

# Supreme Court of Tennessee

## *Application for Tennessee Attorney General and Reporter*

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### CONTACT INFORMATION

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Name: Jonathan Thomas Skrmetti

Home Address: [REDACTED]  
Franklin, TN 37064

Office Address: Tennessee State Capitol  
600 MLK Blvd.  
Nashville, TN 37243

Home Phone: [REDACTED]

Office Phone: [REDACTED]

Cell Phone: [REDACTED]

Email Address: [REDACTED]

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### PERSONAL INFORMATION

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1. Please provide the following:

|  |    |                |                         |                                       |                           |
|--|----|----------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Age:   | 45 | Date of birth: | [REDACTED]/1977         | City and state (or country) of birth: | New London, CT            |
| Social Security No.                                |    | [REDACTED]     | TN Driver's License No. |                                       | [REDACTED]                |
| Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility No. |    |                | 031551                  | Year licensed to practice:            | 2013 in TN;<br>2004 in CT |

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

11 years

3. Are you registered to vote in Tennessee? If so, please give the county.

Yes, in Williamson County

4. In what states have you lived since age 21? Indicate length of stay and approximate dates.

| State | Length | From | To |
|-------|--------|------|----|
|-------|--------|------|----|

|                |          |                |                |
|----------------|----------|----------------|----------------|
| Tennessee      | 11 years | January 2011   | Present        |
| Washington, DC | 5 years  | September 2005 | December 2010  |
| Iowa           | 1 year   | August 2004    | August 2005    |
| Connecticut    | 3 months | May 2004       | August 2004    |
| Massachusetts  | 3 years  | September 2001 | May 2004       |
| Connecticut    | 3 months | June 2001      | September 2001 |
| United Kingdom | 2 years  | September 1999 | June 2001      |
| Connecticut    | 5 months | May 1999       | September 1999 |
| Washington, DC | 1 year   | January 1998   | May 1999       |

5. Family Status:

a) If you are presently married, give the full name and present address of your spouse, the date and place of your marriage, and your spouse's occupation and place of employment.

| Spouse's Name                                 | Address                       | Date of Marriage    | Place of Marriage |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Alisha Ann Skrmetti                           | [REDACTED] Franklin, TN 37064 | [REDACTED]/2012     | Shelby County, TN |
| Occupation                                    |                               | Place of Employment |                   |
| Physical Therapist (not currently practicing) |                               | Home                |                   |

b) If you have been married previously, state the name of your former spouse, the date and place of the marriage, and the date the marriage terminated. If the marriage was terminated by divorce, give the date and place of the divorce, the name and location of the court, and the present or last known address of your former spouse.

| Former Spouse's Name | Date of Marriage | Place of Marriage | Date Marriage Terminated |                |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Not Applicable       |                  |                   |                          |                |
| Divorced Spouse      | Divorce Date     | Place of Divorce  | Court Name & Location    | Spouse Address |
|                      |                  |                   |                          |                |
|                      |                  |                   |                          |                |

c) If you have children, state the name, age, address, present occupation, and name and address of the employer of each, if applicable.

| Name       | Age           | Address          |
|------------|---------------|------------------|
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]    | [REDACTED]       |
| Occupation | Employer Name | Employer Address |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]    | [REDACTED]       |

| Name       | Age           | Address          |
|------------|---------------|------------------|
|            |               |                  |
| Occupation | Employer Name | Employer Address |
|            |               |                  |

| Name       | Age           | Address          |
|------------|---------------|------------------|
|            |               |                  |
| Occupation | Employer Name | Employer Address |
|            |               |                  |

| Name       | Age           | Address          |
|------------|---------------|------------------|
|            |               |                  |
| Occupation | Employer Name | Employer Address |
|            |               |                  |

6. If you have served in the military, please state the branch of service, your service number, the dates of active duty, and your rank/rate at separation. If your discharge was other than honorable, please explain. Please list any decorations, honors, or achievements in connection with your military service.

| Branch                  | Service Number | Dates | Rank/Rate |
|-------------------------|----------------|-------|-----------|
| Not Applicable          |                |       |           |
| Additional Information: |                |       |           |

7. If you are not physically and mentally able to perform the essential duties of Attorney General and Reporter without accommodations, please identify any accommodations you may need to perform the job.

|                |
|----------------|
| Not Applicable |
|----------------|

8. If you have ever pleaded guilty to or been convicted of a violation of any law (other than a minor traffic offense), regulation, or ordinance, give the date, court, charge, and disposition. This question includes any convictions that have been expunged and any convictions for which you are on diversion.

| Date | Court | Charge | Disposition |
|------|-------|--------|-------------|
| Not  |       |        |             |

|            |  |  |  |
|------------|--|--|--|
| Applicable |  |  |  |
|------------|--|--|--|

9. If, to your knowledge, you have ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute, give details.

|                |
|----------------|
| Not Applicable |
|----------------|

10. If a tax lien or other collection procedure has ever been instituted against you by any federal, state, or local authority, or any private party, give details.

|                |
|----------------|
| Not Applicable |
|----------------|

11. If you have not complied with all federal and state tax laws, including social security tax laws, please explain.

|                |
|----------------|
| Not Applicable |
|----------------|

12. If you have ever been a party in any legal proceedings, give details, including the date, court, docket number, nature of proceedings, and resolution.

|                |
|----------------|
| Not Applicable |
|----------------|

13. Do you have a social media presence? If so, list the names of all social media platforms, networking sites, websites, gaming websites or blogs (i.e. Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube, etc.) you are currently a member of, administer, maintain, or post on regularly for personal or professional use. Additionally, next to the platform's name, enter the user/profile names or handles you use for each. Please **DO NOT** provide your passwords. If you do not have a social media presence, please enter N/A in the first space below.

| Social Media Platform                 | User/profile name or handle |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| LinkedIn                              | Jonathan Skrmetti           |
| Twitter (I do not post, just read)    | @JSkrmetti                  |
| Facebook (inactive for several years) | Jonathan Skrmetti           |

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## EDUCATION

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14. List each college, law school, and other graduate school you have attended, including dates of attendance, degree awarded, and major. If you left before obtaining a degree, please give your reason for leaving.

| School                       | Dates     | Degree | Major                               |
|------------------------------|-----------|--------|-------------------------------------|
| Harvard Law School           | 2001-2004 | J.D.   | Not Applicable                      |
| University of Oxford         | 1999-2001 | B.A.   | Philosophy, Politics, and Economics |
| George Washington University | 1995-1999 | B.A.   | Philosophy                          |
| Explanation (if needed)      |           |        |                                     |

15. For your law school education only, please give your academic standing (class rank), whether you served on the staff of a legal publication such as the law review, including your position and responsibilities, and whether you were a member of a moot court or mock trial team. List other significant law school activities and any honors, awards, or other forms of recognition you received in law school.

