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**Tennessee Human Rights Commission  
in partnership with  
The Tennessee Fair Housing Council**

**Present:**

**Fair and Affordable Housing:  
Rights, Responsibilities and Resources for  
Landlords and Tenants**

**Wednesday, April 7, 2021**

**9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. CST**



# WEBINAR AGENDA

- 9:00 a.m.**                    **Welcome and Opening Remarks**  
**Beverly Watts**-Executive Director, Tennessee Human Rights Commission  
**Kathy Trawick**- Executive Director, Tennessee Fair Housing Council
- 9:10 a.m.**                    **Jeremy Heidt**- Director of Industry and Governmental Affairs-Tennessee Housing  
Development Agency -COVID-19 Rent Relief
- 9:40 a.m.**                    **Judge Rachel L. Bell**- Founder & Presiding Judge  
Nashville's Newest Court: L.E.G.A.C.Y. Housing Resource Diversionary Court & Program
- 10:35 a.m.**                    **Kathy Trawick**- Executive Director- Tennessee Fair Housing Council  
**Patricia Bell**- Program Manager- Tennessee Fair Housing Council  
Fair and Affordable Housing in Tennessee
- 11:15 a.m.**                    **Open Q&A**
- 11:30 a.m.**                    **Closing remarks and adjournment**  
**Beverly Watts**-Executive Director, Tennessee Human Rights Commission

# SPEAKERS



## Jeremy Heidt

**Director of Industry & Governmental Affairs**

Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA)

Jeremy Heidt joined Tennessee Housing Development Agency in 2016 as its Director of Industry and Governmental Affairs. His division serves as the primary point of contact between THDA and the Tennessee General Assembly, the state's nine U.S. representatives and two U.S. Senators. He also works with public housing entities, private developers and financing entities involved in Housing Tax Credit developments. In 2020, he worked with the legislature to raise the THDA's debt limit to \$4 billion. He is currently appointed to the Nashville Affordable Housing Task Force.

A former business journalist for publications in Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee, Mr. Heidt was appointed Communications Director for the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency in 2006. He served in that capacity for eight years under the administrations of Governors Bill Haslam and Phil Bredesen. He worked more than 15 Presidential declared disasters, including the largest natural disaster in state history. In 2012, he was appointed to a leadership position by the National Emergency Management Association to represent communicators from all 50 state and the U.S. territories, a position he held for three years.

More recently, he managed operations for the federal Vaccines for Children program at the Tennessee Department of Health. The program administers vaccines and immunization records in partnership with more than 600 private and public medical providers in the state. The program provides protection from vaccine-preventable illnesses for more than 50 percent of the children in Tennessee.

A graduate of Berea College in Berea, Ky., Mr. Heidt has been active in supporting his communities and causes that improve the lives of others, including leadership roles for the MS Society of Middle Tennessee and work with community-based civic organizations in Ohio and Tennessee.

He and his wife, Brenda, reside in Old Hickory, Tenn., and enjoy spending time with their eleven grandchildren.



# Judge Rachel L. Bell

**Founder & Presiding Judge-L.E.G.A.C.Y. Housing Resource Diversionary Court & Program**

Judge Rachel L. Bell is a third generation Native Nashvillian and proud graduate of Hillsboro Comprehensive High School, where she was a stellar basketball player. Judge Bell received a NCAA, Division I-Women's Basketball scholarship to Auburn University and finished her collegiate career at The University of Memphis earning her Bachelor of Science in Education and her Juris Doctorate Degree from Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law.

In 2012, Judge Bell, was elected General Sessions Court Judge, Division VIII (8) and unanimously reelected in 2014 to another term, with her campaign slogan: "Nashville's Judge serving ON and OFF the bench, Ringing the BELL for Justice!!"<sup>TM</sup>

In August, 2014, Judge Bell was elected by her peers to be the Presiding Judge over the Davidson County General Sessions Court for a one (1) year term and re-elected to a second term in August, 2015 to serve until September 1, 2016. Prior to her election to the court in August 2012, Judge Rachel was the Managing Partner of Bell & Kinslow, PLLC and Founder & COO of Pinnacle Title & Escrow, LLC with offices in both Bordeaux- North Nashville, West Nashville, Hermitage and Memphis, TN.

