TENNESSEE JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION

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

APPLICATION FOR NOMINATION TO JUDICIAL OFFICE

LINDA THOMAS WOOLSEY
BPR # 006903
118 SOUTH MAIN STREET
GREENEVILLE, TN 37743
(423) 639-7851

Tennessee Judicial Nominating Commission

Application for Nomination to Judicial Office

Rev. 26 November 2012

Name: Linda Thomas Woolsey

Office Address: (including county) 118 South Main Street, Greeneville, TN 37743
Greene County, TN

Office Phone: (423) 639-7851 Facsimile: (423) 639-7852

Email Address: lawwoolsey@comcast.net

Home Address: (including county) 3104 Charlie Doty Road, Greeneville, TN 37745
Greene County, TN

Home Phone: (423) 234-9663 Cellular Phone: (423) 470-2960

INTRODUCTION

Tennessee Code Annotated section 17-4-101 charges the Judicial Nominating 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 word processing format from the Administrative Office of the Courts (telephone 800.448.7970 or 615.741.2687; website http://www.tncourts.gov). The Commission requests that applicants obtain the word processing form and respond directly on the form. Please respond in the box provided below each question. (The box will expand as you type in the word processing document.) Please read the separate instruction sheet prior to completing this document. Please submit the completed form to the Administrative Office of

the Courts in paper format (with ink signature) ***and*** electronic format (either as an image or a word processing file and with electronic or scanned signature). Please submit fourteen (14) paper copies to the Administrative Office of the Courts. Please e-mail a digital copy to debra.hayes@tncourts.gov.

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

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND AND WORK EXPERIENCE

1. State your present employment.

Partner at Woolsey & Woolsey, Attorneys at Law
Municipal Judge for Greeneville, Tusculum and Baileyton

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

Licensed to practice law in 1979
BPR # 006903

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.

No states other than Tennessee

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).

Staff attorney at Greene Valley Developmental Center from 2/80 until 2/82.
Partner at Woolsey & Woolsey, Attorneys at Law, from 2/82 through present.
Municipal Judge for Town of Greeneville from November 1992 through present.
Municipal Judge for Town of Baileyton from June 2005 through present.
Municipal Judge for City of Tusculum from June 2005 through present.

6. If you have not been employed continuously since completion of your legal education, describe what you did during periods of unemployment in excess of six months.

Not applicable

7. 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.

At present, my law practice is primarily focused in the family law area (divorce, custody, adoption, child support, etc.), and I would estimate that area constitutes approximately 75% - 80% of my practice. The remaining 20% -25% of my practice consists of various areas in the general practice of civil law (mainly wills, estates, conservatorships, property disputes, deed preparation, contract preparation, etc.).

8. 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. In making your description, include information about the types of matters in which you have represented clients (e.g., information about whether you have handled criminal matters, civil matters, transactional matters, regulatory matters, etc.) and your own personal involvement and activities in the matters where you have been involved. In responding to this question, please be guided by the fact that in order to properly evaluate your application, the Commission needs information about your range of experience, your own personal work and work habits, and your work background, as your legal experience is a very important component of the evaluation required of the Commission. Please provide detailed information that will allow the Commission to evaluate your qualification for the judicial office for which you have applied. The failure to provide detailed information, especially in this question, will hamper the evaluation of your application. Also separately describe any matters of special note in trial courts, appellate courts, and administrative bodies.

My first job after being admitted to the bar was with the State of Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation as the sole staff attorney for Greene Valley Developmental Center here in Greeneville, Tennessee; as such, I was responsible for addressing any legal issues that arose pertaining to the 800-plus residents and 1200-plus employees of that facility at that time.

I resigned from the position at Greene Valley after two years in order to enter the full-time private practice of law with my husband, and we formed the partnership of Woolsey & Woolsey in February, 1982. Early in my private practice, I handled cases in basically every area of the law -- from performing title searches and handling loan closings for the Farmers Home Administration and local realtors, to representing clients in administrative hearings before the Social Security Administration and appeals therefrom, to representing criminal defendants (both appointed and retained), to forming corporations, to taking appointed cases in juvenile court (both as a defense attorney and as a guardian ad litem), to personal injury cases, to workers compensation cases, etc.

After several years of a truly general practice of law, I started honing my practice and "dividing up" some of the general areas of law with my husband. For example, we had discovered that my husband loved the practice of criminal law and I was not quite so enamored of same, so I stopped practicing any criminal defense work.