I graduated *cum laude*, which put me somewhere in the top 10%-40% of my law school class. I do not know my specific class rank.

I served as editor-in-chief of the *Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy*. As editor-in-chief I was responsible for managing the work of a staff of over one hundred law students, with an emphasis on staff training, article selection, substantive editing, quality control, supervising various delegated functions, and general day-to-day management. I was responsible for preparing and managing the journal's annual budget.

I was a member of a moot court team for the Ames Moot Court Competition.

I served as an officer with the Federalist Society and the Law School Republicans.

I served in various student roles for the Office of Public Interest Advising.

I served as a section representative and later as one of the head student representatives for the BarBri bar review program.

I received a Heyman Fellowship for Federal Public Interest Law. This is a competitive honor awarded to students who pursue legal careers with the federal government. Selection is based on academic excellence and commitment to public service.

## LEGAL BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE

16. If you are licensed to practice law in any state other than Tennessee, please give the year and whether your license is currently active. Please also list all courts to which you have been admitted, including administrative bodies that require special admission to practice.

| State and Bar No.   | Year | License Status   |
|---|------|------------------|
| Tennessee, 031551   | 2013 | Active           |
| Connecticut, 423712   | 2004 | Inactive/Retired |
| Court Admissions: To the best of my recollection, the federal courts to which I have been admitted include the United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee, the United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi, the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, and the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas. |      |                  |

17. If you have ever been denied admission to, suspended by, or placed on inactive status by the Bar of any state, please give dates, even if the action was temporary, and explain.

Not Applicable

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

Not Applicable

19. 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 and participation in any committees you consider significant.

| Group                     | Dates        | Office                               | Dates        |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Tennessee Bar Association | 2014-present | Chair, Federal Practice Section      | 2019-2020    |
|                           |              | Vice-Chair, Federal Practice Section | 2018-2019    |
|                           |              | Member, Federal Practice Section     | 2017-present |

|  |              |  |              |
|--|--------------|--|--------------|
|  |              | Executive Council  |              |
| Federalist Society for Law & Public Policy | 2001-present | President, Memphis Lawyers Chapter                                 | 2014-2018    |
|  |              | Administrative Law & Regulation Practice Group Executive Committee | 2018-present |
| Leo Bearman, Sr. American Inn of Court     | 2011-2014    | Barrister  | 2011-2014    |
| Memphis Bar Foundation                     | 2018-present |  |              |
| Memphis Bar Association                    | ~2014-2018   |  |              |
| Federal Bar Association                    | ~2014-2018   |  |              |
| Republican National Lawyers Association    | ~2017-2018   |  |              |

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

|   |
|---|
| <p>Harvard Law School Wasserstein Public Interest Fellows Program; Fellow 2021</p> <p>Best Lawyers in America, Commercial Litigation, 2019</p> <p>Memphis Bar Foundation, 2018-present</p> <p>University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law Adjunct Professor of the Year, 2014</p> <p>Formal congratulations from the Anti-Defamation League for the prosecution of Justin Shawn Baker, 2013</p> <p>Memphis Business Journal Top 40 Under 40, 2013</p> <p>U.S. Attorney's Special Achievement Award, 2012</p> <p>Leo Bearman Sr. American Inn of Court, Barrister 2011-2014</p> <p>Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service, 2010</p> <p>U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division Special Commendation, 2009</p> <p>Commendations from the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2009 and 2010</p> |
|---|

U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division Victim Rights Award, 2008

U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division Special Achievement Awards, 2007, 2008, 2010

Harvard Law School Heyman Fellowship for Federal Public Service; Fellow 2005

21. If you have served as a judicial law clerk for a judge or as a staff attorney to a court, give the name of the judge or court and dates of service, and describe your experience.

I clerked for Judge Steven M. Colloton on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit from August 2004 through August 2005. Judge Colloton is an exceptionally brilliant jurist who preferred to prepare for cases through extensive dialogue with his clerks rather than through exchange of memos. He was also a vigorous drafter and editor of opinions. Working for him improved my legal writing and analytical abilities.

22. Indicate your present employment, and list any professional partners or other members if applicable.

| Current Employment                        | Date Employed         |
|---|-----------------------|
| General Counsel to Governor Bill Lee      | December 2021-present |
| Partners or other members: Not Applicable |                       |

23. Other than service as a judicial law clerk for a judge or as a staff attorney to a court, list and briefly describe your prior employment in the legal field since the completion of your legal education, and give the dates of such employment. If you have had any periods of unemployment in excess of six months since completion of your legal education, please describe what you did during those periods.

Office of the Tennessee Attorney General and Reporter, Chief Deputy Attorney General (2018-2021): I managed approximately 160 attorneys in the fifteen litigating divisions of the Tennessee Attorney General’s Office. The attorneys I supervised were responsible for representing and advising the entirety of Tennessee state government, enforcing the State’s consumer protection and antitrust laws, litigating criminal appeals, and defending the laws and Constitution of Tennessee.

Butler Snow LLP, partner (2016-18), senior counsel (2014-15): I worked in the firm’s Commercial Litigation Group, the White Collar/Investigations Group, the Appellate & Written Advocacy Group, and the Data Security and Privacy Team.

United States Attorney’s Office for the Western District of Tennessee, Assistant United States Attorney (2011-14): I prosecuted federal crimes in West Tennessee with an emphasis on human trafficking, official misconduct, and hate crimes. I first-chaired jury trials, wrote



and argued motions and appeals, and led teams of agents and attorneys in complex multiagency investigations. I taught at the National Advocacy Center and educated thousands of investigators, prosecutors, judges, and others about human trafficking, crime victim rights, and other federal criminal issues.

United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division/Criminal Section, Honors Program Trial Attorney (2005-10): Following an introductory detail prosecuting domestic violence misdemeanors, I prosecuted federal civil rights crimes around the country but spent the overwhelming majority of my time working on cases in West and Middle Tennessee. I handled all phases of litigation from initial investigation through grand jury, motions hearings, trial, and sentencing. I also litigated several civil appeals for the Department of Justice.

