MISSISSIPPI COURT OF APPEALS DISTRICT 1 PLACE 1 JUDGE JOHN WEDDLE (R)

Potential hits from the left	Potential hits from the right
• Cleared officer in the Shumpert killing; refused the family's request for an independent special prosecutor • Two grand juries, no charges, in a 7-year-old's school-bus death; family alleged racial bias and a rigged "intent" instruction • Prosecuted the first Black woman elected to the Tupelo City Council over a voter raffle that never happened • Donated to Trump's committee in September 2020 • Shared a post celebrating the overturning of Roe v. Wade • Posted that he was voting for Trent Kelly, an election denier — whose committee gave him $500 • Campaigned at county Republican clubs for a nonpartisan ballot • Never won a judicial election; appointed to every judgeship	• N/A

Key findings include:

Weddle Was The Prosecutor Of Record In Three Charging Decisions Involving The Deaths Of Black Mississippians, And In Each One No One Was Charged. A Lee County grand jury declined to indict Tupelo Officer Tyler Cook in the June 2016 killing of Antwun "Ronnie" Shumpert, 37, unarmed and Black. A second grand jury cleared Officer Jason Whitenton in the death of Lyndarious Cortez Witherspoon. And two grand juries declined to charge Karen Michelle Carpenter, a white motorist, in the October 2016 death of 7-year-old A'Miya Braxton, struck in her own driveway after Carpenter passed a stopped school bus. This is the highest-salience material in the file.

Weddle Prosecuted The First Black Woman Elected To The Tupelo City Council Over A Voter Raffle That Never Happened, And The Case Ended In A $500 Payment After Two Years. He opened the investigation within days, announced it jointly with Secretary of State Michael Watson on the eve of the municipal election, and said "these actions will not be tolerated. I am dedicated to handling this matter aggressively." Councilwoman Nettie Davis pleaded to a misdemeanor under a non-adjudication agreement on August 14, 2023, paid $500 with $4,500 suspended, and kept her seat.

Weddle Donated To Donald Trump's Committee In September 2020. His $35 WinRed contribution was earmarked for the Trump Make America Great Again Committee.

Weddle Shared Content Celebrating The Overturning Of Roe v. Wade, Praising Amy Coney Barrett, And Sharing That He Was Voting For Republican and Election Denier U.S. Rep. Trent Kelly. On his personal Facebook he highlighted the Supreme Court opinion overturning Roe, posted a photo of Justice Barrett during her confirmation hearing, and shared that he was voting for Rep. Trent Kelly.

U.S. Rep and Election Denier Trent Kelly's Campaign Committee Gave Weddle $500 in November 2022 and His Successor As District Attorney Gave Him $1,000 in November 2021.

Weddle Has Never Won A Judicial Election And Was Appointed To Every Judgeship He Has Held, By Two Republican Governors.

JURISDICTION SUMMARY

Court of Appeals District 1 Covers 23 counties Across North Mississippi. It includes DeSoto County in the Memphis suburbs and Lee County around Tupelo [State of Mississippi, accessed 8/25/2026].

Mississippi does not register voters by party [MS SOS, published 9/10/2014]. Judicial elections are formally nonpartisan, and no primary precedes this contest, so the entire race resolves in a single November vote with no party label on the ballot [Judicial County Elections Handbook 2026, published 12/24/2025].

Reeves Appointed Weddle, Of Saltillo, To Fill The Vacancy Created By The Resignation Of Judge Jim M. Greenlee. Weddle had served as District Attorney for the First Circuit Court District since 2015 and previously served as Lee County public defender, Tupelo municipal judge, and assistant district attorney. He has practiced since 1995 [Office of Governor Tate Reeves, 09/25/2024].

Governor Tate Reeves Set The Special Election For November 3, 2026 With A February 2, 2026 Qualifying Deadline. Weddle has held the District 1, Position 1 seat since his appointment took effect October 14, 2024 [Office of Governor Tate Reeves, accessed 09/25/2024].

BACKGROUND

Personal Life

Weddle Lives In Saltillo, In Lee County, And Is Described As A Webster County Native. [Mississippi Judiciary, accessed 10/14/2024] [Office of Governor Tate Reeves, accessed 09/25/2024].

