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Tennessee Justice Center Welcomes New Board Members

Nashville, TN. - Michele Johnson, Executive Director at the Tennessee Justice Center, announced that the organization has appointed three new board members: **Yolanda Pierce, Ph.D.**, Dean and University Distinguished Professor at Vanderbilt Divinity School; **John T. Winemiller**, Partner at Merchant & Gould PC; and **Jonathan Steen**, Medical-Legal Partnership Director at West Tennessee Legal Services.

"We are excited to welcome our new members and look forward to collaborating with them. Their leadership is invaluable, and we are thankful for their contributions," said Johnson.

Yolanda Pierce, Ph.D., is Dean and University Distinguished Professor at Vanderbilt Divinity School. An accomplished scholar, administrator in higher education, and a widely published writer, Pierce is a native New Yorker, womanist theologian, community activist, ordained minister, and proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. As a first-generation college student, Pierce earned degrees from Cornell University and Princeton University. She is delighted to partner with TJC in supporting their work to uphold the human dignity of all persons.

John T. Winemiller is a partner at Merchant & Gould PC, where his practice focuses on intellectual property counseling, enforcement, and litigation. He serves as the firm's Chief Diversity Officer and manages the firm's Knoxville office. Prior to becoming an attorney, John taught music history and theory at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. He holds degrees from Carleton College, the University of Chicago, and the University of Tennessee's

Winston College of Law, where he teaches courses on intellectual property law. John regularly provides pro bono services through Lambda Legal and serves on the boards of numerous organizations, including the Big Ears Festival (Knoxville), the Knoxville Symphony Society, and the Newberry Consort (Chicago). He recently completed two five-year terms as a commissioner of Knoxville's Community Development Corporation, Knoxville's public housing authority.

Jonathan Steen is the Medical-Legal Partnership Director at West Tennessee Legal Services. Working alongside medical professionals, he helps provide comprehensive legal support for challenges such as unsafe housing, denied benefits, and domestic violence—improving health outcomes and fostering stability for families in West Tennessee. Jonathan has long advocated for expanding access to justice and strengthening partnerships between the legal and medical communities to build healthier, more equitable communities.

Photos: <http://www.tnjustice.org/our-board>

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[About Tennessee Justice Center / www.tnjustice.org](http://www.tnjustice.org)

For over 28 years, the Tennessee Justice Center has been standing with Tennessee families and helping them access necessities of life. Since opening our doors in 1996, TJC has used lawsuits, legislation and coalition building to overcome injustice, winning \$2 billion in health care and hundreds of millions in financial and nutrition assistance for Tennesseans. Aside from lawsuits, TJC helps assist seniors and other individuals with TennCare, SNAP and other public benefit programs.