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# Eminent Domain in Tennessee: An Attorney's Guide

James L. Murphy

Dennis Huffer University of Tennessee, Knoxville

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# **EMINENT DOMAIN** IN TENNESSEE

... an attorney's guide

James L. Murphy III, December 1992 Revised by Dennis Huffer, Legal Consultant, April 2004



UT MTAS Municipal Technical Advisory Service

> In cooperation with the Tennessee Municipal League



# EMINENT DOMAIN IN TENNESSEE

# ... an attorney's guide

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#### **ABOUT THE AUTHORS**

James L. Murphy III is a former director of law for the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County and is now in private practice with the Nashville firm of Boult, Cummings, Connors and Berry.

Dennis Huffer is a legal consultant with the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service.

#### **MTAS OFFICES**

Knoxville (Headquarters)	(865) 974-0411
Johnson City	(423) 854-9882
	(423) 282-0416
Nashville	(615) 532-6827
Jackson	(731) 423-3710
Martin	(731) 587-7057

#### www.mtas.tennessee.edu

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By sharing information, responding to client requests, and anticipating the ever-changing municipal government environment, MTAS promotes better local government and helps cities develop and sustain effective management and leadership.

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# **EMINENT DOMAIN IN TENNESSEE**

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**Chapter One** 

# Scope of the Power of Eminent Domain

#### Introduction

Eminent domain is the right or power of the sovereign to take private property for the public use; to take ownership and possession thereof upon payment of just compensation to the owner of the property.1 It is an inherent power of a sovereign, which is without limitation or restriction, except for the constitutional limitations that private property must be taken for a public use,2 and the owner of such property must be paid just compensation for the property.3 Although the power of eminent domain is an inherent power of the sovereign, it lies dormant until the legislature declares the purpose for which it may be exercised, and the agencies that may use the power.4 The power of eminent domain may be exercised directly by the legislature by the adoption of a statute identifying the particular property to be acquired for a public use, or it may be delegated to agents who may exercise the power in the manner prescribed in the enabling statute.5

The power of eminent domain has been delegated to counties (*Tennessee Code Annotated* (T.C.A.) § 29-17-101; 29-17-801)<sup>6</sup> and municipalities (T.C.A. § 29-17-201; 29-17-801)<sup>7</sup>. The power of eminent domain has been generally delegated to any person or corporation authorized by law to construct railroads, turnpikes, canals, toll bridges, roads, causeways, or other work of internal

improvement (T.C.A. § 29-16-101).8 The General Assembly has also delegated the power of eminent domain to the following:9

Airport authorities (T.C.A. § 42-3-108-42-3-109; 42-3-204)

Beech River Watershed Development Authority (T.C.A. § 64-1-102)

Bridge companies (T.C.A. § 54-13-208) Carrol County Watershed Authority

(T.C.A. § 64-1-805)

Chickasaw Basin Authority (T.C.A. § 64-1-204)

Coast and geodetic surveys (T.C.A. § 29-17-501)

Counties—Airports (T.C.A. § 42-5-103)

Counties—Electric plants (T.C.A. § 7-52-105)

Counties—Controlled access highways

(T.C.A. § 54-16-104)

Counties—Ferries (T.C.A. § 54-11-302)

Counties—Industrial parks (T.C.A. § 13-16-203)

Counties—Levees (T.C.A. § 69-5-105)

Counties—Public transportation systems

(T.C.A. § 7-56-106)

Counties—Public works projects (T.C.A. § 9-21-107)

Counties—Railroad systems (T.C.A. § 7-56-207)

Counties—Recreational land (T.C.A. § 11-24-102)

Counties—Roads (T.C.A. § 29-17-801 et seq.;

54-10-205)

Counties—Schools (T.C.A. § 49-6-2001 et seq.)

Counties—Solid waste sites (T.C.A. § 68-211-919)



Counties—for the West Tennessee River Basin Authority (T.C.A. § 64-1-1103(14)) Drainage and levee districts (T.C.A. § 29-17-801 et seq.; 69-6-201 et seq.) Electric power districts (T.C.A. § 7-83-303; 7-83-305) Hospitals (T.C.A. § 29-16-126) (T.C.A. in certain counties) Housing authorities (T.C.A. § 13-20-104; 13-20-108-13-20-109; 13-20-212; 29-17-401 et sea.) Light, power, and heat companies (T.C.A. § 65-22-101) Metropolitan governments—Energy production facilities (T.C.A. § 7-54-103) Metropolitan governments—Port authorities (T.C.A. § 7-5-108) Metropolitan hospital authorities (T.C.A. § 7-57-305) Mill Creek Flood Control Authority (T.C.A. § 64-3-104) Municipalities—Airports (T.C.A. § 42-5-103) Municipalities—City Manager-Commission (T.C.A. § 6-19-101) Municipalities—Controlled access highways (T.C.A. § 54-16-104) Municipalities—Drainage ditches (T.C.A. § 7-35-101) Municipalities—Electric plants (T.C.A. § 7-52-105) Municipalities—Gas systems (T.C.A. § 7-39-303) Municipalities—Industrial parks (T.C.A. § 13-16-203) Municipalities—Mayor - Aldermanic (T.C.A. § 6-2-201) Municipalities—Modified City Manager (T.C.A. § 6-33-101) Municipalities—Parks (T.C.A. § 7-31-107 et seq.) Municipalities—Public transportation systems (T.C.A. § 7-56-106) Municipalities—Public works projects (T.C.A. § 9-21-107) Municipalities—Railroad systems (T.C.A. § 7-56-207) Municipalities—Recreational systems (T.C.A. § 11-24-102)

Municipalities—Schools (T.C.A. § 49-6-2001 et seq.) Municipalities—Sewers (T.C.A. § 7-35-101) Municipalities—Slum clearance (T.C.A. § 13-21-204; 13-21-206) (T.C.A. in certain counties) Municipalities—Solid waste sites (T.C.A. § 68-211-919) Municipalities—Streets (T.C.A. § 7-31-107 et seg.) Municipalities—Utilities (T.C.A. § 7-34-101) Municipalities—Water systems (T.C.A. § 7-35-101) Municipalities—for the West Tennessee River Basin Authority (T.C.A. § 64-1-1103(14)) North Central Tennessee Railroad Authority (T.C.A. § 64-2-507) Pipeline companies (T.C.A. § 65-28-101) Private roads (T.C.A. § 54-14-101 et. seq.) Public gristmills (T.C.A. § 43-23-103 et seq.) Railroads (T.C.A. § 65-6-109; 65-6-123) Railroads—Branch lines (T.C.A. § 65-6-126 et seq.) Railroads—Incline railroads (T.C.A. § 65-18-101) Railroads—Interurban railroads (T.C.A. § 65-16-119) Road improvement districts (T.C.A. § 54-12-152) Solid waste authorities (T.C.A. § 68-211-908) State Department of Environment and Conservation (T.C.A. § 11-1-105; 11-3-105; 11-14-110; 59-8-215) State Department of Transportation (T.C.A. § 29-17-801 et seg.; 54-5-104; 54-5-208; 54-16-104) State military affairs (T.C.A. § 58-1-501 et seq.) State/Water and sewer facilities (T.C.A. § 12-1-109) Telegraph companies (T.C.A. § 65-21-204) Telephone companies (T.C.A. § 65-21-204) Telephone cooperatives (T.C.A. § 65-29-104; 65-29-125) Tennessee Tollway Authority (T.C.A. § 54-15-120) Tri-County Railroad Authority (T.C.A. § 64-2-307) University of Tennessee (T.C.A. § 29-17-301) Utility districts (T.C.A. § 7-82-305) Water companies (T.C.A. § 65-27-101 et seq.) Watershed districts (T.C.A. § 69-7-118) Water and wastewater authorities (T.C.A. § 68-221-610)



Such grants of the power of eminent domain are in derogation of private property rights and will be strictly construed against the condemners and liberally in favor of the rights of property owners. Thus the condemner's right to take property will be denied if the condemner has failed to follow the procedures set forth in the statutes that authorize exercise of the power of eminent domain. Also the condemner will be precluded from acquiring a greater interest in property than is authorized by statute.

T.C.A. § 68-211-122 prohibits the use by a municipality of the power of eminent domain to establish a solid waste landfill outside its corporate boundaries unless this is approved by the governing body of the area in which the landfill is to be located. This approval must be given by a majority vote at two (2) consecutive regularly scheduled meetings.

#### **Eminent Domain vs. Police Power**

The power of eminent domain, or the power to acquire private property for a public use, can generally be distinguished from the police power, which is the power to adopt regulations to promote the public health, safety and welfare of a community, even though the exercise of either power may impair the fair market value of private property.<sup>13</sup> Where the impairment of value results from the exercise of the police power, courts traditionally find that the loss is not subject to the just compensation requirements of the United States and Tennessee Constitutions. 14 Thus, claims for compensation have been denied where the value of property has been impaired as the result of: the imposition of housing regulations; 15 the imposition of zoning regulations; 16 the imposition of utility rate regulations;17 the change in streets abutting property from two-way streets to one-way streets;18 inconvenience, noise, and dirt from construction of

a public improvement which interfered with the use of property;<sup>19</sup> or annexation in which city annexed service area of private trash haulers.<sup>20</sup>

This theoretical distinction becomes blurred when the police power regulation impairs the value or use of private property to such an extent that no beneficial use of the property remains.<sup>21</sup> These instances have become more common as local governments have imposed land use regulations upon private property instead of using limited public funds to acquire private property for public use. This problem was first addressed in *Pennsylvania* Coal Co. v. Mahon, 22 where Justice Holmes held that "while property may be regulated to a certain extent, if regulation goes too far, it will be recognized as a taking...(as)...a strong public desire to improve the public condition is not enough to warrant achieving the desire by a shorter cut than the constitutional way of paying for the change."

This holding has been applied in Tennessee to a zoning regulation that deprived the owner of the beneficial use of its property.<sup>23</sup> Where such a "regulatory taking" occurs, the property owner is entitled to recover "just compensation" for the taking, not just the invalidation of the regulation that resulted in the taking.<sup>24</sup> These issues will be discussed in further detail in Chapter Five.

# Eminent Domain vs. Accidental or Negligent Acts

A governmental defendant must perform a purposeful or intentional act for a taking to exist and a taking will not result from unavoidable incidents or negligent acts.<sup>25</sup> (But see T.C.A. § 29-16-127).



#### **Chapter Two**

# **Condemnation Procedures**

#### Introduction

There are a variety of condemnation procedures that have been established for municipalities and counties,¹ but the most commonly utilized are the traditional "jury of view" procedure (T.C.A. § 29-16-101 et seq.) and the "bulldozer/quick take" procedure (T.C.A. § 29-17-801 et seq.). These statutory provisions normally permit the condemner to select the procedure of its choice from the available options.² This manual will discuss only the traditional "jury of view" procedure and the "bulldozer/quick take" procedure, since the same principles are generally applicable to the other procedural schemes available to counties and municipalities.

T.C.A. § 6-54-122 establishes special procedures to be followed by a municipality in taking unincorporated property in any county in which the municipality was not located before May 1, 1995. The municipality must notify the county in writing and the county must approve the taking. The county's disapproval may not be arbitrary or capricious and may be reviewed by statutory writ of certiorari. These provisions do not apply to takings necessary to provide utility service, certain takings by metropolitan governments, or takings relative to airports or projects sponsored jointly by a municipality and county.

The condemner seeking to acquire an interest under the power of eminent domain must first file a lawsuit to accomplish this objective. In the lawsuit, the court will be presented with two issues: (1) whether the condemner has the right to take the property;<sup>3</sup> and (2) the amount of just compensation to which the property owner is entitled.<sup>4</sup> Under the "jury of view" and the "bulldozer/quick take" procedures, the condemnation action must be filed in the circuit court in which the property is located (T.C.A. § 29-16-104; 29-17-802). Thus, the circuit court has exclusive jurisdiction over eminent domain proceedings. Once condemnation proceedings have been filed in the circuit court, the court may resolve matters that are incidental to the condemnation case, such as contract<sup>6</sup> or boundary<sup>7</sup> disputes involving the condemned property. The only exception to this rule involves cases that were properly brought in chancery court to obtain injunctions or other equitable relief.8 The chancery court has been found to have jurisdiction to award appropriate relief under the eminent domain statutes in cases that were initially brought to obtain injunctive relief,9 or to void a contract10 or reform a deed.11

## Jury of View Procedure

The jury of view procedure requires the condemner to initiate the condemnation action by filing a petition for condemnation in the circuit court and giving the property owner notice of the proceedings (T.C.A. § 29-16-104-29-16-105). The circuit court then appoints a jury of view to examine the property to be condemned and determine the amount of just compensation to which the property owner is entitled (T.C.A. § 29-16-107-29-16-113). The jury of view will then file its report with the court, and the report may be confirmed or it may be excepted to and/or appealed from by one or both the parties that have objections to the report (T.C.A. § 29-16-115-29-16-118).



If the report is confirmed, an order will be entered conveying the property to the condemner upon payment to the property owner the amount of just compensation set by the jury of view (T.C.A. § 29-16-116). If an exception is filed, the court may upon a showing of good cause appoint a new jury of view (T.C.A. § 29-16-117). If an appeal is filed to the report, the circuit court conducts a trial de novo before a petit jury (T.C.A. § 29-16-118).

#### Petition for Condemnation

The petition for condemnation must be filed in the county in which the property is located (T.C.A. § 29-16-104). The petition must name as defendants all parties having any interest in any way in the property being acquired (T.C.A. § 29-16-106). All parties must be named as defendants for the condemnation proceedings to bind the parties, with the exception of unborn remaindermen, who are bound if all living parties in interest are parties (T.C.A. § 29-16-106).12 Thus, to obtain clear title to the property, the condemner should name as defendants the spouse of the property owner,13 any person owning a life estate or reversionary or remainder interest in the property, 14 any lessee of the property, 15 any holder of a recorded mortgage,16 and any holder of any other interest in the property, including a purchase contract of which the condemner is aware. 17 The name and residence addresses of all defendants, if known, should be listed in the petition and if the name or address is unknown, that fact should be stated in the petition (T.C.A. § 29-16-104).

The body of the petition for condemnation should set forth the statute, private act, or charter provision giving the condemner the general power to acquire property by eminent domain and should cite the "jury of view" statutes as the specific statutory procedure being used by the condemner

to acquire the property in question.<sup>18</sup> The petition should also identify the specific ordinance or resolution of the county or municipal legislative body authorizing the acquisition of the property under the power of eminent domain.

The nature of the project for which the property is being acquired should be described (T.C.A. § 29-16-104). The petition should recite that the project is for a public use, is in the public interest, and that the acquisition of the defendant's property is necessary for the completion of the project. 19 The particular interest in the property, either a fee interest or an easement, should be identified (T.C.A. § 29-16-104). An accurate legal description of the property should be included, along with a corresponding map or plat attached as an exhibit if available (T.C.A. § 29-16-104).20 Also any known encumbrances upon the property should be specified. Finally the petition should contain a prayer that a copy of the petition be served on defendants and a suitable portion of the land or the rights of the defendants be awarded to the condemner (T.C.A. § 29-16-104).

# Deposit

The condemner using the "jury of view" procedure has the option of depositing with the clerk of the court at the time the petition is filed the amount it determines the property owner is entitled to for the property being acquired (T.C.A. § 29-17-701). The property owner may, upon written notice to the clerk of the court, withdraw this amount upon agreeing to refund any difference if the final award is less than the deposit (T.C.A. § 29-17-701). Upon making a deposit, the condemner is relieved from paying interest to the property owner on the amount deposited from the date of the taking until the date of the ultimate award to the property owner (T.C.A. § 29-17-701). Thus, the statute provides the condemner with



a mechanism to avoid the payment of interest on the amount deposited while permitting the property owner to immediately obtain the amount deposited to replace the property taken by the condemner.<sup>21</sup>

The condemner should make a good faith estimate of the damages and expenses the property owner will likely incur when it determines the amount to deposit.<sup>22</sup> The amount of the deposit should be specified in the condemnation petition. The amount of the deposit is not relevant to the trial<sup>23</sup> and the condemner can offer proof that the property is of lesser value.<sup>24</sup>

#### Notice

Notice of the filing of the condemnation petition must be given to all defendants, or if the defendant is a nonresident of the county, to the defendant's agent, at least five days before the petition for condemnation is presented to the court for issuance of the writ of inquiry (T.C.A. § 29-16-105). If the defendant's name or address is unknown and not readily ascertainable, notice should be given by publication as provided in T.C.A. § 21-1-204 for suits in chancery court (T.C.A. § 29-16-105).25 Although notice by publication is also authorized for nonresidents of the state, the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution requires more than notice by publication when the name and address of a nonresident defendant is known or very easily ascertainable.26 The notice should advise the defendant of the filing of the petition and the date scheduled for the presentation of the petition to the court for issuance of the writ of inquiry.<sup>27</sup>

The notice of the filing of the petition is in lieu of the summons which is normally issued in civil actions. The manner of service of the notice is not specified in the applicable statutes; however, Rule 71 of the Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure

provides that those rules will be applicable to the extent they are not in conflict with or do not contradict or contravene the provisions of the applicable statutes. Therefore, service of the notice, accompanied by a copy of the petition for condemnation, can be accomplished in any manner authorized by Rule 4 of the *Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure*. A return of the notice, like a return of a summons, should be completed in compliance with Rule 4.03 of the *Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure*.

