

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

1/17/23

Name: Eric Mauldin

Office Address: 113 West Smith Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Cordell Hull Building  
(including county)

Gallatin, Sumner, Tennessee 37066

Office Phone: (615) 451-5810 Facsimile: (615) 451-5836

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Home Address: [REDACTED]  
(including county)

Hendersonville, Sumner, Tennessee 37075

Home Phone: Not applicable Cellular Phone: [REDACTED]

---

**INTRODUCTION**

Tennessee Code Annotated section 17-4-301 et seq. charges the Trial Court Vacancy Commission with assisting the Governor and the People of Tennessee in finding and appointing the best qualified candidates for judicial offices in this State. Please consider the Commission's responsibility in answering the questions in this application questionnaire. For example, when a question asks you to "describe" certain things, please provide a description that contains relevant information about the subject of the question and, especially, that contains detailed information that demonstrates that you are qualified for the judicial office you seek. In order to properly evaluate your application, the Commission needs information about the range of your experience, the depth and breadth of your legal knowledge, and your personal traits such as integrity, fairness, and work habits.

This document is available in Microsoft Word format from the Administrative Office of the Courts (telephone 800-448-7970 or 615-741-2687; website [www.tncourts.gov](http://www.tncourts.gov)). The Commission requests that applicants obtain the Microsoft Word form and respond directly on the form. Respond in the box provided below each question. (The box will expand as you type in the document.) Review the separate instruction sheet prior to completing this document. Your complete application, including both the original and digital copies, must be received by the Administrative Office of the Courts on or before the deadline prescribed in the Notice of Vacancy. See section 1(g) of the application instructions for additional information related to hand-delivery of application packages.

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

**PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND AND WORK EXPERIENCE**

1. State your present employment.

Assistant District Attorney General. I currently prosecute violent crime as my "focus area," including two pending homicide cases and multiple cases of attempted murder/aggravated assault. In addition, I handle all of the Criminal Court probation violations for our office, I have a regular General Sessions docket consisting of mostly felony jail cases, and I handle the bond forfeitures in General Sessions.

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

2011, BPR #030247

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.

Tennessee, #030247, October 31, 2011, Active

4. Have you ever been denied admission to, suspended or placed on inactive status by the Bar of any State? If so, explain. (This applies even if the denial was temporary).

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).

2011-2014 The Law Office of Eric Scott Mauldin – I had a solo practice of general law. The cast majority of my cases were criminal, including some one thousand two hundred and twenty-one appointed case. I also practiced in the areas of divorce, child custody, conservatorships, landlord-tenant, and very few wills and powers of attorney.

6. Describe the nature of your present law practice, listing the major areas of law in which you practice and the percentage each constitutes of your total practice.

Since 2014, I have practiced extensively and exclusively in criminal prosecutions. I have handled every kind of case, including homicides, child sexual abuse, complex drug trafficking, property crimes, and Sumner County's most recent death penalty case. Our office practices vertical prosecution meaning I have handled cases from charging decision to post-conviction and every stage in between. From 2015-2020, I was one of the Recovery Court Gatekeepers where I was instrumental in creating the application process that we use for all four (4) of our current recovery courts (Drug, DUI, Veteran's Track, Mental Health). I also started my career prosecuting juvenile cases, and I am proud to have been part of the team that created Tennessee's first juvenile mental health recovery court, Sumner County Youth Empowerment.

7. Describe generally your experience (over your entire time as a licensed attorney) in trial courts, appellate courts, administrative bodies, legislative or regulatory bodies, other forums, and/or transactional matters.

As a prosecutor, I appear in trial courts multiple times each week, in both General Sessions and Criminal Court. I have had many jury trials from weeklong first degree murder trials to relatively short one-day trials. I have probably done hundreds of motions and hearings through the course of my career such as motions, post-conviction relief petitions, and preliminary hearings. Though ancillary to my job, we do interact with occasionally with administrative agencies, including the Department of Children's Services and the Department of Safety. In private practice, I argued one case in front of the Court of Criminal Appeals.

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

I prosecuted the case of State v. Michael Cummins, who was convicted of murdering eight (8) people making him one of the most prolific serial killers in Tennessee history. I also prosecuted State v. Kevin Jordan and Emani Martin, Jr., the case in which MPO Spencer Bristol lost his life.

