

Jerri S. Bryant

6 E. Madison Ave.

Athens, TN 37303

423/746-5412

423/829-8899

October 18, 2012

Judicial Nominating Commission
c/o Administrative Office of the Courts
ATTN: Debbie Hayes
Suite 600, Nashville City Center
511 Union Street
Nashville, TN 37219

VIA EMAIL: debrahayes@tncourts.gov

Re: Application for Nomination to Judicial Office

Dear Judicial Nominating Commission:

Enclosed please find my Application for Nomination to Judicial Office, along with the additional seventeen (17) copies.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Otherwise, your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JSB', written over a horizontal line.

Jerri S. Bryant

Enclosures

Application of

Jerri S. Bryant

for Nomination to Judicial Office

Tennessee Judicial Nominating Commission
Application for Nomination to Judicial Office

Rev. 22 December 2011

Name: **Jerri S. Bryant**

Office Address: **6 E. Madison Ave., Athens, McMinn County, TN 37303**
(including county)

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INTRODUCTION

Tennessee Code Annotated section 17-4-101 charges the Judicial Nominating Commission with assisting the Governor and the People of Tennessee in finding and appointing the best qualified candidates for judicial offices in this State. Please consider the Commission's responsibility in answering the questions in this application questionnaire. For example, when a question asks you to "describe" certain things, please provide a description that contains relevant information about the subject of the question, and, especially, that contains detailed information that demonstrates that you are qualified for the judicial office you seek. In order to properly evaluate your application, the Commission needs information about the range of your experience, the depth and breadth of your legal knowledge, and your personal traits such as integrity, fairness, and work habits.

This document is available in word processing format from the Administrative Office of the Courts (telephone 800.448.7970 or 615.741.2687; website <http://www.tncourts.gov>). The Commission requests that applicants obtain the word processing form and respond directly on the form. Please respond in the box provided below each question. (The box will expand as you type in the word processing document.) Please read the separate instruction sheet prior to completing this document. Please submit the completed form to the Administrative Office of the Courts in paper format (with ink signature) *and* electronic format (either as an image or a word processing file and with electronic or scanned signature). Please submit fourteen (14) paper copies to the Administrative Office of the Courts. Please e-mail a digital copy to debra.hayes@tncourts.gov.

THIS APPLICATION IS OPEN TO PUBLIC INSPECTION AFTER YOU SUBMIT IT.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND AND WORK EXPERIENCE

1. State your present employment.

Chancellor of the Tenth Judicial District

2. State the year you were licensed to practice law in Tennessee and give your Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility number.

1987; BPR#12785

3. List all states in which you have been licensed to practice law and include your bar number or identifying number for each state of admission. Indicate the date of licensure and whether the license is currently active. If not active, explain.

State of Tennessee, BPR #12785, October 14, 1987. License is currently active.

4. Have you ever been denied admission to, suspended or placed on inactive status by the Bar of any State? If so, explain. (This applies even if the denial was temporary).

No

5. List your professional or business employment/experience since the completion of your legal education. Also include here a description of any occupation, business, or profession other than the practice of law in which you have ever been engaged (excluding military service, which is covered by a separate question).

**Claiborne, Davis, Buuck & Hurley, 1986-1990
Knoxville, TN**

I clerked here while I was in law school and was hired as an associate. I worked with four attorneys in federal and state courts all over East Tennessee. My primary work was in personal injury, business, real estate, banking, insurance, employment law, and annexation.

**Carter, Harrod & Cunningham, 1991-1998
Athens, TN**

I had driven to Knoxville from Sweetwater for over 3 years and decided to return to my hometown to practice. While at this firm, I practiced law in areas of family law, insurance

defense, estate planning, real estate, adoption, and litigation. I also practiced in juvenile and probate court. I had a general practice. In a rural practice, you become a creative problem solver. I tried cases in all courts and represented business clients, two (2) municipalities, the school board, and the local utility board.

Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 31 General Civil Mediator, 1997

Tennessee Wesleyan College, Part-time Instructor, 1993-1994

**Chancellor of Tenth Judicial District, 1998-present
(Bradley, McMinn, Monroe, and Polk Counties)**

I was elected to this position after the retirement of Chancellor Earl Henley. I ran a successful contested primary and general election. I was unopposed and re-elected in 2006.

