

## TENNESSEE GOVERNMENT UPDATE

NEWS FOR THE CLIENTS AND FRIENDS OF BASS, BERRY & SIMS PLC

**December 31, 2009**

The Second Session of the 106<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the State of Tennessee will convene at noon, January 12, 2010. It will immediately recess, and the Extraordinary Session on education that will be called by Governor Bredesen will convene. It is anticipated that the special session will last about two weeks. Bredesen's news release on the special session is available at <http://news.tennesseeanytime.org/node/4301>. The governor's actual call has not yet been published and may not be until after the first of the year.

2010 is, of course, an election year in Tennessee. Primary elections are August 5; the general election is November 2. In addition to the gubernatorial and legislative elections, two of Tennessee's nine congressional seats are vacant. Bart Gordon (D-Murfreesboro) and John Tanner (D-Union City) are retiring. Seven of the 33 state senators have announced plans to run for another office—two for governor; three for Congress and two for county mayor.

Under Tennessee law, incumbent legislators cannot raise money to run for the General Assembly or governor until May 15 or the adjournment of the legislature, whichever comes first. This will create a motivation to move bills through the process and adjourn as soon as possible. All bills will probably be required to be filed by the first week of February or very soon thereafter.

It is a pleasure to welcome Erica Bell Vick to the firm's lobbying team. Erica has been a commercial litigator at Bass, Berry & Sims PLC since 2004 and is a welcome addition to our effort. Both of us will be dedicated full-time to the firm's legislative effort while the General Assembly is in session. Leslie Hafner and Justin Pitt have left the firm to pursue other ventures.

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