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

Particularly when I was prosecuting in juvenile court, I had multiple instances where I advised my state legislator of changes that needed to be made to statute. On a couple of occasions, those changes made their way into Tennessee law.

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

Not applicable.

### EDUCATION

11. List each college, law school, and other graduate school which you have attended, including dates of attendance, degree awarded, major, any form of recognition or other aspects of your education you believe are relevant, and your reason for leaving each school if no degree was awarded.

August 2008—May 2011	<b>The University of Tennessee College of Law</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Doctor of Jurisprudence Degree</li><li>• Concentration: Trial Advocacy and Dispute Resolution,</li><li>• Order of Barristers</li></ul>
August 2004—May 2008	<b>The University of Tennessee - Knoxville</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bachelor of Arts Degree</li><li>• Double Major: Political Science and Philosophy Minor: Classical Civilizations</li><li>• Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa</li></ul>

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

12. State your date of birth.

██████████ 1985

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

38 years (since birth)

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

13 years since returning from law school (to strictly answer your question). Not counting undergraduate studies and law school, I have lived here since 1995.

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

Sumner

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

Not applicable.

17. Have you ever pled guilty or been convicted or are now on diversion for violation of any law, regulation or ordinance other than minor traffic offenses? If so, state the approximate date, charge and disposition of the case.

No.

18. To your knowledge, are you now under federal, state or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute or disciplinary rule? If so, give details.

No.

19. Please identify the number of formal complaints you have responded to that were filed against you with any supervisory authority, including but not limited to a court, a board of professional responsibility, or a board of judicial conduct, alleging any breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by you. Please provide any relevant details on any such complaint if the complaint was not dismissed by the court or board receiving the complaint. You may wish to request a report from the appropriate supervisory authority (or authorities) for a complete history.

0

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

No.

21. Have you ever filed bankruptcy (including personally or as part of any partnership, LLC,

corporation, or other business organization)?

No.

22. Have you ever been a party in any legal proceedings (including divorces, domestic proceedings, and other types of proceedings)? If so, give details including the date, court and docket number and disposition. Provide a brief description of the case. This question does not seek, and you may exclude from your response, any matter where you were involved only as a nominal party, such as if you were the trustee under a deed of trust in a foreclosure proceeding.

No.

23. List all organizations other than professional associations to which you have belonged within the last five (5) years, including civic, charitable, religious, educational, social and fraternal organizations. Give the titles and dates of any offices which you have held in such organizations.

Board Member (2023-present), Member (2020-Present), Hendersonville Rotary Club  
Partner (2022-present), Christ Is Love Church  
Board Member (2018-2022), Member (2011-2022), Christ Church Nashville  
Volunteer (2014-present), Sumner County Teen Court  
Board Member (2019-2022), Sumner County Mental Health Court Foundation (Now defunct)  
Assistant Coordinator (2015-present), Tennessee High School Mock Trial (Sumner/Wilson)  
Secretary (2022-present), Sumner County Young Republicans  
Member, (2014-present) Sumner County Republican Party  
Member, (2023-present) Sumner County Republican Women  
Member, (2023-present) Republican Women of Sumner County

24. Have you ever belonged to any organization, association, club or society which limits its membership to those of any particular race, religion, or gender? Do not include in your answer those organizations specifically formed for a religious purpose, such as churches or synagogues.
- a. If so, list such organizations and describe the basis of the membership limitation.
- b. If it is not your intention to resign from such organization(s) and withdraw from any participation in their activities should you be nominated and selected for the position for which you are applying, state your reasons.

No.

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

25. List all bar associations and professional societies of which you have been a member within the last ten years, including dates. Give the titles and dates of any offices which you have held in such groups. List memberships and responsibilities on any committee of professional associations which you consider significant.

President (2015-2016), Sumner County Bar Association  
Vice President (2014-2015), Sumner County Bar Association  
Treasurer (2013-2014), Sumner County Bar Association  
Secretary (2012-2013), Sumner County Bar Association  
2012-Present, Member, Sumner County Bar Association

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

Not applicable.

27. List any public office you have held or for which you have been candidate or applicant. Include the date, the position, and whether the position was elective or appointive.

Applicant for Appointment, Sumner County General Sessions Division II Judge, August 2022.