Weddle Is A Member Of Belden Baptist Church, Where He Teaches A Sunday School Class. Per his campaign biography [Weddle Campaign Website, accessed 8/28/2026].

Professional, Civic, & Public Sector Background

Career Sequence:

1. **Private Practice Attorney, John D. Weddle, Attorney at Law 1994–1998**
2. **Lee County Public Defender 1998–2002;**
3. **Founding Partner, Nickels & Weddle PLLC 1998–2011**
4. **Tupelo Municipal Court Judge January 2002 To December 2011;**

5. **Civil forfeiture attorney for the North Mississippi Narcotics Unit in 2005 and 2009**
6. **Assistant District Attorney, First Circuit District 2012–2015.** He served as an assistant under then-District Attorney Trent Kelly, now a U.S. Representative. As an Assistant District Attorney he oversaw the Special Victims Task Force and served as Special Assistant District Attorney focused on crimes against women and children.
7. **District Attorney 2015–2024;**
8. **Court Of Appeals Judge From October 14, 2024** [Office of Governor Tate Reeves, accessed 09/25/2024] [WCBI, 6/52015] [LinkedIn, accessed 8/28/2026].

Weddle Won The District Attorney's Office As a Republican In 2015 And Ran Unopposed In 2019 And 2023. In the November 3, 2015 general he received 37,646 votes (55.1%) to Democrat Arch Bullard's 30,679 (44.9%) [MS SOS, 2015 statewide recapitulation, accessed 8/28/2026] [MS SOS, 2019 statewide recapitulation, accessed 8/28/2026] [MS SOS, 2023 statewide recapitulation, accessed 8/28/2026].

Weddle Has Served On The Mississippi Court Of Appeals, District 1 Place 1, Since October 14, 2024 [Office of Governor Tate Reeves, 09/25/2024].

Weddle Held Leadership In The Mississippi Prosecutors Association From 2021 Through 2023. President-Elect 2021-22, also serving on the Legislative Committee and as District 3 board representative; President 2022-23; Past President 2024-25, also serving on the Conflict Committee and Legislative Committee [MPA 2021-22 board appointments, accessed 8/28/2026] [MPA 2022-23 board appointments, accessed 8/28/2026] [MPA 2024-25 board appointments, accessed 8/28/2026].

Weddle Sat On The Corrections And Criminal Justice Oversight Task Force In 2023 And 2024. He is listed as a member in the January 2024 and January 2025 final reports and is not listed in the January 2022, January 2023 or January 2026 reports [MDOC, January 2024 final report, accessed 01/2024] [MDOC, January 2025 final report, accessed 01/2026].

Weddle Attended "An Evening Honoring the Judiciary" In May 2026. The event was "presented by the Capital Area Bar Association and the Jackson Young Lawyers Association [Judge John Weddles Mississippi Court of Appeals, 05/12/2026].

Weddle Attended the Mississippi Association for Justice Conference in New Orleans, LA in June 2026 [Judge John Weddles Mississippi Court of Appeals, 06/27/2026].

Weddle Attended the Mississippi Appellate Judges Conference in March 2026 [Judge John Weddles Mississippi Court of Appeals, 03/05/2026].

Weddle Attended a Judicial Panel for the CABA Membership Luncheon in August 2026. "Thank you CABA for inviting us and Justice David Sullivan, Judge David McCarty, and Judge Amy St Pé for participating" [Judge John Weddles Mississippi Court of Appeals, 8/18/2026].

FAMILY BACKGROUND

Weddle Is Married To Karen Weddle With Two Adult Children [Weddle Campaign Website, accessed 8/28/2026].

Weddle's Parents Are Liz And Willy Weddle [Facebook, accessed 8/11/2026].

Campaign Background

Weddle Runs An Active Campaign Website With a Basic About Section and No Issue Content.

Legal & Ethics

Weddle Was Named Personally As A Defendant In A Federal Civil Rights Suit While Sitting As A Judge, And The Case Was Dismissed. Bennett v. Daniels, No. 1:25-cv-00100 (N.D. Miss.), filed June 17, 2025 and terminated December 29, 2025. The docket shows summons did not issue as to Weddle until September 23, 2025; the plaintiff's counsel moved to withdraw; mail to the plaintiff was returned undeliverable; the court issued an order to show cause on December 10, 2025 with a response due December 24; and the case was then dismissed by Senior Judge Sharion Aycock. The defense motion relied on an underlying order of dismissal with prejudice [Bennett v. Daniels et al, accessed 8/26/2026].

