

PRESS RELEASE

Circuit Judge John Hagler's office issued this statement yesterday: "I have tendered my resignation to Governor Bredesen as Circuit Judge for the 10th Judicial District, effective 12/31/07.

On Friday, December 7, 2007, I was confronted by law enforcement officials with information of the contents of an audio tape recording. I was told it has been in the hands of law enforcement officials for two years. I have not heard the recording or seen the tape. But I believe it to be a private communication made by me for my private use. It was intended for no one else's ears. I was told that, after extensive investigation, unknown to me, it was concluded that no crime was committed. This was the first time I learned that such a recording still existed or was no longer private.

I have committed no crime. I have done nothing wrong except to cause great embarrassment to my family, friends, and the State Judiciary.

I have tendered my resignation because of this embarrassment and to leave no room for anyone to reasonably question my integrity as a judge. I will continue holding court until the end of the month unless requested or directed by other higher authority.

I appreciate the support and trust of the people of the 10th Judicial District. I have never, as judge, dishonored their trust."

Judge Hagler, a democrat, was elected Circuit Court Judge in a contested election in 1990 and re-elected without opposition in 1998 and 2006. He is, at this time, Presiding Judge of the District. He served seven years on the Executive Committee of The Tennessee Judicial Conference and three terms as President of The Tennessee Trial Judges Association.

He and his wife have two adult children.