Shortly, after taking the bench in 2012, Judge Bell started working on pilot projects to establish the General Sessions Music City Community Court, Division VIII (8), by joining the TDOT Adopt-A-Highway program committing to a portion of Highway 41A (Clarksville Pike) in Davidson County establishing the Judge Rachel L. Bell Beautification Project. She also established a summer literacy program called R.E.A.C.H. (Reaching Every Aspiring Child's Horizon) for rising 1st-4th graders and the FUTURE internship program hosted during the fall, spring and summer for rising 11th & 12th graders. The Music City Community Court's mission is to focus on preventive, diversionary and restorative justice initiatives to move the needle for marginalized people.

In 2014, the court started conducting Saturday Court Dockets bringing Expungement/Legal Clinics & Resource Fairs to the community. In 2016, the court expanded its reach by partnering with the TN Administrative Office of Courts and the TN Supreme Court's Faith and Justice Alliance initiative for better access to justice. In 2016, Judge Rachel became the first active judge certified with the National Safety Council to teach Alive at 25. In 2018, the Court was awarded the United States Department of Justice/Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Center for Court Innovation, Community Court Implementation Grant, to receive technical assistance in launching the C.A.R.E. Diversionary Court, which focuses on Creating Avenues for Restoration and Empowerment for offenders aged 18-30. In 2019, Judge Bell birthed the Bordeaux North Community Justice Center, which is the designated space for the Music City Community Court and all of its programming. In 2021, amid the COVID19 pandemic, Judge Bell created another initiative named the L.E.G.A.C.Y. (Let Every Goal Achieve Continuous Yields) Housing Resource Diversionary Court & Program to assist landlords and tenants experiencing hardship and non-payment of rent. On the horizon is the C.A.R.E. LGBTQ+ Diversionary Court.

Judge Bell is a member of New Covenant Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.- Nashville Alumnae Chapter, Top Ladies of Distinction- Nashville Capitol City Chapter, GROW (Golfers Recognizing Opportunities for Women), Napier- Looby, Nashville, Tennessee and Stonewall Bar Associations, Lawyers Association for Women, League of Women Voters, Women in Numbers, Davidson County Democratic Women, Interdenominational Ministers Fellowship, Women's Political Collaborative, NAACP, Nashville Chamber of Commerce, the Bordeaux-North Nashville Chamber of Commerce and CABLE.



## **Kathy Trawick, ESQ.**

**Executive Director- Tennessee Fair Housing Council**

Kathy Trawick joined the Tennessee Fair Housing Council as the Executive Director on June 1, 2018. In addition to overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Council, Ms. Trawick represents clients who have been victims of housing discrimination, as well as conducting presentations across the state. Prior to her current role, Ms. Trawick worked at West Tennessee Legal Services for 15 years. She began her tenure at WTLS as the Test Coordinator and Housing Paralegal, conducting fair housing investigations and advocating on behalf of clients with their landlords and with HUD. Ms. Trawick attended the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law and the University of Memphis while employed at WTLS, graduating in 2011. Her role at WTLS expanded into a Staff Attorney Position.





## **Patricia Bell, M.Ed.**

**Program Manager- Tennessee Fair Housing Council**

Patricia Bell is the Program Manager at Tennessee Fair Housing Council. She has received her B.A. in Psychology and Social Relations from Cheyney University and her M.Ed. in Community Development and Action from Vanderbilt University.

Prior to joining Tennessee Fair Housing Council Patricia worked as part of a team to develop, “Understanding Nashville’s Housing Crisis Part 3: Residential Segregation”, an advocacy tool to support Nashville residents.

She has also spent time in Richmond, Virginia, and Washington DC, working collaboratively with community partners, connecting people to support services, and advocating in partnership with clients as a Community Specialist.



# ***THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING***

## **Tennessee Human Rights Commission**

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**Safeguarding Individuals from Discrimination Through  
Education and Enforcement**



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