



THOMAS A. VARLAN

Chief U.S. District Judge
United States District Court
Eastern District of Tennessee

Howard H. Baker Jr. U.S. Courthouse
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Knoxville, TN 37902
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The Honorable Thomas A. Varlan was sworn in as a district judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee on April 5, 2003. Judge Varlan was nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the U.S. Senate by a vote of 97-0 on March 13, 2003.

Judge Varlan became Chief Judge for the Eastern District on October 8, 2012. He is only the 21st Eastern District judge in the history of the Eastern District, and is also the first person of Greek descent to be appointed to the federal judiciary in Tennessee.

Before his appointment as a district judge, Judge Varlan was a partner in the Knoxville office of the law firm of Bass, Berry & Sims, where he focused on governmental relations, general civil and business litigation, employment law, and risk management for public and private corporations. Prior to joining Bass, Berry & Sims in August of 1998, he served as Law Director for the City of Knoxville for ten years and was in private practice in Atlanta, GA.

Judge Varlan received a BA in Political Science and Economics from the University of Tennessee in 1978 and his JD from Vanderbilt University School of Law in 1981. He was Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi at UT, and Managing Editor of the Vanderbilt Law Review and Order of the Coif at Vanderbilt.

From 2011-2014, Judge Varlan was a member of the Judicial Conference of the United States, the policymaking board for the federal court systems chaired by Chief Justice Roberts. In 2013 he was appointed by Chief Justice Roberts as a member of the Judicial Conference's Committee on Judicial Resources. Chief Judge Varlan has been a member of the Sixth Circuit Judicial Council since 2012.

Judge Varlan and his wife, Danni, have four children (and two sons-in-law) and are active members of Saint George Greek Orthodox Church in Knoxville. Both Judge Varlan and his wife have previously served as presidents of the St. George Parish Council, and Judge Varlan currently serves on the Church's Rebuild Committee, which is leading the effort to rebuild the Church after a 2014 fire caused significant damage to the structure and contents. Judge Varlan also serves as president of Knoxville's AHEPA Chapter No. 346.