**ESSAYS/PERSONAL STATEMENTS**

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

In 1995, my parents saw their neighborhood deteriorating and sought a better place to raise me and my sister. Since then, Sumner County has been home. My sister and I are raising our families here. My parents and grandmother live here. My in-laws are moving here. I have a deep sense of responsibility for her wellbeing. Sumner County isn't a career move or a retirement plan. Sumner County is my home!

Since high school in the Teen Court, I have been dutifully using my skills, my talents, and my energies to make my community a better, safer place. I don't believe in unnecessary change, but in learning, understanding, and improving the systems that make up our justice system. I am in a unique position to use those talents to create a new court that will serve my home.

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

I am seeking the new circuit court position. Currently, we have a Chancery Court, Circuit (Civil) Court, and a Criminal Court. The new position would be a circuit-level position handling half criminal cases and half civil. This is a completely new court, and frankly, no one knows how this hybrid court will look. As a prosecutor, I am ready to continue the lineage of Criminal Court judges who hold criminals accountable for their actions while upholding people's basic dignity and rights. As a lawyer who has spent his entire career here in Sumner County, I am ready to use my knowledge of this community, its systems, and its people to develop this new court into a lasting legacy.

30. Will you uphold the law even if you disagree with the substance of the law (e.g., statute or rule) at issue? Give an example from your experience as a licensed attorney that supports your response to this question. *(250 words or less)*

Yes. Recently, the legislature passed a bill creating a series of maximum sentences for "technical" violations of probation. Examples of technical violations are smoking marijuana, failing to report to probation, and committing Class B and Class C misdemeanors. Under the current law, the first technical violation is free and cannot result in any punishment. The maximum jailable sentence then increases until you can revoke and impose a sentence at the fifth violation. I have expressed my concerns with my state legislators, only to find that they are unwilling or unable to revert to the old statutes. But every other Friday, I abide by it. Despite a healthy amount of ego, I will not subvert the processes that we have for making the law to appease my own sense of what should happen. That would be tyrannical and be the antithesis to the Rule of Law. Now certainly, there are times where the law is unclear and perhaps reasonable minds can disagree with the meaning of the law. But the law must be changed only by those whose duty it is to change it.

#### REFERENCES

31. List five (5) persons, and their current positions and contact information, who would recommend you for the judicial position for which you are applying. Please list at least two persons who are not lawyers. Please note that the Commission or someone on its behalf may contact these persons regarding your application.

A. Judge Ron Blanton, General Sessions Judge, Division I, [REDACTED] Gallatin, Tennessee 37066, [REDACTED]

B. The Honorable David Doyle, Public Defender for the 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, [REDACTED] Gallatin, Tennessee 37066, [REDACTED]

C. Dan Daugherty, Assistant District Attorney, [REDACTED] Gallatin, Tennessee 37066 [REDACTED]



D. Lieutenant Jason Arnold, Portland Police Department, [REDACTED]  
Tennessee 37148 [REDACTED]

E. Tracye Bryant, Director of Sumner County Recovery Courts, [REDACTED] Gallatin,  
Tennessee 37066 [REDACTED]

**AFFIRMATION CONCERNING APPLICATION**

Read, and if you agree to the provisions, sign the following:

I have read the foregoing questions and have answered them in good faith and as completely as my records and recollections permit. I hereby agree to be considered for nomination to the Governor for the office of Judge of the [Court] 18th Judicial District 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: April 15<sup>th</sup>, 20 24.



Signature

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



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

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

**TENNESSEE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY  
TENNESSEE BOARD OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT  
AND OTHER LICENSING BOARDS**

**WAIVER OF CONFIDENTIALITY**

I hereby waive the privilege of confidentiality with respect to any information that concerns me, including public discipline, private discipline, deferred discipline agreements, diversions, dismissed complaints and any complaints erased by law, and is known to, recorded with, on file with the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Supreme Court of Tennessee, the Tennessee Board of Judicial Conduct (previously known as the Court of the Judiciary) and any other licensing board, whether within or outside the State of Tennessee, from which I have been issued a license that is currently active, inactive or other status. I hereby authorize a representative of the Trial Court Vacancy Commission to request and receive any such information and distribute it to the membership of the Commission and to the Office of the Governor.

Eric Mauldin

Type or Print Name

Eric Mauldin

Signature

4/15/24

Date

030247

BPR #

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