

# TBA Adoption Law Forum 2025

Tennessee Bankers Association Barrett Training Center  
September 19, 2025



**Program Producer:** Will Vetterick, Chair

**Total Credits:** 4 General, 1 Dual

TBA's Adoption Law Section presents this year's annual forum in-person in Nashville. The jam-packed schedule includes sessions covering legislative updates and review (including the section's own sponsored bill), as well as case law updates, how trauma affects child development, and a judicial panel with judges from across the state.

8:30am – 9:00am CT

## **Registration**

9:00am – 10:00am

## **Case Law Review**

*This session is designed to provide an overview of recent Tennessee case law, focusing primarily on lessons and trends to be found in termination of parental rights appeals.*

Sammi Maifair, Tennessee Department of Children's Services

Amy Smith, Tennessee Department of Children's Services

10:00am – 11:00am

## **2025 Legislative Update: New Changes in Termination/Adoption Law & Old Changes to Remember**

*This session will provide an overview of the legislative changes in 2025 focusing primarily on termination and adoption law. Time permitting, the session will also review some of the more prominent law changes in these areas from 2019 to 2024.*

Meredith Brasfield, Weaver & Craig, P.C.

11:00am – 11:15am

## **Break**

11:15am – 12:15pm

**DUAL**

## **The Impact of Adoption Trauma on Child Development**

*This session is designed to explore the impact of how adoption trauma affects child development for the adoptee at different developmental stages. We will also look at interventions to assist with healing for the adoptee.*

Kim Warner-Hudy, LCSW

12:15pm – 1:00pm

**Lunch (Provided)**

1:00pm – 3:15pm  
(includes 15-minute  
break)

**Judicial Perspectives on Termination of Parental Rights & Adoption**

*This panel of judges from across the state will discuss tips and best practices in terminations and adoption court. Bring your questions and get answers straight from the judiciary!*

Judge Sharon Massey-Grimes, Montgomery County Juvenile & General Sessions Court

Judge Katy Olita, 19th Circuit Court

Judge Joe Thompson, 18th Circuit Court