6. If you have not been employed continuously since completion of your legal education, describe what you did during periods of unemployment in excess of six months.

I have been continuously employed.

7. Describe the nature of your present law practice, listing the major areas of law in which you practice and the percentage each constitutes of your total practice.

Currently serving as Chancellor of the Tenth Judicial District. I preside over the following types of cases as identified by the Administrative Office of the Courts:

Contract/debt, specific performance, real estate matters, workers' compensation, probate, appeals from administrative hearings, conservatorships, guardianships, miscellaneous general civil, paternity, legitimation, adoptions, surrenders, divorces, orders of protection, other domestic relation cases, judicial hospitalization, contempt, residential parenting, child support cases, etc.

In 2011-2012, there were 2,170 cases filed in the chancery court in the Tenth Judicial District, with dispositions being 1,976 cases.

8. Describe generally your experience (over your entire time as a licensed attorney) in trial courts, appellate courts, administrative bodies, legislative or regulatory bodies, other forums, and/or transactional matters. In making your description, include information about the types of matters in which you have represented clients (e.g., information about whether you have handled criminal matters, civil matters, transactional matters, regulatory matters, etc.) and your own personal involvement and activities in the matters where you have been involved. In responding to this question, please be guided by the fact that in order to properly evaluate your application, the Commission needs information about your range of experience, your own personal work and work habits, and your work background, as your legal experience is a very important component of

the evaluation required of the Commission. Please provide detailed information that will allow the Commission to evaluate your qualification for the judicial office for which you have applied. The failure to provide detailed information, especially in this question, will hamper the evaluation of your application. Also separately describe any matters of special note in trial courts, appellate courts, and administrative bodies.

While in Knox County, I worked for Claiborne, Davis, Buuck & Hurley. I worked with four attorneys and appeared in federal and state courts all over East Tennessee. One of my partners was from the Campbell/Claiborne County area and another was from Sneedville, Tennessee. My primary work was in personal injury, business, real estate, banking, insurance, annexation, and employment law. I was involved in representing clients opposing annexation. While in Knox County, I traveled to many other counties outside Knoxville to handle litigation. I also wrote the majority of the appellate briefs at this firm. While in Knoxville, I was active in the TBA-YLD.

When I moved back to my hometown, I was hired by a defense firm, Carter, Harrod & Cunningham. I had a general practice. In a rural practice, you must be a problem solver. As such, I grew the practice with my own clients, particularly in family law and small businesses. I tried to help all who walked in the door. At times, this meant working for free. It was important to give clients good advice and be mindful of the impact of that advice, financially and otherwise.

I tried cases in sessions, probate, chancery, circuit, and criminal courts. I have practiced elder law and performed estate work. I also represented a small number of clients in front of regulatory authorities, discharged employees for example. Our firm performed title closings, and I assisted in that from time to time. We also represented Bowater when it was sued after a multi-car wreck on Interstate-75 which was one of the largest accidents in the state's history. I performed most of the firm's court appointed work, including handling a death penalty case.

I represented the City of Calhoun and the Town of Englewood. I also represented the county school board at their meetings and in administrative hearings.

On the appellate level, I argued cases in the Court of Appeals and the Court of Criminal Appeals. I wrote briefs for both law firms, one of which was for the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Since being elected to the bench, I have disposed of thousands of cases. I have served on three (3) worker's compensation appeals panels that generated seventeen (17) opinions. I also authored five (5) opinions with the assistance of the worker's compensation law clerks. I have tried cases by interchange in Knox, Roane, Loudon, Campbell, Meigs, Sequatchie, and Hamilton Counties, as well as in the Criminal Court of Union County.

9. Also separately describe any matters of special note in trial courts, appellate courts, and administrative bodies.

Special cases of note include the following:

Warren vs. Warren
McMinn Circuit #20571

As an attorney, I represented a wife whose husband was self represented. He owned a computer and continuously used it, filing pleading after pleading, amounting to hundreds of pages. His methods were intended to intimidate and harass and even included him wearing a sign

containing derogatory comments about his wife and patrolling the outside premises of the courthouse. Rather than allow her to be bullied by him in court, I stayed on her case and protected her and her children long after her fees were exhausted.

