



Suzanne Sweet Cook
Partner

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Suzanne Sweet Cook is a partner in the firm who practices in the areas of litigation and family law. She has significant jury trial and appellate experience in both state and federal courts in Tennessee and Virginia. Her insurance defense practice includes personal injury, premises liability, fraud investigation, and defense, coverage, and general tort litigation. She has served as county attorney *pro tempore* in municipal government cases.

She concentrates her family law practice in the upper East Tennessee area, representing clients in custody, divorce, support, post-divorce, and adoption matters. Ms. Cook is formerly a Rule 31 Listed General Civil and Family Law Mediator. In litigation and family law matters, she has served in a variety of roles including as a special master, arbitrator, guardian *ad Litem*, and trustee.

Ms. Cook is an adjunct professor in Trial Practice at the University of Tennessee College of Law. Trial Practice is a simulation course in which students learn the fundamentals and practice the techniques of preparing and presenting a case to a judge or jury, while confronting the ethical questions associated with trial practice. During class, the emphasis is on individual performance and critique. Each student conducts a complete trial at the end of the course.

Awards, Recognition, and Accomplishments

10 Best Attorneys, American Institute of Family Law Attorneys, 2020
Tennessee Bar Association Leadership Law Class, 2008
Selected to the *Business Journal of Tri-Cities Tennessee/Virginia*'s "Forty Under 40," 2002
The Order of Barristers, University of Tennessee College of Law, 1995

Professional and Civic Involvement

TN Supreme Court Advisory Commission on the Rules of Practice and Procedure, member (2009-2016)
Washington County Bar Association, former president (2009-2010) and vice president (2008-2009)
Tennessee Bar Association, member, former House of Delegates (2001-2008)
Tennessee Mock Trial, Coach (2013-2016)
Federal Bar Association, Northeast Tennessee Chapter, board of directors, president-elect (2018-present)
Tennessee Association of Defense Counsel
Virginia State Bar, Member
Virginia Association of Defense Counsel, Coverage Section, chair (2010), vice chair (2009)

Practice Areas

Litigation/Insurance Defense
Family Law

Education

J.D., University of Tennessee College of Law, 1995

- The Order of Barristers
- The National Trial Team
- Advocates' Prize Moot Court Competition, Best Oralist and First Place Team
- Tennessee Attorney General's Award for Excellence in Trial Advocacy
- The Dennis E. Parkhill Memorial Achievement Award for Excellence in Moot Court Oral Advocacy
- American Jurisprudence Award for Trial Practice
- The Knoxville Auxiliary to the Tennessee Bar Association Scholarship
- Hamilton Burnett American Inn of Court

M.S., University of Tennessee at Knoxville, 1992

B.A., English/Psychology, *with high honors*, University of Tennessee at Knoxville, 1990

- *Phi Beta Kappa*

Admissions

Tennessee, 1995

Virginia, 1996

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee, 1996

U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, 2016

U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia, 2002

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, 1996