# Writ of Inquiry

At the time of the presentation of the petition to the court for the issuance of the writ of inquiry, which cannot occur until five (5) days after the defendant has been given notice of the filing of the petition, the condemner should submit a motion to sustain the condemner's right to take the property under the power of eminent domain. This motion asks the court to issue the writ of inquiry and fix a time and place for the inquest. Any challenge to the condemner's right to take must be asserted at this stage of the proceedings.<sup>29</sup>

If no challenge to the condemner's right to take is made, the court will sustain the condemnation proceedings and order the issuance of the writ of inquiry of damages (T.C.A. § 29-16-107). This order should recite that: the petition for condemnation has been properly filed and notice given to the defendants; the condemner has the right to acquire the property as disclosed in the order; the clerk should issue a writ of inquiry to appear on a fixed date and place and that no further notice will be given; upon selection of the jury of view the jury will proceed to the property, examine the same and hear testimony of witnesses, but no argument of counsel, and will set apart by metes and bounds the property to be condemned and assess the damages as required by law; and that the jury of view will reduce its report to writing and deliver it to the



sheriff, who will return it to the court.<sup>30</sup> If the defendant challenges the condemner's right to take, the court must first resolve this challenge before it may order issuance of the writ of inquiry (T.C.A. § 29-16-107).<sup>31</sup> If the court finds that the condemner has the right to take the property, it will sustain the condemnation proceedings and order issuance of the writ of inquiry of damages (T.C.A. § 29-16-107). The order directing the issuance of the writ of inquiry is not a final order and therefore is not appealable.<sup>32</sup>

The writ of inquiry is issued by the clerk and directed to the sheriff, commanding him to summon a panel of jurors to appear on a fixed date and place (T.C.A. § 29-16-107).<sup>33</sup> The sheriff thereafter summons a panel of 12 to 15 potential jurors from which the jury of view will be selected. The sheriff should return the writ to the clerk of court, specifying the names of the persons on whom the writ of inquiry was served.<sup>34</sup>

# Selection of the Jury of View

The jury of view will consist of five persons, unless the parties agree to a different number (T.C.A. § 29-16-108). The jurors must possess the same qualifications as jurors in other civil cases, with the additional qualification that no members of the jury of view may have an interest in a similar case (T.C.A. § 29-16-109). The jurors may be challenged for cause or peremptorily as in any other civil case (T.C.A. § 29-16-108). In the instance where the name of the juror is selected by the court, and the juror is unable to attend, the sheriff will select a replacement (T.C.A. § 29-16-110).

## View and Report

If the date has not been set by the court, the sheriff must give the parties three days' notice of the time and place of the inquiry (T.C.A. § 29-16-111).<sup>35</sup> On the date and time

specified, the jury will be selected (if the names of the jurors are not specified by the court or the parties) and sworn to fairly and impartially, without favor or affectation, lay off by metes and bounds the property required for the proposed improvement and to assess the damages to the landowner (T.C.A. § 29-16-112).

The jury may then receive brief instructions from the court on its duties, which are to go onto the property, examine the same, to hear testimony of witnesses but no arguments of counsel, to assess the damages and prepare a report in writing and deliver it to the sheriff.<sup>36</sup> The jury of view will then be placed in the charge of the sheriff and will proceed to examine the property (T.C.A. § 29-16-113). The parties and their counsel may accompany the jury of view to the property and put on evidence as to its value, but counsel are not permitted to make arguments to the jury of view (T.C.A. § 29-16-113).<sup>37</sup> After the investigation of the property and the testimony has been completed, the jury of view must identify by metes and bounds the property required for the proposed project and must assess damages to the landowner according to the principles discussed in Chapter Four (T.C.A. § 29-16-113). The decision of the jury of view may be a majority instead of a unanimous decision (T.C.A. § 29-16-115).38 The decision should be reduced to writing and the report must include a legal description of the property and the amount of the award, and be signed by a majority of the jurors.39

The report should be delivered to the sheriff who returns the report to the court (T.C.A. § 29-16-115). If the parties do not object to the report, it is confirmed by the court upon motion by the condemner.<sup>40</sup> The court then enters an order confirming the report (T.C.A. § 29-16-116). This order should incorporate



the report of the jury of view, should order that the property be divested from defendants and vested in the condemner, and further order that the condemner pay the defendants the amount specified in the report.<sup>41</sup> The order should also specifically provide for the issuance of a writ of possession to put the condemner in possession, if necessary.<sup>42</sup>

If there is no dispute as to the proper distribution of the funds to defendants, the order should specify such distribution, otherwise the court must retain jurisdiction to permit the defendants to present proof on their respective interests and the proper disposition of the award.<sup>43</sup> This order should also adjudge the costs of the case (normally against condemner) and provide for payment of the members of the jury of view.<sup>44</sup> The maximum amount of this payment is specified at T.C.A. § 29-16-125.

# **Exceptions and Appeal**

Either party may file exceptions to the report of the jury of view, and for good cause shown, the court may set aside the report of the jury of view and issue a new writ of inquiry for a new jury of view (T.C.A. § 29-16-117). Exceptions to the report of the jury of view should be directed toward some irregularity in the proceedings, misconduct of the jury of view, or where the report is founded on erroneous principles. 45 The court considers the exceptions based on the proof in the record, and therefore an exception on the grounds of inadequacy of the damages would normally be insufficient.46 Although no time period is specified for the filing of the exceptions, the appeal from the report of the jury of view must follow the disposition of such exceptions, 47 and such an appeal must be filed within forty-five (45) days of the confirmation of the report of the jury of view (T.C.A. § 29-16-118). It is therefore conceivable that a court would find that exceptions must be filed and

disposed of prior to the expiration of the forty-five (45) day period.

An appeal is the proper remedy if a party objects to the amount of damages awarded by the jury of view.<sup>48</sup> The remedies of exception and appeal are cumulative and successive. A party may file an appeal regardless of whether exceptions have been filed.<sup>50</sup> Either party may file an appeal within forty-five (45) days of the entry of the order confirming the report of the jury of view, and upon giving security for costs, and obtain a trial de novo before a jury as in any civil case (T.C.A. § 29-16-118).

The condemner who obtained possession under the order confirming the report of the jury of view<sup>51</sup> may continue in possession upon filing of an appeal by posting a bond, payable to defendants, in double the amount of the award of the jury of view, conditioned upon the condemner's compliance with the final judgment in the case (T.C.A. § 29-16-120; 29-16-122).<sup>52</sup> Costs on appeal must be paid by the appealing party in all cases where the petit jury affirms the award of the jury of view or is more unfavorable to the appealing party (T.C.A. § 29-17-119). In all other cases the court may award costs as in other chancery cases (T.C.A. § 29-16-119).

#### Nonsuit

The condemner may take a voluntary nonsuit under Rule 41.01 of the *Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure* in a condemnation case.<sup>53</sup> A nonsuit cannot be taken after the condemner has taken possession of the property after the confirmation of the report of the jury of view, leaving nothing to be determined except the amount of compensation due the defendant.<sup>54</sup>



# Bulldozer/Quick Take Procedure

The bulldozer/quick take procedure can be used by the state of Tennessee for acquisition of such rightof-way, land, material, easements and rights as are necessary, suitable or desirable for the construction, reconstruction, maintenance, repair, drainage or protection of any street, road, freeway or parkway (T.C.A. § 29-17-801). In addition to these purposes, municipalities and counties can use the bulldozer/ quick take procedure for any municipal or county purpose for which condemnation is otherwise authorized by any act of the Tennessee General Assembly, unless expressly stated to the contrary (T.C.A. § 29-17-801). Levee and drainage districts in certain counties may also use the bulldozer/quick take procedure (T.C.A. § 29-17-801). The bulldozer/ quick take procedure may not be used by housing authorities since they are not counties or municipalities.55

The bulldozer/quick take procedure is a cumulative and supplementary procedure for the exercise of eminent domain and should be construed in *pari materia* with the other eminent domain statutes.<sup>56</sup> This supplementary procedure was designed to protect the property owner by having the amount the condemner believes the property owner is entitled to deposited in court, and when that money has been deposited, to give the condemner the almost immediate right of possession.<sup>57</sup>

The bulldozer/quick take procedure, like the jury of view procedure, requires the condemner to initiate the condemnation action by filing a petition for condemnation in the circuit court, accompanied by a deposit for the amount of damages the condemner believes the property owner is entitled to, and giving the property owner notice of the proceedings (T.C.A. § 29-17-802; 29-17-803). If the condemner is a municipality or county, any defendant may

elect to use the jury of view procedure by filing a statement to that effect within five days of service upon the defendant (T.C.A. § 29-17-801).<sup>58</sup>

If the condemner's right to take is not questioned, 59 the condemner may take possession of the property five days after the notice has been given (T.C.A. § 29-17-803).60 If the property owner is satisfied with the amount of the deposit, he or she may withdraw that amount from the court by filing a sworn statement stating that he or she is the owner of the property or property interests described in the petition for the condemnation and that he or she accepts the deposit in full settlement for the taking of the property and all damages occasioned to the remainder thereof (T.C.A. § 29-17-804). The court will then enter an order divesting the property owner of title and vesting it in the condemner (T.C.A. § 29-17-804). If the property owner is dissatisfied with the deposit, he or she may file an exception to the amount deposited by the condemner, and then a trial before a petit jury may be held on the amount of just compensation due the property owner (T.C.A. § 29-17-805).

#### Petition for Condemnation

In addition to the requirements for the petition for condemnation discussed under the jury of view procedure, the petition for condemnation under the bulldozer/quick take procedure must identify the civil district in which the property is located, a description of the project to be constructed, and the amount of damages to which the condemner has determined that the landowner will be entitled (T.C.A. § 29-17-803). Although the interests of the defendants need not be specified (T.C.A. § 29-17-803), the condemner may specify the interests of different defendants.<sup>61</sup>



If any person who is a proper party defendant is omitted from the petition for condemnation, the condemner may file amendments to add them (T.C.A. § 29-17-809).

#### Notice

As with the jury of view procedure, notice of the filing of the condemnation proceeding must be given to all defendants (T.C.A. § 29-17-803). This notice must be given at least five days before any additional steps are taken in the case by the condemner (T.C.A. § 29-17-803). The constitutional limitations on service by publication that were discussed under the jury of view procedure apply to the bulldozer/quick take procedure. Service of the notice, accompanied by a copy of the petition for condemnation, can be accomplished in any manner authorized by the *Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure*.

# Deposit

The condemner must determine what it deems to be the amount due the property owner and deposit that amount when it files the petition for condemnation. This deposit should be a good faith estimate of damages and expenses the defendant will likely incur as the result of the condemnation. Evidence of the amount deposited is irrelevant, however, if the condemnation goes to trial on the amount of damages.

#### Default

If the property owner does not appear and accept the amount of the deposit or take exception to the amount of the deposit, the court can enter a default judgment against the property owner. The court will then hold a hearing upon the record and, in the absence of the property owner, determine the amount of just compensation to which the property owner is entitled (T.C.A. § 29-17-807).

## Acceptance

If the defendant is satisfied with the amount of the damages, he or she may file a sworn statement verifying that he or she is the owner of the property or property rights being condemned and he or she accepts the deposit as a full settlement for the taking of the property sought to be acquired by the condemner and any incidental damages to the remainder of the property of the defendant (T.C.A. § 29-17-804). The court will thereafter enter a final judgment divesting the property owner of title and vesting title in the condemner (T.C.A. § 29-17-804). If the condemner identifies the amount of the deposit that should be allocated to the various defendants, a defendant may accept that amount in full settlement of his or her interest.<sup>64</sup>

# **Exception and Trial**

If the property owner is dissatisfied with the amount deposited, he or she may file an exception (T.C.A. § 29-17-805). The statute requires the filing of the exception on or before the second day of the next term of court (T.C.A. § 29-17-805), but terms of court have been abolished in Tennessee (T.C.A. § 16-2-510). Rule 71 of the *Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure* may permit the filing of the exception in the same manner as an answer in any civil case, which must be filed within 30 days of service of the notice under Rule 12.01 of the *Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure*.

If the property owner files an exception to the amount deposited by the condemner, a trial may be held before the petit jury as in other civil cases (T.C.A. § 29-17-805). To obtain such a jury trial, the property owner should make a demand for a jury under Rule 38.02 of the *Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure*, or file a motion for a jury trial under Rule 39.02 of the *Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure*. The trial will be limited to the determination of the amount of compensation to be paid to the



defendant for the property or property rights taken. When adverse claims by multiple defendants are made for compensation, the court and jury must also resolve those claims (T.C.A. § 29-17-808).

The defendant who has filed an exception is entitled to withdraw, prior to trial, the amount deposited by the condemner without prejudice to the rights of either party (T.C.A. § 29-17-806). To withdraw the deposit, the defendant must make a written request to the clerk in which he or she agrees to refund the difference between the amount of the deposit and the final award if the final award is less than the amount of the deposit (T.C.A. § 29-17-806).

If the final award is less than or equal to the amount of the deposit, the defendant must pay the costs of the trial (T.C.A. § 29-17-812). Rule 54.04 of the *Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure* governs the taxing of any additional costs. In other cases, the condemner is responsible for the payment of costs (T.C.A. § 29-17-812).

#### Nonsuit

As with the jury of view procedure, the condemner may take a voluntary nonsuit prior to obtaining possession to the property of the defendant.<sup>67</sup>
However, if the condemner abandons the proceedings, the court may order the condemner to pay defendants for all reasonable costs, including reasonable attorney, appraisal and engineering fees actually incurred because of the condemnation proceedings (T.C.A. § 29-17-812). An abandonment occurs when the condemner voluntarily gives up the intended condemnation or declines to carry the condemnation proceedings through to a conclusion.<sup>68</sup>



#### **Chapter Three**

# The Right to Take

#### Introduction

Condemnation cases are of a dual nature, the first part involving the determination of the condemner's right to take the property, and the second part involving the amount of damages to which the property owner is entitled, provided the right to take exists.<sup>1</sup>

Each condemner must satisfy a three-part test in order to have the right to take private property under the power of eminent domain. The first part of the test is the authority of the condemner to use the power of eminent domain. The second part of the test is whether the private property being taken will be put to a public use by the condemner. The third part is whether the private property is necessary for the accomplishment of the public use.

# Authority

As noted in Chapter One, the Tennessee General Assembly has by statute or private act authorized the exercise of the power of eminent domain by a wide variety of governmental agencies and public service corporations. However, for the condemner to have the right to take a specific piece of property, the entity with the power of eminent domain must determine that the particular property being taken will be put to a public use and that the particular property is necessary for that use. Such action by the entity is essential not only to show that the condemnation proceedings are properly authorized, but as discussed further below, to eliminate any challenge by the property owner regarding the necessity for the taking of his or her property.

The municipal or county condemner normally authorizes the acquisition of property under the

power of eminent domain through the adoption of an ordinance or resolution that authorizes the acquisition of certain parcels of property for a specified municipal or county project.<sup>2</sup> If an ordinance is required, a resolution will not do.<sup>2A</sup> Such an ordinance or resolution should: set out the nature of the project being undertaken; recite that the taking is for public use and in the public interest; and state that the acquisition of the particular properties identified is necessary for that purpose.<sup>3</sup> The ordinance or resolution should specifically authorize the filing of condemnation proceedings to acquire the properties identified.<sup>4</sup>

There must be strict compliance with all applicable charter provisions, statutes or private acts regarding the adoption of ordinances or resolutions, because failure to comply will result in the condemner lacking the authority to condemn the property identified in the ordinance or resolution. Also if the applicable statutory provisions impose preconditions to the filing of condemnation proceedings, such as the publication of notices, the preconditions must be met for the condemner to have the authority to institute condemnation proceedings.

A copy of the ordinance or resolution may be attached to the petition for condemnation,<sup>7</sup> or referenced by ordinance number in the body of the petition. If the right to take is challenged, a certified copy of the ordinance or resolution may be introduced into evidence to establish that the condemner has the authority to take the property in question.



#### Public Use

The term "public use" is incapable of a precise and universally acceptable definition. The determination of whether a proposed use constitutes a public use must be based on the facts of each case, because the term must remain elastic to meet the growing needs of a complex society.

As noted above, the legislative body makes the initial determination that the taking of private property is for a public use. If the property owner challenges the condemner's right to take on the grounds that the property will not be put to a public use, the court has the right and the duty to determine whether the proposed use is a public use. The determination by the legislative body that the proposed use is a public use is entitled to a strong presumption of correctness, the tit is not conclusive on the court. When the court finds that the proposed use has no significant relationship to the public benefit, it must find that the condemner lacks the right to take private property under the power of eminent domain.