Hopkins vs. Bradley Co., Tennessee, et al

Bradley Circuit #V-07-965

This case involved a self represented plaintiff who was also an attorney but did not practice in this state. The plaintiff filed a Motion to Recuse based on a judicial settlement conference that I was unable to perform in his divorce case. After the hearing on his motion, he was impressed that I had treated him fairly; therefore, he withdrew his Motion to Recuse.

Albright vs. Tallent, et ux

McMinn Chancery #24512

This case involved a boundary line dispute, specifically, a split fence between neighbors that was intrusive to one party but was nonetheless legal. It is notable as a case where the law dictated a result I felt was unfair and unjust, but, nonetheless, I followed the law.

Several other matters of note include presiding over:

- *A multi-million dollar estate which settled on the eve of trial. We were prepared to have several hundred jurors empanelled due to the notoriety of the family. The issues were complicated and involved a prominent family.*
- *A case filed by the Circuit Court Clerk over budgeting issues;*
- *A case in which a constable wanted to run for sheriff;*
- *Another case challenging a constable's qualifications to hold office; and*
- *I have not avoided cases that were politically difficult.*

10. If you have served as a mediator, an arbitrator or a judicial officer, describe your experience (including dates and details of the position, the courts or agencies involved, whether elected or appointed, and a description of your duties). Include here detailed description(s) of any noteworthy cases over which you presided or which you heard as a judge, mediator or arbitrator. Please state, as to each case: (1) the date or period of the proceedings; (2) the name of the court or agency; (3) a summary of the substance of each case; and (4) a statement of the significance of the case.

Certified as a Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 31 General Civil Mediator in 1997.

Shortly thereafter, I was elected as Chancellor of the Tenth Judicial District in 1998 and am still serving in that capacity. During my tenure as Chancellor, I performed several judicial settlement conferences.

I am most proud of a case involving two (2) title insurance companies who were fighting over the responsibility for faulty title work in the State of Tennessee, Fidelity National Title Ins. Co. vs. Transcontinental Title Co. After hearing counsel argue motions in the case, I suspected that there was more to it than I was hearing. I discovered this case was one of many in the State of Tennessee.

In an effort to be more efficient and work toward consistent outcomes, and after urging counsel, the parties agreed to a judicial settlement conference. I held two (2) meetings, during which the parties settled their differences. This resulted in the dismissal of twenty-two (22) cases across the state and pending in various courts, including the Court of Appeals. This saved the parties and many courts time and money.

I also settled a case that was scheduled for trial in circuit court, Fuller vs. Bradley Co. Sheriff's Dept. This was a personal injury case involving a plaintiff who had been injured in a psychiatric ward and who was subsequently transported to another facility and alleged additional injury during the transport by the Bradley County Sheriff's Department. This case involved governmental immunity, medical malpractice, and negligence. A lengthy trial was scheduled, but I was able to fashion a creative settlement in one (1) day that provided the plaintiff with treatment, a place to live, and transportation. This met her needs, with less cost to defendants.

I settled another circuit court case, Gossett, et al vs. Carmike Cinemas, Inc., et al, which was post trial. In this case, the jury entered a substantial verdict for the plaintiff. Between the time of the verdict and the appeal, I performed a settlement conference that saved both parties the time and expense of appeal. This creativity would have been unavailable at trial.

11. Describe generally any experience you have of serving in a fiduciary capacity such as guardian ad litem, conservator, or trustee other than as a lawyer representing clients.

As a licensed attorney, I served as guardian ad litem in various cases in the Juvenile and Probate Courts of McMinn County, Tennessee. I have not served in this capacity other than when I was a practicing attorney.

12. Describe any other legal experience, not stated above, that you would like to bring to the attention of the Commission.

I have made great effort in restructuring the frequency in which chancery court is held in each county. With this increase, the court has become more accessible to the litigants and lawyers. This has made the court more convenient and responsive to the needs in each county. Often litigants have emergencies that need addressed as quickly as possible.