A Circuit Judge Found Weddle Had Subpoenaed A Television Station Without Court Approval, A Violation The Judge Said Could Have Supported Sanctions. In a June 26, 2023 order denying two defense motions to dismiss in the Nettie Davis case, Senior Circuit Judge Paul Funderburk found the subpoena was issued without prior court approval; Weddle admitted the error and withdrew it. The judge also corrected him on docket-setting: "'Contrary to the defendant's assertion, the District Attorney does not set the criminal docket. Rather, he submits a proposed docket, which this court is free to accept, amend, or out-right reject.'... While the violation could allow Weddle to be sanctioned, the only sanction the defense requested was dismissal of the charges" [Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal, 06/27/2023].

Ideology & Politics

See Partisan posts and Affiliation with political figures/organizations sections.

Affiliation with political figures/organizations

Reeves Appointed Weddle, Of Saltillo, To Fill The Vacancy Created By The Resignation Of Judge Jim M. Greenlee. Weddle had served as District Attorney for the First Circuit Court District since 2015 and previously served as Lee County public defender, Tupelo municipal judge, and assistant district attorney. He has practiced since 1995 [Office of Governor Tate Reeves, 09/25/2024].

In 2020, Mississippi Became the Center of a Scandal in Misspent Welfare Funds. The scandal involved the diversion and misuse of tens of millions of dollars in federal funds intended to help low-income families. From roughly 2016–2019, the Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS) routed large amounts of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding through two nonprofits—the Mississippi Community Education Center and the Family Resource Center of North Mississippi—which then paid individuals and organizations for programs or services that were not provided, inadequately documented, or not permissible uses of welfare funds. The spending included payments to family members and associates, lobbyists, entertainers and professional wrestlers, as well as other projects with little or no demonstrated benefit to eligible families. A 2020 state audit initially questioned more than $94 million in grant spending, and the State Auditor later sought repayment of more than $77 million determined to have been illegally spent. Former MDHS Executive Director John Davis later pleaded guilty to federal and state charges related to directing welfare money through nonprofits and sham contracts for personal use and benefit [Mississippi State Auditor, 05/04/2025] [Mississippi State Auditor, 10/12/2021] [U.S. Attorneys Office, 9/22/2022].

Reeves Appears to Have Helped MDHS Send $1.4 M to a Prominent Mississippi Personal Trainer as a Part of the Scandal. "Mississippi Today reported in its 2022 "The Backchannel" investigation that [Paul] Lacoste had a 2019 meeting with Reeves, who was then the lieutenant governor, and John Davis, the former director of the

Mississippi Department of Human Services who has since pleaded guilty to federal and state charges related to the scandal. By 2019, Lacoste had already secured a $1.4 million contract with a well connected nonprofit to receive MSDH funds for his boot camp program. Lacoste says then-Gov. Phil Bryant directed Davis to execute the agreement. But after a few months, MDHS apparently hadn't provided the nonprofit with the funds to actually pay Lacoste. That's until Davis met with Reeves. By 2019, Lacoste had already secured a $1.4 million contract with a well connected nonprofit to receive MSDH funds for his boot camp program. Lacoste says then-Gov. Phil Bryant directed Davis to execute the agreement. But after a few months, MDHS apparently hadn't provided the nonprofit with the funds to actually pay Lacoste. That's until Davis met with Reeves [Mississippi Today, 8/21/2023].

Reeves Tried to Please Brett Favre, Who Repeatedly Lobbied Reaves for Funds for a Volleyball Stadium. One of the largest purchases at the center of the scandal is a state-of-the-art volleyball stadium at University of Southern Mississippi, a project Favre pushed welfare officials to fund. Asked about the stadium at Neshoba County Fair in the summer of 2022, Reeves suggested he didn't support the idea of using any taxpayer funds to build sports facilities. At the time, Reeves' staff had opted not to include the volleyball stadium in the MDHS civil suit to claw back misspent funds — and he had just fired Pigott. 'Look, I don't know all the details as to how that came about,' Reeves said. 'What I do know is that it doesn't seem like an expense that I would personally support for TANF dollars. I don't even like the state building stadiums with general tax dollars.' But texts that wouldn't be made public until months later revealed that Reeves did talk with Favre about finding public funding to finish construction on the stadium early in his governorship, right before the February 2020 indictments. Favre had endorsed Reeves for governor in 2019" [Mississippi Today, 8/21/2023].

