



Shelby Scholars Lecture Series

LILES BURKE

United States District Judge

ABOUT OUR GUEST

A native of Marshall County, Alabama, Liles Burke attended public schools in the City of Arab before earning his undergraduate degree from the University of Alabama in 1991. In 1994, he earned his law degree from the University of Alabama School of Law, where he served as the student member of the University's Board of Trustees and was inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society and The Jasons.

In 1994, he was admitted to practice before the Alabama Supreme Court and the U.S. Courts, and began working alongside his father, where he handled a wide range of civil and criminal cases. During that time he served as Arab's Municipal Prosecutor as well as City Attorney, and in 2001 was named the Arab's Municipal Judge. He held that office until 2006, when Governor Riley appointed him as Marshall County District Judge. In 2008 Judge Burke was elected to a full term on the District Court without opposition.

Judge Burke established Marshall County's first family drug court and, working with District Judge Tim Riley, helped implement one of Alabama's earliest domestic violence courts. Additionally, he served as an officer in both

the Alabama District Judges Association and the Alabama Juvenile Judges Association.

In February 2011, Governor Bentley appointed Judge Burke to fill a vacancy on the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals, and in 2012 he was elected to a six-year term. During this time, he served as the President of the Alabama Appellate Judges Association.

Judge Burke has remained active in numerous community organizations, leading the Marshall County United Way fund drive, serving as president of the Arab Chamber of Commerce, and sitting on the board of the Marshall County Healthcare Authority. He is a Methodist, a Rotarian, and an alumnus of Leadership Alabama. He also served for more than a decade in the Judge Advocate General's Corps of the Alabama Army National Guard, attaining the rank of Major.

On July 17, 2017, President Trump nominated Judge Burke as a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama. He currently serves as the resident District Judge at the United States Courthouse in Huntsville.

Judge Burke and his wife, the former Natalie Jones of Jasper, Alabama, have two children.

*Thursday, September 25, 2025
4 PM at Tuomey Hall*