

Tennessee Trial Court Vacancy Commission
Application for Nomination to Judicial Office
3/4/26

Name: Jessica M. Van Dyke

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INTRODUCTION

Tennessee Code Annotated section 17-4-301 et seq. charges the Trial Court Vacancy 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 Microsoft Word format from the Administrative Office of the Courts (telephone 800-448-7970 or 615-741-2687; website www.tncourts.gov). The Commission requests that applicants obtain the Microsoft Word form and respond directly on the form. Respond in the box provided below each question. (The box will expand as you type in the document.) Review the separate instruction sheet prior to completing this document. Your complete application, including both the original and digital copies, must be received by the Administrative Office of the Courts on or before the deadline prescribed in the Notice of Vacancy. See section 1(g) of the application instructions for additional information related to hand-delivery of application packages.

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

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND AND WORK EXPERIENCE

1. State your present employment.

Legal Director, Tennessee Innocence Project

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

Licensed in 2011; BPR #030385

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.

Not applicable

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).

Not applicable

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).

Legal Director, October 2024 – current. **TENNESSEE INNOCENCE PROJECT**, Memphis.

Executive Director & Co-Founder, February 2019 – October 2024. **TENNESSEE INNOCENCE PROJECT**, Nashville & Memphis.

Attorney, August 2011 – January 2019. **PARKER, LAWRENCE, CANTRELL & SMITH**, Nashville.

6. 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.

Criminal law has been 95% of my practice since approximately 2017.

In January 2019, I left private practice to launch the Tennessee Innocence Project, a non-profit law firm that investigates and litigates claims of actual innocence. From February 2019 to October 2024, I served as Executive Director and Lead Counsel of the firm. In October 2024, I transitioned into the role of Legal Director, which allowed me to focus solely on legal work. Today, as the Legal Director, I supervise our firm's caseload of post-conviction, actual innocence litigation. I also manage our intake system, by which the Tennessee Innocence Project determines which cases to accept for representation, and I provide direct representation to indigent defendants. I also provide support and training to our staff attorneys.

Within criminal law, my current practice focuses on a review of pre-trial, trial, and collateral proceedings to assess whether claims of actual innocence are substantiated. If those claims are substantiated, I file post-convictions pleadings to litigate the claims in trial courts across Tennessee (with a focus in Shelby County). Each application or case I review requires a "post-mortem analysis" on whether the client was wrongfully convicted. In addition to identifying the legal basis for relief, I also seek to identify the root-cause of the wrongful conviction to improve the system and prevent wrongful convictions in the future. My current cases are complex, time-intensive investigations, which often result in lengthy, detailed petitions for relief. When required, I also handle criminal appellate litigation.

Since 2019, I have served as lead or co-lead counsel for six people who have been exonerated for crimes they did not commit. I assisted my Tennessee Innocence Project colleagues on another four exoneration cases.

This work is a continuation of my focus on criminal law since 2014. Prior to co-founding the Tennessee Innocence Project, I had an active trial and post-conviction litigation practice. My trial practice focused on defense of serious felony cases, many of which were appointed. I routinely handled homicide, child abuse, aggravated assault, and drugs offense cases. Most of my retained cases were post-conviction litigation in serious felony offenses.

7. 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.

Associate Attorney at Parker Lawrence Cantrell & Smith – August 2011 to May 2015.

After law school, I began my career as an associate attorney in August 2011 at Parker, Lawrence, Cantrell & Smith. In my early years of practice, I served as a second chair to partners on civil litigation, including medical malpractice defense, insurance defense, and appellate work. When I was hired by the firm, I advised that my legal interests were largely in criminal defense, and I would like the opportunity to build a criminal defense practice while serving as a second chair

on civil matters. During my first four years at the firm, I was mentored and supervised by attorneys in a traditional partner-associate relationship, and I am forever grateful for the experiences gained. Through these experiences, I became more thoughtful and skilled at drafting pleadings, working with expert witnesses, and understanding rules of procedure and evidence. I participated in a wide array of pre-trial litigation, including multiple depositions.

During these years, I joined the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (TACDL) and became an active member. I methodically built a criminal defense practice, starting with appointments in General Sessions and retained cases. I deliberately chose to work on less serious cases (although every criminal case is a serious case for the people involved and impacted) as I learned and built the experience to handle more serious charges. I continued to consult with my colleagues at Parker, Lawrence, Cantrell & Smith, finding that civil litigators had unique and important perspectives on criminal practice.

