

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
TENNESSEE

Tri-State Thermo King, Inc. v. Depositors Insurance Company

No. 2:25-cv-02760-SHL-atc (W.D. Tenn. Jan. 14, 2026) · No. 2:25-cv-02760-SHL-atc · Decided January 14, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee entered judgment appointing Judge Robert “Butch” Childers as the appraisal umpire in an insurance dispute between Tri-State Thermo King, Inc. and Depositors Insurance Company. The court retained jurisdiction to enforce any appraisal award if necessary.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee
DECIDED	January 14, 2026
DOCKET	2:25-cv-02760-SHL-atc
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff petitioned the district court to appoint a neutral umpire in an insurance appraisal proceeding.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown
PARTIES	Tri-State Thermo King, Inc. v. Depositors Insurance Company

TOPICS

- insurance
- arbitration
- commercial litigation
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- insurance
- commercial litigation
- civil procedure
- arbitration

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether the court should appoint Judge Robert “Butch” Childers as the neutral appraisal umpire.
- Whether the court should retain jurisdiction to enforce the appraisal award if necessary.

HOLDINGS

1. Judge Robert “Butch” Childers shall serve as the appraisal umpire.
2. The court shall retain jurisdiction to enforce the appraisal award, if necessary.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Tri-State Thermo King initiated an action concerning the appointment of a neutral umpire in an insurance appraisal proceeding. The court determined that Judge Robert “Butch” Childers should serve as the appraisal umpire. The judgment also addressed the court’s continuing jurisdiction to enforce any resulting appraisal award.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Tri-State Thermo King filed a Petition to Appoint Neutral Umpire on July 31, 2025. The court entered an Order Appointing Umpire on January 14, 2026, and entered judgment appointing Judge Robert “Butch” Childers as appraisal umpire while retaining jurisdiction to enforce any appraisal award if necessary.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Kokkonen v. Guardian Life Insurance Company of America, 511 U.S. 375, 381–82 (1994)

OPINION

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE WESTERN DIVISION TRI-STATE THERMO KING, INC.,)) Plaintiff,)) v.) No. 2:25-cv-02760-SHL-atc) DEPOSITORS INSURANCE COMPANY,)) Defendant.) JUDGMENT JUDGMENT BY COURT. This action having come before the Court on Plaintiff’s Petition to Appoint Neutral Umpire (ECF No. 1), filed July 31, 2025, IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that, in accordance with the Order Appointing Umpire (ECF No. 19), filed January 14, 2026, Judge Robert “Butch” Childers shall serve as Appraisal Umpire.

The Court shall retain jurisdiction to enforce the appraisal award, if necessary, pursuant to Kokkonen v. Guardian Life Insurance Company of America, 511 U.S. 375, 381–82 (1994). APPROVED: s/ Sheryl H. Lipman SHERYL H. LIPMAN CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE January 14, 2026 Date