I have been a litigator during my entire career and have tried hundreds of cases, generally appearing in Court on at least a weekly basis. The vast majority of these trials were before a judge, but I have also had several jury trials in various areas of the law (including criminal, personal injury, will contest, etc.). Some examples are a successful three-day will contest case I tried before a jury in Chancery Court, and a week-long personal injury case that my husband and I successfully tried before a jury. In addition, I have had a few multi-day criminal jury trials; one I particularly remember was a two-day jury trial exactly one week before our first child was born (and which resulted in a not guilty verdict for my client). I have had numerous multi-day trials before a judge, the longest of which lasted five days. I have also been involved in the mediation and settlement of literally thousands of cases throughout my career, and have argued numerous motions and other matters before various courts in this area.

My case load has consisted entirely of my own work, except for a very few cases on which my husband and I have worked together. I have always been fully responsible for all trial preparation and served as the sole attorney on all but a handful of cases. As basically a solo practitioner, I worked very long hours, including many late nights and early mornings. After having children, I got in the habit of working several hours after my children were in bed and before they got up in order not to miss out on their activities while still maintaining a busy private practice.

I have represented civil clients a few times before the appellate courts, but I have to say that very few of my cases have been appealed through the years. Of course, I had several appeals before the Court of Criminal Appeals while I was representing criminal defendants early in my career (particularly pertaining to my appointed cases).

Throughout my career, I have tried cases in all of the civil courts, Circuit and Chancery, throughout the entire upper East Tennessee area.

9. Also separately describe any matters of special note in trial courts, appellate courts, and administrative bodies.

I do not recall any matters of special note.

10. If you have served as a mediator, an arbitrator or a judicial officer, describe your experience (including dates and details of the position, the courts or agencies involved, whether elected or appointed, and a description of your duties). Include here detailed description(s) of any noteworthy cases over which you presided or which you heard as a judge, mediator or arbitrator. Please state, as to each case: (1) the date or period of the

proceedings; (2) the name of the court or agency; (3) a summary of the substance of each case; and (4) a statement of the significance of the case.

I have served as the municipal judge for the towns of Greeneville, Baileyton and Tusculum for several years; these are appointed positions, and I sit as judge over citations issued by officers of the various towns for violations of the city ordinances, including traffic violations.

I do not recall any noteworthy cases over which I have presided as a judge, mediator or arbitrator.

11. Describe generally any experience you have of serving in a fiduciary capacity such as guardian ad litem, conservator, or trustee other than as a lawyer representing clients.

I have served as the power of attorney for my disabled mother from and since the time of my father's death in 2001, and am solely responsible for making arrangements for her care and paying her bills.

Throughout my practice, mainly during the earlier years, I served as guardian ad litem for children through the Juvenile Court system, in addition to being appointed a few times to serve in various positions such as guardian ad litem, trustee or special master in Chancery Court .

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

Not applicable

13. List all prior occasions on which you have submitted an application for judgeship to the Judicial Nominating Commission or any predecessor commission or body. Include the specific position applied for, the date of the meeting at which the body considered your application, and whether or not the body submitted your name to the Governor as a nominee.

I submitted my name for this same position when it was last open in 1996, at which time Judge Frierson was appointed to the position. To the best of my knowledge, this was before or in the early stages of the Judicial Nominating Commission, as there was a lot of confusion as to how the position was going to be filled; we were told several different things, including that it would be added to the ballot of an upcoming election, but it ended up being a special election by delegates from the Republican parties of the four counties in the district. I came in second in the voting at that time.

EDUCATION

14. 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.

Union University -- 1973-1976 -- B.A. degree (I took the C.L.E.P. test prior to entering college, and was awarded enough hours to start college as a sophomore)

University of Tennessee -- 1976-1979 -- J.D. degree

PERSONAL INFORMATION

15. State your age and date of birth.

57 years old; April 17, 1955.

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

57 years

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

Since my marriage in 1979.

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

Greene County

19. Describe your military Service, if applicable, including branch of service, dates of active duty, rank at separation, and decorations, honors, or achievements. Please also state whether you received an honorable discharge and, if not, describe why not.

Not applicable

20. Have you ever pled guilty or been convicted or are you now on diversion for violation of any law, regulation or ordinance? Give date, court, charge and disposition.