24. Describe the nature of your present law practice; list the major areas of law in which you practice and the approximate percentage each constitutes of your total practice.

My present law practice involves advising Governor Lee on legal questions as they arise and providing strategic legal advice. The varied nature of this work also requires me to assist with judicial nominations, draft and analyze legislation including both administration bills and bills proposed and passed by the General Assembly, collaborate with legislators on legislative language, review contracts, serve as the Chief Ethics Officer of the executive branch and evaluate ethical questions as they arise, assess clemency requests, work with executive branch agency general counsels, and participate in the teams advising the Governor on the state budget and on legislation.

Given the varied nature of the work it is difficult to identify specific percentages, but a rough approximation would be 20% legal research and analysis, 25% legislative review and drafting, 20% administrative law, 15% reviewing litigation and strategizing regarding litigation or anticipated litigation, 10% reviewing and analyzing contracts, 5% judicial selection, and 5% ethics.

25. List other areas of law in which you have practiced, and describe any other legal experience that you would like to bring to the attention of the Court.

I spent the first eight-and-a-half years of my career practicing almost exclusively criminal law, prosecuting crimes starting with domestic violence misdemeanors and graduating to federal crimes including child sex trafficking, official misconduct, hate crimes, wire fraud, tax fraud, use of a firearm in commission of a drug offense or crime of violence, and various ancillary crimes related to those offenses. This practice included substantial investigation, acquisition of search warrants, grand jury work, pretrial motions and hearings, trials, and appeals. I also handled several civil appeals for the U.S. Department of Justice during this time.

In five years of private practice, I focused primarily on commercial litigation, products liability, and government investigations. I also engaged in several white collar criminal

defense matters and worked on data privacy issues.

As chief deputy attorney general, I supervised attorneys working on a very broad spectrum of matters including, but certainly not limited to, consumer protection, tax, bankruptcy, collections, tort defense, false claims, constitutional litigation, environmental law, eminent domain, finance, intellectual property, administrative law, and health care. In addition to that supervision, I was substantially engaged in the office’s work involving opioids and big tech.

26. If you have practiced in proceedings before administrative boards or commissions, state the agencies and the approximate number of proceedings in which you appeared before each agency. Of that total, indicate in how many you appeared as sole counsel, how many as chief counsel, and how many as associate counsel.

| Agency         | Total | Sole Counsel | Chief Counsel | Assoc. Counsel |
|----------------|-------|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| Not Applicable |       |              |               |                |

27. If you have handled matters that have been arbitrated or mediated, state the approximate number. Of that total, indicate in how many you were involved as sole counsel, how many as chief counsel, and how many as associate counsel.

| Approx. Number       | Sole Counsel | Chief Counsel | Assoc. Counsel |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| ~25 (all mediations) |              | ~5            | ~20            |

28. Please describe your trial court experience during the past ten years. Approximate the number of trial court matters in which you appeared. Of this total, state the number that was before a federal court, the number that was before a Tennessee court of record, and the number that was before a Tennessee court that was not of record (general sessions, municipal). State the approximate percentage of these matters that were criminal and the approximate percentage that were civil. Indicate in how many matters you were sole counsel, how many you were chief counsel, and how many you were associate counsel. Please indicate the approximate percentage of your cases that were tried to resolution, how many were dismissed upon pre-trial motion, and how many were settled prior to trial.

During the past ten years I have tried five criminal jury cases in federal court involving child sex trafficking; sex trafficking by force, fraud, and coercion; food stamp fraud; deprivation of rights under color of law; and theft by a public official.

I estimate that I appeared in approximately one hundred sixty trial court matters, including probably one hundred federal criminal matters, forty civil matters in federal court, fifteen civil matters before a Tennessee court of record, and five matters before other Tennessee courts.

I was lead counsel on about twenty of the federal criminal matters, sole counsel on about eighty, and associate counsel on two. I was lead counsel on probably half of the civil

matters. About five percent of these cases were tried to resolution, probably a third were resolved by a pre-trial motion, and the remaining sixty percent or so settled prior to trial.

29. Please describe your appellate court experience. Approximate the number of matters in which you appeared as counsel of record in Tennessee appellate courts, the number in federal courts, and the number in other states. Give the approximate percentage that were criminal and the approximate percentage that were civil.

I appeared as counsel of record in approximately ten federal appeals and probably fewer than five state appeals. Approximately half of these were criminal and half civil.

30. Please describe any other relevant legal experience, including transactional and other non-litigation matters.

In private practice I had extensive experience with internal investigations and government investigations. I also worked on developing data privacy policies and helped clients with policy documents related to their operations.

At the Department of Justice, in addition to litigating I provided legal training to other prosecutors as well as law enforcement officers.

31. Please describe your negotiation experience.

The height of my negotiation experience was several years spent as a negotiator representing the states in the national opioid litigation. Tennessee was one of the lead states in the multistate litigation. As chief deputy attorney general I was a front-line negotiator in the process that ultimately led to a \$26 billion global settlement. Journalists repeatedly identified the matter as the most complicated litigation in American history.

In addition to my work on the opioids settlement, I would estimate I've negotiated at least several hundred plea agreements in criminal cases as well as probably around forty civil settlements. As discussed above, about half of those settlements resulted from mediation and the other half from unstructured negotiations.

32. List any noteworthy cases you handled as an attorney before mediators, arbitrators, administrative agencies, trial courts, or appellate courts. As to each case, please : (1) give the date or period of the proceedings; (2) identify the court or agency; (3) summarize the substance of the case; and (4) explain why the case is significant.

National opioids litigation (Northern District of Ohio docket no. 1:17-MD-2804; Knox County Circuit Court docket no. 1-345-19): I served as a negotiator for one of the lead states in the multistate opioid settlement discussions from 2019-2021. Following years of multilateral negotiation, sometimes in conjunction with the federal opioid MDL and sometimes independently, the states reached a nationwide deal with four Fortune 50 companies for a total of \$26 billion. Pursuant to the agreement, the large majority of those

funds will be used to abate the opioid epidemic that has caused incalculable damage to Tennessee and the other states. The Wall Street Journal identified this as “the largest and most complex civil case in the nation’s history.”