I have balanced accessibility while maintaining a current trial docket, and I encourage the clerks to view their jobs as public service. I have been able to appoint the Clerk & Master in each county within the Tenth Judicial District. The clerks exemplify true working clerks who have structured their offices to better serve the public and address the ever increasing workload. I have been careful to choose clerks who are qualified and continue to educate themselves in an effort to provide the most effective and efficient service. We are a team and are mindful of providing good value and responsible stewardship of county and state resources.

Because of this, the chancery docket has grown from approximately 1,100 pending cases in 1998 to over 2,500 pending cases today. Specifically, since 1998, there have been approximately 26,153 cases filed and approximately 24,786 cases disposed of in the Chancery Court of the Tenth Judicial District. I have always paid close attention to the pending cases. It is my goal to keep the docket

current by setting cases in a timely manner, while also being able to address emergency hearings when necessary. I hold a docket call twice a year in which all pending cases are either set for hearing or a status report is provided.

Problem solving techniques and consensus building allow clerks, judges, and attorneys to work together to serve the public in a very efficient and meaningful way. Personal experience with trial courts forms the majority of the public's opinion, trust, and confidence in our court system. My clerks and I work to insure that citizens are impressed by the professionalism and efficiency of our courts.

Also since being elected Chancellor of the Tenth Judicial District, I have gained legal experience through my participation and attendance of the following:

- Attorneys Role in Mediation, 2000
 - KBA – Chancery Court, Bench Bar Conference, 2002 - *Speaker*
 - TTLA - Worker's Compensation, 2003
 - Tennessee Bar U - Adoption Law, 2003
 - American Academy of Judicial Education - Advanced Evidence, 2003
 - KBA – Ain't Behavin'-What Not to Do-A View from the Bench, 2005 - *Speaker*
 - Local Practice in the 10th Judicial District, 2006 - *Speaker*
 - Court Security Training, 2006 - *Organizer & Speaker*
 - Local Practice in the 10th Judicial District, 2007 - *Speaker*
 - Parenting Plans, Family Law Mediation and Ethics, 2007
 - Chancery Court Practice: Views from the Bench, 2008 - *Speaker*
 - Financial Statements in the Courtroom, 2008
 - Effective Caseload Management, 2009
 - Practice Pointers from the Judges, 2009 - *Speaker*
 - Bench Bar Program, 2009
 - Supreme Court Rule 9, 2009
 - Law Office Management, 2010
 - Ain't Behavin'-What Not to Do-A View from the Bench, 2010 - *Speaker*
 - Law Conference for Tennessee Practitioners, 2010 - *Speaker*
 - It's a Wonderful Life: Dealing with Stress Related Issues, 2010
 - 21st Century Depositions: It's a New Ballgame, 2011
 - Intellectual Property Matters for the Non-IP Attorney, 2011
 - Jury Evidence Recording System in Federal District Court, 2011
 - Tennessee Workers Comp Conference, 2011 - *Speaker*
 - Tennessee Bar Association Convention, Code of Judicial Conduct, 2012 - *Speaker*
 - TLAP Judicial Intervention Training, 2010
 - TBA Task Force on Judicial Conduct Rules, 2010, 2011
- I was a member of this 18+ month long project resulting in a new code of judicial conduct being adopted by the Tennessee Supreme Court.*

*This list is not complete but is what I can document.

In addition to the above, I have attended up to three (3) judicial conferences per year where I either taught or attended classes for continuing legal education or performed committee work.

I have also participated in the TBA Summer Intern Program. I welcome high school, college, and law students as interns and shadows to encourage them in the profession of law. I hold and want others to also feel great regard for this profession.

13. List all prior occasions on which you have submitted an application for judgeship to the Judicial Nominating Commission or any predecessor commission or body. Include the specific position applied for, the date of the meeting at which the body considered your application, and whether or not the body submitted your name to the Governor as a nominee.

None

EDUCATION

14. List each college, law school, and other graduate school which you have attended, including dates of attendance, degree awarded, major, any form of recognition or other aspects of your education you believe are relevant, and your reason for leaving each school if no degree was awarded.

University of Tennessee

Knoxville, Tennessee

I attended one (1) quarter at UT in 1980 but decided to return to my home town and attend a smaller school.

