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Hatcher named Outstanding State Court Clerk of the Year

Lance Coleman

Circuit Court Clerk Tom Hatcher is the Outstanding State Court Clerk of the Year for 2001-02.

The Tennessee State Court Clerk's Association recently announced the award and presented him with a plaque.

Hatcher began his career as a law enforcement officer, served as supervisor of the Fifth Judicial Drug Task Force and was elected Blount County Circuit Court Clerk in 1994.

Hatcher worked in various leadership positions with the East Tennessee Clerk's Association before he served as president in 1999-2000.

He was the East Tennessee State Court Clerk of the Year 2000 and was president of the Tennessee State Court Clerk's Association for 2000-01

Hatcher serves on the board of directors for the County Officials Association of Tennessee.

He was appointed to a three-year term on the Tennessee Judicial Council. The council reviews all legislation concerning the court system and some law enforcement legislation.

Accomplishments by Hatcher and his staff include:

- * Initiating a computer system which makes his office fully automated.
- * Using the Internet to make the computer system available to law enforcement agencies, attorneys and collection agencies so they may inquire on cases without leaving their offices.
- * Placing clerks in the General Sessions Courtrooms to assist judges, the Attorney General's Office and defense attorneys.
- * Creating a cost collections department.

Hatcher's colleagues around the region and in Nashville praised his efforts.

"It's well deserved," Knox County Criminal Court Clerk Martha Phillips said. "Since he became clerk, he has been very active in the clerk's association."

"He's been active in legislation and bills we were trying to get passed. He's very interested in everything that goes on in the community and interested in the people who come to the clerk's office," Phillips said.

"I don't know anybody who would be any more deserving," Loudon County Clerk and Master Fred Chaney said. "He has devoted a lot of time and energy to the association, as well as to representing his constituency."

"Tom Hatcher is really, really a great county official," Marie Murphy said.

Murphy is the executive director of the County Officials Association.

"I respect him so much," she said.

Murphy praised Hatcher for his work on the Tennessee Judicial Council.

"He has really been a valuable member of that group," she said. "He serves with a lot of judges and district attorneys and they are really impressed with the knowledge he brings to the group."

"He is able to put practical experience to issues and bring real-life situations to the table when questions come up," Murphy said.
