



James Tucker Named Managing Partner of Manier & Herod

On June 1, 2020, [James H. Tucker, Jr.](#) became the first African American Managing Partner in [Manier & Herod's](#) 106 year history. Mr. Tucker was born in New York and grew up in Nashville and Maryville, Tennessee before attending college at Tennessee State University. He stayed in Tennessee to attend Vanderbilt University where he obtained both a Doctorate of Jurisprudence and a Master of Divinity degree. After law school, Mr. Tucker served as law clerk for the late Honorable Irvin H. Kilcrease, Jr., former Chancellor with Davidson County Chancery Court and as law clerk for the late Honorable John T. Nixon, Former Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee. He also served as an Assistant Attorney General before entering into private practice with Manier & Herod in 1996. He became a partner with Manier & Herod in 2000 and has served on the firm's Executive Committee since 2018.

Since joining Manier & Herod, Mr. Tucker has focused his practice in Workers' Compensation defense, holding leadership roles in many professional organizations related to his practice discipline including President of the Tennessee Defense Lawyers Association. Having the heart of a teacher, Mr. Tucker has served in the role of a trusted counselor and guide in the church community for many years, and in many capacities. Mr. Tucker is also active in the community, previously serving as Board Chairman of 100 Black Men of Middle Tennessee, where he worked to nurture and enhance the growth, development, and opportunities of young black males in middle Tennessee.

Manier & Herod is proud to have James at its helm. Former Managing Partner, Jeffrey S. Price sat down with James to discuss his new role:

Jeff: James, when did you decide you wanted to become a lawyer?

James: When I worked as a runner for the law firm of Farris, Warfield, & Kanaday, after college.

Jeff: I know public service and service to your community is very important to you. Who or what instilled this devotion to service in you?

James: The lesson that it is more blessed to give than to receive is something that was instilled in me early in my life, and was vividly exemplified for me by my father and paternal grandfather, in particular.

Jeff: What drew you to Manier & Herod?

James: A fellow law clerk, and now law partner, told me about a "guru" in the firm named Terry Hill, who not only knew the area of the law I was interested in, but was also willing to be a mentor.

Jeff: What is your favorite memory during your time at Manier?



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- James: There are many, but the one that stands out right now is the memory of attending a firm function at your house that concluded with a mock Michael Jackson concert at Crockett Park.
- Jeff: What is your proudest moment at Manier?
- James: The teamwork and camaraderie that manifested in the successful move to our current office space.
- Jeff: I know family is a major priority to you and you have a beautiful family who have followed in your footsteps at TSU, I am going to give you a minute to brag on your family and tell us how you balance being a husband and father with the demands of being a community leader, a successful attorney and, now, the Managing Partner of the firm.
- James: My wife, Sherri, and I are fortunate to have our two children as 2019 graduates of Tennessee State University. They represent the third generation of TSU graduates on my side of the family, and the fifth generation of TSU graduates on my wife's side of the family. My wife, and our commitment to our faith life, have been invaluable in balancing the demands of our various roles over the years.
- Jeff: You are a leader in the African American community and are now the first African American Managing Partner at one of the oldest law firms in Nashville. I know it was such an obvious choice for your partners due to your past leadership and the respect of everyone at Manier, but put into words your thoughts about taking on this important role.
- James: Obviously, it is always an honor to even be considered to serve the firm in this capacity. I do not take it lightly, but I sincerely appreciate all the love and support shown to me, and all the confidence placed in me, by all of the wonderful people I have had the good fortune to work with in the firm over the years. I am humbled by this opportunity to give back to the firm a return on the investment that it made in me so many years ago.
- Jeff: What is your vision for the future of Manier & Herod?
- James: I envision that Manier will continue and expand its commitment to excellence in service to its clients and the community. I envision that we will continue and expand our efforts to ensure that we have the best working environment to provide the greatest opportunities for all those who have the mindset to become the very best version of themselves, regardless of their background or ethnicity.



I envision that we will continue to develop and expand the kind of leadership that has successfully sustained us for over 100 years!

Jeff: Finally, what advice do you have for the young associate that wants to follow in the path of James Tucker and become successful professionally, civically, and personally?

James: Work hard! However, do not abandon the development of your personal life. Everyone benefits, and you are at your best, when you are a complete well-rounded person ready and willing to serve.

Jeff: Let me say that I could not be more proud of the firm's decision to unanimously choose you to lead us into the next decade. You are a humble leader with integrity that is not seen very often. I am proud to call you my partner-my Managing Partner-and, more importantly, I am blessed to call you my friend. Thank you for your service to Manier & Herod!

James: Thank you Jeff. I appreciate your friendship and value your service to the firm, especially your six-year term as Managing Partner. You have touched on a word that best describes my experience: "Blessed!"