Tennessee Wesleyan College, BA History, Minor Math & English

Summa Cum Laude

Athens, Tennessee, 1984

History Award

Secondary Education: Certifications to teach Math & Social Studies

I worked full-time to pay for my education. My employer graciously worked my schedule around my classes.

University of Tennessee College of Law, J.D.

Knoxville, Tennessee, 1987

I drove from Athens to Knoxville daily for the first half of law school. I also worked on the weekends until I obtained a job as a law clerk, at which time I moved to Knoxville.

Tennessee Judicial Academy

Nashville, Tennessee, 1998

National Judicial College

General Jurisdiction

Reno, Nevada, 2001

American Academy of Judicial Education

Court Improvement Through Education

Advanced Evidence

Savannah, Georgia, 2003

Leadership Program of the Southern Legislative Conference

Coastal Carolina University

South Carolina 2011

National Judicial College

Theory & Practice of Judicial Leadership

Reno, Nevada, April 2012

National Judicial College

Theory & Practice of Judicial Leadership

Reno, Nevada, September 2012

PERSONAL INFORMATION

15. State your age and date of birth.

I am 50 years of age. November 26, 1961.

16. How long have you lived continuously in the State of Tennessee?

Approximately 43 years.

17. How long have you lived continuously in the county where you are now living?

Approximately 43 years, with the exception of the years from 1986 through 1991.

18. State the county in which you are registered to vote.

McMinn County

19. Describe your military service, if applicable, including branch of service, dates of active duty, rank at separation, and decorations, honors, or achievements. Please also state whether you received an honorable discharge and, if not, describe why not.

No military service

20. Have you ever pled guilty or been convicted or are you now on diversion for violation of any law, regulation or ordinance? Give date, court, charge and disposition.

No

21. To your knowledge, are you now under federal, state or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute or disciplinary rule? If so, give details.

No

22. If you have been disciplined or cited for breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by any court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary committee, or other professional group, give details.

Not applicable.

23. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities or creditors within the last five (5) years? If so, give details.

No

24. Have you ever filed bankruptcy (including personally or as part of any partnership, LLC, corporation, or other business organization)?

No

25. Have you ever been a party in any legal proceedings (including divorces, domestic proceedings, and other types of proceedings)? If so, give details including the date, court and docket number and disposition. Provide a brief description of the case. This question does not seek, and you may exclude from your response, any matter where you were involved only as a nominal party, such as if you were the trustee under a deed of trust in a foreclosure proceeding.

Divorce Complaint filed in 1986, in the Circuit Court for McMinn County, Athens, Tennessee, Docket #15,047. The divorce was granted on the grounds of irreconcilable differences.

Divorce Complaint filed in 2000, in the General Sessions Court of Loudon County, Loudon, Tennessee, Docket #8057. The divorce was granted on the grounds of irreconcilable differences.

A case was filed by a former litigant in 2008 naming myself, the attorney of record, and another individual in U.S. District Court, Eastern Division, Docket #08-CV-00193. This case was dismissed in November 2008, upon the filing of the appropriate motions.

26. List all organizations other than professional associations to which you have belonged within the last five (5) years, including civic, charitable, religious, educational, social and fraternal organizations. Give the titles and dates of any offices which you have held in such organizations.

**Keith Memorial United Methodist Church, *Member (1995-present)*
Pastor/Parish Chair (2010-present)
*Board of Trustees, Past Member***

Athens Kiwanis Club, Member (1991-present)

President, (October 2001-2002)

Vice President, (2000-2001)

Secretary, (1999-2000)

Treasurer, (1998-1999)

Board of Directors, (1994-2003)

McMinn County Republican Women, Member

Boy Scouts: Great America Smoky Mountain Council Troop #118

Committee Chair (2010)

27. Have you ever belonged to any organization, association, club or society which limits its membership to those of any particular race, religion, or gender? Do not include in your answer those organizations specifically formed for a religious purpose, such as churches or synagogues.

a. If so, list such organizations and describe the basis of the membership limitation.

b. If it is not your intention to resign from such organization(s) and withdraw from any participation in their activities should you be nominated and selected for the position for which you are applying, state your reasons.

No

ACHIEVEMENTS

28. List all bar associations and professional societies of which you have been a member within the last ten years, including dates. Give the titles and dates of any offices which you have held in such groups. List memberships and responsibilities on any committee of professional associations which you consider significant.