#### Narrow vs. Broad View

The various decisions by the courts on whether a proposed use is a public use have been categorized into two categories: cases in which the courts used a narrow view of the scope of public uses and cases in which courts used a broad view of the scope of public uses. 14 Courts using the narrow view require that the public must be entitled as of right to directly use or enjoy the property taken.15 Under the broad view, the condemnation of the property need be only for the public benefit or common good.16 Under either view, it is not essential that the entire community directly enjoy or participate in the proposed use for the court to find a public use. 17 Thus the extension of utility service to serve a single customer who has the right to service from the utility may constitute a public

use that justifies the condemnation of easements necessary for the construction of the utility line. 18

#### Public vs. Private Condemner

In determining whether a proposed use constitutes a public use, the courts also consider whether the condemner is a public or private entity. For the purpose of this analysis courts have recognized that there are at least three categories of condemners: governmental entities; public service corporations regulated by the state; and private individuals or corporations, and the standards for public use will differ for each category.<sup>19</sup>

If the condemner is a governmental entity, the courts determine whether the public would be entitled to receive and enjoy the benefits of the proposed use.<sup>20</sup> The general public need not have access to the property to satisfy this requirement.<sup>21</sup> Acquiring property as a part of a redevelopment plan under which the property will be subsequently resold to a private developer does not result in the property being acquired for a private purpose when the public receives a benefit from the complete implementation of the redevelopment plan.<sup>22</sup> Where the condemner is a public service corporation regulated by the state, the court must determine whether the public will be given an opportunity to make use of the service provided by the public service corporation at reasonable rates and without discrimination.<sup>23</sup> The proposed use must satisfy a public demand for facilities for travel or transportation of intelligence or commodities, and the general public, under reasonable regulations, must have a definite and fixed use of the services of the condemner independent of the will of the condemner.24

If the condemner is a private corporation or individual, the courts will rarely find that the



proposed use is a public use. If the proposed use is absolutely necessary to permit the private individual or corporation to discharge duties owed to the public, a public use may be found.<sup>25</sup> Otherwise the court will require the condemner to establish that the general public will be entitled to make a fixed and definite use of the property being condemned, independent of the will of the condemner.<sup>26</sup>

The following have been found to constitute public uses when the condemner was a governmental entity: municipal streets,<sup>27</sup> street lights,<sup>28</sup> county roads,<sup>29</sup> bridges,<sup>30</sup> sewers,<sup>31</sup> utility facilities and office buildings,<sup>32</sup> waterworks,<sup>33</sup> cemeteries,<sup>34</sup> golf courses,<sup>35</sup> parks,<sup>36</sup> greenbelts,<sup>37</sup> slum clearance projects,<sup>38</sup> redevelopment projects,<sup>39</sup> and easements across railroad right of ways.<sup>40</sup>

The following have been found to constitute public uses when the condemner was not a governmental entity: railroad tracks and terminal facilities,<sup>41</sup> telephone lines and underground fiber optic cables,<sup>42</sup> grist mills,<sup>43</sup> iron works,<sup>44</sup> electric power facilities,<sup>45</sup> privately owned turnpikes,<sup>46</sup> flumes,<sup>47</sup> telegraph lines and poles,<sup>48</sup> private water lines,<sup>49</sup> and microwave relay towers.<sup>50</sup>

## Property Devoted to Public Use

Property that is devoted to a public use cannot be condemned for another public use<sup>51</sup> in the absence of legislative authority permitting the condemner to take property already devoted to a public use.<sup>52</sup> The regulation of land uses under the police power, however, does not result in the property being devoted to a public use that would preclude condemnation.<sup>53</sup>

## Necessity

Unlike the review of the legislative body's determination of public use, the court provides only a limited review of the necessity or experience of

the taking of any particular parcel of property. The legislative body's determination of necessity is conclusive upon the courts in the absence of a showing of fraudulent or arbitrary and capricious action by the condemner.<sup>54</sup>

Arbitrary and capricious actions are willful and unreasonable actions taken without consideration or in disregard of the facts existing at the time the condemnation was decided upon or within the foreseeable future. 55 An action is not arbitrary and capricious when exercised honestly and upon due consideration, where there is room for two opinions, even if the court believes that the condemner erred in basing its decision on one of the two opinions. 56

Thus, the property owner cannot ask the court to substitute its judgment for that of the condemner on what is in the best interest of the public.<sup>57</sup> The court cannot substitute its judgment on the proper parcel of property to be taken, as distinguished from similar property in the same area, or determine the suitability of a particular parcel of property for the proposed use, or decide the quantity of property required by the condemner for the proposed use.<sup>58</sup>

## Condemnation for Future Needs

The propriety of the condemner acquiring property for expected future needs has never been addressed by a Tennessee court, but other courts have found that the time of the taking, like the location and extent of the property to be acquired, is a question for the legislative branch that will not be disturbed by the courts absent fraud or arbitrary and capricious action.<sup>59</sup> As long as the future need for the property can be fairly anticipated by the condemner, the courts will not interfere with the condemner's determination of necessity.<sup>60</sup> Since the condemner in Tennessee is not barred from the exercise of common sense or good business judgment in the operation or construction of



public facilities,<sup>61</sup> it is likely that Tennessee courts would permit the condemnation of property the condemner fairly expects will be needed to satisfy the condemner's future needs.

#### **Procedural Issues**

Since condemnation cases have the dual nature mentioned above, challenges to the condemner's right to take are normally resolved as a preliminary matter before the determination of the amount of just compensation to which the property owner is entitled.<sup>62</sup> The condemner has the burden of proof of establishing the right to take.<sup>63</sup> The determination of the right to take is a matter for the court and not the jury.<sup>64</sup> If the court finds that the condemner has the right to take and the condemner posts the bond required by statute and takes possession of the property, the judgment on the right to take issue becomes final and must be appealed at that time.<sup>65</sup> Thus there may be two final judgments in any condemnation action.<sup>66</sup>



#### **Chapter Four**

# **Just Compensation**

#### Introduction

The constitutional requirement that private property not be taken for public use without payment of just compensation to the property owner<sup>1</sup> is satisfied by the payment of the fair cash value<sup>2</sup> or the fair market value of the property on the date of the taking for public use.3 The "fair market value" of the land is the price that a reasonable buyer would give if he or she was willing to but did not have to purchase and that a willing seller would take if he or she was willing to but did not have to sell the property in question.4 The amount of just compensation to which the property owner is entitled is a question for the jury or court acting as the trier of the facts,5 and the parties have the right to a trial by jury. After the condemner's right to take has been established, the burden of proof shifts to the property owner to show the amount of just compensation to which he or she is entitled to receive for the taking.7

# **Establishing Fair Market Value**

The fair market value of the property taken by the condemner must be established as of the date of the taking. Therefore the enhancement in value or depreciation in value of the property that occurred before the taking in anticipation of the completion of the public improvement may not be considered by the jury. This problem is usually encountered when a public improvement is constructed in stages, or is enlarged so as to require additional property. If the property increases in value due to its proximity to the construction of the public improvement, and at a later date the condemner decides to acquire additional land for the expansion of the public

improvement, the condemner is required to pay for the enhanced value of the property.<sup>10</sup>

If, on the other hand, the public project from the beginning contemplated the acquisition of several parcels of property, but only one was initially acquired, the owners of the remaining tracts are not entitled to benefit from any appreciation in value resulting from the construction of the project.11 This is known as the "scope of the project" rule. The condemner has the burden of proof in establishing that the property in question was within the scope of the project.12 The condemner need not show that the property was actually specified in the original plans for the project so long as it can be established that during the course of the planning or original construction of the project, it becomes evident that the property in question would be needed for the project.<sup>13</sup> To determine whether the appreciation in value resulted from the proposed public improvement, the trial court must make a preliminary determination on the scope of the project, which will serve as the basis for the admissibility of comparable sales that might reflect the appreciation.14

In establishing the fair market value of the property being taken, the jury may not consider prices previously offered by prospective buyers of the property. The prices at which the property was previously offered for sale also cannot be considered in determining the fair market value of the property.



Evidence of environmental contamination, as well as the reasonable cost of remediation, is relevant to the issue of valuation and erroneous exclusion of this evidence warrants a new trial.<sup>16A</sup>

All capabilities of the property and all legitimate uses for which it is available and reasonably adapted must be considered in determining the fair market value of the property.<sup>17</sup> Therefore the probable imminent rezoning of the property may be considered in determining the capabilities and uses for the property. 18 Present zoning is only one of several factors to be considered in valuing land that is taken. Zoning is not dispositive because zoning changes may be made reflecting the changing needs and circumstances of the community. This same rule applies to deed restrictions. 18A Also the capability of the property to be developed for one or more particular uses may be shown so long as the proposed uses are not unfeasible or remote in likelihood or in time, given the circumstances and location of the property, and so long as these uses are not overemphasized.19

Speculative value of property in the hands of a future owner cannot be considered.<sup>20</sup> The rental value of the property taken may be considered in estimating the fair market value of the property.<sup>21</sup> Ordinarily the profits of a business located on the property are not relevant to establish the fair market value of the property, but there are exceptions to this rule in circumstances where the property has special value to the owner and there is no other evidence upon which to establish the fair market value of the property.<sup>22</sup>

The particular use for which the land is most valuable or to which it is presently adapted may be considered by the jury in determining the fair market value of the property, but it may not be the sole basis for that determination.<sup>23</sup> Thus

a witness may not base his or her estimate of the value of the property on its value for a single use such as the "highest and best use." A witness may testify that the property has a fair market value of a certain amount and may explain on direct and cross examination the particular qualities of the property and the specific uses to which the property may be adapted, but the witness cannot testify that the property has a value of a certain amount for "building lot purposes" or "for the best use." This rule is designed to avoid overvaluation of the property by preventing the jury from giving excessive weight to the value of the property to the condemner.

The value of the land to the owner is not ordinarily relevant if there is a market value for the land.<sup>27</sup> A partial exception to this rule may exist when the property has a special value to the owner, without possible like value to others who may acquire it.<sup>28</sup> Such a special or peculiar value to the owner may be taken into consideration in determining the fair market value of the property.<sup>29</sup>

## **Comparable Sales**

One method of establishing the fair market value of the property being taken is the introduction of sales of similar properties.<sup>30</sup> Whether a sale is sufficiently comparable to be admissible is a preliminary question for the trial court.<sup>31</sup> However, the trial court's discretion is not unlimited and the appellate courts will reverse the decision of the trial court in the appropriate circumstances.<sup>32</sup>

For a sale to be sufficiently comparable to be admissible, it must have been a voluntary sale, or an arm's length transaction, and cannot have been the result of a compromise.<sup>33</sup> Therefore sales to a condemner,<sup>34</sup> or under the threat of condemnation,<sup>35</sup> are inadmissible, as are sales of property upon which are placed unusually stringent



restrictions on the use of the property.<sup>36</sup> Sales that have been affected or influenced by the public project for which the property is being acquired will also be inadmissible.<sup>37</sup>

If the sale was an arm's length transaction, the trial court must next consider whether the properties are similar in nature and near the same location and that the time of the sale was at or about the time of the taking. In making this determination, the trial court will consider the size, the time of the sale, the current zoning or any imminent rezoning, the current zoning or any imminent rezoning, the location and also the vicinity, proximity to existing improvements, improvements existing on the properties, terrain or other geographic features, and all available uses to which the properties are adapted. The sales do not have to be exactly comparable in every respect and there is no general rule on the degree of similarity required.

After the trial court determines that a sale is comparable and may be admitted into evidence, the weight to be given to the sale is a question for the jury. <sup>46</sup> If a particular sale was made under exceptional circumstances, these circumstances can be shown and the jury can determine the probative force of the sale. <sup>47</sup>

# Opinions as to Value

In addition to using comparable sales to determine the fair market value of the property taken by the condemner, and any incidental damages and incidental benefits to the remainder of the property, lay<sup>48</sup> and expert witnesses<sup>49</sup> can give opinion evidence on the value of the property being taken. Thus the owner can give an opinion as to the fair market value of the property, but that opinion will be given little weight when founded on pure speculation.<sup>50</sup>

The trial court has wide discretion in the admission of expert testimony on the value of real property.<sup>51</sup> Nevertheless the court cannot permit an expert to give an opinion as to the value of real property for a particular purpose, but should require the expert to base his or her opinion on the fair market value for all legitimate uses for which the property is available and reasonably adapted.<sup>52</sup>

The expert witness may state his or her opinion as to the value of the property and the basis on which he or she arrived at that opinion.<sup>53</sup> The answers given by the expert on cross examination may be considered by the court and jury in evaluating the opinion of the expert witness.<sup>54</sup>

The court and the jury are not bound by the opinion of the expert witness.<sup>55</sup>

## **Incidental Damages**

When the condemner takes a part but not all of a parcel of property, the condemnation statutes permit the property owner to recover incidental damages for any injury to the remainder resulting from the taking (T.C.A. § 29-16-114; 29-17-810). The payment of incidental damages is not required by the Tennessee Constitution, but rather is provided by statute. For Incidental damages are properly measured by the decline in the fair market value of the remainder of the property by virtue of the taking. The landowner in an eminent domain proceeding is not entitled to a jury trial on what kinds of damages are to be included in an incidental damages award.

The award of incidental damages is limited to those property owners whose property is actually taken by the condemner.<sup>58</sup> Adjacent property owners whose land is not condemned but is nevertheless adversely affected by the construction of the public



improvement cannot recover incidental damages under these statutes.<sup>59</sup>

Where a portion of the property has been taken, the property owner may recover incidental damages only upon a showing of some specific injury to the remainder, or its value, which is the direct result of the taking.60 The injury must be more than an inconvenience shared by all members of the public; rather, it must specifically affect the remainder of the property that was taken. 61 This does not result in an injury becoming noncompensable merely because other property owners are similarly affected. 62 If the property owner can establish that exceptional circumstances attend the taking and use of the property by the condemner that result in a special injury to the remainder of the property, the property owner may recover incidental damages even if the special injury is common to all property in the area. 63

In addition to the diminution in the fair market value of the remainder, the condemnation statutes include as incidental damages: the reasonable expenses incurred for removing, relocating and reinstalling of furniture, household belongings, fixtures, equipment, machinery or stock in trade to another location not more than fifty (50) miles distant; the costs of any necessary disconnection, dismounting or disassembling and loading and drayage of the chattels; the recording fees, transfer taxes and other similar expenses incidental to conveying the property to the condemner; mortgage prepayment penalties; and the proration of real property taxes (T.C.A. § 29-16-114).

The property owner can recover only moving expenses that have been actually incurred at the date of trial or that can be shown to be reasonably necessary in the future and can be accurately estimated by witnesses.<sup>64</sup> The landowner is entitled

to average hourly wage for labor costs related to relocation, but not the "burden rate" added for the cost of utilities, health insurance, and retirement.<sup>64A</sup> These incidental damages cannot be recovered if the chattels to be moved are destroyed by fire before moving.<sup>65</sup> Also moving or relocation expenses cannot be recovered for the removal of equipment, fixtures or other chattels that were not located on the land taken by the condemner.<sup>66</sup>

Although not specifically set out by statute, the following have also been found to constitute incidental damages to the extent they reduced the fair market value of the remainder of the property: noise, soot and inconvenience created by the operation of a railroad;<sup>67</sup> obstruction of view by a highway embankment;<sup>68</sup> reasonable apprehension of danger from the public improvement;<sup>69</sup> changes in the drainage;<sup>70</sup> loss of access to an abutting street;<sup>71</sup> and a decrease in business.<sup>71A</sup>

#### Incidental Benefits

The condemner is entitled to have the amount of incidental damages reduced by the amount of incidental benefits that accrue to the remainder as the result of the construction of the public improvement (T.C.A. § 29-16-114; 29-17-810). Like incidental damages, incidental benefits are determined independently of the just compensation required by the Tennessee Constitution.<sup>72</sup> Therefore incidental benefits cannot be considered in determining the amount of just compensation to which the property owner is entitled for the portion of the property taken by the condemner.<sup>73</sup>

Incidental benefits include only those benefits special to the remainder of the property owner's property as opposed to those general benefits of a public improvement shared by the public at large.<sup>74</sup> However, incidental benefits are not prevented from being special by the fact that



other properties abutting the public improvement are similarly benefitted where those benefits are not common to all the properties in the vicinity.<sup>75</sup> Thus, increased accessibility to the property,<sup>76</sup> or easy access parking<sup>77</sup> may still constitute incidental benefits even though property owners on the same street have also gained better access or parking. On the other hand, a general increase in property value experienced by all area residents as a result of street improvements does not constitute an incidental benefit that may be set off against incidental damages.<sup>78</sup>

#### Procedural Issues

The general rule is that the incidental damages and incidental benefits are to be estimated as of the date of the taking.<sup>79</sup> However, since incidental damages and incidental benefits are premised on the impact to the remainder of the property resulting from the construction of the public improvement, proof showing the damage or benefits occurring after the taking has been permitted in instances where the trial occurs long after the public improvement has been completed.<sup>80</sup> Property owners

whose property is being acquired for street, road, highway, freeway, or parkway purposes are entitled to obtain a continuance of the condemnation case until the public improvement is completed to eliminate the uncertainty as to the incidental damages or incidental benefits that may occur as the result of the construction of the public improvement (T.C.A. § 29-17-1201). If the condemnation case is tried before the project is completed, maps, drawings, or photographs of the land may be introduced at trial as long as the evidence would not be misleading (T.C.A. § 29-17-1202).

#### Interest

Interest at two percentage points greater than the prime loan rate established, as of the date of the taking, by the federal reserve system of the United States must be paid by the condemner on any judgment obtained by the property owner (T.C.A. § 29-17-813). This interest is allowed from the date of the taking on the amount in excess of the amount deposited with the clerk of the court.<sup>81</sup>



#### **Chapter Five**

# **Inverse Condemnation**

#### Introduction

As noted in Chapter One, the Tennessee Constitution's Article I, Section 21 prohibits the taking of private property for public use without the payment of just compensation. A property owner whose property is taken for a public use without the payment of just compensation has a remedy for the taking in a "reverse condemnation" or "inverse condemnation" action (T.C.A. § 29-16-123).1 But this statute does not provide authority to file suit for inverse condemnation in a state court against the state.1A The property owner may also bring an action for trespass in a proper case and is not limited to proceeding by the statutory method prescribed for inverse condemnation actions. The property owner who sues for damages in a trespass action may also recover punitive damages in an appropriate case.2

Inverse condemnation claims have been classified by the courts into two general categories: physical takings and regulatory takings.<sup>3</sup> Physical takings occur where property in addition to that previously condemned in formal proceedings is taken by the condemner without payment of just compensation to the property owner,<sup>4</sup> or where an entity with the power of eminent domain appropriates private property for public use without the institution of formal condemnation proceedings.<sup>5</sup> Regulatory takings occur when a regulation adopted under the police power fails to substantially advance a legitimate state interest,<sup>6</sup> or denies an owner economically viable use of his or her property.<sup>7</sup>

# Physical Takings

One of the most difficult questions presented in any takings case is whether the damages that have occurred to private property are sufficient to constitute a taking for which just compensation must be paid. Courts have held that the action of any entity with the power of eminent domain in carrying out the purposes for which it was created may constitute a taking when it destroys, interrupts, or interferes with the common and necessary use of real property of another, even if there is no actual entry upon the property.8

Not every action by an entity with the power of eminent domain that damages or interferes in the use of private property, however, will constitute a taking. Whether a taking has occurred is a fact-specific determination based on the nature, extent, and duration of the intrusion onto the private property. 10

Thus, as noted in the preceding chapter on incidental damages, a property owner whose land is not formally condemned for a public improvement may not, as a general rule, recover for the consequential damages resulting from the construction or operation of a public improvement located near, but not on, his or her property. These nonrecoverable damages include all injuries naturally and unavoidably resulting from the proper, non-negligent construction or operation of a public improvement that are shared generally by property owners whose properties lie within the range of the inconveniences necessarily incident to the improvement. It

Thus, the owner whose property is formally condemned in part for the construction of a public improvement will be entitled to recover incidental damages while the owner whose land is not formally



condemned but nonetheless suffers actual damages from the construction or operation of a public improvement nearby will not be entitled to recover for these damages. This distinction results from the eminent domain statutes permitting incidental damages to be recovered where a portion of a larger tract of property is taken for a public improvement, while the inverse condemnation remedy is available only to owners of property that is taken, and not just damaged, by an entity with the power of eminent domain.