*Purdue Pharma L.P.* (Southern District of New York Bankruptcy docket no. 7:19-bk-23649): In parallel with the \$26 billion settlement, in 2019 I was also involved in the negotiations that drove Purdue Pharma into bankruptcy. Following Purdue’s declaration of bankruptcy, I engaged in additional negotiations with the company, its owners, and some of its creditors, and I continued to supervise Tennessee’s frontline negotiators throughout the bankruptcy litigation. Tennessee was one of the lead states in the effort to establish a bankruptcy plan that would resolve all of the potential claims against Purdue’s owners as well as against the company. The company and its owners eventually agreed to pay over \$5.5 billion, the significant majority of which would be dedicated to the abatement of the opioid crisis. NPR described this as “one of the most complicated bankruptcy cases in the nation’s history.”

*Joe Brown v. Regions Bank*: I represented Regions Bank from 2015-18 in convoluted litigation involving a couple who had not paid the mortgage on their \$1.2 million Shelby County home for seven years. Prior to my arrival in the case, the creative and occasionally *pro se* couple managed to stall the eviction process by convincing various courts that other courts had jurisdiction, rendering all of the courts unwilling to resolve the matter. Regions retained Butler Snow in 2015 to untangle the cases. We succeeded in returning possession to the bank. I litigated constituent cases of this matter in General Sessions Court (docket nos. 1650830, 1733450), Circuit Court (docket no. CT-000531-17), Chancery Court (docket no. CH-11-0795-1), the United States District Court (docket nos. 11-3022-tmp, 2:15-cv-02202-JPM), the United States Bankruptcy Court (docket no. 17-28648-jdl), the Tennessee Court of Appeals (docket no. W2016-02596-COA-R3-CV), and the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit (docket no. 15-5468). This case is significant as a glaring example of abuse of the legal system by bad faith actors.

Several of my biggest successes at Butler Snow involved keeping cases out of the trial courts. In one instance, a Fortune 100 client faced a multiagency criminal and civil investigation involving allegations of complex fraud and hundreds of millions of dollars in exposure. In another, a Fortune 100 client faced a joint federal and state criminal investigation related to a broad conspiracy involving insurance fraud and public corruption on a large scale. In both instances, the government ultimately declined to charge my clients.

*United States v. Terrence “T-Rex” Yarbrough* (Western District of Tennessee docket no. 2:10-cr-20283): I first-chaired the trial of a notoriously violent Memphis pimp on charges of child sex trafficking, sex trafficking by force, and food stamp fraud. We secured a 44-year sentence for the lead defendant. The FBI included Yarbrough on its list of “worst of the worst” sex traffickers.

*United States v. Dale Mardis* (Western District of Tennessee docket no. 2:08-cr-20021): I was part of the prosecution team that secured a life sentence for the racially-motivated

murder of Shelby County Code Enforcement Officer Mickey Wright. The victim's body has never been found and investigators were not able to solve the case until years after the murder. Because the defendant's case was death-eligible, his capable and aggressive attorneys flooded the prosecution with aggressive pretrial motions. During the pendency of trial, the defendant tried to arrange for the murder of a witness. The defendant pled guilty on the eve of trial; in preparing for sentencing, we discovered he had killed another man in a decade-old unsolved murder. The defendant ultimately pled guilty to Mickey Wright's murder in federal court and to Henry Ackerman's murder in state court. The FBI featured this case on its website as a premiere example of federal hate crime enforcement.

*United States v. Juan Mendez* (Western District of Tennessee docket no. 2:06-cr-20387): I prosecuted an international child sex trafficking ring that lured young girls from Mexico to Tennessee and forced them into prostitution through violence, rape, and threats against their families. We secured a 50-year sentence for the leader of the conspiracy. The case originated with a set of seven simultaneously-executed search warrants and involved approximately a dozen defendants. The most satisfying part of this case was helping the youngest victim obtain a T-visa so she could safely reunite with her family in the United States. This case was significant as an early instance of prosecuting an international sex trafficking conspiracy under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. My co-counsel and I and our two lead agents conducted numerous trainings across the country and around the world based on our experiences in *Mendez*. We were recognized with the Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service, one of the DOJ's highest honors, for our work on the case.

*United States v. Arthur Sease* (Western District of Tennessee docket no. 2:06-cr-20304): I second-chaired the trial of a Memphis police corruption kingpin who abused his police authority by kidnaping and robbing drug dealers, then collaborated with gang member co-conspirators to sell the stolen drugs. By the time of trial, we had identified nineteen separate robberies committed by Sease and his co-conspirators. This case was the capstone of a protracted effort to root out corruption in the Memphis Police Department.

*United States v. Eric Baker* (Middle District of Tennessee docket no. 1:08-cr-00002): I prosecuted the leadership of the Aryan Alliance for firebombing a house of worship in Columbia. The defendants had intended their attack to be the spark that triggered a nationwide race war.

*United States v. Daniel Cowart* (Western District of Tennessee docket no. 1:08-cr-10119): I prosecuted members of a West Tennessee white supremacist conspiracy who planned to murder black schoolchildren and assassinate President Obama. This case received substantial international attention.

33. If you have served as a mediator, an arbitrator, or a judicial officer, please describe and include the dates, the courts or agencies involved, whether you were elected or appointed, and a description of your duties.

Not Applicable

34. If you have served as a mediator, an arbitrator, or a judicial officer, please list any noteworthy cases you handled in these capacities. As to each case: (1) give the date or period of the proceedings; (2) identify the court or agency; (3) summarize the substance of the case; and (4) explain why the case is significant.

Not Applicable

35. Describe the *pro bono* service you have given throughout your legal career, and describe activities in which you have been involved that demonstrate commitment to equal justice and equal access to justice.

My work in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice provided a rare opportunity to protect the rights of some of the most marginalized people in America. My first federal case involved Memphis police officers kidnapping and robbing drug dealers; we had some interesting testimony from the victims as we defended their rights. Several other cases involved Mexican girls who had been horribly exploited in sex trafficking operations and were terrified of contact with the justice system. I prosecuted a transit cop who raped a prostitute and a Memphis cop who violently assaulted a prostitute (in the latter case, we were fortunate to have five police witnesses who had no doubt the assault was unconstitutional and unnecessary). Both the Bush and Obama administrations recognized my civil rights work with a variety of awards, including the Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service which is one of DOJ's highest honors.