Attorney at Parker Lawrence Cantrell & Smith – May 2015 – January 2019.

Prior to 2015, I was a salaried associate working at the direction of the firm, and 90% of my practice was medical malpractice defense, insurance defense, and other general civil litigation. In 2015, Parker, Lawrence, Cantrell & Smith underwent a significant reorganization, and I moved from the role of associate to an attorney generating and handling my own case load. My caseload was overwhelmingly composed of criminal cases, with a few family law or civil matters.

From approximately 2015 to early 2019, I focused on honing my in-court skills as a trial attorney. I believe in the power of mentorship and learning from experienced attorneys. I attended the Trial Lawyers' College criminal defense trial college in Dubois, Wyoming. I previously attended TACDL's trial college in 2013. During this period, I frequently appeared in court for preliminary and pre-trial hearings. I had approximately seven trials. I also began to focus on post-conviction investigation and appellate litigation. It was during this time period that I had four successful appeals in the Court of Criminal Appeals, including expansion of novel areas of law, such as the imposition of community supervision for life on expired sentences.

In 2018, I was approached with an opportunity to help launch the first full-time innocence organization in Tennessee. After researching and writing a comprehensive proposal for grant funding, the Tennessee Innocence Project obtained funding from a family foundation and incorporated as a non-profit law firm. I began to wind down my private practice in September 2018 and began as the first employee of the Tennessee Innocence Project on February 1, 2019.

Executive Director | Lead Counsel at Tennessee Innocence Project – February 2019 – October 2024.

I was the founding Executive Director of the Tennessee Innocence Project. For the first year (as the first employee), I took on every role required to launch and operate a non-profit. On the non-legal side, these tasks were diverse: establishing operations, establishing governance structure, building a Board of Directors, communications, development and fundraising, event creation and planning, managing volunteers, and overseeing the firm's financial health. Meanwhile, I

was still the firm's Lead Counsel, and it was imperative that we begin the process of investigating and litigating cases. During this time, I developed and implemented our intake process for accepting cases, recruited pro bono legal counsel to assist the Tennessee Innocence Project, provided direct representation to clients, and identified and advocated for policy reforms in Tennessee. One successful example is the 2021 Fingerprint Analysis Act, which codified the right to fingerprint analysis in post-conviction proceedings. After our first year, and with the addition of more staff, I also covered human resources and employee supervision.

Due to successful operations and organization health, we went from a single employee in February 2020, to 10 employees by October 2024, including 4 additional attorneys. The experiences I gained (and the lessons learned) in launching the Tennessee Innocence Project may be the most relevant and applicable experience to supervising the effective administration of a courtroom and docket.

Legal Director at Tennessee Innocence Project – October 2024 to current.

In October 2024, I transitioned to the role of Legal Director. This position allowed me to re-focus on my passion for the law, and the reason I helped start the Tennessee Innocence Project: to investigate and litigate claims of actual innocence. In addition to litigating my own cases, I oversee our legal staff to ensure applications are promptly assessed and cases move forward efficiently.

Because of legal work at the Tennessee Innocence Project, I have built *significant* experience in assessing the process by which a person is accused, charged, and convicted. Doing post-conviction work requires one to consider the proceedings at every level: the law enforcement investigation, the General Sessions proceedings, the Criminal Court proceedings, and the appellate proceedings. My work effectively requires me to perform a detailed examination on a case, analyze whether the Rule of Law was followed, and whether the legal system got it right. In doing so, I've read hundreds of trial transcripts, briefs, orders, and opinions. To date, the team we have built at the Tennessee Innocence Project has exonerated ten individuals and freed an eleventh (case is currently on appeal).

In sum, my experiences as a trial lawyer, appellate attorney, and post-conviction litigator provide the qualifications needed for a trial court judge to effectively administer a courtroom *and* follow and impose the law.

8. Describe any matters of special note involving your practice in trial courts, appellate courts, and administrative bodies.

I would like to start by discussing my most recent work in actual innocence, post-conviction litigation.