Courts have found that a taking has occurred when the proper non-negligent construction of a public improvement directly invades or peculiarly affects private property and creates substantial and continual interference with the practical use and enjoyment of the land. Thus, takings have been found where the entity with the power of eminent domain failed to acquire drainage easements or flowage easements sufficient to handle the storm water runoff or other discharges necessarily incidental to public improvements, 13 or diverted a stream to another property as the result of the construction of a public improvement,14 or denied access to a highway as the result of the construction on the highway. 15 Takings have also been found where the entity with the power of eminent domain failed to acquire adequate slope easements for highways, resulting in the encroachment of the highway on private property, 16 or failed to acquire aircraft over-flight easements across property located adjacent to airports, 17 or failed to acquire interests on property affected by non-natural electric conditions produced by an electric street railroad company. 18 In each of these cases the courts found that the nature, extent, and duration of the intrusion on, or interference with, private property resulted in the taking.

Mere proof, however, that the construction or maintenance of a public improvement has resulted in a loss of profits from a business operated on property located adjacent to the public improvement, or has resulted in a decrease in property value will be insufficient to establish a taking. A decrease in business, however, may require compensation. On the construction of the constructio

Another problem that must be confronted in determining whether or not an injury to private property constitutes a taking is the distinction between a nuisance and a taking.<sup>21</sup> Courts have defined a nuisance as anything that annoys or disturbs the free use of one's property, or that renders its ordinary use or physical occupation uncomfortable.22 A temporary nuisance is a nuisance that can be corrected by the expenditure of labor or money.<sup>23</sup> Courts usually classify as a nuisance injuries to private property that result from the improper, negligent construction or operation of a public improvement or that are temporary in nature and permit successive recoveries by the property owner until the nuisance is abated.<sup>24</sup> Conversely, courts usually classify as takings injuries to property of a permanent nature resulting from the proper, non-negligent construction or operation of a public improvement and permit only a single recovery.25

Whether a particular activity sufficiently interferes with the use of private property to constitute a compensable taking is a matter of degree. The conceptual difficulty inherent in classifying a particular activity may be simplified by visualizing, on a continuum, consequential damages, nuisance damages, and damages recoverable for a taking. At one extreme may be placed consequential damages which, as noted above, would include all injuries naturally and unavoidably resulting from the proper, non-negligent



construction or operation of a public improvement that do not directly invade or peculiarly affect the plaintiff's private property, but rather are shared by the public generally. Consequential damages are thus analogous to damages caused by a public nuisance for which a private property owner cannot recover without establishing damages attributable to the private nuisance. At the center of the continuum may be placed nuisance damages resulting from the improper, negligent construction or operation of a public improvement that substantially interferes with the practical use and enjoyment of the private property and that peculiarly affects the property. These damages are recoverable only under a theory of temporary private nuisance, and are actionable until the nuisance is finally abated. At the other extreme may be placed damages recoverable for a taking, which include those resulting from the proper, non-negligent construction or operation of a public improvement that directly invades or peculiarly affects the private property and creates a substantial and continuing interference with its practical use and enjoyment. Thus, damages for a taking in this sense closely approximate and may, in a practical sense, be virtually indistinguishable from those recoverable for a permanent private nuisance. Since this discussion reveals that the finding of a taking is a fact specific inquiry, it is helpful to review the circumstances where courts have found a physical taking.

# Impairment of Easements of Access and Way

Courts in Tennessee have recognized that a property owner has an easement of access between his land and the abutting street, which extends to the center of the abutting street, absent any evidence to the contrary.<sup>26</sup> Although as noted in the preceding chapter some courts have found that an impairment of a property owner's easement of access

can constitute incidental damages to the remainder of property when a portion of the property is taken in a condemnation action, other courts have held that any impairment of this right of ingress and egress constitutes a taking for which the owner may recover just compensation in an inverse condemnation action.<sup>27</sup> Thus property owners have been allowed to recover just compensation where the owners' access was destroyed by a change in the grade of a street or highway,<sup>28</sup> or by the construction of a drainage ditch alongside a highway.<sup>30</sup> Incidental damages were allowed when curbing impaired full access from the abutting street.<sup>30A</sup>

In addition to an easement of access, a private property owner whose property abuts a public street or road has an easement of way, or right of passage, in the street abutting his or her property.31 This easement of way is a private property right that exists in addition to the right to use the street in common with the general public.32 This easement extends along any street or alley upon which the owner's property abuts, in either direction, to the next intersecting street.33 This right is usually impaired by the closing of public streets or roads.34 No recovery has been allowed when a two-way street abutting an owner's property has been changed to a one-way street, as this constitutes a valid exercise of the police power for which the payment of just compensation is required only in unusual circumstances.35

## Water Damage

Takings have been found where the construction or operation of a public improvement resulted in recurring flooding of private property,<sup>36</sup> or increased the amount of storm water runoff that caused erosion.<sup>37</sup> A taking has also been found where water was regularly discharged from water treatment facilities across adjoining private property,<sup>38</sup> or



where a public improvement altered the flow of a stream and caused erosion,<sup>39</sup> or where the construction of a public improvement diverted a stream that previously flowed across private property.<sup>40</sup>

# Aircraft Overflights

A taking of airspace above private property may result from frequent low flights of aircraft that substantially interfere with the practical use and enjoyment of the property.<sup>41</sup> Noise, vibrations and airplane pollutants unaccompanied by an actual physical invasion of the airspace immediately over the property owner's land may also constitute a taking. Direct overflight is not required.<sup>42</sup>

A taking has also been found when trees were cut on private property in an airport approach zone established by a municipal ordinance.<sup>43</sup> The court found that the removal of the trees and the limiting of the height of buildings in the airport approach zone constituted a taking.<sup>44</sup>

# **Takings Prior to Condemnation**

Where a condemner appropriates private property prior to the institution of formal condemnation proceedings, a taking obviously occurs. Thus, a taking occurred where electric transmission lines were constructed before a condemnation proceeding was filed. 45 In that situation the appropriation is illegal until just compensation is paid to the property owner, and the condemner acquires only a possessory right that is not transferable.46 Takings have also been found where a condemner filed condemnation proceedings but nonsuited the proceedings before paying just compensation to the property owner,47 where a municipality annexed a subdivision and asserted ownership over the water and sewer system serving it without paying just compensation to its owners, 48 where the condemner failed to acquire the interest of

the lessee of property conveyed to the condemner by the lessor, <sup>49</sup> or where the condemner failed to acquire the property interests in certain restrictive covenants from the residents of a subdivision before constructing a public improvement in violation of those covenants. <sup>50</sup> The property owner's sole remedy for these takings is an inverse condemnation action, as the courts have specifically rejected attempts to enjoin, <sup>51</sup> or eject <sup>52</sup> the condemner who has taken the property without instituting condemnation proceedings.

# Additional Takings

A significant issue presented in any case where a property owner seeks to recover just compensation for the taking of private property in addition to that previously acquired by the condemner is whether the property owner is estopped by the prior condemnation award or deed to the condemner from recovering additional compensation.<sup>53</sup> The condemnation award encompasses all damages, present and future, the property owner knew or should have known would result from the proper construction or operation of the public improvement.<sup>54</sup> The burden of proof of showing an estoppel is on the condemner, unless the language of the condemnation decree or deed is unambiguous.<sup>55</sup>

An exception to this rule applies for losses or damage that could not reasonably have been anticipated by either party or, if alleged by the property owner in the condemnation proceeding, would have been rejected as speculative or conjectural. The security of the property that resulted for landslides onto private property that resulted from cuts made during the construction of a highway, for damage to a dam caused by excessive blasting during the construction of a pipeline, and for damage to a wall caused by blasting for electric transmission



lines.<sup>59</sup> Recovery has been denied when the property owner knew or should have known that the curbs limiting access to his property would be constructed as part of a highway project<sup>60</sup> or where the fill from a street that was elevated by the condemner spread onto adjoining property since the owner knew or should have known that the fill would have encroached upon his property when he conveyed a portion of the property to the condemner for the street improvement project.<sup>61</sup>

# **Regulatory Takings**

The United States Supreme Court revolutionized the law of regulatory takings in 1987 when it held that a local government must pay just compensation for temporary regulatory takings. Also in that same year the U.S. Supreme Court decided two other cases that dealt with regulatory takings. Since those decisions, regulatory taking cases have flooded the courts as property owners seek to recover for the diminution in the value of their property resulting from the enforcement of police power regulations affecting private property. Not surprisingly, most of these cases involve land use regulations adopted by local governments.

Although the inverse condemnation statute would not appear to be applicable by its terms to a regulatory taking of private property where no physical invasion or interference is involved, the U.S. Supreme Court<sup>64</sup> and a Tennessee court<sup>65</sup> have held that an inverse condemnation action could be maintained based on unreasonable restrictions placed on the use of property by a regulation adopted under the police power.

A regulation adopted under the police power can result in a taking of private property for which the payment of just compensation is required if the regulation fails to substantially advance a legitimate state interest, 66 or denies the owner

economically viable use of his or her property.67 The first part of this two-pronged test requires the court to determine whether the governmental entity has a legitimate state interest that prompted the adoption of the regulation. 68 A broad range of governmental purposes will satisfy this requirement, including ensuring proper residential development, 69 prohibiting barriers to public access to beach areas, 70 protecting beaches from erosion, 71 protecting residential neighborhoods from noise, littering and vandalism associated with transient use of residential property,72 and controlling the rate or character of residential growth.<sup>73</sup> Temporary moratoria on development are not subject to a per se taking rule and may withstand a taking claim. The standards set out in Penn Central Transportation Co. v. New York City apply in these cases. 73A Unreasonable denials of proposals for development, however, may engender liability under 42 U.S.C. 1983, and a jury trial is available to determine these claims, 73B

If a legitimate state interest is present the court must determine whether the regulation substantially advances that interest.74 The government is entitled to a presumption that the regulation does advance the public interest;75 however, a property owner can overcome this presumption by showing the lack of a nexus between the effect of the regulation and its original purpose. 76 Thus, courts have found that requiring a property owner to grant a public easement along a beach as a condition to construct a house on a beach does not substantially advance the public interest in protecting the public's ability to see the beach<sup>77</sup> and that a requirement of a dedication of land for a greenway and bicycle/ pedestrian pathway did not bear the necessary relationship to problems created by a commercial development to avoid a taking.77A In addition the regulation must be reasonably related to the public need or burden that a property owner's use of his



or her property creates or to which it contributes.<sup>78</sup> Therefore regulations that impose land dedication requirements to develop property may constitute a taking if the property owner is required to dedicate property in excess of the amount that is necessary to offset the additional burdens on the public interest resulting from the use of his or her property.<sup>79</sup> The cost to the landowner must be "roughly proportional" to the additional public burden caused by the development.<sup>79A</sup>

The second prong of the taking test requires an inquiry into whether the regulation denies the property owner the economically viable use of his or her property.80 This is a highly fact-specific inquiry that is not subject to a set formula.81 Whether a taking has occurred is a question of degree and cannot be determined by general propositions.82 The courts have used ad hoc factual inquiries relying on factors such as the character of the governmental action, the economic impact of the regulation on the property owner, the interference with reasonable investment-backed expectations, and the nature and extent of the interference with the rights in the property as a whole.83 Where a state regulation prohibits all economically beneficial use of land, to be imposed without necessity of compensation, it must do no more than duplicate what could otherwise be done under the state's nuisance laws.83A

In considering the economic impact of the regulation on private property, the courts recognize that the mere diminution of property value, or the substantial reduction of the attractiveness of the property to potential purchasers, or the denial of the ability to exploit a property right the owner previously believed was available, will not suffice to establish a taking.<sup>84</sup> The inquiry must instead focus on the value of the remaining uses to which the property may be put,<sup>85</sup> and a comparison of

the owner's investment or basis with the market value of the property subject to the regulation.<sup>86</sup> When considering whether the regulation interferes with the owner's investment-backed expectations, the court must determine that the expectations were reasonable, or at least consistent with the law in force at the time of the formation of the expectation.<sup>87</sup> The purchase price is only one of the factors that should be considered in determining whether a regulation interferes with reasonable investment-backed expectations.<sup>88</sup>

Courts applying these factors have found takings in instances where there was no value for the uses remaining for the property after the adoption of the regulation, <sup>89</sup> and where there was a loss of 96 percent of the possible rate of return on an investment. <sup>90</sup> Courts have rejected takings claims where valuable uses of the property remained after the imposition of the regulation, even if those uses were not the most valuable uses. <sup>91</sup>

## Ripeness

Since the determination of whether a particular regulation has resulted in a taking of private property depends upon the economic impact of the regulation, a takings claim is not ripe, and cannot be considered by a court, until the property owner has obtained a final decision from the appropriate governmental agency on the application of the regulation to the particular parcel of property. In the zoning context this final decision requirement forces the property owner to obtain two decisions from the governmental entity, a rejected development plan and a denial of a variance. Until the property owner has obtained a final decision, it is not possible to determine the actual economic impact of a regulation on the property in question.

For taking claims brought in federal courts there is a second ripeness requirement: the property owner



must first have sought just compensation in the state courts before bringing a takings claim in the federal courts. <sup>95</sup> Thus a property owner in Tennessee must first bring an inverse condemnation action in the state courts before filing suit in the federal courts to recover just compensation for a regulatory taking.

# Measure of Damages

The normal measure of damages in an inverse condemnation case is the same as in any other condemnation case. Thus where a permanent regulatory taking has occurred the measure of damages is as discussed in Chapter Four. Where a temporary taking occurs, the property owner is entitled to the value of the use of the property during the time of the temporary taking. The value of the temporary use of property is normally measured by the difference in rental value resulting from the imposition of the regulation. Some courts, however, have permitted the property owner to recover in excess of the rental value of the property based on the fair market value of the right to develop the property.

#### Statute of Limitations

Inverse condemnation suits must be commenced within one year after the land has been actually taken possession of, and the work of the proposed internal improvement begun (T.C.A. § 29-16-124).<sup>100</sup> In establishing the date the taking occurred, which commences the running of the statute of limitations, the courts consider the date of the actual injury to the property, or the date the owner had reasonable notice or knowledge of the injury.<sup>101</sup>

These general rules are somewhat difficult to apply where the private property is taken due to a public improvement located on adjacent property, or due to a regulatory taking. Thus, the statute of limitations was found not to bar a suit filed five years after a public improvement was completed on adjacent property but filed within one year of the date flooding occurred on the private property. In a case involving a taking of airspace due to aircraft overflights, the court found that the operative date for the purposes of the statute of limitations was the date that direct overflights of low-flying aircraft commenced over private property, instead of the date the property for the airport was condemned or the date the construction of the airport was completed. In a suit filed five years a suit filed five years a suit filed five years after a public improvement was condemned or the date the construction of the airport was completed.

The statute of limitations does not commence until the landowner knows or should have known that the injury to his or her property was permanent in nature. 104 Thus, where a property owner received repeated assurances from the condemner over a two-year period that flooding caused by highway construction would be corrected, the court held that the statute of limitations did not bar the suit since the court found that the suit was filed within one year of the date the property owner discovered that the condemner had failed to correct the problem. 105

A similar result was obtained in a case involving a municipal ordinance that limited the height of buildings that could be constructed in an airport glide path. 106 The court rejected the municipality's argument that the passage of the ordinance commenced the running of the statute of limitations, holding instead that the statute began to run only when the owner's property was injured by the taking and not when he or she had notice of the taking. 107

In instances where the condemner nonsuits a condemnation case after commencing construction of a public improvement, the statute



of limitations began to run on the date the nonsuit is entered rather than the date construction was commenced.<sup>108</sup>

# Attorney, Engineer, and Appraisal Fees

If a property owner prevails in an inverse condemnation case, he or she is entitled to recover from the condemner his or her reasonable costs, disbursements and expenses including reasonable attorney, appraisal, and engineering fees actually incurred because of the proceedings (T.C.A. § 29-16-123). The trial court must award these fees to the property owner if a demand is made by the property owner, although the court has the discretion to determine the reasonableness of those fees.<sup>109</sup>



# Chapter Six

# **Leasehold Damages**

#### Introduction

It has been held that a leasehold constitutes a compensable property interest under the law of eminent domain.¹ This interest has been characterized as the right of the lessee to remain in undisturbed possession of the leased premise until the expiration of his term.² A lessee's entitlement to damages is not limited to cases where the leasehold property is actually taken or destroyed, but extends even to cases where impairment of access to the leasehold property can be shown.³ Also a tenant is entitled to recover compensation where the condemnation of a part of the leased premises destroys the value of the leasehold.⁴

#### Valuation of the Leasehold

The lessee is entitled to any excess in value of his or her unexpired leasehold over and above the rentals that would be due for the unexpired term, or in other words he or she is entitled to recover the fair market value of his or her leasehold interest less the rents he or she must pay to the landlord. While evidence of a property owner's business profit is normally not allowed in condemnation cases, this may be admissible under the peculiar facts of a case to show the fair market value of the lessee's interest. In the event of a partial taking of the leasehold, the lessee is entitled to recover the difference in value of the lease before the taking and the value of the lease after the taking.