In private practice I provided pro bono assistance to nonprofits. My largest pro bono commitment was to Restore Corps, a nonprofit dedicated to assisting survivors of human trafficking in West Tennessee. I served on the board for several years and provided legal support as the organization began to scale up its operations.

36. List any legal articles or books you have published.

Jonathan Skrmetti, *Symposium: The triumph of textualism: "Only the written word is the law"*, SCOTUSblog (Jun. 15, 2020), <https://www.scotusblog.com/2020/06/symposium-the-triumph-of-textualism-only-the-written-word-is-the-law/>

Matthew P. Cavedon & Jonathan T. Skrmetti, *Party Like It's 1935?: Gundy v. United States and the Future of the Non-Delegation Doctrine*, 19 FED. SOC. REV. 42 (2018).

Stephen C. Parker & Jonathan T. Skrmetti, *Pimps Down: A Prosecutorial Perspective on Domestic Sex Trafficking*, 43 U. MEM. L. REV. 1013 (2013).

Jonathan T. Skrmetti, *The Keys to the Castle: A New Standard for Warrantless Home Searches in United States v. Knights*, 122 S.Ct. 587, 25 HARV. J.L. & PUB. POL'Y 1201

(2002).

37. List any law school courses, CLE seminars, or other law-related courses that you have taught within the last five years.

The below reflects my best recollection and a review of the available records. It is possible that I have inadvertently forgotten an event, did not realize that credit was provided for certain talks I gave, or misdated a talk.

Tennessee Attorney General's Office, "Ethics of Elections and Campaigns" (with Bill Young), 2022

Delivered Wasserstein Fellowship lecture at Harvard Law School, 2021

Panelist on National Association of Attorneys General chief deputies conference panels on "The Use of Outside Counsel by Attorneys General" and "Does Communications Have a Seat at the Table?", 2021

"Leadership in the Law" (with Danielle Barnes and Doug Blaze), 2021

Healthcare Enforcement Compliance Conference of the Health Care Compliance Association, "Trends and Best Practices in Healthcare Privacy and Security Investigations" (with Brian Stimson and Timothy Noonan), 2020

Moderator of joint National Association of Attorneys General/Harvard Berkman-Klein Center for Internet and Society panel on privacy and digital contact tracing, 2020

Moderator of National Association of Attorneys General panel on cryptocurrency regulation, 2020 (panelists included an SEC Commissioner and a CFTC Commissioner)

"Ethical Crisis in the Legal Academy: The Refusal to Represent Controversial Clients" (with Harold See), 2019

Tennessee Conference of District Attorneys General Annual Conference, "Preserving the Record on Appeal" (with Zach Hinkle), 2019

Bass Berry & Sims Annual Compliance & Government Investigations Seminar, "A Discussion on the Future of Privacy & Data Security Compliance" (with James Amsler, Jaime Barwig, and Lisa Rivera), 2019

Panelist on National Association of Attorneys General chief deputies conference panel on opioids litigation and proposed settlement structures, 2019

Talk to the Murfreesboro members of the Federalist Society, "A Conversation with

Chief Deputy Attorney General Jonathan Skrmetti,” 2019

International Association of Privacy Professionals, Nashville Chapter, “Data Privacy and Security: The Role of the Tennessee Attorney General’s Office” (with Lauren Lamberth, Carolyn Smith, and Ann Mikkelsen), 2019

National Association of Regulatory Attorneys Annual Conference, provided CLE on data privacy and cyberlaw, 2019

“Party Like it’s 1935?: Gundy v. United States and the Future of the Non-Delegation Doctrine,” 2018

False Claims Act CLE presented to in-house counsel for a Fortune 100 client (with Ed Stanton, Jim Letten, and Steve Parker), 2017

In addition, I taught cyberlaw as an adjunct professor at the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law from 2012-2015.

38. List any presentations you have made to civic groups on legal topics within the past five years.

Tennessee Judicial Conference, Luncheon Speech, 2022

39. State any other information about your legal experience that may reflect positively or adversely on you or that you believe should be disclosed in connection with your application for Attorney General and Reporter.

I have been blessed with an incredible breadth of experience across the full spectrum of law. In both private and State practice, I have engaged in complex litigation, culminating in years of work as one of the negotiators who reached a \$26 billion resolution of “one of the largest and most complex civil litigation battles in U.S. legal history,” per the Washington Post.

But I have not just practiced in the rarefied air of landmark litigation. I have been in court on big cases and little cases and much in between. As a prosecutor, I handled cases ranging from misdemeanor possession of alcohol at the VA to a conspiracy to assassinate the President. As a criminal defense attorney, my experience ranged from resolving speeding tickets in municipal court to defending complex multiagency investigations involving hundreds of millions of dollars in exposure. On the civil side, I have litigated eviction cases but also helped develop the strategy for antitrust cases against the most powerful corporations in the world.

I have argued everywhere from General Sessions Court to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. I have represented the United States, the State of Tennessee, political subdivisions of states, Fortune 100 companies, mid-sized and small Tennessee companies, and individuals. I have tried over twenty cases, appeared at hundreds of hearings, drafted



innumerable dispositive and evidentiary motions, requested and produced discovery in cases big and small, applied for search warrants, and settled many, many cases.

I have been ensconced in the Governor's suite to advise him as he leads the State. I have worked with the leaders of state agencies to solve their thorniest legal problems and craft policies that help millions of Tennesseans. I have drafted legislation and worked with legislators to revise and improve their bills.

In addition to the actual work of lawyering, I have also taught law school classes, published articles, recruited attorneys, and served in the senior management of a large law office—the very law office I now seek to lead.

The breadth of my experience has enhanced my judgment and perspective. It would be a privilege to take all that I have learned and use it to continue serving the people of Tennessee as their Attorney General and Reporter.

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## NON-LEGAL/CIVIC INFORMATION

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40. Describe any occupation, business, or profession other than the practice of law in which you have ever been engaged. Please give details, including approximate dates.

I worked as a system administrator and computer programmer between 1999 and 2001. I worked on coding nuclear power plant safety software for Proto-Power Corporation in Groton, Connecticut in 1999. I worked as a system administrator in the United Kingdom at Hertford College, Oxford, from 2000 through 2001.

41. If your current income is derived from sources other than the practice of law, specify the other income sources and the approximate percentage of your total income each source represents.

