobee and the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes to the current-driven fisheries of the Sabine and Mississippi rivers, the season will challenge anglers across dramatically different environments. Stops at Lake Fork, Lake Seminole, Santee Cooper Lakes and the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway will add more opportunities for traditional and technology-driven approaches, while Lake

St. Clair will provide a late-season smallmouth test.

Regardless of which events fall on either side of the format, the 2027 Elite Series will once again reward adaptability, decision-making and execution while giving fans two distinct ways to experience — and learn from — the highest level of professional bass fishing.

Be sure to tune in to the live Coin Flip Show on Bassmaster.com, 10 am CT on Oct. 6.

2026 Bassmaster Elite Series Title Sponsor: Progressive

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... more news from SAF

SAF announces Don Kilmer as the 2026 Golden Bowtie Award winner

BELLEVUE, Wash. — Sept. 29, 2026 — The Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) honored its third recipient of the Golden Bowtie Award at this year's Gun Rights Policy Conference (GRPC) in Dallas. This year's award was presented to longtime Second Amendment advocate and litigator Don Kilmer.

Recipients of the Golden Bowtie are people and/or organizations who have made significant contributions of time, talent and treasure to SAF and its mission.

Kilmer has been litigating constitutional law — primarily Second Amendment cases — for more than 25 years and is admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and all California U.S. District Courts. In addition, he is co-author of the law school casebook: Firearms Law and the Second Amendment: Regulation, Rights, and Policy, 3rd Ed, and is a professor of Constitutional Law at Lincoln Law School of San Jose. Kilmer has represented SAF in numerous

cases over the years and is a frequent presenter at GRPC.

“It was a privilege to present this year's award to Don who has been a tremendous SAF partner for more than 20 years,” said SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut. “Thanks to Don's legal research and strategies, he has helped set precedent cited in countless Second Amendment cases across the country. I was honored to present this year's Golden Bowtie award to Don, and we look forward to continuing working with him for years to come.”

The Golden Bowtie Award was created in honor of SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb, who continues to wear his signature neckpiece. The award embodies Gottlieb's spirit, character and grit when it comes to defending, securing and restoring our Second Amendment rights.

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“Don has been a great friend and partner for years, and I couldn't think of a more befitting person to receive this year's Golden Bowtie Award,” Gottlieb said. “Don's work in the Second Amendment space is second to none, and thanks to our unique partnership with Don we have been able to restore the right to keep and bear arms for an untold number of citizens.”

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For more information visit [SAF.org](#).

Hegseth signs directive to defend election from foreign threats... from sports-Military 2

ners, U.S. Cyber Command and our defense intelligence teams will defend the integrity of America's voting systems, expose foreign malign influence, and ensure our democratic processes remain secure from external manipulation while protecting the fundamental freedoms of the American people.”

“U.S. Cyber Command and the National Security Agency are closely partnered to identify and defend against cyber threats to our nation. The Command and the Agency regularly counter actions by malicious foreign cyber

actors including those with the intent to interfere with our democratic process,” said Gen. Joshua M. Rudd, commander, U.S. Cyber Command and director of the National Security Agency/chief, CSS.

The Department will effectively wield its capabilities to protect and uphold the reliability of America's voting mechanisms against external manipulation and disruption from foreign actors, while maintaining the fundamental freedoms that characterize our country.

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The Mid-South Tribune
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“One Citizen,
One Vote!”

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