Tennessee Trial Judges Association, Member, 1999 - present

Secretary, Executive Committee & Various Offices

Tennessee Judicial Conference, Member, 1998 - present

Long Range Planning Committee, Weighted Caseload Committee, Compensation and Retirement Committee, Education Committee, Domestic Relations Committee, Legislative Committee, Judicial Academy/Orientation, Public Trust & Confidence in the Courts, Strategic Planning, Executive Committee

Vice President 2010-2011

Moving Vice President 2011-2012

President Elect 2012-2013

On the Legislative Committee, I worked closely with other members while meeting with the legislature on the revisions to the Court of Judiciary, now called the Board of Judicial Conduct.

This included meeting with the chairs of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, as well as other members of the legislature. I was also a speaker before the joint committee working on this legislation.

National Association of Women Judges, Past Member

Tennessee Bar Association, Member

I was also appointed by the TBA President to the Task Force on Judicial Conduct to work on a project to revise the Code of Judicial Conduct. This project lasted over eighteen (18) months.

TBA YLD Fellows

Hamilton-Burnett American Inn of Court, Master, 2009 - present

Brock-Cooper American Inn of Court, Master, 2010, Presently on sabbatical

McMinn County Bar Association, Past President

29. List honors, prizes, awards or other forms of recognition which you have received since your graduation from law school which are directly related to professional accomplishments.

**The Mary Mildred Sullivan Award
Tennessee Wesleyan College, 2012**

Adoption Ambassador, 2009

Served on Service Academy Panel for Senator Frist, 2004

Elected Chancellor of the Tenth Judicial District, 1998

Re-Elected Chancellor of the Tenth Judicial District, 2006

Active in TBA-YLD and held various offices and worked in various public service projects, including mock trials, and DUI and divorce videos.

Coached High School Mock Trial Team – Student won best attorney in the state.

30. List the citations of any legal articles or books you have published.

No publications

31. List law school courses, CLE seminars, or other law related courses for which credit is given that you have taught within the last five (5) years.

Local Practice in the 10th Judicial District, 2006

Court Security Training, 2006

Local Practice in the 10th Judicial District, 2007

Afternoon with the Judges for the Benefit of Legal Aid of East Tennessee, 2007

Chancery Court Practice: Views from the Bench, 2008

Practice Pointers from the Judges, 2009

TBA Leadership Law

Adoption Law, Chattanooga

Ain't Behavin'-What Not to Do-A View from the Bench, 2010

Law Conference for Tennessee Practitioners, 2010

Tennessee Judicial Conference, New Rules of Judicial Conduct, 2011

TBA, New Rules of Judicial Conduct, 2011

Tennessee Workers Comp Conference, 2011

Brock-Cooper American Inn of Court - Chancery Practice in a Rural Area, 2010

Hamilton-Burnett American Inn of Court - Social Media, 2012

NBI Seminar, Civil Court Judge Panel, 2012

32. List any public office you have held or for which you have been candidate or applicant. Include the date, the position, and whether the position was elective or appointive.

Elected Chancellor of the Tenth Judicial District, 1998

Re-Elected Chancellor of the Tenth Judicial District, 2006

33. Have you ever been a registered lobbyist? If yes, please describe your service fully.

No

34. Attach to this questionnaire at least two examples of legal articles, books, briefs, or other

legal writings which reflect your personal work. Indicate the degree to which each example reflects your own personal effort.

Carolyn Collier vs. Life Care Centers of Collegedale, et al*

Hamilton Chancery Ct. #03-0652

TN Supreme Ct. #E2011-01683-WC-R3-WC

****Prepared with law clerk assistance.***

See attached.

John Michael Shealey, et al vs. Policy Studies, Inc., et al*

Bradley Chancery Ct. #01-389

****100% Personal Work.***

See attached.