Not Applicable

42. If you are now an officer, director, or major stockholder (5% or more) of any for-profit organization or you are otherwise engaged in the management of any for-profit enterprise, please give details, including the name and nature of the organization, your position, the nature of your duties, and your term of service. If you are selected as Attorney General and Reporter and you would consider continuation of your involvement, please address whether such continuation would be a conflict of interest.

Not Applicable

43. List all non-profit organizations other than legal professional associations to which you have belonged within the last ten years, including civic, charitable, religious, educational, social, and fraternal organizations. If you have held an office in any of these non-profit organizations, please give titles and approximate dates. If you have received any honors, prizes, awards, or other forms of recognition in connection with your participation in such non-profit organizations, please list.

Harpeth Hills Church of Christ in Brentwood, Tennessee; White Station Church of Christ in Memphis, Tennessee

Bible Study Fellowship, 2019-2021

Leadership Tennessee Signature Program Class VIII

Beacon Center of Tennessee, Legal Advisory Board 2015-2018

Restore Corps (nonprofit supporting survivors of human trafficking in West Tennessee), Board of Directors 2014-2017

Leadership Memphis Executive Program 2016

Shelby County Republican Party, General Counsel 2018

Shelby County Republican Lunch Hour Club, Vice-Chair, 2015-2018

Harvard Club of the Mid-South, Schools Committee Co-Chair 2015-2018

44. If you are selected for this position, how much of your current level of civic and community involvement do you feel that you could continue?

My current commitments to the State and to my family have constrained most of my community involvement outside of my church life. If appointed, I would certainly continue at church and in a Bible study—more prayer is an essential part of handling more responsibility—but otherwise I expect I will devote my time exclusively to work and family.

45. If you have ever belonged to an organization, association, club, or society which limits its membership to those of any particular race, religion, national origin, or gender, please list the organization and describe the basis of the membership limitation. Do not include organizations formed for a religious purpose, such as a church or synagogue. Please address whether you would withdraw from any such organization if you are selected as Attorney General and Reporter.

Not Applicable

46. If you have served in a fiduciary capacity other than as a lawyer representing clients, please describe.

Not Applicable

47. Please list any non-legal articles or books you have published.

I wrote several articles for my law school newspaper but do not have a list available.

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## MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE

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48. Describe your management philosophy and your views on delegation to subordinates.

My management philosophy is to work toward consensus, giving each relevant team member opportunities to express their opinions, critique alternatives, and develop a sense of ownership for the ultimate decision. It takes time and is not always efficient but securing employee buy-in over the long run allows for more delegation and more satisfied employees. There may be times when more abrupt decision-making is necessary but a regular reliance on a gentler approach makes it easier for employees to accept the rare instance of autocracy.

A consistently autocratic style cannot work over the long run in the Attorney General's Office. Recruitment and retention demand a kind and encouraging culture built on a shared commitment to serving the State and its people. Every attorney in the office could be making significantly more money elsewhere; they remain committed to the State because they appreciate the highly missional nature of the work, the challenging cases, and the autonomy they enjoy as government employees in an office that does not have the luxury of overstaffing cases. Reinforcing the focus on mission by celebrating employee accomplishment is vital to maintaining and enhancing the functionality of the office.

Delegation is fundamentally necessary to the work of the Attorney General and Reporter. In any given year, the Attorney General and Reporter is responsible for something like 10,000 cases in addition to opinions, advice to clients, and legislative drafting, plus essential nonlegal functions such as budgeting, communications, and legislative relations. The Attorney General and Reporter should establish the overarching principles for the office to follow, make significant decisions in major cases, establish mechanisms of accountability to ensure that clients consistently receive top-notch representation, relentlessly promote the office culture, and emplace a senior staff and sectional and divisional leadership who will provide more specific oversight over various office functions. The Attorney General and Reporter must remain vigilant for any deviation from good working order and must intervene as necessary to solve problems. But given the scope of the office's responsibilities, it is simply not possible for the Attorney General and Reporter to get caught up in too many details. If appointed, I expect certain projects would require close legal work on my part: attorney general opinions, leadership on major multistate cases, sensitive advice to the constitutional officers and legislative leaders, and likely a few other discrete matters. I expect the very large majority of my time would be focused on management, high-level oversight of the office's functions, and interbranch and interstate relationships.

49. Describe any management experience you have had in the legal profession, such as managing attorneys, paralegals, and legal support staff. Approximate the number of persons over whom you had management responsibilities and indicate whether your experience included preparing

and managing a budget.

As counsel to the Governor, I manage two deputies and an assistant. Although I am not responsible for preparing or managing a budget in that role, I do sit on the Governor's budget team reviewing and providing feedback about the budget.

As chief deputy attorney general, I managed approximately 160 attorneys and was closely involved in General Slatery's management of the office. That included proposing and helping to implement an office reorganization, participating in the hiring process including recruiting and interviewing, assisting with salary review for attorneys, planning career development to ensure an adequate supply of both experienced lead counsel and potential managers, supervising the five sections and fifteen litigating divisions, and working with the legislative and communications staff.

In addition to helping with salary review, I also attended budget hearings before Finance & Administration and the General Assembly's Finance Committees as part of the General's team, although I was not responsible for preparing or managing the budget.

As a partner in private practice I would occasionally manage small teams of lawyers, paralegals, and support staff.

As a federal prosecutor, I managed multiagency investigative teams in complex cases. I also trained and mentored younger lawyers including bringing them along as second chair for trial and sometimes sitting second chair to them as they developed their courtroom skills.

50. Describe any management experience you have had in federal, state, or local government. Approximate the number of persons over whom you had management responsibilities, and indicate whether your experience included preparing and managing a budget.

See above. I managed approximately 160 attorneys at the Tennessee Attorney General's Office. I participated in salary review and was involved in the budget process including hearings before F&A and the General Assembly's Finance Committees, though I was not responsible for preparing and managing the budget.

51. Describe any other management experience you have had. Approximate the number of persons over whom you had management responsibilities, and indicate whether your experience included preparing and managing a budget.

As mentioned above, I served as editor-in-chief of the *Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy*, managing a staff of over 100 law students. That experience included preparing and managing the journal's annual budget.

52. List any judicial or non-judicial government offices you have held, and describe your

experience. Include the date, the position, whether the position was elected or appointed, and whether your responsibilities included legal matters or policy matters. If you have been a candidate for government office but were not selected, please list this as well, including date, position, and whether the position was elected or appointed.