ERIC WRIGHT V. STATE OF TENNESSEE – 2025 – Shelby County, Tennessee. Exonerated after 36 years in prison. I was lead counsel on Mr. Wright's case. In Mr. Wright's case, we petitioned for the testing of fingerprints from the crime scene, which never matched Mr. Wright. He was

convicted based on a single witness identification and had always maintained his innocence. After receiving exculpatory results, I further developed the investigation and scientific evidence of actual innocence, and after a hearing in July 2025, Mr. Wright's conviction was overturned.

SCOTT MINTON V. STATE OF TENNESSEE – 2025 – Bradley County, Tennessee. Exonerated after 31 years in prison. In a case that took six years, I served as co-lead counsel in Mr. Minton's case. This was an investigation-heavy case, where much of the physical evidence had long been destroyed, which prevented DNA testing. We put together proof of actual innocence, which included new science on eyewitness identification and false confessions. Mr. Minton's conviction was overturned.

DARRON PRICE V. STATE OF TENNESSEE – 2025 – Shelby County, Tennessee. Exonerated after 17 years in prison. In this case, I served as lead counsel. We conducted an in-depth investigation, locating witnesses that trial counsel had failed to find, and asked DNA testing to be performed, which excluded Mr. Price. At a hearing, we proved that Mr. Price was in another part of Memphis at the time of the crime, and his conviction was overturned.

ARTIS WHITEHEAD V. STATE OF TENNESSEE – 2024 – Shelby County, Tennessee. Exonerated after 21 years in prison. I served as lead counsel in this case, but we had a strong team of litigators who assisted throughout this five-year process. In this post-conviction case, we conducted DNA and fingerprint testing, which did not yield any viable results. While asserting actual innocence, we also focused on the legal issues and constitutional abridgements that led to Mr. Whitehead's wrongful conviction. After a lengthy hearing, his conviction was overturned.

CLAUDE GARRETT V. STATE OF TENNESSEE – 2022 – Davidson County, Tennessee. Exonerated after 30 years in prison. I served as co-lead in this matter which focused on new science in the field of fire science (arson). Numerous expert witnesses testified that the scientific opinion used to convict Mr. Garrett in 1993 was never valid science, and by today's standards, was disproven.

PAUL GARRETT V. STATE OF TENNESSEE – 2021 – Davidson County, Tennessee. Exonerated after 11 years in prison. I served as lead counsel in this case, which was our first exoneration at the Tennessee Innocence Project. In this matter, we proved that DNA evidence unequivocally showed a different man as the perpetrator of the sexual assault and murder of a North Nashville woman.

Prior to my time at the Tennessee Innocence Project, I litigated a wide variety of criminal law matters and the following are a few that are noteworthy to me because they resulted in exceptionally favorable rulings. This does not highlight all the cases I tried or resolved over the years.

G.E. V. STATE OF TENNESSEE – 2019 – Davidson County, Tennessee. In this unique state habeas case, I was appointed to represent a man who had previously been committed to in-patient mental health services after pleading Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity. The habeas petition asserted that Petitioner G.E. was being unlawfully detained because he was eligible for outpatient services, pursuant to Tennessee law. This case was unsuccessful at the trial court level, and after

oral argument in the Court of Criminal Appeals, but before an opinion was issued, G.E. was released to outpatient services, thereby rendering the appeal moot.

DANIEL CARR V. STATE OF TENNESSEE – 2019 – Macon, County, Tennessee. In both Carr and Leslie (below) I pursued state habeas relief for the clients’ illegal community supervision for life sentences. This argument, which I first litigated in the trial courts, asserted that after a person’s sentence has expired, no court had jurisdiction to go back and amend the judgment form to add punishment not previously expressed. This novel argument created new law in Tennessee. Today, there is some disagreement amongst the appellate court on this issue.

ANTHONY LESLIE V. STATE OF TENNESSEE – 2019 – Rutherford County, Tennessee. Obtained state habeas relief for client’s illegal community supervision for life sentence creating new law in Tennessee.

JAY GARRITY V. STATE OF TENNESSEE – 2018 – Davidson County, Tennessee. Obtained post-conviction relief in TN Court of Criminal Appeals. In this case, I litigated and lost Mr. Garrity’s claims in the trial court, before accomplishing a reversal on appeal, based on a constitutional violation of ineffective assistance of counsel.

