

Tennessee Trial Court Vacancy Commission
Application for Nomination to Judicial Office

1/17/23

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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.

I am currently employed as a solo practitioner with the Law Office of Kyle D. Parks, Esq. I have been practicing in this capacity largely since 2009. In 2018 I was unanimously appointed as Davidson County Night Court Judicial Magistrate by the General Sessions Judges of Davidson County. I have continued to serve in both positions, solo practitioner and Davidson County since my 2018 appointment except for the time frame from 2021-2022 when I resigned to run for this subject bench when I lost against Judge Cheryl Blackburn who held the bench for over two decades.

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

I was licensed to practice law in Tennessee in 2009. My BPR number is 028540

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.

Only licensed in Tennessee, BPR 028540

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).

I started my career as an associate attorney for the Law Offices of Luvell Glanton. (2009-2010) From Mr. Glanton's office, I opened my own firm, the Law offices of Kyle D. Parks, Esq.(2010-2013). I briefly worked as an associate attorney at MANSON JOHNSON (2013-2017) and was promoted to Partner in 2015. In 2017, I left Manson Johnson to reopen my own office where I have been self-employed since 2017. In 2018 I was unanimously appointed as Night Court Magistrate by the General Session Judges of Davidson County). Only have practiced as a Criminal Defense attorney other than my judicial position with night court.

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.

My practice is 100% criminal defense and has been solely devoted to criminal law since 2010. I built my practice through accepting pro bono cases to support my caseload. In recent years, my private practice has lowered the number of appointed cases I am able to accept. I have practiced as a Criminal Defense practitioner in 66 of Tennessee's 95 Counties, State Court only. In my professional capacity as a licensed attorney, I have handled criminal cases either as a lawyer or judicial officer from every material point in the life cycle of a case post arrest. In this practice, I have handled criminal cases from arrest, to jury trial, to appeal and to successfully arguing to the Criminal Court of Appeals a denied petition for post-conviction relief by the trial judge.

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.

As stated above, my large majority of my legal experience and work has been in the criminal law context, both as a lawyer and judicial officer. I have limited my practice to just State level Court. Initially, I started working at a civil law firm handling personal injury matters. I quickly realized that civil law and no other law for that matter was as interesting to me as Criminal law. From that decision until today, I have enjoyed the fruits of my very focused labor and have run a successful law practice while serving the County as a night court judicial magistrate giving me the broad experience that helps me daily in my pursuit of Justice. I believe my experience as a defense attorney and judicial magistrate give me a unique perspective that book ends with my involvement on the determining of probable cause to successfully arguing an appeal of a Post Conviction. I have an intimate look at the pulse of this County that will guide my pursuit of justice for every person who appears before the Court. There are some judges and candidates presiding that previously served as defense lawyers. There are others who only have worked for the State as prosecutors or law enforcement. The candidates who historically have been considered best qualified have handled both defense and prosecution or have served as a General Sessions judge. My unique experience, on the daily basis, requires me to remain focused to my opinion and approach to pursuing justice as my job as magistrate requires me to remain neutral

and detached. My law practice requires on a daily basis for me to understand the realities of what happens in our Courts, who are Defendants are in the current time and what they and alleged victims, citizens face daily with life and in the Courts. It all would amount to a very grounded and realistic bench, reinforcing the idea of steadiness and evenness associated with due process and fundamental fairness as guaranteed by both our State and Federal Constitutions.

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

There are two matters of special interest that immediately come to mind. The first case has grown with me since 2012 and I attribute a lot of my professional maturity and growth to this Case, the Defendant and his family. I first came to be acquainted with this Case through my colleague and Firm mate. It is his nephew. As a new lawyer, he was prepared to go to Court and represent his nephew in this Post Conviction matter; I went along with him to guide him. I immediately recognized the complex legal issue the case would involve and felt that his experience wasn't what was needed. I accepted the appointment from Judge Randall Wyatt as the Post Conviction Counsel in 2012. That case is now solely Pro Bono and has been pending, with movement back and forth from the Appellate Courts to the trial Courts from my work. This was a widely covered case at the Trial level and involved the convictions of Defendants who were Juveniles at the time of the offenses that led to the death of the victim. The timeline and relevant events are as follows: The first hearing for post-conviction was completed in May 2017. After the initial denial, we appealed to the Criminal Court of Appeals and the attorney general agreed that Mr. Buford should have first filed a Rule 11 petition with the Supreme Court before starting his post-conviction process. After the denial of the Rule 11 petition we then had to restart the post-conviction process in trial court which was heard in October of 2023. After denial of the petition we again filed with the Criminal Court of Appeals and oral arguments are currently set for August 13, 2025.

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

The second matter discussed above, I will discuss here for clarity and organization. The Second matter involved my pro bono work that led to, from what I understand from other clients and current potential, incarcerated clients, is a case that was appealed based on the novel argument at the trial court regarding merging offenses, jury instructions on what constitutes the same or separate offense. The Case was reviewed by the Appellate Court as State of Tennessee v. Christopher Lee Williams, No. M2016-00568-CCA-R3-CD. I sat second chair to my then firm mate who asked for my support due to the complexity of issues. After day two of proof, we realized the issue with the State's proof and strategy. We parted at 5PM with a divide and conquer plan. I researched and briefed overnight and effectively argued the Motion in our move for directed verdict. To this day, I am randomly stopped and encouraged by other defense attorneys or litigants when they learn who I am. It has been shocking to know how many people understood and used the arguments created by me in their practice and/or pursuit for their

personal justice.