Incidental damages to the leasehold include, by statute, the lessee's moving expenses<sup>9</sup> (T.C.A. § 29-16-114), and where only a portion of the leasehold is acquired, any damage to the remainder of the leasehold.<sup>10</sup>

Where a partial taking of property subject to a leasehold occurs, the jury must first determine the total amount of just compensation for the taking, including the fair, reasonable cash market value of the property taken, on the date of the taking, and incidental damages, if any, to that portion of the property remaining. 11 In determining the total fair market value of the fee, the jury should consider the leasehold as one element of the total fair market value of the property, as the leasehold indicates one available use of the property. 12 The total compensation is to include all losses suffered by all parties having an interest in the property affected and cannot exceed the value of the fee, unencumbered by the lease on the date of taking.13 The jury then apportions the total compensation between the landlord and tenant.14

# **Apportionment**

In the typical condemnation case involving leased premises, the property owner and lessee are joined as parties and the lessee is awarded a portion of the damages assessed as the value of the total property condemned. As noted above, the total compensation awarded to the owner and lessee may not exceed the value of the unencumbered fee and this value, once established, may not be further increased because of the existence of an unexpired lease at the time of condemnation. In other words, the value of the leasehold is considered to be an integral part of the total value of the unencumbered tract of land.

The jury should then apportion the total compensation (fair market value plus incidental damages) between lessor and lessee by determining



the lessee's interest, which is the fair market value of the leasehold on the property minus rent actually called for in the lease plus the incidental damages to the leasehold, with the remainder of the property's fair market value going to the lessor.<sup>17</sup> This formula for apportionment is applicable regardless of whether a long term or short term lease is involved.<sup>18</sup>

The condemner may specify in the condemnation petition the various interests of the lessor and lessee, apportion the amount deposited with the court and settle the case with either the lessor or the lessee. <sup>19</sup> If the condemner follows this procedure, the lessee or lessor may then withdraw its amount in full satisfaction of its claim. <sup>20</sup>

## Appeal

Both the property owner and lessee have an independent right to appeal the amount of damages awarded: joinder of parties is not necessary.<sup>21</sup> On appeal, the court may increase the award to the appellant as long as it determines that the initial award did not accurately reflect the fair market value of the unencumbered fee,<sup>22</sup> or did not reflect the total aggregate amount of incidental damages.<sup>23</sup> Thus, any relief granted on appeal must be through an increase of the total award rather than a reallocation of the lower court's award.<sup>24</sup>



#### Chapter Seven

# The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Acts

#### Introduction

The Federal Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 19701 was enacted for the purpose of providing fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced as a result of federal and federally assisted programs, 2 as well as consistent treatment of owners during the actual land acquisition.<sup>3</sup> The provisions of the act are mandatory and apply to any public agency that administers programs supported at least in part by federal funds. The act consists of three subchapters: (1) General Provisions, which defines terms used in the act; 4 (2) Uniform Relocation Assistance, which is concerned with moving and related expenses, replacement housing payments, relocation assistance advisory services, and the federal share of the cost of such payments and services;5 and (3) Uniform Real Property Acquisition Policy, which sets out the procedures to be followed in acquiring real property.6

In 1972, Tennessee enacted the Uniform Relocation Assistance Act of 1972, which generally followed the provisions of the federal act and had the effect of making relocation assistance and land acquisition procedures mandatory for any projects conducted by state agencies or supported by state financial assistance (T.C.A. § 13-11-101 et seq.). The Tennessee act was amended in 1980 to also include any projects by a municipality or a county that received federal or state financial assistance.

The focus of this chapter will be on the land acquisition procedures, since these are of considerable importance to attorneys representing

condemners or condemnees. The federal government has promulgated government-wide regulations for real property acquisition, which have been adopted by reference by such agencies as the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

# **Appraisal Procedure**

Before the acquisition of any tract of property by a public agency subject to the federal and/or state relocation acts, a full appraisal of the tract must be made. The regulations generally require that: (1) the property be appraised before the initiation of any negotiations with the property owner; (2) the owner, or his designated representative, be given an opportunity to accompany the appraiser during his inspection of the property; (3) the acquiring agency establish the amount it believes to be just compensation before the initiation of any negotiations with the property owner; and (4) the acquiring agency make a written offer to the property owner for the full amount believed to be the just compensation. The written offer must be accompanied by a written summary statement of the offer explaining the amount of the offer, the description of the property being acquired, and an identification of any improvements being acquired. 11

The agency must make reasonable efforts to contact the owner and discuss the offer, and explain the basis for the offer and the acquisition policies of the agency. The owner must be given a reasonable opportunity to consider the offer and



present material the owner believes is relevant in determining the amount of just compensation to which the owner is entitled. The agency must consider the owner's presentation. The agency must update its appraisal if the owner's information or any material change in the character or the condition of the property indicates the need for a new appraisal, or if there has been a significant delay since the time the appraisal was completed. The agency cannot advance the time of condemnation or take any other coercive action to induce a settlement by the owner.<sup>12</sup>

The type of appraisal that must be obtained by the agency is determined by the complexity of the appraisal problem. The appraisal must conform to minimum standards set by each agency and with commonly accepted appraisal practice if the appraisal does not require an in-depth analysis. If an in-depth analysis is required, a detailed appraisal must be performed that conforms to nationally recognized appraisal standards including, if appropriate, the Uniform Acquisition Standards for Federal Land Acquisition. At a minimum a detailed appraisal must include.

- The purpose and/or function of the appraisal, a description of the estate being appraised, and a statement of the assumptions and limiting conditions affecting the appraisal;
- 2. An accurate description of the physical characteristics of the property (and any remainder if a partial taking will occur), a statement of known and observed encumbrances, if any, title information, location, zoning, present use, an analysis of highest and best use, and at least a five-year sales history of the property;
- 3. A description of all relevant and reliable approaches to value used consistent with commonly accepted appraisal practice (market

- data, income or replacement cost). If more than one approach is used, there must be an analysis and reconciliation of approaches to value;
- A description of comparable sales, including the parties to the transaction, source and method of financing and verification by the parties involved;
- 5. A statement of the value of the real property to be acquired, and if a partial taking is proposed, a statement of the damages and benefits, if any, to the remainder; and
- 6. The effective date of the appraisal, signature and certification of the appraiser.

The appraiser is required, to the extent permitted by applicable law, to disregard any decrease or increase in the fair market value of the property caused by the project for which the property is being acquired or by the likelihood that the property would be acquired for the project, other than due to physical deterioration within the reasonable control of the owner.<sup>17</sup>

Once the appraisal is completed, the agency must have the appraisal reviewed by a review appraiser. The review appraiser must examine the appraisal to assure that it meets all applicable requirements, and must seek any necessary corrections. The review appraiser then either approves the appraisal or develops a new appraisal consistent with the above requirements.

Before the agency can require the owner to surrender possession of the real property, the owner must be paid the agreed upon purchase price, or if no agreement has been reached, deposit with the court an amount not less than the approved appraisal for the fair market value of the property, or the amount of the court's award of compensation in the condemnation action. In exceptional circumstances the agency can obtain a right-of-



entry for construction purposes prior to making the payment available to the owner.<sup>19</sup>

Although the public agency may not pay less than the approved purchase price, as determined by its review appraiser, it may, under certain circumstances, make an offer of settlement in excess of that amount. In arriving at a determination to make an administrative settlement, the agency should take the following factors into consideration:<sup>20</sup>

- 1. The appraiser's opinion of value;
- 2. Any recent court awards for similar type property;
- 3. The estimated trial costs; and
- 4. Valuation problems with the property in question.

The agency is required to reimburse property owners for recording fees, transfer taxes, and

similar costs incidental to conveying real property, penalty costs for prepayment of any pre-existing recording mortgage, entered into in good faith, encumbering the property and the pro rata portion of real property taxes paid by the owner which are allocable to a period subsequent to the date of title vesting with the agency or the effective date of possession of the property by the agency, whichever is earlier.<sup>21</sup>

The owner is also entitled to be reimbursed for his reasonable expenses including attorney, appraisal, and engineering fees actually incurred because of a condemnation proceeding if: (1) the court determines that the agency cannot acquire the property in question; (2) the condemnation case is abandoned by the agency other than under an agreed upon settlement; or (3) the court having jurisdiction rendering a judgment in favor of the owner in an inverse condemnation case or the agency settles such a case.<sup>22</sup>





# PETITION FOR CONDEMNATION

Petitioner	r	espectfully states as	follows:		
Annotated, Section certain property ri	and eminent domain (insert charter or p 1 29-17-801 et seq., ghts for the comple	for public purposes varivate act section). To (or 29-16-101 et section of	when public con his petition is f q., if jury of view (identify pro	of Tennessee and has the venience requires it pursiled pursuant to <i>Tennesse</i> v procedure is used) to a ject) with specific authous condemnation for pro	suant to ee Code acquire rity as set
2. The prop	perty rights sought t	to be acquired are par	rt of the propert	y rights in real estate lo	cated
				County, Tennessee, conv	
	(insert owner's name	e) from	(insert imme	ediate predecessor in titl	e) of record
				County, Tenness	ee. The
aforementioned pr	operty being describ	bed more particularly	as follows:		
		[Insert descri	ption]		
All as more	particularly shown	on the drawing or ma	ap attached here	eto as Exhibit	_
		hat respondent(s) ow ncumbrances set out		e simple interest of the	above-
		[List encumbra	ances]		
	er has determined to posited with the cle		:he respondent(	s) is entitled is \$	, and
issuance of a writ	•	es and the appointme		the purpose of obtainin	-



WHEREFORE, premises considered, petitioner prays:

1. That a hearing be had in this matter on an early date and at the hearing, petitioner	receive the right to
possession and, if necessary, a writ of possession issue to the Sheriff of	County to put the
petitioner in possession, and	

[or if jury of view procedure is requested]

- 1. That a hearing be held on this matter on an early date and at that hearing the court issue a writ of inquiry of damages and appoint a jury of view.
- 2. That an Order of Reference be entered to determine the amount of taxes due petitioner on said property and said amount to be paid to petitioner, and
- 3. That all additional proceedings be had in this matter and at the final hearing of this cause, petitioner, its successors and assigns, be decreed the property interests set out above,
- 4. That petitioner have any and all additional relief to which it is entitled including the assessment of costs as provided by *Tennessee Code Annotated*, Section 29-17-812.

Respectfully submitted,	
Counsel for Petitioner,	
City/Town of	

Cost Bond

(Requirements for cost bond language varies by jurisdiction)



### Form 2A

# **SERVICE BY SHERIFF**

To (identify name and address of respondents)

		NOTICE		
petition in this coundescribed in the petition will be presin the Circuit Court, immediate possession.  You must ple	that on the day of rt against you, praying for the tition, a copy of which according to the court for hear to determine whether petion of the property rights determine and the matter proceeds	the condemnation of ompanies this NOTICE ring at 9 a.m. on the tioner should be graphs as cribed in the petition of the petiti	E property rights in to the first term of the fi	the real estate fully otified that said, 20, ssession, entitling it to
	nclude following two parag			edure)
of five days from the property rights descent the clerk of this coupossession of the pro-	her notified, pursuant to <i>Te</i> e date of giving of this NOT cribed in the petition is not urt and served upon the petroperty rights sought. If ne Possession to the Sheriff of	TICE, if the petitione questioned or conte itioner's attorney, th cessary to place the	r's right to condemrested by written form ne petitioner shall he petitioner in posses	n and acquire the mal objection filed with ave the right to take ssion thereof, the court
appear at the time on to appear, an O This hearing, however	e to contest the taking by contest the taking by contest the taking file designated after having file rder of Possession will be ever, will not be concerned with the just compensation to	ed your written forma ntered granted to th with the value of you	l objection. If you f e petitioner the pro r property or your in	ail to appear or choose perty rights described.
This	day of	, 20		
		Ву		-
Circuit Court Clark		Donuty	LOVIA	



#### **OFFICER'S RETURN**

	I served this NOTICE with a ndent(s), by personally delive		
, 20			
	SHERIFF OF	COUNTY, TENNESSEE	
	Ву	La Land III Clere	



## Form 2B

# **SERVICE BY MAIL**

To (identify name and address of respondents)

	NOTICE	
Take NOTICE that on the do filed a petition in this court against you, praying fully described in the petition, a copy of which adpetition will be presented to the court for a hearing the Circuit Court, to determine whether petition immediate possession of the property rights described.	for the condent ccompanies thit ing at 9 a.m. on oner should be	nnation of property rights in the real estate s NOTICE. You are further notified that said n the day of, 20, granted an order of possession, entitling it to
You must plead, answer, or except to the provided by law.	petition as pro	vided by law, or a judgment will be taken as
(Include the following two paragr	raphs if using b	oulldozer/quick take procedure)
You are further notified, pursuant to <i>Tenn</i> of five days from the date of the giving of this NO property rights described in the petition is not que the clerk of this court and served upon the petiti possession of the property rights sought. If necesshall issue a Writ of Possession to the Sheriff of his property rights.	OTICE, if the pe uestioned or co oner's attorney ssary to place t	ntested by written formal objection filed with , the petitioner shall have the right to take he petitioner in possession thereof, the court
If you desire to contest the taking by con appear at the time designated after having filed y not to appear, an Order of Possession will be enter this hearing, however, will not be concerned with not be concerned with the just compensation to	your written for ered granting to h the value of y	rmal objection. If you fail to appear or choose o the petitioner the property rights described. your property or your interest therein and will
This day of	_, 20	
Circuit Court Clerk	Depu	uty Clerk



#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

This is to certify that this NOTICE and a	copy of the Petiti	on for Condemnation has been mai	led to all
respondents, by U.S. Certified Mail, this	day of	, 20	
	Attornay for D	latitionar	
	Attorney for P	etitioner	



# MOTION FOR NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

Petitioner	pursuant to Rule 4.05 of the Tennesse	e Rules of Civil Procedure,
Tennessee Code Annotated §§ 29-16-1	105 and 21-1-203, respectfully moves for	or an Order that notice of the
Petition for Condemnation filed herei	in upon the respondents,	, be made by publication
and for grounds states that the resid	ence of these respondents is unknown	and cannot be ascertained upon
diligent inquiry. Petitioner relies on	the affidavit of its counsel of record, _	, filed herewith
in support of this motion.		
	Respectfully submitted,	
	Attorney for Petitioner	



F	0	r	m	1.
_				- 4

AFFIDAVIT OF \_\_\_\_\_ (CITY ATTORNEY)

State of Tennessee			
County of	144		
I,	_, being first duly sworn, st	ate as follows:	
1. Affiant is a prop	erly licensed attorney in the	e state of Tennessee and is th	ne attorney for the
petitioner,	, in this case.		
	at the property rights sough (describe property).	nt are part of certain property	/ known as
3. Affiant states th	at he has made numerous in	nguiries and has obtained an	extensive title search in
		A copy of that title search	
4. Affiant states th respondent(s) and has bee		ffort to locate the (names/ac	dresses) of the
FURTHER, AFFIANT	SAITH NOT.		
Sworn to and subscribed be	efore me a Notary Public, th	is day of	, 20
	Notary Public		
	My Commission Ex	xpires	-



# ORDER OF PUBLICATION

It appearing to the court from the affidavit of	, attorney for the petitioner, that
respondent(s),, are (unknown or no	on-residents of the County of and the
state of Tennessee) and ordinary service of process cann	ot be had upon them;
It is ORDERED, that publication of this order be r	made for four consecutive weeks in the
(specify newspaper) a newspaper	published in County, Tennessee,
notifying the respondent(s),, tha	t they are required to answer to make defense to the
Petition for Condemnation in the office of the Circuit Co	
within 30 days after the fourth weekly publication of the	
Petition for Condemnation will be taken as admitted by	
3	The second section of the second section
	CALLER MANUAL TO THE SECOND
Circuit Court Judge	Attorney for Petitioner



# **ORDER OF POSSESSION**

		ay of, 20 respondents' property. Based u	
property rights sought to be	condemned, and that	t petitioner have and receive tit a Writ of Possession issue, if ne ore particularly described as follo	ecessary, in order to put
	[insert legal descripti	on of property being acquired]	
		ECREED that this matter be refer unicipal taxes which are a lien u	
The clerk of this court Order of Possession.	t will make out and ce	ertify to the petitioner,	, a copy of this
ALL FURTHER MATTER	S ARE RESERVED.		
ENTERED this	day of	, 20	
		Approved for Entry	
Circuit Court Judge		Attorney for Petitioner	



# ORDER SUSTAINING PETITION FOR CONDEMNATION AND ORDERING WRIT OF INQUIRY

This case came on to be heard on the	day of, 20, before the Circuit Court of County, Notice thereof to respondents. It appearing to the
cause is before the court on application to sustain a appointment of a jury of view; and it further appear petitioner has the legal power and authority to acqu	d, or publication made, as required by law, and that said a petition and for a writ of inquiry of damages and the ring that the respondents are before the court and that uire [insert herein the interest sought to be condemned] nessee to the following described property located in
[insert herein a de	escription of the property]
Respondents' right of trial by petit jury to determin for this taking is not affected by the transfer of titl	e the amount of compensation to which they are entitled e to petitioner.
IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED:	
	ne hereinabove described property be and the same is
hereby sustained.  2. That the following persons are nominated the eminent domain laws of Tennessee:	d and appointed to act as a Jury of View as provided by
1.	
2. 3.	
4.	
5.	
Alternate:	u to the shoriff commanding him to summons said Juny of
View to appear in open court on the da no other further notice thereof need be given, there immediately to the property sought to be condemned	y to the sheriff commanding him to summons said Jury of ay of, at, and e to be impaneled and sworn, after which they will proceed and examine it, hear testimony of witnesses, but no bunds the land to be condemned, and assess damages as
	deliver the same to the sheriff, who will make his return
This day of	, 20
	Approved for Entry
Circuit Court Judge	Attorney for Petitioner