STATE OF TENNESSEE V. D.P. – 2017 – Davidson County, Tennessee. Representation in a jury trial where client was charged with B Felony drug offense. He was convicted of A misdemeanor drug offense.

STATE OF TENNESSEE V. Z.J. – 2016 – Davidson County, Tennessee. Representation in a jury trial, where client was charged with B Felony x5. He was convicted of E Felony x2 and other counts were not guilty.

CURTIS BOLTON V. STATE OF TENNESSEE – 2015 – Campbell County, Tennessee. In this case, I was appointed to handle Mr. Bolton’s post-conviction case for murder. I obtained relief in the trial court based on constitutional violations, and this order was affirmed by the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals.

I am happy to provide the Commission any additional information about these cases.

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

I attended trial college through the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers in 2013, and a one-week trial college through the Trial Lawyers College in Dubois, Wyoming in 2017.

Since 2017, I have given numerous presentations on post-conviction litigation and actual innocence litigation. These presentations have been for organizations like the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Tennessee Bar Association, and local bar

associations, provided as Continuing Legal Education.

I have also presented to numerous community groups and to students at law schools across Tennessee where I seek to educate the public about our legal system.

10. List and describe all prior occasions on which you have submitted an application for any state or federal judicial position.

Not applicable.

EDUCATION

11. 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.

Knox College, Galesburg, IL 2002-2005, B.A. Political Science, *cum laude*

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN 2005-2007, M.A. Political Science, emphasis on judicial politics

University of Tennessee College of Law, Knoxville, TN 2008-2011, J.D.

During my undergraduate studies, I took summer classes at Ohio State University (Columbus, Ohio) and Washington State Community College (Marietta, Ohio). Ohio State University offered languages classes which were unavailable at my undergraduate, and I took a course at Washington State Community College to expedite my undergraduate credits and graduate in three years.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

12. State your date of birth.

1984

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

I have lived in Tennessee since August 2005.

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

I have lived in Shelby County since July 2023, but I began traveling here on a monthly basis for

case work in late 2019.

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

Shelby County.

16. 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.

Not applicable

17. Have you ever pled guilty or been convicted or are now on diversion for violation of any law, regulation or ordinance other than minor traffic offenses? If so, state the approximate date, charge and disposition of the case.

No.

18. 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.

19. Please identify the number of formal complaints you have responded to that were filed against you with any supervisory authority, including but not limited to a court, a board of professional responsibility, or a board of judicial conduct, alleging any breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by you. Please provide any relevant details on any such complaint if the complaint was not dismissed by the court or board receiving the complaint. You may wish to request a report from the appropriate supervisory authority (or authorities) for a complete history.

None.

20. 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.

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

No.

22. 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.

Yes. *Dayle Ward et al. v. Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County et al.*, Tennessee Court of Appeals; M2018-00633-COA-R3-CV. In 2018, I was one of several neighbors in the Nashville neighborhood of Woodbine, who challenged Metro Nashville's grant of exemption from Metro's planning and zoning ordinances to a development pursuant to the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, 42 U.S.C. § 2000cc ("RLUIPA") and the Tennessee Religious Freedom Restoration Act, T.C.A. § 4-1-407 ("TRFRA"). A residential neighborhood group (of which, I was a resident and member) asserted that Metro misapplied RLUIPA and TRFRA by allowing a secular homeless advocacy nonprofit to build micro residential structures on a church property without complying with planning and zoning regulations that applied to other developments. The Davidson County Chancery Court and Court of Appeals disagreed. The Tennessee Supreme Court denied permission to appeal, but designated the Court of Appeals opinion as "Not For Citation" in accordance with Supreme Court Rule 4, § E. *Dayle Ward et al. v. Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County et al.*, Supreme Court of Tennessee; No. M2018-00633-SC-R11-CV.

23. 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.

Rotary Club 96 – Memphis.

I serve as the Mock Trial Coach at White Station High School in Memphis, TN.

I occasionally attend services at First Presbyterian Church in Downtown, Memphis, but I am not a member.

24. 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.

Yes. In college, I was a member of Pi Beta Phi, which is an international women's fraternity.

I attended a Pi Beta Phi Founder's Day event in 2026 but have not been an "active member" since undergraduate graduation in 2005.

