



## Welcome Home



We are pleased to welcome Dwight E. Tarwater back to the firm he helped found. Tarwater most recently served as General Counsel to Gov. Bill Haslam who completed his term in January of 2019. As we welcome him back, we also announce the resumption of our previous firm name - Paine, Tarwater and Bickers, LLP.

Tarwater was one of the founding members of the firm when it was established in 1987. In 2014, he left to join the Haslam Administration as General Counsel and served in that role through Haslam's final term.

As Counsel to the Governor, he provided advice on legal, financial, political and governmental issues and oversaw a team that reviewed and commented on pending legislation and other policies. He also coordinated the Governor's judicial appointment process.

His career with the firm included extensive and wide-ranging trial and appellate experience in Tennessee and several other states. Primarily a defense lawyer, he has represented Fortune 500 companies and other businesses in mass tort, product liability, pharmaceutical, and commercial cases. He also represented many clients on a pro bono or reduced fee basis.

"Our team enthusiastically welcomes Dwight back to Knoxville, and we couldn't be more proud of his service to our state and to the people of Tennessee," said Tom Bickers, Senior Partner in the firm. "Dwight's career has been marked with such distinction, accomplishment and public service. He is indeed a role model to us all and resuming his leadership role within our firm will contribute substantially to our future ahead."

Tarwater received his undergraduate degree in 1977 from The University of Tennessee, where he was elected a Torchbearer, the University's highest honor. He received his law degree from The University of Tennessee College of Law in 1980 and served as law clerk to the Honorable Houston M. Goddard of the Tennessee Court of Appeals.

Tarwater has been a member of the Knoxville, Tennessee and American bar associations and has served a variety of roles for those and other professional organizations. In 2006, he became a fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers. He has participated in both Leadership Tennessee and Leadership Knoxville and served on a number of boards in the community.