None other than traffic citations.

21. 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

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

I received a private reprimand from the Board of Professional Responsibility in April, 1994, for missing a child support hearing before the Child Support Referee. I learned a valuable lesson at that time, as I had relied on a telephone conversation to announce my representation of the defendant and to reschedule the original hearing date; although there were extenuating circumstances, I did fail to follow up that conversation in writing.

23. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities or creditors within the last five (5) years? If so, give details.

No

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

No

25. 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.

I was the plaintiff in a personal injury lawsuit in 1990, at which time I was injured in an automobile accident and the other driver was at fault; this case was settled prior to trial.

26. 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.

New Lebanon Baptist Church -- I have held various positions in this church throughout the years, including serving as the minister of music for approximately 10 years, as youth director for approximately 5 years, and as a Sunday School teacher for many years.

Mensa International

I belonged to various booster clubs pertaining to sports in which my children were participating; I served as president of the Greeneville High School basketball boosters club for 2 years and as vice-president for 1 year.

27. 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

28. 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.

Greene County Bar Association (served as president for at least 2 years earlier in my career, in addition to holding most of the other offices at different times)

Tennessee Bar Association

Tennessee Municipal Judges Association (I have been a member of this organization since its inception)

29. 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.

Not applicable

30. List the citations of any legal articles or books you have published.

Not applicable

31. List law school courses, CLE seminars, or other law related courses for which credit is given that you have taught within the last five (5) years.

Not applicable

32. 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.

I was a candidate for this same judicial position in 1996, as specified in my answer to #13 hereinabove.

33. Have you ever been a registered lobbyist? If yes, please describe your service fully.

No.

34. Attach to this questionnaire at least two examples of legal articles, books, briefs, or other legal writings which reflect your personal work. Indicate the degree to which each example reflects your own personal effort.

I have attached a Post-Trial Brief from a prior divorce matter, in addition to a Statement of the Evidence and Argument from an appellate brief in a prior action. Both of these documents are 100% my own work.

ESSAYS/PERSONAL STATEMENTS

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

Being appointed to serve as the Chancellor for the 3rd Judicial District would give me the opportunity to give something back to a community that has blessed me with a successful and lucrative private practice for many years now. I feel that I have the experience, knowledge, temperament, work ethic and overall desire to excel as a trial judge, and I would consider it both an honor and a responsibility to so serve. I have always strived to present the legal profession in a positive manner to the public, and I feel this would enhance my ability to do so.

36. State any achievements or activities in which you have been involved which demonstrate your commitment to equal justice under the law; include here a discussion of your pro bono service throughout your time as a licensed attorney. ***(150 words or less)***

A firmly held belief of mine is that "to whom much is given, much is expected", and I believe we are ultimately judged by how we serve others, particularly those who are not able to do for themselves or who are overlooked by society in general. As such, throughout my career, when a person has come to me in need of legal services without the funds with which to pay for same, I have always been willing to perform the services either pro bono or at a greatly reduced fee. One particular area that I have focused on is drawing up wills and powers of attorney for elderly persons on fixed incomes; I will do several of these each year at either no cost or for a negligible fee (as I have discovered that many elderly persons do not want to feel that they are taking a "hand-out").

37. Describe the judgeship you seek (i.e. geographic area, types of cases, number of judges, etc. and explain how your selection would impact the court. ***(150 words or less)***

I am applying to be appointed to the Chancellor position for the 3rd Judicial District, comprised of Greene, Hamblen, Hawkins and Hancock Counties; this position is open due to the appointment of Chancellor Frierson to the appellate bench. The Chancery Court division in this district has one judge, and hears domestic, probate and other civil litigation cases, including jury trials.

As I have practiced in this Court for a number of years and have been involved in the litigation of virtually every type of case that is heard in this Court, I would be able to seamlessly transition into this position. In addition, my extensive experience as a municipal judge has allowed me to understand the importance of showing respect at all times to both the lawyers and the members of the public appearing before me, while at the same time applying the law in a fair and evenhanded manner.

38. Describe your participation in community services or organizations, and what community involvement you intend to have if you are appointed judge? ***(250 words or less)***

I have always been drawn to working with or on behalf of children, as I feel strongly that our children need more strong, positive adult role models in their lives. Throughout the years, I have served on the Boards of Directors for both our local YMCA and Boys & Girls Club. In addition, I served as the Youth Director at our church for several years, and have taught the high school age Sunday School class for many years.