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

In 2022 I submitted my candidacy for this position with Division III Criminal Court during the regular election cycle. The only other application was for my current position of Judicial Magistrate at Night Court Magistrate with the Davidson County Government. That application was submitted in 2017 and was successful. I have remained at that post since 2018 with the exception of the time period in which I left to run my campaign for this same position.

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.

Fisk University-2001-2005 (Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Dean's List, Cum Laude)

Drake University Business School-2005-2009 (Master of Business Administration)

Drake University School of Law-2005-2008(Juris Doctorate)

PERSONAL INFORMATION

12. State your date of birth.

[REDACTED]

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

16 years since returning from Graduate Studies.

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

16 years

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

Davidson 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.

None

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.

None

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.

None

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.

Only civil matters concerning unsecured debt with Bank of America. These matters were resolved in the Davidson County Circuit Courts in 2019, shortly after returning to solo practice and obtaining my Magistrate Appointment. The Case is found in Caselink under 19C2086.

17C519- Eddie Hamilton v. Manson Johnson Conner, PLLC (Formerly Stewart Johnson Manson Conner PLLC). This was a civil client of the Firm that brought action against the Firm alleging legal mal practice stemming from a federal civil and criminal matter. I personally did not work on the matters but was sued individually due to my partial ownership of the Firm and because I was an active attorney and employee at the firm. The matter was resolved by our Mal Practice insurance and I do not have any more details that I have provided in this Response.

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.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Eakin Elementary PTO

Hillsboro High School PTO; Hillsboro Football Booster Club

Autism Awareness

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.

NO

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.

Napier Looby; TACDL; TBA; NBA; 2013-2024

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.

I have been recognized as an Attorney for Justice by the Tennessee Supreme Court and the Access to Justice Commission for Pro Bono recognition in 2014-2019; 2021-2023

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.

Davidson County Night Court Magistrate 2018-Current

ESSAYS/PERSONAL STATEMENTS

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

It is important that everyone is truly heard when their lives, freedom, and safety are at stake. My life, my family also provides me a layer of understanding and compassion that I believe will benefit the Bar (both Defense lawyers and State Lawyers), Defendants, and Victims. All 3 of my children appear on the spectrum for autism from high functioning to nonspeaking. This can make communication and simple interactions challenging. At times, my children are unable to fully express themselves and they can become very frustrated. This causes them to act out without warning and unable to convey what's affecting them. At times of high emotional stress it is important to not let your own emotions add to the conflict or prevent you from finding a

way to deescalate. This pause in judgment and the need to assess before reflexively making a decision that can make a bad situation worse.

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)**

Criminal Court-Division III The docket is entirely criminal cases and serves all of Davidson County. As State Trial Court Judge, my job is to follow the law, not make new law or change laws that I do not like so my impact SHOULD be gradual and not sudden. However, the impact that I anticipate may be more expedite will be related to and connected to my unique broad and well-rounded perspective ascertained from my in-depth experience as a Criminal law practitioner and magistrate. I have materially handled every part of the Criminal Court case life cycle besides the investigation and arrest. This well-rounded perspective gives me more to consider and allows me to be more relatable to all involved, Defendants, Victims, law enforcements, and family. Court will always be overwhelming and intimidating to non-lawyers, but my impact will make it a little less contentious.

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)**

As Night Court Magistrate, I have a close and unique insight into the severity and seriousness of Domestic Violence in Davidson County and understand how devastating it can be on families for generations. My decisions impact that. Defendants' prior convictions, under law, is used as a factor for setting bond amounts and conditions. These conditions and amounts again, are immediately impactful on the Defendant, victims, and their loved ones; these conditions can sometimes thrust Defendants into a cycle of indigency that materially impacts their ability to defend themselves or even recover if the allegations are indeed false or made from levity, which unfortunately sometimes happen. Notwithstanding all the above, in many situations, I have encountered Defendants, who are legally innocent of the crime, have multiple, cyclical and almost predictive arrests concerning the same alleged victim. I am able to see the arrest and the prior cases related to the Parties and most if not, all are often dismissed. The alleged victim doesn't show for Court, and the Case are dismissed. When considering bond amounts and conditions I am not able to consider the prior arrests in setting the bond amounts even when the patterns suggest there is cause of concern. The law prohibits it.

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. Luvell L. Glanton, Esq. Founder of Law Office	
B. John Manson, Esq.-Judicial Magistrate	
C. Kimeo Smith- Insurance Agent-	
D. Richard Thigpen, M.D.	
E. Jerice Glanton-Presiding Judicial Magistrate	

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] Criminal Court-Div III 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: June 27, 2025

Signature

When completed, return this questionnaire to John Jefferson at the Administrative Office of the Courts, 511 Union Street, Suite 600, Nashville, TN 37219



**TENNESSEE TRIAL COURT VACANCY COMMISSION
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS**

511 UNION STREET, SUITE 600
NASHVILLE CITY CENTER
NASHVILLE, TN 37219

**TENNESSEE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
TENNESSEE BOARD OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

AND OTHER LICENSING BOARDS

WAIVER OF CONFIDENTIALITY

I hereby waive the privilege of confidentiality with respect to any information that 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 Board of Judicial Conduct (previously known as the Court of the 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 Trial Court Vacancy Commission to request and receive any such information and distribute it to the membership of the Commission and to the Office of the Governor.

Kyle Parks
Type or Print Name

[Signature]
Signature

6/27/2025
Date

028540
BPR #

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