Gov. Tate Reeves Fired the Attorney Leading the State's Welfare Scandal Lawsuit. "In 2021, the welfare agency, which is under the statutory purview of Gov. Tate Reeves' office, hired well-known attorney Brad Pigott to lead the state's effort to claw back as many of the millions in misspent welfare funds as possible" [Mississippi Today, 8/21/2023].

Reeves was Sued by a Welfare-Scandal Defendant in 2023. "One of the people being sued by the Mississippi Department of Human Services over allegations of misspending welfare money has filed a separate lawsuit against Gov. Tate Reeves, saying the Republican is trying to protect political allies including a former governor" [Clarion Ledger, 10/12/2023].

Republican Congressman, Trent Kelly, Appeared at Weddle's Swearing In Ceremony [Mississippi Daily Journal, 10/11/2024]**.**

NEWS CULTURE OPINION SPORTS E-EDITION JOBS NEWSLETTERS OBITS PUBLICATIONS SUBSCRIBE LOGIN

Weddle sworn in as appellate judge

By WILLIAM MOORE Daily Journal Oct 11, 2024

1 of 12

PREV

Newly named Court of Appeals Judge John Weddle gets congratulated by Rep. Trent Kelly, left, and Mississippi Supreme Court Chief Justice Michael Randolph following Weddle's investiture ceremony Friday at the Lee County Justice Center in Tupelo.

Thomas Wells | Daily Journal

NEXT UP

Kentucky man charged with grooming Lee County minor

TUPELO – A Kentucky man has been arrested by Lee County law ...

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Rep. Trent Kelly Signed the He signed the Texas v. Pennsylvania Amicus Brief [State of Texas v. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 12/10/2020].

Rep. Trent Kelly Voted to Sustain Both Objections to the Electoral Votes of Arizona and Pennsylvania Election Results on January 6 and 7, 2021 Respectively [Mississippi Today, 01/7/2021].

Rep. Trent Kelly Is an Election Denier. "After Joe Biden was declared the winner of the 2020 presidential election, Rep. Kelly refused to accept the results, posting on Facebook that 'I stand with President Trump! The election isn't over until all legal votes are counted and all legal challenges have been addressed'" [Republican Accountability, accessed 8/26/2026].

Government transparency/partisanship

No findings of note

Individual Rights/Healthcare Access

Weddle Shared a Picture to His Personal Facebook Highlighting the U.S. Supreme Court Opinion Overturning Roe V. Wade.

John Weddle
June 24, 2022 ·

reaffirm *Roe* and *Casey*, and they contend that the Mississippi law cannot stand if we do so. Allowing Mississippi to prohibit abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy, they argue, "would be no different than overruling *Casey* and *Roe* entirely." Brief for Respondents 43. They contend that "no half-measures" are available and that we must either reaffirm or overrule *Roe* and *Casey*. Brief for Respondents 50.

We hold that *Roe* and *Casey* must be overruled. The Constitution makes no reference to abortion, and no such right is implicitly protected by any constitutional provision, including the one on which the defenders of *Roe* and *Casey* now chiefly rely—the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. That provision has been held to guarantee some rights that are not mentioned in the Constitution, but any such right must be "deeply rooted in this Nation's history and tradition" and "implicit in the concept of ordered liberty." *Washington* v. *Glucksberg*, 521 U. S. 702, 721 (1997) (internal quotation marks omitted).

The right to abortion does not fall within this category. Until the latter part of the 20th century, such a right was entirely unknown in American law. Indeed, when the Fourteenth Amendment was adopted, three quarters of the

70 3 6

View more comments

PARTISAN POSTS

Weddle Posted a Picture To His Personal Facebook of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett During Her U.S. Senate Confirmation Hearing.

Weddle Shared a Photo to His Personal Instagram Advertising a Prayer Service for Elected Officials.

Weddle Shared a Post to His Personal Facebook That He Was Voting for Republican Congressman Trent Kelly. Congressman Trent Kelly is an election denier (see Affiliation with political figures/organizations section).

