



NEWS RELEASE

United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee
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Contact: Wendy R. Oliver, Clerk of Court

Brian C. Lea Sworn In as United States District Judge For the Western District of Tennessee

The United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee is pleased to announce that Brian C. Lea was sworn in on March 2, 2026, as a United States District Judge. Judge Lea fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge John T. Fowlkes, Jr.

Judge Lea earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Union University in 2006 and his Juris Doctor from the University of Georgia School of Law in 2009. Following law school, he served as a law clerk to Judge Edward Earl Carnes of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit from 2009 to 2010 and to Justice Clarence Thomas of the United States Supreme Court from 2011 to 2012. In between and following his clerkships, Judge Lea worked in private practice. Most recently, Judge Lea served as a Deputy Associate Attorney General at the U.S. Department of Justice.