Counsel to the Governor, December 2021-present: In this appointed position, my responsibilities include legal matters and policy matters.

Applicant for Tennessee Supreme Court, 2021: I was not selected for this appointed position.

Chief Deputy Attorney General, December 2018-December 2021: In this appointed position, my responsibilities included both legal matters and policy matters.

Applicant for United States District Court, 2017: I was not selected for this appointed position.

Assistant United States Attorney, 2011-2014: In this appointed position, my responsibilities included legal matters.

Trial Attorney for the United States Department of Justice, 2005-2010: In this appointed position, my responsibilities included legal matters.

53. Other than as an elected or appointed official, please describe any experience you have had with the legislative or executive branches of government, federal, state, or local. Indicate whether your experience related to legal matters or policy matters.

During my time at the U.S. Attorney's Office, I prosecuted a Satanist hotel security guard who desecrated the worship implements of a traveling Orthodox Jewish day school. The substantive crime at issue was a federal misdemeanor and I did not believe this adequately reflected the seriousness of the crime, as it involved desecration of a valuable Torah scroll and caused significant distress to the students, teachers, and parents. Several years later, I worked with Congressman David Kustoff to change the law and ensure that sufficiently serious destruction of religious property could be charged as a federal felony.

54. Describe any other government experience you have had. Please indicate whether any such experience involved legal matters or policy matters.

In addition to my government experiences listed above, I interned at the United States Department of Justice in the summer after my 1L year. I worked in the Criminal Tax Appeals and Enforcement Policy Section, and my duties included both legal and policy matters.

55. State any other information about your management or government experience that may reflect positively or adversely on you or which you believe should be disclosed in connection with

your application for Attorney General and Reporter.

As a result of my varied experiences in state and federal government, I have developed good relationships with government attorneys across the country. Those relationships helped make my tenure as chief deputy attorney general an effective one. Should I be appointed, my relationships with attorneys general and their senior staffs, as well as with the leaders of various attorney general-oriented organizations, could allow me to follow in General Slatery's footsteps as a national leader in the consumer protection community.

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## PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE

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56. What are your reasons for seeking this position?

I have been blessed with extraordinary opportunities in the practice of law. I am convinced the best way to demonstrate gratitude is through a life of service. I greatly enjoyed my time at the Tennessee Attorney General's Office and would love the opportunity to return and to once again work alongside the bright and dedicated attorneys and staff who have dedicated themselves to public service. There are only so many legal jobs that are both enjoyable and meaningful, and serving as Tennessee's Attorney General and Reporter is one of the very best.

In addition, my time working for the Governor has broadened my perspective and given me a richer understanding of executive branch operations. I would love to use that experience to ensure even better representation for executive branch clients and to serve the people of Tennessee.

I have also enjoyed working with the General Assembly and have built good relationships with legislators during my time at the Attorney General's Office and in the Governor's Office. A strong relationship between the legislature and the Attorney General and Reporter benefits both, and if appointed I would work to continue build that relationship and to ensure that the General Assembly has ready access to the legal resources of the Attorney General's Office.

One of my favorite parts of working at the Attorney General's Office was working with colleagues from around the country to protect the vulnerable and hold bad actors accountable. Serving as Attorney General and Reporter would let me reconnect with those friends and continue the good work that arose from our collaboration.

Finally, I have four children. They are proud Tennesseans and they have been incredibly blessed by this State many times already in their young lives. I want to help preserve the best of Tennessee and to help solve its problems so that they can have an even better place to grow up and thrive.

57. Describe your perception of the primary duties, responsibilities, characteristics, and qualifications for the position of Attorney General and Reporter. Describe which of these may be delegated in whole or in part to subordinates and which may not.

The Attorney General and Reporter covers a very broad spectrum of activities. The most fundamental, and the one demanding the maximum degree of delegation, is litigating day-to-day lawsuits against various state officials and filing suits on behalf of the state. I view these as the bread-and-butter cases, things like torts and collections and tax litigation in which capable professionals ably resolve disputes as they develop mastery of their fields.



For these cases, the Attorney General and Reporter is responsible for high-level management of the relevant sections and divisions. As long as the senior deputy and deputy are doing their jobs well, the Attorney General and Reporter should have minimal involvement with this work. Many of these cases will only come to the Attorney General and Reporter's attention when it is time to sign the settlement documents.

Some cases, a small minority of the overall total, involve either significant constitutional issues or large sums of money or high-profile constitutional claims. In these cases, the Attorney General and Reporter is responsible for providing more robust oversight, for ensuring appropriate communications with the executive and legislative branches, and often for weighing in on significant decisions in the cases. In some major multistate cases, the Attorney General and Reporter may be responsible for direct coordination with other states. In particularly important cases, the Attorney General and Reporter may even draft or substantially edit filings to ensure maximum quality. Most of the work on these cases, however, is still delegated to the line attorneys and their more immediate supervisors.

Attorney General opinions involve significant contributions from subject matters experts throughout the office and from attorneys in the Office of Solicitor General, but I expect I would be closely involved in confirming the legal analysis and finalizing drafts.

The Attorney General and Reporter is also responsible for the administration of the office. While there are staff members who help a great deal with this, the Attorney General and Reporter must be more engaged with office management than with most of the cases that come through the office. Key elements of this include preparing the budget, recruiting new hires, adjusting salaries annually, training and empowering attorneys and staff, promoting professional development and identifying promotion prospects, and otherwise keeping the office in good order.

The least-delegable duties involve relationships with key principals in the other parts of state government and in other states. While other members in the office should have good relationships as well, it is particularly important that the Attorney General and Reporter maintain a close working relationship with the Governor and the other constitutional officers, top-level executive branch leaders, and legislative leadership. The Attorney General must also be prepared to testify at budget hearings and other relevant hearings. The Attorney General and Reporter must also develop and maintain relationships with other attorneys general to coordinate multistate consumer protection and constitutional litigation.

The Attorney General and Reporter is also responsible for communicating with the public about consumer issues and significant case developments. Some of this can be delegated, but the Attorney General and Reporter must sometimes be the face of the office and explain legal happenings to the news media and the public.

Another largely non-delegable function is to serve as culture leader of the office. The Attorney General and Reporter sets the tone and must be conscientious about developing and maintain a productive office culture.