Campaign Infrastructure

Weddle Has Modest Campaign Infrastructure. He has a campaign website, Facebook, and Instagram.

Endorsements

No findings of note.

Campaign finance

Weddle Has $20,036.08 Cash on Hand, Has Made $2,738.92 in Disbursements, and Has Raised $22,775 in 2026 [MS SOS, 07/10/2026].

Brewster Smith of Tupelo, MS is listed as Weddle's Treasurer [MS SOS, accessed 07/10/2026].

Election Denier U.S. Rep. Trent Kelly's Congressional Campaign Contributed $500 to Weddle's Campaign in 2023 [MS SOS, accessed 8/28/2026].

	Recipient	Contributor Name	Date Received	Report Type	Amount ($)	In-Kind
Details	John Weddle	Kelly for Congress	11/16/2022	John Weddle 1/31/2023 Annual Report	500.00	

Weddle's Successor, Jason Herring, Contributed $1,000 to Weddle in 2021. Herring was appointed by Gov. Reeves to succeed Weddle as District Attorney in 2024 [Office of Governor Tate Reeves, accessed 8/28/2026]. Before that, he contributed $1,000 on November 4, 2021 [MS SOS, accessed 8/28/2026].

Details	John Weddle	Jason Herring	11/04/2021	John Weddle 1/31/2022 Annual Report	1,000.00	

Contributions To All John Weddle Campaigns [MS SOS, accessed 8/28/2026]:

Contributor	Date	Amount
Adam Paxton	10/22/2021	5,000.00
Beth White	11/08/2018	250
Beth White	11/08/2018	250
Beth White	11/08/2018	250
Brian Neely	11/17/2022	1,000.00
Charles Boatner, Jr.	11/17/2022	1,000.00
Charles L. Boatner	11/08/2018	1,000.00
Charles L. Boatner	11/08/2018	1,000.00
Charles L. Boatner	11/08/2018	1,000.00
Clay & Elizabeth Cummings	11/04/2021	400
Clay & Elizabeth Cummings	11/17/2022	250
Cleveland Properties, LLC	11/17/2022	1,000.00
David Daniels	11/08/2018	500
David Daniels	11/08/2018	500
David Daniels	11/08/2018	500
David Daniels	11/04/2021	500
David Daniels	11/17/2022	1,000.00
Denise & Jeff Brawner	11/09/2022	250
Doss Law Firm, PLLC	11/17/2022	250
Drew Stewart	11/17/2022	250
DSP Properties, LLC	10/27/2021	1,000.00
Dulaney & Sumner, PLLC	11/04/2021	1,000.00

Contributor	Date	Amount
Dulaney & Sumner, PLLC	11/17/2022	1,000.00
Fernbrooke Personal Care Home	11/01/2021	250
Friends of Chad Mcmahan	11/04/2021	500
Harry Sumner	11/08/2018	1,000.00
Harry Sumner	11/08/2018	1,000.00
Harry Sumner	11/08/2018	1,000.00
Herring Chapman, PA	11/08/2018	500
Herring Chapman, PA	11/08/2018	500
Herring Chapman, PA	11/08/2018	500
Herring Chapman, PA	11/17/2022	1,000.00
Jason Herring	11/04/2021	1,000.00
Jeff & Denise Brawner	11/04/2021	250
Jeff Leathers	11/28/2022	300
Jerry King	11/08/2018	250
Jerry King	11/08/2018	250
Jerry King	11/08/2018	250
Jim Owen	11/08/2018	250
Jim Owen	11/08/2018	250
Jim Owen	11/08/2018	250
Joe & Bridgett Cash	11/08/2018	500
Joe & Bridgett Cash	11/08/2018	500
Joe & Bridgett Cash	11/08/2018	500
Josh & Miley Wise	11/06/2018	600
Josh & Miley Wise	11/06/2018	600
Josh & Miley Wise	11/06/2018	600
Justin Lohmeier, MD	11/08/2018	500
Justin Lohmeier, MD	11/08/2018	500
Justin Lohmeier, MD	11/08/2018	500
Kelly for Congress	11/16/2022	500
Kyle and Kayla Robbins	11/08/2018	250
Kyle and Kayla Robbins	11/08/2018	250
Kyle and Kayla Robbins	11/08/2018	250
Kyle and Kayla Robbins	11/17/2022	250
Law Firm of Amanda Todd Daniels	11/30/2021	250
Law Firm of Amanda Todd Daniels	11/16/2022	250
Luke Montgomery	11/08/2018	500