ACHIEVEMENTS

25. 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.

Nashville Bar Association, 2011 to current.

- Actively involved in the Nashville Bar Association's Young Lawyer's Division, including service as a committee chair.

Nashville Bar Fellow, inducted 2021.

Memphis Bar Association, 2023 to current.

Tennessee Bar Association, 2011 to current.

- Tennessee Bar Association Law Leadership Class of 2024.

Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, 2013 to current.

- Indigent Defense Chair, 2013-2015 – During this time, I organized membership and attended meetings of the Supreme Court's Indigent Defense Task Force.
- Past Board Member

National Association for Criminal Defense Lawyers, 2017-2019.

26. 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.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD, ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA, PHI LAMBDA OMEGA CHAPTER, MEMPHIS – 2025

40 UNDER 40 – MEMPHIS BUSINESS JOURNAL – 2024

NASHVILLE BAR FELLOW – NASHVILLE BAR ASSOCIATION – 2021

MAIN STREET NASHVILLE PERSON OF THE YEAR – 2021

TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS

ROBERT W. RITCHIE SERVICE AWARD - awarded for leadership, outstanding commitment and service, 2018.

WORKHORSE AWARD – awarded for service as Indigent Defense Chair, 2016.

NASHVILLE BAR ASSOCIATION, YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION ENTERPRISE AWARD - awarded for creation of the Brews for Backpacks event (provided backpack and school supplies to children in foster care) and for the creation of Caza Azafran’s monthly legal clinic staffed by the YLD.

27. 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.

METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE BEER PERMIT BOARD MEMBER– Fall 2015 – Fall 2018.

ESSAYS/PERSONAL STATEMENTS

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

Simply put, I believe in the Rule of Law and Due Process, and I want to be part of a judicial system that always seeks to uphold these core values. My unique career experiences over the last 15 years have given me the experience and skill to effectively administer a criminal court docket. I have been fortunate to practice in Nashville, Memphis, and counties across Tennessee, where I have observed that every jurisdiction has different practices. I would like to bring the best of those practices and influences to Shelby County Criminal Court. Secondly, trial judges are the most direct connection between the communities they serve and the judicial system. I believe I can be a successful bridge to the community, bringing fresh ideas to the bench, while upholding the Constitution and enforcing the law.

29. 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)*

I am seeking appointment to Shelby County Criminal Court. These newly-created positions will add two judges for a total of 11 divisions. These two new positions are legislatively defined to focus on a backlog of violent crime cases. The judges in these two new roles must be prepared to perform three tasks: 1) conduct complex jury trials according to the law, 2) handle plea colloquies which ensure the accused understands their rights and all parties are well-informed, and 3) when required, sentence defendants using the legislatively-enacted sentencing code. If selected for this appointment, I would take the bench each morning well-prepared for the day's docket. While it is important to address case backlogs, it is equally important to ensure that each party appearing before the Court has the necessary attention directed to their case. I would strive to add efficiency without sacrificing the law – which is paramount.

30. 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)*

Yes. Every day as an attorney, I uphold the Constitution and the law, regardless of whether I agree with the outcomes that may derive from the same. Specifically, case law in post-conviction relief is very narrowly tailored to prohibit a convicted defendant re-entry into court after the discovery of new evidence of actual innocence, except in limited circumstances. The law is also extremely limited in allowing defendants with later-arising constitutional deprivations to present those claims to a court – even if the defendant was not at fault for learning about the constitutional violation until after the expiration of the statute of limitations. While I may personally believe that these limitations are too restrictive in certain scenarios and may prevent a truly innocent person from accessing the courts, I must follow the law. This means I must follow current statutory and case law, putting forth arguments in the confines of both.

REFERENCES

31. 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. The Honorable Mark Fishburn
Davidson County Division V Criminal Court, *Ret.*

B. Dr. Jan Young, *Executive Director*
Assisi Foundation

C. The Honorable Chris Craft
Shelby County Division VIII Criminal Court

D. Deidre Malone, *President/CEO*
The Carter Malone Group

E. Marshall Albritton, *Attorney*
Parker, Lawrence, Cantrell & Smith

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 Shelby County Criminal Court 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: July 7, 2026

s/ Jessica M. Van Dyke

Signature