ESSAYS/PERSONAL STATEMENTS

35. What are your reasons for seeking this position? (150 words or less)

It is my desire as a trial court judge to have someone with judicial experience on the Court of Appeals. With my experience, having presided over and disposed of thousands of cases over 14 years, my current work closely mirrors cases taken to the appellate level. I believe I can offer additional insight to the panel as a Chancellor from a rural district. I have practiced in trial courts all across East Tennessee. Having both urban and rural legal practice backgrounds in both plaintiff and defense practices, in addition to having a four (4) county circuit as a Chancellor, I feel my depth of experience will add an additional dimension to the Court of Appeals. I desire to expand my service and use my legal abilities on a larger scale.

36. State any achievements or activities in which you have been involved which demonstrate your commitment to equal justice under the law; include here a discussion of your pro bono service throughout your time as a licensed attorney. (150 words or less)

As a licensed attorney, I provided pro bono services to individuals in various legal situations, including working with victims of domestic violence securing orders of protection. I also volunteered for Legal Aid in Knox County. When I moved back to my hometown, I was appointed to cases in the criminal courts and as guardian ad litem in juvenile and probate courts in the district. When you have a rural practice, you recognize and appreciate that many people cannot afford legal services. Often times, I would take cases on a free or reduced fee basis in an effort to provide services to those in need.

As a president of the bar association, I encouraged the local bar to get involved in pro bono work. I have also provided legal services to non-profit groups, and was on the founding board of the H.O.P.E. Center, a center for victims of domestic violence.

I also gratuitously performed legal work to create the McMinn County Education Foundation.

37. Describe the judgeship you seek (i.e. geographic area, types of cases, number of judges, etc. and explain how your selection would impact the court. *(150 words or less)*)

The judgeship I seek is a position on the Court of Appeals for the State of Tennessee, Eastern Division. Currently, there are 4 judges serving this section of court. If I am selected to join the Court of Appeals, I would bring the experience of a rural trial court judge to this group. I would also bring the experience of having practiced law both in a large city and a small town. The judicial district that I currently serve includes one of the poorest counties in the state. As the first woman elected to the bench in the Tenth Judicial District, I would likewise add diversity to the Court of Appeals. This diversity will help me use a variety of skill and experience in working with my colleagues to produce timely, well reasoned, legally strong opinions.

38. Describe your participation in community services or organizations, and what community involvement you intend to have if you are appointed judge? *(250 words or less)*

It is my belief that to whom much has been given, much is expected. I feel an intrinsic obligation to give back to my communities and have served on the boards of many not for profit organizations, including the following:

Keith Memorial United Methodist Church, Board of Trustees, Worship Committee Chair, Pastor/Parish Chair

**H.O.P.E. Center, Inc., Past President, Founding Board of Directors
For Victims of Domestic Violence**

**United Way of McMinn County, Board of Directors, (1997-1999)
Worked on fundraising for years prior to serving on the board.**

YMCA, McMinn County, Tennessee, (1996-1999), Secretary, (1999)

**Athens Kiwanis Club, Member, (1991-present)
President, (October 2001-2002)
Vice President, (2000-2001)
Secretary, (1999-2000)
Treasurer, (1998-1999)
Board of Directors, (1994-2003)**

Tennessee Technology Center, Past Advisory Council Member (1999)

**University of Tennessee National Alumni Association, Board of Governors, (1994-1995)
McMinn County Chapter, Past President**

Boys/Girls Club of Monroe County

I have drafted documents for the McMinn County Education Foundation and worked with my churches and advised them in business and personnel matters.

I have served as a volunteer judge in regional and state mock trial competitions and have assisted Tennessee Wesleyan College with its mock trials.

I also assisted in the organization of the SCALES Project in the Tenth Judicial District, Athens, Tennessee, on October 4 & 5, 2012 serving over 1,000 students. This was the largest SCALES event to date.

I support many organizations by attendance. I intend to continue community involvement to the extent allowed by the Code of Judicial Conduct.

39. Describe life experiences, personal involvements, or talents that you have that you feel will be of assistance to the Commission in evaluating and understanding your candidacy for this judicial position. *(250 words or less)*

I have participated in several trips as a high altitude mountaineer. High altitude mountaineering is a sport involving climbing mountains of over 10,000 feet. I have trained for and climbed, or attempted to climb, four of the Seven Summits. The Seven Summits are comprised of the tallest mountain on each continent. In order to properly achieve this, one must be in top physical and mental condition.