Contributor	Date	Amount
Luke Montgomery	11/08/2018	500
Luke Montgomery	11/08/2018	500
Margie Garcia	11/08/2018	300
Margie Garcia	11/08/2018	300
Margie Garcia	11/08/2018	300
Mark & Vicki Jarrett	11/04/2021	500
Mark & Vicki Jarrett	11/17/2022	500
Matt and Hope Wesson	11/08/2018	500
Matt and Hope Wesson	11/08/2018	500
Matt and Hope Wesson	11/08/2018	500
Matthew & Hope Wesson	11/17/2022	1,000.00
Megan French	12/01/2021	250
Megan French	11/17/2022	250
Melissa McKinnney	11/30/2021	500
Michael Addison	11/04/2021	250
Michael Addison	11/17/2022	250
Michael Greer	11/17/2022	500
Montgomery Enterprises	11/09/2022	500
Montgomery Properties, LLC	11/03/2021	500
Nancy Collins	10/29/2021	1,000.00
Neal & Barbara Daniels	11/18/2018	500
Neal & Barbara Daniels	11/18/2018	500
Neal & Barbara Daniels	11/18/2018	500
PFW, LLC	10/27/2021	1,000.00
Phillip Whitehead	11/08/2018	250
Phillip Whitehead	11/08/2018	250
Phillip Whitehead	11/08/2018	250
Priest & Wise, PLLC	11/08/2018	250
Priest & Wise, PLLC	11/08/2018	250
Priest & Wise, PLLC	11/08/2018	250
Priest & Wise, PLLC	11/17/2022	500
Ray & Emily O'Neal	11/08/2018	250
Ray & Emily O'Neal	11/08/2018	250
Ray & Emily O'Neal	11/08/2018	250
Ray Oneal	11/03/2021	300
Raymond O'Neal	11/17/2022	250

Contributor	Date	Amount
Rebecca Barber	11/04/2021	250
Rebecca Barber	11/28/2022	250
Robert and Sharon Hurdle	11/02/2018	500
Robert and Sharon Hurdle	11/02/2018	500
Robert and Sharon Hurdle	11/02/2018	500
Robert and Sharon Hurdle	11/26/2022	500
Trice Sumner	10/23/2021	1,000.00
Victor Fleitas	11/20/2018	250
Victor Fleitas	11/20/2018	250
Victor Fleitas	11/20/2018	250
Vogue Home Furnishings, LLC	10/27/2021	1,000.00
Wheeler & Franks Law Firm, P.C.	11/08/2018	1,000.00
Wheeler & Franks Law Firm, P.C.	11/08/2018	1,000.00
Wheeler & Franks Law Firm, P.C.	11/08/2018	1,000.00
Wheeler & Franks Law Firm, PC	11/04/2021	1,000.00

PERSONAL POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Weddle Has Three Federal Contributions Totalling $1,785, including to Trump. His $35 WINRED contribution in September 2020 was earmarked for TRUMP MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN COMMITTEE (C00618371) [FEC, accessed 8/28/2026].

Contributor name	Recipient	State	Employer	Receipt date	Amount
WEDDLE, JOHN	WINRED	MS	STATE OF MS	09/24/2020	$35.00
WEDDLE, JOHN	KELLY FOR CONGRESS	MS	1ST DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE DA	02/24/2016	$250.00
WEDDLE, JOHN	KELLY FOR CONGRESS	MS	1ST DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE DA	03/18/2015	$1,500.00

Results per page: 30 Showing 1 to 3 of 3 entries

Weddle Contributed $1,750 to U.S. Rep and Election Denier Trent Kelly's Campaign. Kelly is an election denier [FEC, accessed 8/28/2026]. See Affiliation with political figures/organizations section).