From the time my daughter was in kindergarten until she made the school teams in middle school and high school, I was the head coach for both basketball and softball teams through our local rec department and YMCA. I was awarded the M.A.D. ("Make A Difference") award in 2001 through the recreation department, which is an award given each year to the coach deemed to have best demonstrated the qualities of having a positive influence and making a difference in the lives of the young people with whom we worked.

I have spoken to several civic groups and organizations through the years regarding various legal issues, and have also been invited to speak to students at local schools on different occasions. If appointed judge, I feel I would be in a more enhanced position to be a positive role model and to make even more of a difference in the lives of those with whom I come in contact, and I would continue to strive to do so.

39. Describe life experiences, personal involvements, or talents that you have that you feel will be of assistance to the Commission in evaluating and understanding your candidacy for this judicial position. ***(250 words or less)***

I grew up in West Tennessee, and began working for my physician father at the age of fourteen, on Saturdays and during school breaks. My father put himself through medical school while at the same time supporting a wife and unexpected baby. He taught me from an early age to work hard for what I wanted, and I have lived by that lesson.

I have consistently worked 50 to 60 hours per week, even while raising my children. My son graduated from Middle Tennessee State University in 2008, and my daughter just graduated from Carson-Newman College. Once I had my children, I made their activities a priority and found ways to adjust the timing of my work hours; in addition to other activities that have already been referred to, I served as home room mother for my children throughout their elementary years and also served as chaperone for a majority of their school field trips.

When I undertake a responsibility, from being an officer of an organization to coaching to accepting a church position, I have always made a point of devoting the time necessary to perform those responsibilities to the very best of my ability. I have never been just a "joiner"; if something is worth my time to be a part of, I have usually ended up being the leader at some point. I am not afraid of hard work, and will apply this mindset to a judicial position.

40. 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)***

I would uphold the law even if I disagreed with the substance of same, as I fully understand the responsibility and obligation of a judge to strictly adhere to the law; it is not the function of a judge to try to impose personal likes or dislikes in a matter or to pursue a personal agenda.

A perfect example of this is a law that I run into quite frequently as a municipal judge. CDL (commercial driver's license) holders are held to a higher standard and are not eligible to attend driving school or to have their tickets reduced in any manner, even when in their private vehicles. I personally do not agree that this should apply when a CDL holder is in his/her private vehicle, as I believe that commercial vehicles (such as a tractor/trailer rig) are inherently much more dangerous than a private, regular vehicle, thus providing justification for the higher standard; in addition, these tickets have a very damaging effect on the driver's ability to maintain employment. It is easy to feel sorry for these drivers, and they are adept at playing on your sympathies, but the law is clear on this issue. Although I know of several judges who ignore the law when a commercial vehicle is not involved, I have always explained to the drivers that they are as aware of the law as I am and that, while I may not agree, I am required to uphold the law.

REFERENCES

41. 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. Honorable Thomas J. Wright, Circuit Court Judge, 128 South Main Street, Suite 201, Greeneville, Tennessee 37743, (423) 639-5204
B. Dr. Linda Stroud, Superintendent of Greeneville City Schools, 129 West Depot Street, Greeneville, Tennessee 37743, (423) 787-8000
C. David L. Leonard, Esq., Greene County Juvenile Magistrate, Leonard & Kershaw, 131 South Main Street, Suite 102, Greeneville, Tennessee 37743, (423) 638-2121
D. Pamela L. Reeves, Esq., Reeves, Herbert & Anderson, P.A., 2607 Kingston Pike, Suite 130, Knoxville, Tennessee 37919, (865) 567-6830
E. Scott Niswonger, Founder & CEO of Landair, 110 Myers Street, Greeneville, Tennessee 37743, 1-888-526-3247

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 Chancery 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: March 8, 2013.

Linda Thomas Woolsey
Signature

When completed, return this questionnaire to Debbie Hayes, Administrative Office of the Courts, 511 Union Street, Suite 600, Nashville, TN 37219.

TENNESSEE JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION

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 which 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 Tennessee Judicial Nominating Commission to request and receive any such information and distribute it to the membership of the Judicial Nominating Commission and to the office of the Governor.

Linda Thomas Woolsey
Type or Printed Name

Linda Thomas Woolsey
Signature

March 8, 2013
Date

006903
BPR #