



## NASHVILLE SCHOOL *of* LAW

*From the office of the*  
PRESIDENT AND DEAN

May 6, 2026

[*By email to: Erin.Merrick@tn.gov*]

The Honorable Bill Lee  
Office of the Governor  
1st Floor, State Capitol  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Re: 26th Judicial District Vacancy

Dear Governor Lee:

On April 21, 2026, your office notified the Trial Court Vacancy Commission of the creation of a vacancy on the Chancery Court for the 26th Judicial District. The Commission announced the position and began accepting applications on April 21, 2026, and set May 6, 2026 as the deadline for submitting applications. The Commission also made arrangements to hold a public hearing on June 10, 2026 in Jackson.

The application deadline has now passed, and the Commission has received only one application. The purpose of this letter is to notify you that the Commission cannot provide you with the names of three persons qualified to fill this vacancy as required by Tenn. Code Ann. § 17-4-308(h) because only one person has applied. Accordingly, Tenn. Code Ann. § 17-4-310(a) permits you to fill the vacancy with any person of your choosing who is duly licensed to practice law and otherwise fully qualified to serve as a chancellor in the 26th Judicial District.

For your information, I have included with this letter the redacted application of the person who filed a timely application for this position. The Administrative Office of the Courts is prepared to provide your staff with unredacted versions of these applications upon request.

Very truly yours,

William C. Koch, Jr.  
Chair, Trial Court Vacancy Commission

cc: Erin Merrick, Esq.  
Michelle J. Long, Esq.

Enclosures