Weddle's Campaign for District Attorney Made One Mississippi State Contribution of $500 [MS SOS, accessed 8/28/2026]**.**

Export To Excel

	Recipient	Contributor Name	Date Received	Report Type	Amount ($)	In-Kind
Details	Tate for Governor	Weddle For District Attorney	10/02/2019	Tate for Governor PART ONE 10/29/2019 General Pre-Election Form Filing	500.00	

1 - 1 of 1 items

ISSUES

Democracy & elections

The Nettie Davis Prosecution

Nettie Davis Discussed Raffling Donated Cash To Voters At A June 2021 Rally, And The Raffle Never Occurred. Davis, a 20-year council member and the first Black woman elected to the Tupelo City Council, solicited raffle donations at a June 5 rally: "We'll pull names after they have voted, and what we'll do is give this money away the day after the voting is over." She was running unopposed. Penson, chairman of the Democratic municipal executive committee, a minister and former city personnel director, had posted May 29 about churches offering "cash prizes" tied to voter participation [Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal, 10/13/2021] [Clarion Ledger, 06/09/2021] [Mississippi Today, 08/14/2023].

Weddle Opened The Investigation Within Days And Announced It Jointly With Secretary Of State Michael Watson. On the indictments: "These actions will not be tolerated. I am dedicated to handling this matter aggressively." And: "I take election fraud seriously, and I am dedicated to handling this matter and any other violations aggressively" [Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal, 06/13/2021] [Mississippi Today, 08/02/2023].

Weddle Filed A Bill Of Criminal Information On July 28, 2021 That Bypassed The Grand Jury, And It Was Later Removed From Public Court Records. "District Attorney John Weddle initially tried to speed the criminal prosecution of City Councilwoman Nettie Davis by avoiding the grand jury process, according to documents obtained by the Daily Journal. On July 28, Weddle filed a bill of criminal information against Davis in Circuit Court. The document was signed by Weddle, given a cause number and stamped as filed, but has since been scrubbed from the public court record…Davis, on advice of her defense attorney, Jim Waide, did not agree to the bill of information presented by Weddle" [Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal, 10/8/2021].

Local Activists Called The Use Of A Grand Jury For A Misdemeanor A "Travesty", And Democratic Leaders Rallied On September 3, 2021. "Ten people, including former Democratic U.S. Rep. Travis Childers; Jim Waide, Davis' attorney; and Jim Newman, the chairman of the Lee County Democratic Party, gathered in Fairpark Friday morning to defend Davis' character…'I find it a travesty — and I mean that a real travesty — that someone who has devoted not only her life to teaching, but then her life to public service, should be treated so shabbily over a supposed misdemeanor,' Newman said" [Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal, 09/03/2021]

Selective Prosecution Was Formally Alleged, With Davis's Attorney, Waide, Arguing A White Republican Candidate Left Uncharged On A Comparable Violation. "It's unclear why Waide is seeking Smith's appearance in court, but he could be attempting to paint a picture that state prosecutors in the area are selectively prosecuting certain cases of election law violations and ignoring others" [Mississippi Today, 08/02/2023]. His motion: "The District Attorney has not announced any intent to prosecute this misdemeanor election law violation by a white Republican candidate" [The Yazoo Herald, 08/15/2023].

The Case Ended August 14, 2023 In A Non-Adjudicated Misdemeanor Plea, And Weddle Did Not Respond To Press. Davis pleaded guilty, kept her seat, paid $500 with $4,500 suspended plus $227.75 costs, and waived a public trial. Waide: "Once the charges were brought, we didn't have any choice but to accept an agreement where she wouldn't be removed from office." Mississippi Today reported Weddle did not respond to requests for comment and a settlement was agreed to [Mississippi Today, 08/14/2023]. Davis later petitioned to expunge the charge [Mississippi Daily Journal, 09/11/2023]

Weddle Stated Responding to Accusations his Prosecution was Political was "Not Worth Commenting On". "When asked if his prosecution of two longtime leaders in the Black community and the Democratic Party is political — as some have alleged — Weddle said that accusation is not worth commenting on" [Yahoo News, 10/15/2021].

Ideology, Rhetoric & Extremism Signals

Weddle Is a Republican. He was elected as a Republican District Attorney [MS SOS 2015 Election Results, accessed 8/28/2026], he was appointed by Republican Governor Tate Reeves in 2024 [Office of Governor Tate Reeves, 09/25/2024] and by Republican Phil Bryant in 2015 [WCBI, accessed 06/05/2015], He also documented 2026 circuit of county Republican organizations [Weddle Campaign Facebook, 06/26/2026, 05/26/2026, 05/06/2026] . Mississippi Today has described him in its reporting as "a Republican" [Mississippi Today, 08/02/2023].