# WRIT OF INQUIRY

State of Tennessee		
County of	A SHA MARKANIA	
TO THE CHERTER OF	COUNTY TENNESSEE	
10 THE SHERIFF OF	COUNTY, TENNESSEE	
	ed in the Circuit Court ofs described fully in said petition.	County, Tennessee, for the
commanded to summon the fo	vided by the eminent domain laws of the st ollowing to act as a Jury of View and to app o'clock in open court in	ear on the day of the Circuit Court of
Cou	nty, Tennessee, at [insert herein the place	where the court sits]:
1. 2. 3. 4. 5. Alternative:		
testimony of witnesses, but n condemned, and inquire and a	e sworn and instructed, and will go immedi o argument of counsel, and set apart by me assess the damages resulting from this takin f View or a majority of them, which report s	tes and bounds the property to be ng, and report its findings in writing
IN WITNESS WHEREOF,	I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the	nis court on the day of
	[insert herein the name of the clerk of co	ourt]
By _		
	(Clerk or Deputy Clerk)	



# REPORT OF THE JURY OF VIEW

			as provided by the laws of th	
off by metes and	bounds the property inte	erests herein condemn	ered in this proceeding were or ed, and to inquire and assess	damages to the
property interest	taken by Petitioner		We hereby report as follow	vs:
		xamined said property	by personal inspection and h	
			sts to be condemned, and we	
	[insert here	in a description of the	e property taken]	
	find the fair cash value sists of the following am		n condemned as being \$	, and
		Fair market value of la Incidental damages	nd taken	
The memb	ers of the Jury of View n	net on the following d	ates and respectfully request	a fee for each.
Dates				
-	r			
This	day of	, 20 _	an married point	
	min to Alexander to the		and the first was to produce a	
	Members of	the Jury of View		
Received f	rom the Jury of View and	d returned to the clerk	of the court this	day of
	Sheriff of _	Carrento.	County	
	-	By Deputy Sherif	f	



# ORDER CONFIRMING REPORT OF THE JURY OF VIEW

It appearing to	the court that the J	ury of View h	aving met and reported to the court that the fair cash
			(Optional: including incidental damages to the
			petitioner,, having deposited with
the clerk of this court t	he sum of \$	).	
It is therefore 0	RDERED, ADJUDGED,	, and DECREE	0:
condemned and the awa upon payment to the cl	ard of damages resu erk for the use of re	lting from the spondents th	ed both as to the appropriation of the property rights e taking, and that petitioner,, e amount of damages assessed by the Jury of View the following described property:
[in	sert herein a descri	ption of the p	property rights being condemned]
			on thereof is hereby divested out of respondents and
			ens or encumbrances for taxes or the claim of any
party hereto are transfe	rred to the funds he	erein deposite	ed or secured.
	the same b	eing the fair	ames of all respondents], have and recover of cash value of the property rights taken, for which
\$, that being t	he difference betwe	en the \$	e rate of 10 percent per annum on the amount of, deposited as tender and the Jury of View award, g], until said sum is paid into court.
	oaid to the clerk of t	this court by	the sum of \$ each for their services in this petitioner as part of the costs in this cause and that y.
			etermination of the taxes which constitute a lien on ted, Section 26-5-108(b).
This the	day of	20	
			Approved for Entry
Circuit Court Judge			Attorney for Petitioner



# APPEAL FROM FINDING OF THE JURY OF VIEW

	, excepts to the finding and report of the Jury of View that
the fair cash value of the proper	ty rights condemned herein is \$, and hereby appeals such
finding and requests a trial before	re a petit jury in the usual way, pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated,
Section 29-16-118.	
By	
Бу	
	Attorney for Petitioner
I am surety for costs not to exce	and ¢
I am surety for costs flot to exce	eeu \$
By	
-3	Attorney for Petitioner



# NOTICE OF DISMISSAL

	citioner, pursuant to Rule 41.01 of the Tennessee Rules of Civil Proced	dure and files this
notice of voluntary dism	issal as to the Respondent	
	Respectfully submitted,	
	Attorney for Petitioner	



# ORDER OF DISMISSAL

Petitioner,	_, having given notice	of voluntary dismissal pursuant to Rule 41 of the
Tennessee Rules of Civil Proce	dure against Responder	nt
	, and that the money	DECREED that this case is hereby DISMISSED as against the ys heretofore deposited into court shall be refunded to
Entered this	day of	, 20
		Approved for Entry
Circuit Court Judge	CONTRACTOR OF THE	Attorney for Petitioner



# AGREED FINAL ORDER

It is hereby ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED by the court that the respondents have and recover the

This cause having been compromised and settled, as evidenced by the signatures of counsel for petitioner and the signatures of the respondents, and the court being duly and sufficiently advised;

	procedure] petitione	arket value of the property described hereinbelow, [included er having heretofore paid into court \$ at the time
described hereinbelow be, ar	nd the same is hereby and hereby is vested	REED by the court that all of the title to the property divested out of respondents and all other persons claiming in petitioner in fee simple, said property
	[descript	ion of the property]
taxes due, interest and pena which property located) and the court, prior to the payme any taxes due and unpaid where with the collection of any taxes due and unpaid where upon each of said office where upon each of said office.	Ity, if any, owing to in accordance with Tent of any part of the nich are lien upon sail axes which might be a cription of the proper tials shall certify to sail	property hereinabove described may be subject to lien for (county and/or municipality in ennessee Code Annotated, Section 26-5-108(b), the clerk of judgment to respondents shall ascertain whether there are deproperty, and shall issue to each of the officials charged a lien on said property a statement, giving the style and ty, and the name of the party out of whom title is divested; aid clerk an itemized statement of taxes, interest and as of the date of entry of this Agreed Final Order.
	any unpaid taxes that	ECREED that the clerk is directed to pay out of the money may be determined to be owing by the above references, e respondents.
It is further ORDERED against the petitioner for wh		e costs in this cause be and the same are hereby taxed sue if necessary.
The clerk of this cour of this judgment together w	t will make out and c ith a cost bill for the	certify to the petitioner,, a copy lawful costs of this cause, for payment by the Petitioner
Entered this	day of	, 20
		Approved for Entry
Circuit Court Judge		Attorney for Petitioner
		Attorney for Respondents



#### PRETRIAL CHECK LIST

- · Open office file.
- Make sure procedures required under Relocation Act have been complied with.
- Bring title information up to date.
- Check to see which civil district property is located.
- Check whether taxes due require naming taxing authority as party defendant.
- Check whether tenants must be named as parties defendant.
- Obtain aerial photograph of subject property.
- Obtain planning commission plat of subject property.
- Obtain engineer's drawing showing area of taking.
- Establish tentative date of taking and arrange with appraisers and photographer for pretrial conference at site of property on date of taking.
- Obtain project description for use in petition.
- Draft petition.
- Draft notice and, if necessary, order of publication and supporting affidavit.
- Draft order of condemnation and appropriation.
- · Proofread all pleading.
- · File petition and arrange for service.

- · Obtain deposit receipt.
- · Prehearing, check on service of process.
- Hearing to obtain order of condemnation and appropriation.
- Signing and entry of order of condemnation and appropriation.
- Furnish copy of order of condemnation and appropriation to adversary counsel.
- Pretrial conference at site of property with appraiser; obtain photographs of subject property, immediately surrounding property, and comparable sales; locate comparable sales on planning commission map.
- · Request copies of adversary appraisals.
- Summarize for trial use all appraisals.
- Explore settlement possibilities with adversary counsel.
- Take any necessary depositions and file them with clerk.
- Prepare pretrial brief as required or desired and requests for special instructions.
- Prepare all exhibits for use at trial.
- Pretrial conference with engineering witness, if any.
- Pretrial conference with judge and adversary counsel.



## POST-TRIAL CHECK LIST

- Draft final judgment.
- · Proofread final judgment.
- Submit draft final judgment for description check.
- Obtain signatures to final judgment and see to entry.
- Obtain statements from appraisers, court reporters, suppliers of exhibits, and photographers.
- Approve statements and submit for payment.
- · Obtain, review, and approve bill of costs.
- · Obtain instructions regarding appeal.
- · Obtain certified copy of final judgment.

- Obtain parcel number for final judgment.
- See to registration for final judgment.
- Advance cost of registration of final judgment and obtain receipt.
- Forward certified copy of final judgment to appropriate official.
- · Pay judgment and obtain receipt.
- · Pay costs and obtain receipt.
- · Prepare statement for services.
- · Close office file.



# EMINENT DOMAIN NOTES

- 1 City of Maryville v. Edmondson, 931 S.W.2d 932 (Tenn. App. 1996); Harper v. Trenton Housing Authority, 274 S.W.2d 635 (Tenn. App. 1954); City of Knoxville v. Heth, 186 Tenn. 321, 210 S.W.2d 326 (1948).
- 2 See Chapter Three on Public Use.
- 3 Edwards v. Hallsdale-Powell Utility District, 115 S.W.3d 461 (Tenn. 2003); Rivergate Wine and Liquors, Inc. v. City of Goodlettsville, 647 S.W.2d 631 (Tenn. 1983); Southern Railway Co. v. City of Memphis, 126 Tenn. 267, 148 S.W. 662 (1912); Allen v. Farnsworth, 13 Tenn. 189 (1833); County Highway Commission of Rutherford County v. Smith, 61 Tenn. App. 292, 454 S.W. 2d 124 (1969). See Chapter Four on Just Compensation.
- 4 Trustees of New Pulaski Cemetery v. Ballentine, 151 Tenn. 622, 271 S.W. 38 (1924); County Highway Commission of Rutherford County v. Smith, supra.
- 5 State ex rel. v. Oliver, 162 Tenn. 100,
  35 S.W.2d 396 (1931); Anderson v. Turberville,
  46 Tenn. 150 (1868).
- 6 Claiborne County v. Jennings, 199 Tenn. 161,
  285 S.W.2d 132 (1955); Knox County v. Kennedy,
  92 Tenn. 1, 20 S.W. 311 (1892); Shelby County v.
  Armour, 495 S.W.2d 816 (Tenn. Ct. App. 1971).
- 7 Rivergate Wine and Liquors Inc. v. City of Goodlettsville, supra; Duck River Electric Membership Corp. v. City of Manchester, 529 S.W. 2d 202 (Tenn. 1975); City of Knoxville v.

- Heth, supra; Zirkle v. City of Kingston, 217 Tenn. 210, 396 S.W.2d 356 (1965); City of Memphis v. Wright, 14 Tenn. 497 (1834).
- 8 Provided that these improvements will be put to a public use. Webb v. Knox County Transmission Co., 143 Tenn. 423, 225 S.W. 1046 (1920); Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Co. v. Paint Rock Flume & Transportation Co., 128 Tenn. 277, 160 S.W. 522 (1913); Alfred Phosphate Co. v. Duck River Phosphate Co., 120 Tenn. 260, 113 S.W. 410 (1907); Ryan v. Louisville & Nashville Terminal Co., 102 Tenn. 111, 50 S.W. 744 (1899).
- 9 Instances where the power of eminent domain was delegated by private act of the General Assembly are not included.
- 10 American Telephone & Telegraph Co. v. Proffitt, 903 S.W.2d 309 (Tenn. App. 1995); Claiborne County v. Jennings, supra; Clouse v. Garfinkle, 190 Tenn. 677, 231 S.W.2d 345 (1950); Vinson v. Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railway, 45 Tenn. App. 161, 321 S.W.2d 841 (1958); Rogers v. City of Knoxville, 40 Tenn. App. 170. 289 S.W.2d 868 (1955).
- 11 Alcoa Development and Housing Authority v. Monday, Docket No 196; 1991 W L 12291. (Tenn. App. 1991).
- 12 Clouse v. Garfinkle, supra; Tennessee Power Co. v. Rust, 8 Tenn. Civ. App. 368 (1918).



- 13 City of Clarksville v. Moore, 688 S.W.2d 428
  (Tenn. 1985); Nashville Housing Authority v.
  City of Nashville, 192 Tenn. 103, 237 S.W.2d
  946 (1951); Illinois Central Railroad Co. v.
  Moriarity, 135 Tenn. 446, 186 S.W. 1053 (1916);
  Sackman and Rohan, 1 Nichols' The Law of
  Eminent Domain, § 1.42 (3d Ed. 1992).
- 14 City of Clarksville v. Moore, supra; Draper v. Haynes, 567 S.W. 2d 462 (Tenn. 1978); City of Memphis v. Hood, 208 Tenn. 319, 345 S.W.2d 887 (1961); Ambrose v. City of Knoxville, 728 S.W.2d 338 (Tenn. Ct. App. 1986); Sackman and Rohan, 1 Nichols' The Law of Eminent Domain, § 1.42 [3] (3d. Ed. 1992).
- 15 City of Clarksville v. Moore, supra.
- 16 Draper v. Haynes, supra.
- 17 In re Billing and Collection Tariffs of South Central Bell, 779 S.W.2d 375 (Tenn. Ct. App. 1989).
- 18 City of Memphis v. Hood, supra; Ambrose v. City of Knoxville, supra.
- 19 Ledbetter v. Beach, 220 Tenn. 623, 421 S.W.2d 814 (1967); Hadden v. City of Gatlinburg, Docket No. 97 (Tenn. Ct. App. W.S. at Knoxville, August 28, 1985).
- 20 Hudgins v. Metropolitan Government of Nashville & Davidson County, 885 S.W.2d 74 (Tenn. App. 1994).
- 21 Griffith and Stokes, Eminent Domain in Tennessee, p.2 (Rev. Ed. July 1979).

- 22 260 U.S. 393, 43 S.Ct. 158, 67 L.Ed. 322 (1922).
- Bayside Warehouse Co. v. City of Memphis,63 Tenn. App. 268, 470 S.W. 2d 375 (1971).
- 24 First English Evangelical Lutheran Church v. County of Los Angeles, 482 U.S. 304, 107 S. Ct. 2378, 96 L. Ed.2d 250 (1987).
- 25 Edwards v. Hallsdale-Powell Utility District, 115 S.W.3d 461 (Tenn. 2003).

- 1 For example, special procedures have been provided for the acquisition of property for certain municipal projects (7-31-107 et seq.), for municipal housing authorities (29-17-401 et seq.), for the opening, changing or closing of county roads (54-10-201 et seq.) and for municipal or county schools (49-6-2001 et seq.).
- Williams v. McMinn County, 209 Tenn. 236, 352 S.W. 2d 430 (1961); Ragland v. Davidson County Board of Education, 203 Tenn. 317, 312 S.W.2d 855 (1958); City of Knoxville v. Heth, 186 Tenn. 321, 210 S.W.2d 326 (1948); Town of Cookeville v. Farley, 171 Tenn. 260, 102 S.W.2d 56 (1937); Derryberry v. Beck, 153 Tenn. 220, 280 S.W. 1014 (1925); City of Chattanooga v. State, 151 Tenn. 691, 272 S.W. 432 (1924); Department of Highways and Public Works v. Gamble, 18 Tenn. App. 95, 73 S.W.2d 175 (1934). But see Baker v. Nashville Housing Authority, 219 Tenn. 201, 408 S.W.2d 651 (1966) (municipal housing authority may not utilize "bulldozer/quick take" procedure).
- 3 The right to take is discussed in detail in Chapter Three.



- 4 Just compensation is discussed in detail in Chapter Four.
- 5 Cox v. State, 217 Tenn. 644, 399 S.W.2d 776 (1965); Hombra v. Smith, 159 Tenn. 308, 17 S.W.2d 921 (1929); Scruggs v. Town of Sweetwater, 29 Tenn. App. 357, 196 S.W.2d 717 (1946).
- 6 E.R. & R.I. Dixon v. Louisville & Nashville Railroad Co., 115 Tenn. 362, 89 S.W. 322 (1905).
- 7 *City of Maryville v. Waters*, 207 Tenn. 213, 338 S.W.2d. 608 (1907).
- 8 H.J.L., L.P. v. Nashville & Eastern R.R. Corp., 1999 WL 499 744 (Tenn. App. 1999); Knox County v. Moncier, 224 Tenn. 361, 455 S.W.2d. 153 (1970); Evans v. Wheeler, 209 Tenn. 40, 348 S.W.2d 500 (1961); Chambers v. Chattanooga Union Railway Co., 130 Tenn. 459, 171 S.W. 84 (1914); McLain v. State, 59 Tenn. App. 529, 442 S.W.2d 637 (1968).
- 9 Knox County v. Moncier, supra; Evans v. Wheeler, supra.
- 10 Chambers v. Chattanooga Union Railroad Co., supra.
- 11 McLain v. State, supra.
- 12 Sanford v. Louisville & Nashville Railroad Co., 225 Tenn. 350, 469 S.W.2d 363 (1971).
- 13 *Brady v. Correll*, 20 Tenn. App. 224, 97 S.W.2d 448 (1936).
- 14 Colcough v. Nashville and Northwestern Railroad Co., 39 Tenn. 171 (1858).

- 15 Union Railway Co. v. Hunton, 114 Tenn. 609, 88 S.W. 182 (1905); Lamar Advertising of Tennessee, Inc. v. Metropolitan Development and Housing Authority, 803 S.W.2d 686 (Tenn. Ct. App. 1990); City of Morristown v. Sauls, 61 Tenn. App. 666, 457 S.W.2d 601 (1969).
- 16 State v. Holland, 51 Tenn. App. 344, 367 S.W.2d 791 (1962).
- 17 Cheatham v. Carter County, Tennessee, 363 F.2d 582 (6th Cir. 1966).
- 18 Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corp. v. Batey, Docket No. 89-233-II (Tenn. Ct. App. M.S. January 31, 1990).
- 19 Noell v. Tennessee Eastern Power Co., 130 Tenn. 245, 169 S.W. 1169 (1914); Griffith and Stokes, Eminent Domain in Tennessee, p. 22 (Rev. Ed. July 1979).
- 20 State ex rel. Shaw v. Shofner, 573 S.W.2d 169 (Tenn. Ct. App. 1978).
- 21 Clinton Livestock Auction Co. v. City of Knoxville, 52 Tenn. App. 614, 376 S.W.2d 743 (1963).
- 22 State ex rel. Smith v. Overstreet, **533** S.W.2d 283 (1976).
- 23 *Smith County v. Eatherly*, 820 S.W.2d 366 (Tenn. Ct. App. 1991).
- 24 Kennedy v. City of Chattanooga, 56 Tenn. App. 198, 405 S.W.2d 653 (1966); Clinton Livestock Auction Co. v. City of Knoxville, supra.