Key qualifications for the position of Attorney General and Reporter are sound judgment, a knowledge of the dynamics of state government, an even-keeled temperament, the willingness to delegate wisely, the ability to keep up with developments in many different matters in parallel, an ability to inspire public servants and remind them of their calling, and an unwavering commitment to the highest standards of personal integrity and professional ethics.

58. What is your view of the role of Attorney General and Reporter with respect to the executive branch, the legislative branch, and the judicial branch of state government?

The Attorney General and Reporter's primary role with respect to the executive branch is to defend the Governor, the other constitutional officers, and their subordinates in litigation. In the course of this, the Attorney General's staff must keep in mind the operational challenges facing the executive branch and must work not only to provide a vigorous defense but also to minimize the impact of the litigation on the day-to-day activities of state officials. The Attorney General and Reporter must also ensure strong relationships with his executive branch clients such that they feel comfortable turning to the Attorney General's office for advice with respect to implementing laws, drafting regulations, managing employees, and any other aspects of their duties for which additional legal advice may be helpful. The Attorney General and Reporter also protects the interests of the executive branch by resisting federal encroachment and ensuring that issues that are properly left to the State are indeed left to the State. The Attorney General and Reporter also provides assistance in transactional matters, ranging from bond issues to real estate transactions to intellectual property licenses.

With respect to the legislative branch, perhaps the most significant role of the Attorney General and Reporter is indirect: while the legislature is not the named defendant, the legislation it passes is often the subject of the State's most significant cases. The Attorney General and Reporter ensures that the General Assembly's laws receive a robust defense. Building relationships of trust is also important as it creates opportunities for the Attorney General and Reporter to assist with legislation on the front end, to work with the Office of Legal Services and individual members to help the General Assembly craft laws that are better able to withstand legal challenge. The Attorney General and Reporter can also help identify areas where the current law may need revision to account for imminent legal challenges, conflicts with federal law, or other emerging problems. Occasionally, though fortunately not often, the Attorney General and Reporter can assist with operational issues in the General Assembly, such as a serious employment matter or a litigation or investigation issue (provided the Attorney General and Reporter does not violate the statutory bar on providing criminal defense). Finally, the Attorney General and Reporter is typically responsible for delivering a substantial amount of money to the State through tobacco, consumer protection, antitrust, and false claims enforcement. These hundreds of millions of dollars provide additional opportunity for the General Assembly to support good works in Tennessee without undermining Tennessee's position as the state with the

lowest overall tax burden.

The Attorney General and Reporter is responsible for representing members of the judiciary when representation is needed, either in litigation or by providing operational advice upon request. More commonly, the Attorney General and Reporter provides substantial legal advice to the District Attorney Generals and represents the State in every criminal appeal. Representatives of the Attorney General's office are regular attendees at meetings of the District Attorneys General Conference. The Attorney General and Reporter also provides legal advice and representation to the judicial boards and commissions as necessary. The Administrative Office of the Courts has enjoyed a good relationship with the Attorney General's office and from time to time turns to the Attorney General and Reporter for help untangling particularly thorny legal questions. The relationship with the District Public Defenders Conference offers a growth opportunity. As a cohabitant of the judicial branch, the Attorney General and Reporter should be an active participant in judicial conference activities as appropriate. Finally, were I appointed to the role of Attorney General and Reporter, I would remember that having been selected by the Tennessee Supreme Court my actions, and the actions of my subordinates, reflect upon the Court; I would insist on the highest level of integrity from myself and my staff and work hard to ensure exceptional representation for every client.

59. If selected as Attorney General and Reporter, what is your estimate of the amount of time you will actually appear in court or oral arguments in appellate matters?

I expect very little of my time would be spent in court. In three years as chief deputy, my only court appearances were in the massive multilateral settlement conferences in the opioids litigation. The management responsibilities in the chief deputy role are very demanding and I did not believe they left sufficient time to master a case at a granular enough level to take the lead in court. The Attorney General and Reporter has even broader management responsibilities; in almost all circumstances it is a disservice to the office and its clients to dive into the details of a case.

Were I selected to be the Attorney General and Reporter, there are only two scenarios where I could see myself appearing in court. The first would be if Tennessee were a lead state in a significant consumer protection matter that also involved an MDL and my participation could be helpful in advancing the State's interest in either resolving a major issue or moving the case toward settlement. Given Tennessee's outsized participation in the multistate arena and the quality of our Consumer Protection Division, I would expect this to happen on occasion.

The second situation in which I might actively litigate would be if the direct participation of the Attorney General and Reporter might add helpful gravitas to our client's cause *and* the case involved an area in which I already have some preexisting degree of expertise. In most instances, the line attorneys have a much better command of the case and the State is better off with them at the point of the spear.

60. Describe life experiences, personal involvements, or talents that you have that you feel will be of assistance to the Tennessee Supreme Court in evaluating and understanding your candidacy for this position.

My time in state service provides a good indication of how I would approach the job of Attorney General and Reporter. I worked hard to encourage attorneys and staff and to recognize their successes. I tried to model for my team how to help clients find workable solutions to their problems where possible rather than explain to them why they could not do what they wanted to do. At the Attorney General's Office, I helped build coalitions in multistate cases to both initiate and resolve suits. In both jobs, I invested a lot of time into building relationships with other leaders in Tennessee state government so that I and my team could more effectively serve them.

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## AGREEMENT

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61. 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 appointment for the office of Tennessee Attorney General and Reporter, and, if appointed, I agree to serve in that office. If, between the time this application is filed and the time the Court makes its final selection, there are any changes that occur in the accuracy of the information provided here, I agree to file a written notification advising the Court of the specific changes and the reasons therefore.

I understand that the information provided in this application shall be open to inspection upon filing with the Administrative Office of the Courts and that the Administrative Office of the Courts may publicize the names of persons who apply for the position of Attorney General and Reporter.

I knowingly, willingly, and without reservation waive any right or privilege of confidentiality relative to any background checks that may be performed, including, but not limited to, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation criminal and civil background investigation, including any check of financial or credit information, conducted for the purpose of review by the Tennessee Supreme Court. I also specifically waive any rights or privileges of confidentiality otherwise conferred in relation to checks of the Board of Professional Responsibility, Board of Judicial Conduct, Board of Law Examiners, or similar entity.

Dated: July 29, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/ Jonathan Skrmetti\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Return your completed application to:  
Ceesha Lofton  
Administrative Office of the Courts, Suite 600  
511 Union Street  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219