Judge John Weddle MS Court of Appeals · Follow

May 26 ·

I enjoyed attending the DeSoto County Republican Club event tonight in Hernando. It was a pleasure meeting the DeSoto County judicial candidates who spoke, as well as v... **See more**

12

Write a comment...

Protections from Predatory Businesses

No findings of note

Charging Decisions in the Deaths of Black Mississippians

Antwun "Ronnie" Shumpert, June 18, 2016. Shumpert, 37, unarmed and Black, was shot four times by Tupelo Officer Tyler Cook after a traffic stop for improper turn signal use and a missing tag light, a foot chase, and a struggle beneath a house where Cook's patrol dog located him. Cook said Shumpert punched the dog, escaped it and tackled him, that he was struck repeatedly, feared for his life and believed he would lose consciousness. Shumpert died roughly five hours later [U.S. Department of Justice, 05/16/2017]. On August 2, 2016 a Lee County grand jury declined to indict, stating it "found no criminal wrongdoing on the part of Officer Tyler Cook" [Hattiesburg American, 08/01/2016].

Weddle Sought A Special Grand Jury And Declined The Family's Request For An Independent Special Prosecutor. July 8, 2016: he announced he would seek a special grand jury rather than wait for

September, saying "if we can fit it in, we will" and "it's difficult to have both a regular court term and a grand jury." Asked about the family's request that an independent prosecutor handle it, he said "I feel confident we can present this case" and pointed to the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation: "we have an independent agency handling the investigation, and they will be presenting the evidence" [Fox News, 07/08/2016].

Federal Authorities Later Closed Their Review Without Charges. The U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Mississippi, the Justice Department Civil Rights Division and the FBI reviewed witness interviews, autopsy reports, crime scene documentation, surveillance video, radio traffic and incident reports, and concluded "the evidence is insufficient to prove, beyond a reasonable doubt, that Cook violated federal civil rights laws" [U.S. Department of Justice, 05/16/2017].

The Shumpert Family And Their Counsel Are Documented, Motivated Critics. Attorney Carlos Moore said the family would continue to monitor the FBI and Justice Department investigations then underway. Peggy Shumpert, the widow, publicly rejected the prosecution account at the 2016 news conference: "All the evidence was right there, and you overlook it... and you call it justified!" A $35 million federal civil rights lawsuit was filed against the City of Tupelo, not against Weddle [Mississippi Free Press, 08/02/2016].

A'Miya Braxton, October 4, 2016. A'Miya Braxton, 7, was struck and killed in her driveway in North Pontotoc, Pontotoc County, by Karen Michelle Carpenter, a white motorist who passed a stopped school bus and swerved onto the sidewalk. Weddle's office presented the case to two grand juries between 2016 and 2018; neither indicted. Reported evidentiary gaps included no proof of cell phone use, no toxicology findings and an inability to determine speed at impact. Weddle: "This was a difficult case... when you start looking at the law and how it applies, it becomes a difficult issue" [New York Amsterdam News, 08/31/2020].

The Family's Allegations Against Weddle Are Specific And Serious. They alleged he improperly introduced an "intent" element absent from Nathan's Law, which requires motorists to stop ten feet from a school bus; failed to instruct clearly on the vehicular homicide statutes; and should have recused because of possible ties to Carpenter. They asked the Mississippi Attorney General to investigate potential prosecutorial misconduct. "We believe Weddle introduced this element of 'intent' and we have called on the state Attorney General to investigate," the family said in a statement" [New York Amsterdam News, 08/31/2021].

A Change.org Petition Demanding A Special Prosecutor Exceeded 716,000 Signatures. Weddle is not named on the petition [Change.org, 09/15/2017].

Other Notable Cases

Weddle Was Reported In 2018 Not To Have Returned Calls About A Possible Re-Examination Of A 1959 Racial Killing. An aggregated report stated "District Attorney John Weddle did not return multiple calls" about whether his office would re-examine the 1959 killing of a Mississippi teenager [Nine, 8/21/2018].

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

LinkedIn
Personal Facebook
Campaign Facebook
Personal Instagram
Campaign Instagram
Personal X Account

Campaign website

PUBLIC RECORDS

No findings of note

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