The human body can acclimatize 1,000 feet per day when over 10,000 feet in altitude; therefore, this requires endurance and perseverance. These mountains are in areas with no supplies and harsh conditions. Proper planning and preparation is a must. It is the decreased oxygen levels that require patience for you to give your body time to adjust. You train on smaller mountains in preparation for the high altitude mountains so I have climbed other mountains in various countries.

Of the Seven Summits, I have reached the summit of Killimanjaro, Elbrus, and Kosciuszko. I was at high camp and 8 hours from summit on Aconcagua when 80 mph winds required us to turn back. The preparation for this climb was a 6-month process. Although disappointed, turning back was the right decision. This sport requires good sound decisions and judgment in order to be safe. Even with the goal in site, sometimes it is the better choice to turn around. The skills I developed are those I utilize in my everyday life.

40. Will you uphold the law even if you disagree with the substance of the law (e.g., statute or rule) at issue? Give an example from your experience as a licensed attorney that supports your response to this question. *(250 words or less)*

It is part of the oath of office to uphold the Constitution of the State of Tennessee and the United States. As a judge, I agreed to uphold this law and I take the oath of office seriously. There have been times when I have disagreed with the outcome the substantive law would have dictated but nonetheless followed the law. That is my job. As a trial court judge, it is my duty to follow the law unless the constitutionality of the law has been directly challenged using the proper legal procedure. To do otherwise undermines our constitutional system of government.

As an example, in the case of Albright vs. Tallent, et ux, McMinn Chancery #24512, I did not like the outcome of the case, but I followed the law. This case involved a *spite* fence between neighbors that was intrusive to one party but was nonetheless legal.

REFERENCES

41. List five (5) persons, and their current positions and contact information, who would recommend you for the judicial position for which you are applying. Please list at least two persons who are not lawyers. Please note that the Commission or someone on its behalf may contact these persons regarding your application.

A. John M. Gentry, McMinn Co. Mayor, [REDACTED]	
B. Joe Riley, Retired, [REDACTED]	
C. Patty S. Gaines, McMinn Co. Clerk & Master, [REDACTED]	
D. D. Mitchell Bryant, Attorney, [REDACTED]	
E. Jeffrey L. Cunningham, Athens Federal Community Bank President, [REDACTED]	

AFFIRMATION CONCERNING APPLICATION

Read, and if you agree to the provisions, sign the following:

I have read the foregoing questions and have answered them in good faith and as completely as my records and recollections permit. I hereby agree to be considered for nomination to the Governor for the office of Judge of the [Court] Court of Appeals Eastern Division of Tennessee, and if appointed by the Governor, agree to serve that office. In the event any changes occur between the time this application is filed and the public hearing, I hereby agree to file an amended questionnaire with the Administrative Office of the Courts for distribution to the Commission members.

I understand that the information provided in this questionnaire shall be open to public inspection upon filing with the Administrative Office of the Courts and that the Commission may publicize the names of persons who apply for nomination and the names of those persons the Commission nominates to the Governor for the judicial vacancy in question.

Dated: 10-16, 2012


Signature

When completed, return this questionnaire to Debbie Hayes, Administrative Office of the Courts, 511 Union Street, Suite 600, Nashville, TN 37219.



TENNESSEE JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION

511 UNION STREET, SUITE 600

NASHVILLE CITY CENTER

NASHVILLE, TN 37219

TENNESSEE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

TENNESSEE COURT OF JUDICIARY

AND OTHER LICENSING BOARDS

WAIVER OF CONFIDENTIALITY

I hereby waive the privilege of confidentiality with respect to any information which concerns me, including public discipline, private discipline, deferred discipline agreements, diversions, dismissed complaints and any complaints erased by law, and is known to, recorded with, on file with the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Supreme Court of Tennessee, the Tennessee Court of Judiciary and any other licensing board, whether within or outside the state of Tennessee, from which I have been issued a license that is currently active, inactive or other status. I hereby authorize a representative of the Tennessee Judicial Nominating Commission to request and receive any such information and distribute it to the membership of the Judicial Nominating Commission.

Terri Bryant

Type or Printed Name

[Signature]

Signature

Date

10-16-12

BPR #

12785

Please identify other licensing boards that have issued you a license, including the state issuing the license and the license number.