- 25 The due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution does not permit service by publication where the defendant's name is known or is very easily ascertainable. Love v. First National Bank of Clarksville, 646 S.W.2d 163 (Tenn. Ct. App. 1982).
- 26 Baggett v. Baggett, 541 S.W.2d 407 (Tenn. 1976).
- 27 Griffith and Stokes, supra, at p. 23.
- 28 *Johnson v. Roane County*, 212 Tenn. 433, 370 S.W.2d 496 (1963).
- 29 Wilkerson, The Institution and Prosecution of Condemnation Proceedings, 26 Tenn. L. Rev. 325 (1959); Griffith and Stokes, supra, at p. 23.
- 30 Wilkerson, supra, at p. 328.
- 31 The right to take is considered in detail in Chapter Three.
- 32 Tennessee Central Railroad Co. v. Campbell, 109 Tenn. 655, 73 S.W. 112 (1903); Camp v. Coal Creek & Winter's Gap Railroad Co., 79 Tenn. 705 (1883).
- As an alternative, the parties may agree on the persons who will serve on the jury of view, or the judge will select the jurors and the names of these jurors will be specified in the order directing the writ of inquiry (T.C.A. § 29-16-109). The sheriff will thereafter serve the writ of inquiry on the agreed-upon jurors.
- 34 Wilkerson, supra, at p. 328.

- 35 Although the statute does not require notice to be given to parties or agents who are not residents of the county, such notice would be required by the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. *Bryant v. Edwards*, 707 S.W.2d 868 (Tenn. 1986).
- 36 Wilkerson, supra, at p. 328.
- 37 As an alternative, the presentation of testimony may occur at a different location after the jury of view has had an opportunity to inspect the property.
- 38 Mississippi Railway Co. v. McDonald, 59 Tenn. 54 (1873).
- 39 The attorney for condemners normally prepares the report leaving a blank for the jury of view to fill in the amount of the award. *Wilkerson*, *supra*, at p. 329.
- 40 Wilkerson, supra, at p. 330.
- 41 Wilkerson, supra, at p. 330.
- 42 Wilkerson, supra, at p. 330.
- 43 Wilkerson, supra, at p. 330.
- 44 Wilkerson, supra, at p. 330.
- Officer v. East Tennessee Natural Gas Co.,
   192 Tenn. 184, 239 S.W.2d 999 (1951); Pound v.
   Fowler, 175 Tenn. 220, 133 S.W.2d 486 (1939).
- 46 Pound v. Fowler, supra; Overton County Railroad Co. v. Eldridge, 118 Tenn. 79, 98 S.W. 1051 (1906).
- 47 Pound v. Fowler, supra.



- 48 Pound v. Fowler, supra.
- 49 Baker v. Rose, 165 Tenn. 543, 56 S.W.2d 732 (1932).
- 50 State ex rel. v. Oliver, 167 Tenn. 155, 67 S.W.2d 146 (1933).
- 51 See Chapter Three on the effect of such possession on the finality of the court's determination of the condemner's right to take the property.
- 52 Counties (and arguably municipalities) are not required to post this bond to obtain possession pending appeal. *Claiborne County v. Jennings*, 199 Tenn. 161, 285 S.W.2d 132 (1955).
- 53 Montgomery County v. Nichols, 10 S.W.3d 258 (Tenn. App. 1999); Anderson v. Smith, 521 S.W.2d 787 (Tenn. 1975); Cunningham v. Memphis Railroad Terminal Co., 126 Tenn. 343, 149 S.W. 103 (1912); Williams v. McMinn County, supra.
- Anderson v. Smith, supra; Cunningham v. Memphis Railroad Terminal Co., supra; Department of Highways and Public Works v. Gamble, 18 Tenn. App. 95, 73 S.W.2d 175 (1934).
- 55 Baker v. Nashville Housing Authority, supra.
- 56 Catlett v. State, 207 Tenn. 1, 336 S.W.2d 8 (1960).
- 57 Kennedy v. City of Chattanooga, supra.

- This option is not available to defendants if the state is the condemner. *State, Department* of Highways v. Thornton, 57 Tenn. App. 127, 415 S.W.2d 884 (1967).
- 59 If the right to take is challenged, the condemner has no right to possession until that issue is resolved. *Shelby County v. Armour*, 495 S.W.2d 816 (Tenn. Ct. App. 1975). See Chapter Three on the right to take.
- 60 In some counties, the court may require the condemner and property owners to appear on a date certain after the expiration of the five-day period to obtain an order awarding possession to the condemner.
- 61 State ex rel. Moulton v. Burkhart, 212 Tenn. 352, 370 S.W.2d 411 (1963).
- The specification of the amount of damages the condemner believes the property owner is entitled to is not an admission, *Kennedy v. City of Chattanooga, supra*, and is not relevant at trial. *Smith County v. Eatherly, supra*.
- 63 State ex rel. Smith v. Overstreet, supra.
- 63A *Smith County v. Eatherly,* 820 S.W.2d 366 (Tenn. App. 1991).
- 64 State ex rel. Moulton v. Burkhart, supra.
- 65 If the parties do not demand a jury under Rule 38.02 or file a motion for a jury trial under Rule 39.02, the court may not impanel a jury on its own motion. *Smith v. Williams*, 575 S.W.2d 503 (Tenn. Ct. App. 1978).



- 66 State ex rel. Moulton v. Burkhart, supra; West Wilson Utility District v. Ligon, 768 S.W.2d 681 (Tenn. Ct. App. 1988).
- 67 Anderson v. Smith, supra.
- 68 Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County v. Denson, Docket No. 01-A-01-9005-CV-00174, 1990 WL 154646 (Tenn. Ct. App. M.S. October 17, 1990), app. denied (January 28, 1991).

- 1 Town of Collierville v. Norfolk & Southern Railway, 1 S.W.3d 68 (Tenn. App. 1998); Harper v. Trenton Housing Authority, 197 Tenn. 257, 271 S.W.2d 185 (1954); City of Nashville v. Dad's Auto Accessories, 154 Tenn. 194, 285 S.W. 52 (1926); Tennessee Central Railroad Co. v. Campbell, 109 Tenn. 640, 75 S.W. 1012 (1902); Shelby County v. Armour, 495 S.W.2d 816 (Tenn. Ct. App. 1971); Morgan County v. Jones, 12 Tenn. App. 197 (1930).
- 2 Hawkins County v. Mallory, Docket No. 91 (Tenn. Ct. App. E.S. January 17, 1985).
- 2A City of Johnson City v. Campbell, 2001 WL 112311 (Tenn. App. 2001).
  - 3 Wilkerson, *The Institution and Prosecution of Condemnation Proceedings*, 26 Tenn. L. Rev. 325 (1959).
  - 4 Wilkerson, supra, at p. 326.
  - 5 Brumley v. Town of Greeneville, 38 Tenn. App. 322, 274 S.W.2d 12 (1954).

- 6 Alcoa Development and Housing Authority v. Monday, Docket No. 196; 1991 WL 12291 (Tenn. Ct. App. E.S. February 7, 1991).
- 7 Wilkerson, supra, at p. 326.
- 8 Johnson City v. Cloninger, 213 Tenn. 71, 372 S.W.2d 281 (1963); City of Knoxville v. Heth, 186 Tenn. 321, 210 S.W.2d 326 (1948); Sackman and Rohan, 2A Nichols' The Law of Eminent Domain, § 7.02 (Rev. 3d Ed. 1990).
- 9 City of Knoxville v. Heth, supra; Knoxville Housing Authority v. City of Knoxville, 174 Tenn. 76, 123 S.W.2d 1085 (1939); Ryan v. Louisville & Nashville Terminal Co., 102 Tenn. 111, 50 S.W. 744 (1899).
- 10 Duck River Electric Membership Corp. v. City of Manchester, 529 S.W.2d 202 (Tenn. 1975); Justus v. McMahan, 189 Tenn. 470, 226 S.W.2d 84 (1949); City of Knoxville v. Heth, supra; Department of Highways v. Stepp, 150 Tenn. 682, 226 S.W. 776 (1924); Southern Railway Co. v. City of Memphis, 126 Tenn. 267, 148 S.W. 662 (1912); Anderson v. Turberville, 46 Tenn. 150 (1868); County Highway Commission of Rutherford County v. Smith, 61 Tenn. App. 292, 454 S.W.2d 124 (1969).
- 11 City of Knoxville v. Heth, supra; Stroud v. State,38 Tenn. App. 654, 279 S.W.2d 82 (1955).
- 12 City of Knoxville v. Heth, supra; Ryan v. Louisville & Nashville Terminal Co., supra.
- 13 Trustees of New Pulaski Cemetery v. Ballentine, 151 Tenn. 622, 271 S.W. 38 (1924); Alfred Phosphate Co. v. Duck River Phosphate Co., 120 Tenn. 260, 113 S.W. 410 (1907).



- 14 Sackman and Rohan, supra, at § 7.02.
- 15 Alfred Phosphate Co. v. Duck River Phosphate Co., supra; Memphis Freight Co. v. Mayor & Aldermen of Memphis, 44 Tenn. 419 (1867).
- 16 City of Knoxville v. Heth, supra; Knoxville Housing Authority v. City of Knoxville, supra; Knoxville's Community Development Corp. v. Wright, 600 S.W. 2d 745 (Tenn. Ct. App. 1980).
- 17 Webb v. Knox County Transmission Co., 143 Tenn. 423, 225 S.W.1046 (1920); Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corp. v. Batey, Docket No. 89-233-II (Tenn. Ct. App. M.S. January 31, 1990).
- 18 Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corp. v. Batey, supra.
- 19 Johnson City v. Cloninger, supra. See also Sackman and Rohan, supra, at § 7.18.
- 20 Johnson City v. Cloninger, supra; City of Knoxville v. Heth, supra; Knoxville Housing Authority v. City of Knoxville, supra; Knoxville's Community Development Corp. v. Wright, supra.
- 21 Johnson City v. Cloninger, supra.
- 22 Knoxville's Community Development Corp. v. Wright, supra.
- 23 Webb v. Knox County Transmission Co., supra; Tennessee Coal, Iron & Railroad Co. v. Paint Rock Flume & Transportation Co., 128 Tenn. 277, 160 S.W. 522 (1913); Sackman and Rohan, supra, at § 7.18 [2].
- 24 Ryan v. Louisville & Nashville Terminal Co., supra.

- 25 Derryberry v. Beck, 153 Tenn. 220, 280 S.W. 1014 (1925); Bashor v. Bowman, 133 Tenn. 269, 180 S.W. 326 (1915) (where a landlocked property owner condemned an access road to a public road).
- 26 Memphis Freight Co. v. Mayor & Aldermen of Memphis, supra.
- 27 City of Chattanooga v. State, 151 Tenn. 691, 272 S.W. 432 (1925); Town of Clarksville v. Fairley, 171 Tenn. 260, 102 S.W.2d 56 (1937).
- 28 Johnson v. City of Chattanooga, 183 Tenn. 123, 191 S.W.2d 175 (1945).
- 29 Knox County v. Kennedy, 92 Tenn. 1, 20 S.W. 311 (1892).
- 30 Woodard v. City of Nashville, 108 Tenn. 353, 67 S.W. 801 (1902).
- 31 Zirkle v. City of Kingston, 217 Tenn. 210, 396 S.W.2d 356 (1965).
- 32 City of Knoxville v. Heth, supra.
- 33 Beadle v. Town of Crossville, 157 Tenn. 249, 7 S.W.2d 992 (1927).
- 34 Town of Pulaski v. Ballentine, 153 Tenn. 393, 284 S.W. 370 (1925).
- 35 Johnson City v. Cloninger, supra.
- 36 Shelby County v. Armour, supra.
- 37 Shelby County v. Armour, supra.



- 38 Nashville Housing Authority v. City of Nashville, 192 Tenn. 103, 237 S.W.2d 946 (1950); Knoxville Housing Authority v. City of Knoxville, supra.
- 39 Knoxville's Community Development Corp. v. Wright, supra.
- 40 Town of Collierville v. Norfolk & Southern Railway, 1 S.W.3d 68 (Tenn. App. 1998).
- 41 Collier v. Union Railway Co., 113 Tenn. 96, 83 S.W. 155 (1904); Ryan v. Louisville & Nashville Terminal Co., supra.
- 42 American Telephone & Telegraph v. Proffitt, 903 S.W.2d 309 (Tenn. App. 1995); Doty v. American Telephone & Telegraph Co., 123 Tenn. 329, 130 S.W. 1053 (1910).
- 43 Harding v. Goodlett, 11 Tenn. 41 (1832).
- 44 Tipton v. Miller, 11 Tenn. 423 (1832).
- Webb v. Knox County Transmission Co., supra; Great Falls Power Co. v. Webb, 123 Tenn. 584, 133 S.W. 1105 (1910).
- 46 *Hadley v. Harpeth Turnpike Co.*, 21 Tenn. 555 (1841).
- 47 Tennessee Coal, Iron & Railroad Co. v. Paint Rock Flume & Transportation Co., supra.
- 48 Western Union Telegraph Co. v. Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railway Co., 133 Tenn. 691, 182 S.W. 254 (1915); Mobile & Ohio Railroad Co. v. Postal Telegraph Cable Co., 101 Tenn. 62, 46 S.W. 371 (1898).
- 49 Shinkle v. Nashville Improvement Co., 172 Tenn. 555, 113 S.W.2d 404 (1938).

- 50 Brannan v. American Telephone and Telegraph Co., 210 Tenn. 697, 362 S.W.2d 236 (1962).
- 51 Southern Railway Co. v. City of Memphis, supra; Memphis State Line Railroad Co. v. Forest Hill Cemetery Co., 116 Tenn. 400, 94 S.W.69 (1906).
- 797 (Tenn. App. 1991); Duck River Electric Membership Corp. v. City of Manchester, supra; Williamson County v. Franklin & Spring Hill Turnpike Co., 143 Tenn. 628, 228 S.W. 714 (1920); Mobile & Ohio Railroad Co. v. Mayor and Aldermen of Union City, 137 Tenn. 491, 194 S.W. 572 (1917).
- 53 Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County v. Denson, Docket No. 01-A-01-9005-CV-00174 (Tenn. Ct. App. M.S. October 17, 1990), app. denied, (January 28, 1991).
- 54 First Utility District of Knox County v. Jarnigan-Bodden, 40 S.W.3d 60 (Tenn. App. 2000); City of Maryville v. Edmondson, 931 S.W.2d 932 (Tenn. App. 1996); Duck River Electric Membership Corp. v. City of Manchester, supra; Justus v. McMahan, supra; City of Knoxville v. Heth, supra; Department of Highways v. Stepp, supra; Southern Railway Co. v. City of Memphis, supra; Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County v. Huntington Park Associates, Docket No. 88-144-II (Tenn. Ct. App. M.S. October 26, 1988), app. denied (March 9, 1989); County Highway Commission of Rutherford County v. Smith, supra; Harper v. Trenton Housing Authority, 38 Tenn. App. 396, 274 S.W.2d 635 (1954).



- 55 Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County v. Denson, supra; Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County v. Huntington Park Associates, supra.
- 56 Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County v. Huntington Park Associates, supra; Harper v. Trenton Housing Authority, supra.
- 57 Justus v. McMahan, supra.
- 58 City of Knoxville v. Heth, supra; Department of Highways v. Stepp, supra; Southern Railway Co. v. City of Memphis, supra; Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County v. Huntington Park Associates, supra; Harper v. Trenton Housing Authority, supra.
- 59 Rindge Co. v. County of Los Angeles,
  262 U.S. 700, 43 S.Ct. 689, 67 L. Ed. 1186
  (1922); United States ex rel. Tennessee Valley
  Authority v. Dugger, 89 F. Supp. 877 (E.D. Tenn.
  1948); Commonwealth, Department of Highways
  v. Burchett, 367 S.W.2d 262 (Ky. Ct. App. 1963).
  See also Sackman and Rohan 1A Nichols'
  The Law of Eminent Domain, § 4.11 [2]
  (Rev. 3d Ed. 1990).
- 60 Rindge Co. v. County of Los Angeles, supra.
- 61 City of Knoxville v. Heth, supra.
- 62 Harper v. Trenton Housing Authority, supra; Lebanon and Nashville Turnpike Co. v. Creveling, 159 Tenn. 147, 17 S.W.2d 22 (1929); City of Nashville v. Dad's Auto Accessories, Inc., supra; Department of Highways v. Stepp, supra; Cunningham v. Memphis Railroad Terminal Co., 126 Tenn. 343, 149 S.W. 103 (1912); Tennessee Central Railroad Co. v. Campbell, 109 Tenn. 655,

- 73 S.W. 112 (1902) (Campbell II); Shelby County v. Armour, supra; Morgan County v. Jones, supra.
- 63 Alloway v. City of Nashville, 88 Tenn. 510, 13 S.W. 123 (1890); Morgan County v. Jones, supra.
- 64 Department of Highways v. Stepp, supra; Tennessee Central Railroad Co. v. Campbell, supra (Campbell II).
- 65 Georgia Industrial Realty Co. v. City of
  Chattanooga, 163 Tenn. 435, 43 S.W.2d 490
  (1931); Cunningham v. Memphis Railroad Terminal
  Co., supra; Tennessee Central Railroad Co. v.
  Campbell, supra (Campbell I).
- 66 Tennessee Central Railroad Co. v. Campbell, supra (Campbell I).

