

**Tennessee Trial Court Vacancy Commission**  
***Application for Nomination to Judicial Office***

9/8/20

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(including county)

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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](http://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. Submit by the noon deadline date an original (unbound) completed application (with ink signature) to the Administrative Office of the Courts.** In addition, submit a digital copy with electronic or scanned signature via email to [ceesha.lofton@tncourts.gov](mailto:ceesha.lofton@tncourts.gov), or via another digital storage device such as a flash drive. 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.

Anderson County Juvenile Court Judge

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

2003, BPR#022854

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.

TN BPR #022854, Admitted to practice law in TN in November 2003. License is 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).

Placed on inactive status by my request for military active duty in June or July 2012. I have not been denied admission or been suspended.

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).

After completion of my legal education and admission to practice law in 2003, I practiced law in a law firm which was named Hunt & Hunt, in Clinton, TN until September 1, 2014.

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.

Not applicable as to any present law practice. I currently serve as Anderson County Juvenile Court Judge.

However, while as a practicing attorney I had a general practice where about 50% was civil and 50% was criminal. For criminal, I handled criminal matters in both General Sessions and Criminal Court. For civil, I handled worker's compensation, social security disability, personal injury, bankruptcies, breach of contract, child custody, divorces, adoptions and wills and estates.

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.

I represented clients in Criminal Court from indictment through jury trial. This also included any appeals to the Criminal Court of Appeals and TN Supreme Court. I represented clients in Circuit Court on personal injury, worker's compensation and breach of contract cases. These cases did involve jury trials if not settled. I also handled appeals to the Court of Appeals and TN Supreme Court.

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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.

University of the South (Sewanee), B.S. in Chemistry, 1996-2000  
Ohio Northern University, Pettit College of Law, J.D. 2000-2003

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

12. State your date of birth.

██████████ 1978

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

38 years

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

38 years

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

Anderson

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.

United States Army Reserves, JAG Corps, Judge Advocate, 11/11/2011 to present, Current rank Major

Active Duty Dates: July-November 2012

Decorations: Army Commendation Medal X 3, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal X 2, National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Component

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.

Not applicable

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.

Not applicable

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.

2 formal complaints. One in 2014 by former criminal client convicted at trial. Closed and dismissed.

One by board of professional responsibility for license being on inactive status after return from active duty in Nov 2012 until election as judge in Sep 2014. Bar fees were paid in 2013 and I incorrectly believed my license was returned to active status at that time. At this time, all registration and bar fees are paid and up to date and my license is on active status. Explanation provided to the board of professional responsibility and case is pending closure.

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.

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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. I was plaintiff in a personal injury case in Anderson County Circuit Court sometime in 2008 or 2009 regarding a motor vehicle accident. Case was settled. Docket number is unknown.

I was plaintiff in a divorce proceeding in 2019-2020 in Anderson County Chancery Court. Case settled at mediation and I.D. Divorce was granted on 7/16/2020. Docket number 19CH1820.

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.

Member of St. Therese Catholic Church

Clinton Rotary Club from 2004 until present. Club President in 2008-2009.

Anderson County Substance Abuse Prevention (ASAP), board member

Knights of Columbus

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.

Not applicable

**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.

Anderson County Bar Association, 2003-2014

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.

Legal Aid Society award in 2014-2015 to our juvenile court for ensuring children have GAL's and surrogate parents in dependency and neglect cases.

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.

Anderson County Juvenile Court Judge, September 2, 2014 to present. Elected full time position.

Lake City Municipal Judge, 2006-2014. Appointed position (part time).

**ESSAYS/PERSONAL STATEMENTS**

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

I have been fortunate and grateful to serve as a judge for the last 15 years in the community where I grew up. I have performed well in my current position and I have made a positive impact helping our families in Anderson County. I have grown both personally and professionally during this time. I would love the opportunity to continue to serve the community and use the skills that I have developed during my judicial tenure to benefit this new and challenging role. I have proven that I have the judicial temperament and knowledge needed to be a successful judge. I made a promise when I started in my current position to be firm but fair. I will continue to keep this promise and to follow the law in every case that comes before me.

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)*

The Circuit/Criminal Court Judge is for the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District which comprises of Anderson County, TN. The position is held by one judge in our district. It is a trial court. This court hears criminal cases involving misdemeanors and felonies. It also hears all civil cases including breach of contract, medical malpractice, worker's compensation, personal injury, etc. It has concurrent jurisdiction with Chancery Court on such matters as divorces, worker's compensation and adoptions. It hears appeals from General Sessions and Juvenile Court.

My selection would impact the court due to my prior judicial experience. I can ensure judicial economy and provide for the timely elimination of any backlog of cases.

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. I believe this is the most important requirement for any attorney to possess as a judge. As a current judge, I have worked hard to ensure that I am following the law in every decision I make and my record on appeal reflects so. Judges at the trial court level and below are to follow the law as established by statute or by our appellate/supreme court.

An example from my days as a practicing attorney would be in juvenile court where a child might be able to be better provided for with a relative or other kinship placement instead of a parent with intact superior parental rights. However, a parent with superior parental rights has the right to custody over any other persons.

### 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. Fr. Julius Abuh  
Pastor, St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church  
Madisonville, TN 37354  
[REDACTED]

B. Karen Wilkins-Butz  
Pastoral Associate, St. Mary's Catholic Church, Oak Ridge, TN 37830  
[REDACTED]

C. Kimberly Gasperson-Justice  
District Court Judge, District 29B, North Carolina



MAJ, U.S. Army Reserves, Ret. [REDACTED]
D. Leon Marshall, Assistant District Attorney, 1 <sup>st</sup> Judicial District, TN [REDACTED]
E. Kimberly Cox Assistant Attorney General, Washington State Office of Attorney General, Torts-Team Lead LTC, U. S. Army Reserves, Ret. [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 Circuit/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: 06/04/2021, 20    .



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Signature

When completed, return this questionnaire to Cecilia Lofton, 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.

**Brian J. Hunt**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Type or Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature



\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**06/04/2021**

\_\_\_\_\_  
BPR #

**022854**

<p>Please identify other licensing boards that have issued you a license, including the state issuing the license and the license number.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
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