- 1 Tennessee Constitution, Article 1, Section 21.
- 2 Southern Railway Co. v. City of Memphis, 126 Tenn. 267, 148 S.W. 662 (1912); Paducah and Memphis Railroad Co. v. Stovall, 59 Tenn. 1 (1873); City of Memphis v. Bolton, 56 Tenn. 508 (1872); Woodfolk v. Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad Co., 32 Tenn. 422 (1852).
- 3 Sevier County v. Waters, 2003 WL 22046661 (Tenn. App. 2003); Nashville Housing Authority v. Cohen, 541 S.W.2d 947 (Tenn. 1976); Alloway v. City of Nashville, 88 Tenn. 510, 13 S.W. 123 (1890).



- 4 State ex rel. Shaw v. Gorman, 596 S.W.2d 796 (Tenn. 1980); Nashville Housing Authority v. Cohen, supra; Davidson County Board of Education v. First American National Bank, 202 Tenn. 9, 301 S.W.2d 905 (1957); Lewisburg & Northern Railroad Co. v. Hinds, 134 Tenn. 293, 183 S.W. 985 (1915); Southern Railway Co. v. City of Memphis, supra; Alloway v. City of Nashville, supra; Shelby County v. Mid-South Title Co., 615 S.W.2d 677 (Tenn. Ct. App. 1980); Memphis Housing Authority v. Mid-South Title Co., 59 Tenn. App. 654, 443 S.W.2d 492 (1968); Brookside Mills, Inc. v. Moulton, 55 Tenn. App. 643, 404 S.W.2d 258 (1965).
- 5 Strasser v. City of Nashville, 207 Tenn. 24, 336 S.W.2d 16 (1960); Davidson County Board of Education v. First American National Bank, supra; State ex rel. Pack v. Hill, 56 Tenn. App. 410, 408 S.W.2d 213 (1965).
- 6 City of Lafayette v. Hammock, 1999 WL 346217 (Tenn. App. 1999); Shook & Fletcher Supply Co. v. City of Nashville, 47 Tenn. App. 339, 338 S.W.2d 237 (1960).
- 7 Catlett v. State, 207 Tenn. 1, 336 S.W.2d 8
  (1960); Town of Erin v. Brooks, 190 Tenn. 407,
  230 S.W.2d 397 (1950); Lebanon and Nashville
  Turnpike Co. v. Creveling, 159 Tenn. 147,
  17 S.W.2d 22 (1929); Memphis Housing Authority
  v. Ryan, 54 Tenn. App. 557, 393 S.W.2d 3 (1964);
  Morgan County v. Jones, 12 Tenn. App. 197
  (1930); City of Lebanon v. Merryman,
  Docket No. 01-A-01-9005-CV-00157 (Tenn.
  Ct. App. M.S. November 16, 1990). See also
  T.C.A. § 29-16-118 on the right to open and
  close the argument before the court and jury.

- 8 Love v. Smith, 566 S.W.2d 816 (Tenn. 1978);
  Nashville Housing Authority v. Cohen, supra;
  State v. Rascoe, 181 Tenn. 43, 178 S.W.2d 392
  (1944); Southern Railway Co. v. Michaels,
  126 Tenn. 702, 151 S.W. 53 (1912); State ex rel.
  Department of Transportation Bureau of
  Highways v. Brevard, 545 S.W.2d 431 (Tenn. Ct.
  App. 1976); Memphis Housing Authority v. MidSouth Title Co., supra; State v. Chumbley,
  27 Tenn. App. 377, 181 S.W.2d 382 (1944).
- 9 Layne v. Speight, 529 S.W.2d 209 (Tenn. 1975);
  State, Department of Highways v. Urban Estates,
  Inc., 225 Tenn. 193, 465 S.W.2d 357 (1971);
  City of Memphis v. Bolton, supra; Woodfolk v.
  Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad Co., supra;
  State ex rel. Commissioner, Department of
  Transportation v. Veglio, 786 S.W.2d 944
  (Tenn. Ct. App. 1989); State ex rel. Department
  of Transportation v. Harvey, 680 S.W.2d 792
  (Tenn. Ct. App. 1983); Memphis Housing
  Authority v. Newton, 484 S.W.2d 896
  (Tenn. Ct. App. 1972); State, Department of
  Highways v. Jennings, 58 Tenn. App. 594,
  435 S.W.2d 481 (1968).
- 10 Metropolitan Government of Nashville & Davidson County v. Overnite Transportation Co., 919 S.W.2d 598 (Tenn. App. 1995); Layne v. Speight, supra; State ex rel. Commissioner, Department of Transportation v. Veglio, supra; State v. Hodges, 552 S.W.2d 400 (Tenn. Ct. App. 1977).
- 11 Layne v. Speight, supra; State ex rel. Department of Transportation v. Harvey, supra; State v. Hodges, supra.
- 12 Metro. Govt. of Nashville & Davidson Co. v. Overnite Transportation Co., supra; Layne v. Speight, supra.



- 13 Metro. Govt. of Nashville & Davidson Co. v. Overnite Transportation Co., supra; State v. Hodges, supra.
- 14 Layne v. Speight, supra; State ex rel. Commissioner, Department of Transportation v. Veglio, supra.
- 15 Vaulx v. Tennessee Central Railroad Co., 120 Tenn. 316, 108 S.W. 1142 (1907); Board of Mayor and Aldermen, Town of Milan v. Thomas, 27 Tenn. App. 166, 178 S.W.2d 772 (1943).
- 16 Lewisburg & Northern Railroad Co. v. Hinds, supra.
- 16A *State v. Brandon,* 898 S.W.2d 224 (Tenn. App. 1994).
- 17 Love v. Smith, supra; Nashville Housing
  Authority v. Cohen, supra; Davidson County
  Board of Education v. First American National
  Bank, supra; McKinney v. City of Nashville,
  102 Tenn. 131, 52 S.W. 781 (1899); Alloway v.
  City of Nashville, supra; State ex rel.
  Commissioner, Department of Transportation
  v. Headrick, 667 S.W.2d 70 (Tenn. Ct. App.
  1983); State v. Parkes, 557 S.W.2d 504 (Tenn.
  Ct. App. 1977); State ex rel. Department of
  Transportation, Bureau of Highways v. Brevard,
  supra; Memphis Housing Authority v. Mid-South
  Title Co., supra; Stroud v. State, 38 Tenn. App.
  654, 279 S.W.2d 82 (1955).
- 18 Nashville Housing Authority v. Cohen, supra; State ex rel. Commissioner, Department of Transportation v. Veglio, supra; Shelby County v. Mid-South Title Co., supra.

- 18A State ex rel. Commissioner of DOT v. Williams, 828 S.W.2d 397 (Tenn. App. 1991); State ex rel. Commissioner of DOT v. Cox, 840 S.W.2d 357 (Tenn. App. 1991).
- 19 State ex rel. Commissioner, Department of Transportation v. Veglio, supra; Burchfield v. State, 774 S.W.2d 178 (Tenn. Ct. App. 1988); State v. Parkes, supra.
- 20 Southern Railway Co. v. City of Memphis, supra.
- 21 Union Railway Co. v. Hunton, 114 Tenn. 609, 88 S.W. 182 (1905); McKinney v. City of Nashville, supra; State v. Parkes, supra; State, Department of Highways and Public Works v. Texaco Inc., 49 Tenn. App. 278, 354 S.W.2d 792 (1961).
- 22 Shelby County v. Barden, 527 S.W.2d 124 (Tenn. 1974); Lebanon and Nashville Turnpike Co. v. Creveling, supra. See also County of Greene v. Cooper, Docket No. 130 (Tenn. Ct. App. E.S. February 12, 1990).
- 23 State ex rel. Commissioner of DOT v. Cox, 840 S.W.2d 357 (Tenn. App. 1991); Love v. Smith, supra; State v. Parkes, supra; State ex rel. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Highways v. Brevard, supra; Stroud v. State, supra.
- 24 Layne v. Speight, supra; Davidson County
  Board of Education v. First American National
  Bank, supra; Alloway v. City of Nashville, supra;
  Memphis Housing Authority v. Mid-South
  Title Co., supra.
- 25 City of Cookeville, Tennessee v. Stiles, 1995 WL 571851 (Tenn. App. 1995); Davidson County Board of Education v. First American National Bank, supra; Memphis Housing Authority v. Mid-South Title Co., supra.



- 26 Davidson County Board of Education v. First American National Bank, supra; Memphis Housing Authority v. Mid-South Title Co., supra.
- 27 State ex rel. Smith v. Livingston Limestone Co., Inc., 547 S.W.2d 942 (Tenn. 1977).
- 28 Evans v. Wheeler, 209 Tenn. 40, 348 S.W.2d 500 (1961); Lebanon and Nashville Turnpike Co. v. Creveling, supra; Southern Railway Co. v. City of Memphis, supra.
- 29 Lebanon and Nashville Turnpike Co. v. Creveling, supra; Southern Railway Co. v. City of Memphis, supra; State ex rel. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Highways v. Brevard, supra; County of Greene v. Cooper, supra.
- 30 Memphis Housing Authority v. Peabody Garage Co., 505 S.W.2d 719 (Tenn. 1974); Lewisburg & Northern Railroad Co. v. Hinds, supra; Union Railway Co. v. Hunton, supra; Memphis Housing Authority v. Newton, supra; Edgington v. Kansas City, Memphis & Birmingham Railroad Co., 10 Tenn. App. 685 (1929).
- Authority v. Peabody Garage Co., supra;
  Lewisburg & Northern Railroad Co. v. Hinds,
  supra; Smith County v. Eatherly, 820 S.W.2d 366
  (Tenn. Ct. App. 1991); State ex rel.
  Commissioner, Department of Transportation v.
  Veglio, supra; Shelby County v. Stallcup,
  594 S.W.2d 392 (Tenn. Ct. App. 1979); Memphis
  Housing Authority v. Newton, supra; Maryville
  Housing Authority v. Ramsey, 484 S.W.2d 73
  (Tenn. Ct. App. 1972); Memphis Housing
  Authority v. Ryan, supra.

- 32 Memphis Housing Authority v. Peabody Garage Co., supra; Lewisburg & Northern Railroad Co. v. Hinds, supra; Union Railway Co. v. Hunton, supra; Maryville Housing Authority v. Ramsey, supra.
- 33 Memphis Housing Authority v. Peabody Garage Co., supra; Lewisburg & Northern Railroad Co. v. Hinds, supra; Croate v. Memphis Railroad Terminal Co., 120 Tenn. 525, 111 S.W. 923 (1908); Memphis Housing Authority v. Newton, supra; Memphis Housing Authority v. Ryan, supra.
- 34 Croate v. Memphis Railroad Terminal Co., supra.
- 35 Memphis Housing Authority v. Newton, supra.
- 36 Memphis Housing Authority v. Ryan, supra.
- 37 Layne v. Speight, supra; Memphis Housing Authority v. Newton, supra; State, Department of Highways v. Jennings, supra.
- 38 Lewisburg & Northern Railroad Co. v. Hinds, supra; Union Railway Co. v. Hunton, supra; Memphis Housing Authority v. Newton, supra; Maryville Housing Authority v. Ramsey, supra; Memphis Housing Authority v. Ryan, supra; Edgington v. Kansas City, Memphis & Birmingham Railroad Co., supra.
- 39 Memphis Housing Authority v. Ryan, supra.
- 40 Maryville Housing Authority v. Ramsey, supra; Edgington v. Kansas City, Memphis & Birmingham Railroad Co., supra.
- 41 Lewisburg & Northern Railroad Co. v. Hinds, supra.
- 42 Shelby County v. Mid-South Title Co., Inc., supra.



- 43 Memphis Housing Authority v. Mid-South Title Co., supra.
- 44 Sackman and Rohan, 5 Nichols' The Law of Eminent Domain, § 21.31 (Rev. 3d Ed. 1991).
- 45 Maryville Housing Authority v. Ramsey, supra; Memphis Housing Authority v. Ryan, supra.
- 46 Shelby County v. Mid-South Title Co., Inc., supra; Memphis Housing Authority v. Newton, supra.
- 47 Union Railway Co. v. Hunton, supra; Memphis Housing Authority v. Newton, supra.
- 48 State ex rel. Smith v. Livingston Limestone Co., supra; Airline Construction, Inc. v. Barr, 807 S.W.2d 247 (Tenn. Ct. App. 1990); Hill v. U.S. Life Title Insurance Co. of New York, 731 S.W.2d 910 (Tenn. Ct. App. 1986); State ex rel. Moulton v. Blake, 49 Tenn. App. 624, 357 S.W.2d 836 (1961).
- 49 Memphis Housing Authority v. Mid-South Title Co., supra.
- 50 Airline Construction, Inc. v. Barr, supra.
- 51 Smith County v. Eatherly, 820 S.W.2d 366 (Tenn. App. 1991); State v. Rascoe, supra; State ex rel. Commissioner, Department of Transportation v. Veglio, supra; State ex rel. Moulton v. Blake, supra.
- 52 Love v. Smith supra; Davidson County Board of Education v. First American National Bank, supra; Alloway v. City of Nashville, supra; Memphis Housing Authority v. Mid-South Title Co., supra.
- 53 State ex rel. Department of Transportation v. Brevard, supra.

- 54 State ex rel. **Department** of Transportation v. Brevard, supra.
- 55 State ex rel. Department of Transportation v. Brevard, supra; State ex rel. Moulton v. Blake, supra.
- 56 Lewisburg & Northern Railroad Co. v. Hinds, supra; Vaulx v. Tennessee Central Railroad, supra; Wray v. Knoxville, LaFollette & Jellico Railroad Co., 113 Tenn. 544, 82 S.W. 471 (1904); Paducah and Memphis Railroad Co. v. Stovall, supra; Woodfolk v. Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad Co., supra; Knoxville Housing Authority, Inc. v. Bush, 56 Tenn. App. 464, 408 S.W.2d 408 (1966).
- 57 Tennessee Dept. of Transportation v. Wheeler, 2002 WL 31302889 (Tenn. App. 2002); City of Memphis v. Hood, 208 Tenn. 319, 345 S.W.2d 887 (1961); Shelby County v. Kingsway Greens of America, Inc., 706 S.W.2d 634 (Tenn. Ct. App. 1985); State v. Parkes, supra.
- 57A Metropolitan Development and Housing
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- 74 Evans v. Wheeler, supra; Newberry v. Hamblen County, 157 Tenn. 491, 9 S.W.2d 700 (1928); Faulkner v. City of Nashville, 154 Tenn. 145, 285 S.W. 39 (1926); Maryville Housing Authority v. Williams, 63 Tenn. App. 673, 478 S.W.2d 66 (1971); Department of Highways & Public Works v. Templeton, 5 Tenn. App. 485 (1927).
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- 78 City of Knoxville v. Barton, 128 Tenn. 177, 159 S.W. 837 (1913); Paducah and Memphis Railroad Co. v. Stovall, supra.
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- 19 Hydes Ferry Turnpike Co. v. Davidson County, 91 Tenn. 291 (1892).
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- 30A City of Sevierville v. Green, 125 S.W.3d 419 (Tenn. App. 2002).
- 31 Shelby County v. Barden, 527 S.W. 2d 124 (Tenn. 1975); Sweetwater Valley Memorial Park, Inc. v. City of Sweetwater, 213 Tenn. 1, 372 S.W.2d 168 (1963); Illinois Central Railroad Co. v. Moriarity, supra; Tate v. County of Monroe, 578 S.W.2d 642 (Tenn. Ct. App. 1978); East Park

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- 16 State, Department of Highways and Public Works v. Texaco, Inc., supra.
- 17 State ex rel. Smith v. Hoganson, supra; Shelby County v. Barden, supra; Moulton v. George, supra; Mason v. City of Nashville, supra; State, Department of Transportation, Bureau of Highways v. Gee, supra; Gallatin Housing Authority v. Chambers, supra; State, Department of Highways and Public Works v. Texaco, Inc. supra; City of Nashville v. Mason, supra.
- 18 State ex rel. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Highways v. Gee, supra.
- 19 State ex rel. Moulton v. Burkhart, 212 Tenn. 352, 370 S.W.2d 411 (1963).
- 20 State ex rel. Moulton v. Burkhart, supra.
- State ex rel. Shaw v. Shofner, supra;State, Department of Highways v. Hurt,63 Tenn. App. 689, 478 S.W.2d 775 (1972).
- 22 State, Department of Highways v. Hurt, supra.
- 23 State ex rel. Shaw v. Shofner, supra.
- 24 State ex rel. Shaw v. Shofner, supra; State, Department of Highways v. Hurt, supra.



- 1 42 U.S.C. §§ 4601 et seq.
- 2 42 U.S.C. § 4621.
- 3 42 U.S.C. § 4651.
- 4 42 U.S.C. §§ 4601 through 4604.
- 5 42 U.S.C. §§ 4621 through 4638.
- 6 42 U.S.C. §§ 4651 through 4655.
- 7 49 CFR §§ 24.101 et seq.
- 8 18 CFR §§ 1306 et seq.
- 9 40 CFR § 4.1.
- 10 24 CFR § 42.1.
- 11 49 CFR § 24.102.
- 12 49 CFR § 24.102.
- 13 49 CFR § 24.103.
- 14 49 CFR § 24.103.
- 15 49 CFR § 24.103.
- 16 49 CFR § 24.103.
- 17 49 CFR § 24.103.
- 18 49 CFR § 24.104.
- 19 49 CFR § 24.102.
- 20 49 CFR § 24.102.

- 21 49 CFR § 24.106.
- 22 49 CFR § 24.107. See T.C.A. §§ 29-16-123(b) and 29-17-812(b) for similar provisions under Tennessee law.